



Future of Energy Conference 2025

**Financing Africa's Energy Future: Unlocking Investments for
Energy Access and Economic Transformation**

**26th-27th August, 2025
Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra**



**Africa
Centre for
Energy Policy**





Future of Energy **Conference**
2025



Welcome Note from Host



We are delighted to welcome you to the 2025 Future of Energy Conference (FEC), the Africa Centre for Energy Policy's flagship platform for driving bold dialogue, collaboration, and innovation to shape Africa's energy future.

Africa has made notable progress toward universal energy access, yet more than 600 million people still live without reliable electricity, deepening poverty and limiting opportunities for growth, holding back lives, industries, and opportunities. This stark reality demands urgent action: scaling deployment, embracing clean and sustainable solutions, and breaking through the financing barriers that keep millions in the dark without leaving anyone behind. Unlocking the billions needed to power homes, businesses, and innovation requires fresh thinking, stronger institutions, and governance that builds investor confidence.

This year's theme, "Financing Africa's Energy Future: Unlocking Investments for Energy Access and Economic Transformation," captures the heart of the challenge and the promise before us. The urgency is undeniable. Ambitious initiatives like the AfDB and World Bank's Mission 300, aiming to connect 300 million Africans to electricity by 2030, illustrate both the scale of the task and the immense opportunity to transform Africa's development trajectory.

FEC 2025 is about turning vision into action. Over the next two days, we will confront tough questions, spotlight homegrown solutions, and forge partnerships that can unlock capital, expand equitable access, and power Africa's economic transformation.

Together, let us seize this moment to reimagine Africa's energy future—and commit to building the sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous continent we all envision.

The Future of Energy Conference

Each year, FEC convenes leaders from government, industry, civil society, academia, and development partners to address Africa's most pressing energy challenges and opportunities. FEC 2025, held under the theme "Financing Africa's Energy Future: Unlocking Investments for Energy Access and Economic Transformation," will focus on mobilizing the capital and partnerships needed to deliver universal access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy while driving inclusive economic growth.

With Africa positioned at the centre of the global energy transition and endowed with abundant natural resources, the Conference provides a platform to critically examine financing and governance bottlenecks, showcase innovations, and forge collaborations that can transform Africa into a hub for sustainable and resilient energy solutions.

Over two days, participants will engage through plenary sessions, expert panels, side events, and exhibitions designed to foster dialogue, share practical lessons, and advance actionable solutions. The Conference will also spotlight youth-led innovation through the Innovation Challenge, where emerging entrepreneurs pitch groundbreaking ideas to shape Africa's clean energy future.

By convening diverse stakeholders, FEC 2025 seeks to chart a financing pathway that not only transforms Africa's energy landscape but also anchors the continent's broader socio-economic transformation, enabling growth that is inclusive, just, and future-proof.

We are profoundly grateful to our partners—Enzi Ijaye Africa Initiative, Ford Foundation, OSF, Global Methane Hub, Natural Resource Governance Institute Africa Climate Foundation, Publish What You Pay, Global Witness, and Deloitte—for their invaluable support in making this conference possible. We also extend our appreciation to the many institutions hosting sessions on the sidelines, whose contributions broaden the impact of this gathering.

Finally, we warmly thank our distinguished guests and participants, both those joining us in person and those connecting virtually from around the world. Your presence is a vital contribution to the collective effort to shape Africa's energy future. We look forward to inspiring exchanges that will galvanize investment, strengthen governance, and accelerate action toward a sustainable and equitable energy future for Africa.

Program Outline - Day 1

TUESDAY, 26TH AUGUST 2025 (Adesa Pavilion & Omanyé Hall)

Time	Activity
8:00 - 9:00	Arrival & Registration
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome Address & Opening: Mr. Benjamin Boakye (Executive Director, Africa Centre for Energy Policy)
9:10 – 9:20	Address by Guest Speaker: Hon. Dr. John Abdulai Jinapor (Minister of Energy and Green Transition, Ghana)
9:20 – 9:40	Address by Keynote Speaker: Ms. Rukaiya el-Rufai (Special Advisor to the President, National Economic Council (NEC) and Climate Change in the Office of the Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria)
9:40 – 9:45	Musical Interlude
9:45 – 11:35	<p>THEMATIC DISCUSSION Beyond Aid: Unlocking Innovative Financing Pathways for a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition</p> <p>Presentation: Unlocking Finance, Driving Implementation of Transition Plans for Africa's Inclusive Adaptation Pathways</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Denis Gyeyir (Country Manager - Ghana, Natural Resource Governance Institute)</p> <p>Panel Discussion Moderator: Ms. Ikal Ang'elei (Director, Friends of Lake Turkana; Board Chair, Africa Centre for Energy Policy)</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Emeka Vitalis Obi (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Nigeria)• Ms. Nana Eduwa Appiah Searyoh (Head of Treasury and Business Finance, West African Gas Pipeline Company Limited)• Dr. Olufunso Adegbeniga Somorin (Regional Principal Officer, African Development Bank Group)• Mr. Yaw Appiah Lartey (Partner Africa Head, Infrastructure, Capital Projects, and Economic Advisory, Deloitte)• Mr. Bhekumuzi Dean Bhebhe (Senior Just Transitions Advisor, Power Shift Africa) <p>Q & A session and moderator's summary of deliberations</p>
11:35 – 12:05	<p>Fireside chat: From Petrostates to Power Brokers: Rethinking the Role of NOCs in Financing Africa's Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Mr. Nicolas Lippolis (International Finance Expert, Centre for the Study of African Economies Columbia Climate Center)</p>

Time	Activity
12:05 – 12:30	Coffee / Health Break / Visit to Exhibition Booths / Networking
12:35 – 13:35	Side Events <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scaling Innovation to Power Africa: Financing Research for a Just Energy Future (Africa Centre for Digital Transformation) – Virtual 2. National Oil Companies (NOCs) Peer Learning Session on Just Transition (Natural Resource Governance Institute, NRGi) 3. Dialogue on Just Transition: The Case of Electric Vehicle Adoption (United Nations Development Programme, UNDP) 4. Inclusive E-Mobility for a Just Transition (Centre for Extractives and Development Africa, CEDA) 5. Building Africa's Resilient Energy future: The Role of Traditional Knowledge in Clean Energy Innovation and Transitions (Strategic Youth Network for Development, SYND / Green Africa Youth Organization, GAYO)
13:35 – 14:55	Lunch
15:00 – 16:00	Side Events <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Africa Energy Policy Lab: Shaping Research and Policy for a Just and Sustainable Future (Africa Institute for Environmental Law) 2. Unlocking Africa's Wealth: Financing a Just Transition for Emerging Economies (Global Witness) 3. Financing a Just Energy Transition in Africa, Between Debt Challenges, Inequality, and Energy Sovereignty (Oxfam in Africa) 4. Climate Finance in a Changing Landscape: Priorities for Africa (Africa Development Bank) 5. From Barriers to Bankable Solutions: Unlocking Clean Energy Finance for African Industries (Swisscontact Ghana / Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) Energy Service Centre)
16:10 – 17:10	Innovation Challenge <i>Omany Hall</i> Innovators <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ebenezer Anyadiegwu Orito - Waste to Clean Energy: Solar Mini-Grids in Remote Farming Communities, Integrating a Carbon Credit Revenue Model 2. Charlton Mandaza - Hydrogen-powered Stove as a Sustainable Solution to Zimbabwe's Cooking Energy Crisis 3. Ashaba Ajarah - Plastics to Electricity: Carbon-neutral, prefabricated Housing Solution with Solar Photovoltaic Cell-infused Roof Tiles 4. Aisha Salifu - Enhancing Climate-Resilient Agriculture in Asutuare through Solar Irrigation Pumps (SIPs) – ECRASIP 5. Herbert Bayo - LBS Energy: Powering Rural Prosperity and Climate Action 6. Bienfait H. Mugenza - AgriPower Roots (converting Agricultural Waste into Clean Energy for Rural Communities in Eastern DRC)
17:10	Recap and Closing Remarks

Program Outline - Day 2

WEDNESDAY, 27TH AUGUST 2025 (Adesa Pavilion & Omanyen Hall)

Time	Activity
8:00- 9:00	Arrival & Registration
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome and Recap of Day 1: Ms. Ikal Ang’elei (Director, Friends of Lake Turkana Board Chair, Africa Centre for Energy Policy)
9:10 – 9:20	Address by Guest Speaker: Hon. Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson (Minister for Finance, Ghana)
9:20 – 9:30	Address by Guest Speaker: Ms. Shaima Hussein (Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, Ghana)
9:30 – 9:40	Address by Keynote Speaker: Ms. Suneeta Kaimal (President & Chief Executive Officer, Natural Resource Governance)
9:40 – 9:45	Musical Interlude
9:45 – 11:45	<p>THEMATIC DISCUSSION From Idea to Investment: Making Clean Energy Projects Bankable in Africa’s High-Risk Markets</p> <p>Presentation Mr. Yaw Appiah Lartey (Partner Africa Head, Infrastructure, Capital Projects and Economic Advisory, Deloitte)</p> <p>Panel Session Moderator: Ms. Rita Effah (Senior Climate Finance Officer, Africa Development Bank Group)</p> <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Abena Baidoo (Chief Finance Officer, Wahu Mobility Ltd.)• Mr. Paul Muthaura (Chief Executive Officer, Africa Carbon Markets Initiative)• Ms. Yaye Catherine Diop (Director - Energy Transition, Ministry of Energy, Petroleum and Mines, Senegal)• Mr. Sydney Nii Ayitey Tetteh (Executive VP - Energy & Infrastructure, Stanbic Bank)• Mr. Herbert Friese (General Manager, Dutch & Co.) <p>Q & A session and Moderator’s Summary of deliberations</p>
11:45 – 12:10	Coffee/Health Break/ Visit to Exhibition Booths/ Networking

Time	Activity
12:15 – 13:15	Side Events <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financing a Just Green Energy Transition for Sustainable Food Sovereignty (ActionAid Ghana) 2. The Politics of National Energy Transitions: Sites of contestation, compliance, and disregard for global climate action (King's College London) 3. Aligning Financing and Governance for Methane Mitigation in Africa's Oil and Gas Sector (Petroleum Commission, Ghana /Stakeholder Democracy Network /ACEP /Global Methane Hub /NRGI) 4. Powering Productivity: Linking Energy Access to Enterprise Growth and Productivity (Deloitte) 5. Women Leading Africa's Just Energy Future: Stories from the Mining Sector (Women in Mining Zimbabwe)
13:15 – 14:35	Lunch
14:45 – 16:15	THEMATIC DISCUSSION Powering Africa, made in Africa: Localizing Clean Energy Supply Chains from Minerals to Markets through regional integration. <p>Guest Speaker: Prof. Imasiku Nyambe (Vice Chancellor, Copperbelt University Member, Zambia -DRC Battery Council)</p> <p>Presentation: Building an Integrated Value Chain through Industrial Eco Zones in Africa</p> <p>Presenter: Dr. Charles Gyamfi Ofori (Policy Lead - Climate Change & Energy Transition, Africa Centre for Energy Policy)</p> <p>Expert Chat: From Consumption to Competitiveness: Unlocking Africa's Economic Power in the Clean Energy Value Chain</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Alaka Lugonzo (Senior Civil Society Advisor, Global Witness)</p> <p>Discussant: Mr. Bright Simons (President of mPedigree Vice President, Imani Africa)</p> <p>Q & A session and Moderator's Summary of deliberations</p>
16:15 – 17:00	Innovation Challenge – Grand Finale and Awards
17:00	Conference Communique and Closing Remarks

Conveners



Benjamin Boakye

Executive Director, Africa Centre for Energy Policy

Benjamin Boakye is an Energy Governance Professional and the Executive Director of the Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP). In this role, he provides strategic oversight for delivering ACEP's vision of an Africa where energy and extractive resources are utilized for economic transformation and sustainable, inclusive development. Prior to becoming the Executive Director, he served as the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes Director, and Operations Director, managing the Research Unit and the Programmes Unit.

Over the last decade, Ben has contributed to the extractive sector governance in Ghana and Africa, with much focus on corporate governance, institutional development, fiscal governance, contract governance, local content development and the evolution of legal frameworks for the effective management of extractive resources. He has written extensively on these areas in the petroleum, mining, and power sectors. He has recently contributed a book chapter on "Utilizing Ghana's Gas Resources: Implications for Industrial Development and Inclusive Growth" to a Palgrave MacMillan book titled "Petroleum Resource Management in Africa: Lessons from Ghana." He has also consulted for the World Bank Group, UNDP, and many research institutions in the resource sector.

He has spoken at various international conferences on the extractive sector, particularly on extractive revenue management and fiscal governance. In addition, he works with host communities, analyzing the communities' issues relative to the development of extractives projects and revenue redistribution.

Ben holds an MSc. from the University of Dundee, UK, in Energy Studies and a BA (Hons.) in Sociology with Information Studies from the University of Ghana.

Charles Wanguhu

Director, Enzi Ijaye Africa Initiative

Charles Wanguhu is a Pan-Africanist with a focus on good governance and human rights. He is the founding director of the Enzi Ijaye-Africa Initiative, an initiative that focuses on Africa's future development in the context of a global climate crisis. Wanguhu brings to NRGi broad experience in the management of natural resources and in energy governance. Since 2016 he has been on the board of the Africa Centre for Open Governance, a think tank with a focus on the structural causes of corruption, where he was formerly head of programs (2008–13).

He is an analyst and has written widely on the political economy of oil exploration and production. He was previously the coordinator of the Kenya Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas, which coordinates civil society to provide a collective voice on oil, gas and broader extractive issues. He also held the position of civil society gas lead at the African Climate Foundation in 2022. Other previous positions include the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, and the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

Wanguhu earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Bedfordshire and his master's in international and commercial dispute resolution at the University of Westminster. He is an alumnus of the Draper Hills Fellow Program at Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law.





Keynote Speaker- Day 1

Ms. Rukaiya el-Rufai

Special Advisor to the President on the National Economic Council (NEC) and Climate Change in the Office of the Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Rukaiya el-Rufai is the Special Advisor to the President on the National Economic Council (NEC) and Climate Change in the Office of the Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria. She supports the Vice President in managing the Council's affairs and plays a critical role in developing and implementing Nigeria's climate change policies. Rukaiya served as a member of the inter-governmental committee on Nigeria's Carbon Market Activation Plan, where she also serves as the Committee's Secretary.

She brings her understanding of sustainability and climate change, including ESG transformation, sustainable finance, ESG reporting and assurance, responsible sourcing, net zero strategies, value creation, and circular economy projects. Ms. Rukaiya is a Chartered Accountant trained in sustainability frameworks and standards such as the TCFD, SASB, GRI, greenhouse gas protocols, IFRS S1 & S2, and ESG ratings.

Prior to her current role, Ms. el-Rufai was a Partner in Risk Assurance Services at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Abuja, Nigeria, where she led the sustainability and climate change practice. She also held senior positions at Deloitte & Touche, where she pioneered the ESG practice and received the Platinum Impact Category of the Deloitte West Africa CEO Recognition Award. She also worked at KPMG in Management Consulting on various strategy and operational engagements.

Rukaiya is a fiscal policy expert and was a Special Advisor to the Immediate Past Minister of Finance, Budget & National Planning on National Revenue Matters. She led the development of the Strategic Revenue Growth Initiative (SRGI) to increase Nigeria's revenue-to-GDP to at least 15%. She is currently the National Coordinator for the National Economic Council's Human Capital Development (HCD) 2.0 project.

Rukaiya is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), where she was recently awarded the Outstanding Professional Achievement award in 2024. She is an alumnus of the London School of Economics & Political Science, Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Oxford Brookes University, and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.



Keynote Speaker- Day 2

Suneeta Kaimal

President and Chief Executive Officer, Natural Resource Governance Institute

Suneeta joined NRGi's predecessor organization, the Revenue Watch Institute (RWI) in 2009 as the deputy director responsible for regional and country engagements across Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa. Following a merger between RWI and the Natural Resource Charter in 2013, Suneeta became chief operating officer the resulting Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), ensuring NRGi's strategy and approach was relevant, demand-driven, and evidence-based. Overseeing the leadership and senior management teams, she guided the translation of the strategy into innovative, impactful thematic and regional programs and supported NRGi's institutional effectiveness and sustainability. Suneeta served as interim president and chief executive officer in 2020, surmounting the strategic and operational challenges of the global pandemic.

Suneeta currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Council for Critical Minerals Development in the Global South. Suneeta previously served as vice-president of the board of directors of The International Center for Not-For-Profit Law, working to improve the legal environment for civil society, philanthropy, and public participation around the world. She was the first female civil society chair of the Open Government Partnership, an organization of reformers inside and outside of government from more than 75 countries and served on the steering committee for eight years. Suneeta was the first chair of the global council of Publish What You Pay, a civil society movement of more than 1,000 organizations working to improve natural resource governance. She is also a founding board member of Roots of Health, a local NGO focused on improving the health of women and girls and their communities, in the Philippines. More recently she served on the United Nations Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.

Suneeta holds a master's in international affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, and a B.A. from Duke University, where she was a Hart Leadership Fellow.

Guest Speakers



Hon. Dr. John Abdulai Jinapor

Minister for Energy and Green Transition, Ghana

Hon. Dr. John Abdulai Jinapor is a distinguished Ghanaian politician, economist, and development finance expert with extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. He is currently the Minister of Energy and Green Transition and a Member of Parliament for the Yapei-Kusawgu Constituency. Hon. Jinapor has held various leadership positions, including serving as the Ranking

Member of the Mines and Energy Committee and a member of the Finance Committee in Parliament. He has also served as a Deputy Minister of Energy and Petroleum and later as Deputy Minister of Power from 2013 to 2017. Hon. Jinapor has a solid academic background, holding multiple postgraduate degrees, including an MSc in Energy Economics, an MSc in Development Finance, an MBA in Marketing, and an MA in Economic Policy Management. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Development Finance at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. His research focuses on energy, foreign direct investment (FDI), and environmental sustainability, with notable publications in reputable journals.

Beyond his political and academic pursuits, Hon. Jinapor has contributed to Ghana's energy sector as Chairman of the Nuclear Energy Programme Implementing Organization and as a board member of the Electricity Company of Ghana. He has also led critical policy initiatives as Chairman of the NDC Manifesto Sub-Committee on Energy and Co-Chair of the Energy Transition Sub-Committee.

He frequently participates in international conferences, including COP28 in Dubai, the IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, and the Mining Indaba in South Africa. Hon. Jinapor is passionate about development, energy policy, and community development. In his leisure time, he enjoys reading and playing music.

Hon Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson

Minister for Finance, Ghana

Hon. Dr. Cassiel Ato Baah Forson is a Ghanaian economist and chartered accountant who is currently serving as the Minister for Finance. He holds a PhD in Finance and an MSC in Economics from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), and an MSC in Taxation from the University of Oxford.



He earned his Bachelor's degree in Accounting from London South Bank University. Professionally, Dr. Forson is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Ghana, and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, Ghana. His strong technical background in finance, taxation, and accounting is contributing significantly to Ghana's economic and fiscal management.

Guest Speakers



Shaima Hussein

Deputy Resident Representative - Ghana, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Shaima Hussein brings with her over 24 years of experience in international development, leadership, and programme management within the UN Common System and other international organizations. She's currently UNDP's Deputy Resident Representative in Ghana Country Office leading the management of both Programme and Operations teams.

Prior to that, she served as Acting Deputy for Programme and Operations at UNDP Rwanda, and previously held senior leadership roles at UNCDF, including Deputy Director for Inclusive Digital Economies and Special Advisor to the Executive Secretary, where she led key corporate initiatives and policy updates.

From 2019 to 2022, Shaima was Deputy Resident Representative at UNDP Eswatini. She has also served in various technical roles with focus on rule of law, justice and security sector with UNDP's Crisis Bureau and Bureau for Development Policy, and at the UNDP Regional Centre in Cairo, where she supported UNDP Country offices across the region on areas related to governance and human rights during the Arab Spring.

Earlier in her career, she was leading the human rights initiatives in Iraq with UNDP and the UN Assistance Mission to Iraq -UNAMI, as well as to emergency response efforts with international NGOs. Her UN journey began at the UN Relief and Work Agency for the refugees of Palestine - UNRWA in Jordan field office, where she worked across three different Palestinian refugee camps from 2000 to 2005.

Shaima holds a Master's degree in the Theory and Practice of Human Rights from the University of Essex.

Prof. Imasiku Nyambe

Vice Chancellor, Copperbelt University, Zambia

Prof. Imasiku Anayawa Nyambe is the Vice-Chancellor of the Copperbelt University, Zambia, and a distinguished geologist with over 35 years of experience in academia, research, and leadership. A passionate advocate for sustainable resource management, he has advanced knowledge and innovation across Africa and beyond.



He was the Founding Director of the Integrated Water Resources Management Centre at the University of Zambia (established in 2006) and has held several esteemed positions, including O.R. Tambo Africa Research Chair in Water Conservation, Vice-President of the Zambia Academy of Sciences, and member of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) Bureau, Africa Region 5A, at UNESCO in Paris.

As Founding Chairperson of the Zambia Water Forum and Exhibition (ZAWAFE) since 2011, Prof. Nyambe has fostered national dialogue on water security, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability. In 2022, he joined the Zambia EV Battery Council Technical Committee under the Ministry of Commerce and Trade, where he contributes expertise on critical minerals and sustainable energy in support of Africa's green transition.

Raised in Kalenge Village, Zambia, he went on to earn a BSc in Geology from the University of Zambia, an MSc from the University of Windsor (Canada), and a PhD from the University of Ottawa (Canada). His career reflects a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship, academic excellence, mentorship, and sustainable development.

Speakers



Yaw Appiah Larney

Financial Advisory Partner in Ghana and the Deloitte Africa
Head of Infrastructure, Capital Projects and Economic Advisory

Yaw Appiah Larney is the Financial Advisory Partner in Ghana and the Deloitte Africa Head of Infrastructure, Capital Projects and Economic Advisory. He has over 15 years "Big 4" accounting firm (Deloitte, PwC and Ernst & Young) experience working on corporate finance, M&A transactions, financial restructuring, due diligence review, financial modelling, investment appraisal, deal structuring and negotiation support.

Yaw has worked on high profile engagements for public and private sector clients in a wide range of sectors including energy (power sector, oil & gas sector and renewable energy), mining, telecommunication, financial services and broad infrastructure.

Yaw has also been involved in Public Private Partnership (PPP), project financing, structuring and contract negotiations for infrastructure projects valued at over \$10 billion across Africa including Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Botswana, Eswatini (Swaziland) and South Africa.

Yaw is a regular panellist on local and international business and economic discussions. He has published over 15 articles on the Ghanaian economy and has been quoted by local and international media.

Yaw is a Chartered Accountant and Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (FCA), Ghana the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA), UK. Yaw is also a Lawyer and a Member of the Ghana Bar Association (GBA). He holds a Masters' degree in Finance from the University of Cambridge, UK.

Bright Simons

President of mPedigree

Bright Simons is the President of mPedigree, a social enterprise working on three continents to transform supply chains for life-touching products such as medicines and agro-inputs using technology and partnerships. mPedigree has secured billions of products from counterfeiting, and protected tens of millions of consumers around the world.



Bright is also an ardent policy activist working at the interface of economic governance and social welfare. In pursuit of these causes, he has served as a member of the External Advisory Board of European biopharma company, UCB, as Vice Chair of APHRC, as a member of the Boards of Salzburg Global and Care International, and on Microsoft Africa's inaugural advisory council.

He also served on successive World Economic Forum Global Agenda and Future Councils, was an inaugural TED Fellow, and has held the Cheng and Mallinckrodt fellowships at Harvard. He is a Tallberg Eliasson Prize Laureate; a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement award from the African Innovation Foundation; and was one of MIT's Tech Review's 35 most impressive global technology visionaries under age 35 in 2013.

He has written for the Harvard Business Review, Quartz magazine, the BBC's Business Daily show, and the Financial Times. In 2016, Fortune magazine named him on their 50 World Greatest Leaders list. In 2023, he was awarded a Bellagio fellowship to apply his series of inventions to the problems of the minerals supply chain, advancing a new "equitable circular economy" protocol for green minerals critical to the energy transition and climate change response.



Paul Muthaura

CEO of the Africa Carbon Markets Initiative (ACMI)

Paul Muthaura is the CEO of the Africa Carbon Markets Initiative (ACMI). He is an Independent Board member of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants; an Independent Board Member of British American Tobacco (BAT) Kenya; a Board Member of ICEA LION Asset Management; and an Independent Member of the Financial Sector Deepening Trust, Kenya.

He has previously been the Chief Executive Officer of ICEA LION General Insurance, Kenya, the first African member of the Financial Stability Board TCFD insurer pilot group. Prior to that, he was the Chief Executive of the Capital Markets Authority of Kenya. In his term at CMA, he was the Africa and Middle East Regional Chair on the Board of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).

An Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Certified Public Secretaries, he holds qualifications from University of Warwick, London School of Economics and Political Science, Maastricht School of Management, KCA University and the Academy of Executive Coaching.

Abena Konadu Baidoo

Chief Financial Officer of Wahu Mobility Limited

Abena Konadu Baidoo is the Chief Financial Officer of Wahu Mobility Limited, where she leads financial strategy, capital raising, and investor engagement to drive sustainable innovation in Africa's mobility and energy sectors. With over 20 years of experience in corporate finance, investment banking, and transaction advisory—spanning PwC, Databank, and high-growth startups—Abena brings deep expertise in structuring blended finance, optimizing liquidity, and scaling impact-driven ventures



She has worked across multiple markets and industries, supporting financing efforts and stakeholder collaboration for both early-stage and mature companies. At Wahu Mobility, she has contributed to initiatives that strengthen financial resilience and support the company's mission to deliver locally manufactured electric vehicles tailored to African needs.

Abena holds an MBA in Entrepreneurship from Anglia Ruskin University and is a Fellow of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA), UK. She is passionate about unlocking innovative financing pathways that go beyond traditional aid—mobilizing capital for equitable energy access and economic transformation across Africa.



Bhekumuzi Dean Bhebhe

Senior Just Transitions Advisor, Power Shift Africa

Bhekumuzi Dean Bhebhe is a PhD candidate at the University of the Witwatersrand and a 2018 Mandela Rhodes Scholar, with extensive experience designing and leading campaign strategies across Africa. His work, which bridges policy, advocacy, and grassroots mobilization, has advanced climate action and environmental justice across the continent.

In 2025, he was honoured with the Silver Award in the Warrior for Good Awards, in the Climate Action and Environmental Action category, recognising his commitment to driving systemic change.



Nana Eduwa Appiah Seariyoh

Head of Treasury and Business Finance at the West African Gas Pipeline Company Limited

Nana Eduwa Appiah is a seasoned Chartered Certified Accountant with 30 years of experience in accounting, business finance, administration, and strategic development. She has held senior management roles across the Oil and Gas, Telecommunications, IT, and Sports & Leisure sectors, with the past two decades primarily focused on the Oil and Gas industry.

Currently the Head of Treasury and Business Finance at the West African Gas Pipeline Company Limited (WAPCo), Nana oversees operations across Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria. She manages shareholder funds exceeding \$1 billion and supervises an annual budget of over \$50 million. Her portfolio includes treasury operations, business planning, budgeting, insurance, and financial strategy. She previously led Corporate Administration, overseeing logistics, and support services in addition to Treasury Operations.

Nana played a key role in establishing WAPCo's Finance and Administration Department and led critical transitions and organizational change projects. She also serves as a pension scheme board member and participates in strategic and operational leadership teams.

Her qualifications include an MBA (University of Liverpool), FCCA, BA (Hons) Finance & Accounting, with additional certifications in Change Management, Negotiation, Treasury, and Digital Strategy. Committed to mentorship and community service, she is active in Zonta International's advocacy for women and children.

Rita Effah

Senior Climate Finance Officer, African Development Bank

Rita Effah is a Senior Climate Finance Officer at the African Development Bank, where she serves as the Coordinator of the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF)—a multi-donor trust fund hosted by the Bank. The ACCF supports African countries in building resilience to the impacts of climate change and transitioning toward sustainable, low-carbon development. Rita currently manages 33 small grants projects, benefiting approximately 45 African countries through national and multinational initiatives.



These projects aim to strengthen countries' capacities to access international climate finance, implement their Nationally Determined Contributions, develop Long-Term Strategies, and undertake community led climate action actions. All efforts are designed to enhance climate resilience while advancing gender equality.

Rita previously worked with UNDP Ghana as a Programme Officer, where she developed and implemented projects focused on promoting environmentally sustainable cocoa production, supporting South-South cooperation on renewable energy technology transfer between China and Ghana, and contributing to the implementation of Ghana's NDCs.

She also served as Africa Programme Coordinator at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in East Africa, where she managed projects promoting the adoption of off-grid renewable energy technologies. Her work focused on using market-based mechanisms to establish renewable energy enterprises in rural communities across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Malawi.

Rita holds a Master of Forest Science from the Yale School of the Environment and a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Management from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana.



Nicolas Lippolis

International Finance Expert, Centre for the Study of African Economies| Columbia Climate Center

Nicolas Lippolis is a Postdoctoral Researcher at Columbia Climate School and a Nonresident Scholar in the Africa Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His research lies at the intersection of comparative and international political economy, with a current focus on how countries in Africa and Latin America can leverage oil wealth to finance energy transitions.

Nicolas holds a DPhil in Politics from the University of Oxford, where he also earned an MSc in Economics for Development and a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He has taught at Oxford, Sciences Po Paris, and the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. His professional experience includes consulting for the World Bank, the Brazilian Ministry of Finance, and several African governments, as well as working in emerging markets macroeconomic research at Goldman Sachs in London. He is originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

As a global leader on climate policy, Somorin is currently serving on the UN Secretary General Taskforce on Net Zero Policy.

Dr. Olufunso Somorin

Regional Principal Officer at the African Development Bank

Dr. Olufunso Somorin is a Regional Principal Officer at the African Development Bank. He leads the Bank's work on climate change and green growth in the 13 countries of the Bank's Eastern African region. He also leads the Bank's carbon markets program and strategic dialogues with public and private institutions on climate policy frameworks, climate finance, nature/biodiversity finance, and green industrialization.



Between 2013 and 2017, he coordinated the Bank's work on addressing fragility and building resilience within the Horn of Africa. In the last 14 years in the Bank, he has been directly involved in the design, appraisal, and supervision of more than 300 development projects across multiple sectors. Dr Somorin has written more than 50 publications on climate policy in Africa.

Somorin holds a PhD in International Environmental Policy from Wageningen University, the Netherlands. As an Erasmus Mundus Scholar, he holds two MSc degrees from Finland and Netherlands. He is an executive education alumnus from Bradford, Cambridge, and Oxford Universities (UK), IE Business School, and University of California, Berkeley (USA). He gives guest-lectures at King's College London and Strathmore University (Kenya). Somorin is currently a Non-Resident Fellow at the Africa Policy Research Institute (Berlin). He is a recipient of several international awards and recognitions, including the prestigious Eisenhower Fellowships (US) for his work on climate policy in Africa. Dr Somorin is currently serving on the UN Secretary General's Taskforce Expert Group on Net Zero Policy.



Dr. Emeka Vitalis Obi, mni

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Nigeria

Dr. Emeka Vitalis Obi, mni, is a senior public servant with extensive experience in medicine, public administration, and policy reform. Trained as a Dental Surgeon, he began his career in the health sector before transitioning into public service, where he has held leadership roles across key ministries.

He is an alumnus of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, and holds the designation of Member of the National Institute (mni), which reflects his training in strategic policy and governance.

Dr. Obi previously served as Permanent Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, where he contributed to institutional reforms aimed at improving efficiency and transparency. In this role, he worked on strengthening developmental planning processes and enhancing organizational systems within the ministry.

He is currently the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources, where he oversees administrative and policy functions in one of Nigeria's most critical sectors. His responsibilities include coordinating institutional reforms, supporting sectoral policy development, and ensuring alignment with national economic objectives.

Dr. Obi has received recognition for his contributions to public service and continues to play an active role in mentoring emerging leaders in the Nigerian public sector.

Ikal Ang'elei

Co-founder & Director, Friends of Lake Turkana

Ikal Ang'elei is an accomplished environmental activist. She is the co-founder and Director of Friends of Lake Turkana, a grassroots organisation dedicated to promoting social, economic, and environmental justice in the Lake Turkana Basin, one of Kenya's most vital and vulnerable ecosystems.



Ikal holds a Master's degree in Public Policy and Political Science from Stony Brook University in New York. Her work has been internationally recognised, particularly for her advocacy on behalf of indigenous communities in Northern Kenya. In 2012, she was awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize for her efforts to raise awareness about the environmental and social impacts of the Gilgel Gibe III Dam, which posed significant threats to the livelihoods of local communities dependent on Lake Turkana.

Through her leadership and activism, Ikal continues to champion environmental conservation and sustainable development, with a focus on empowering marginalised communities. Her commitment to justice and equity makes her a strong leader for ACEP as the organization advances its mission to shape the governance of energy and extractives resources in Africa.



Denis Gyeyir

Ghana Country Manager, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)

Denis Gyeyir is a resource economist and policy analyst with over a decade of experience in the extractive sector. He currently serves as the Ghana Country Manager for the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), where he leads work on extractive sector governance and the energy transition. His expertise lies at the intersection of climate change, natural resource governance, and the transition to a green economy, with a particular focus on the role of transition minerals.

Denis has extensive experience in managing high-impact, multi-donor projects and has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and policy platforms. He is recognized for his ability to engage effectively with governments, industry, academia, and civil society at national, regional, and international levels. His contributions on transition minerals have featured in prominent global fora, including the Finance in Commons Summit, the UNFCCC COP meetings, and the African Mining Indaba. In 2024, he was named among 30 inspirational early career mining professionals in Africa.

Beyond his role at NRGI, Denis is a member of the steering committee of the Ghana Open Government Partnership and serves as Special Advisor to the Global Council for Responsible Transition Minerals. He previously worked with PIAC as Assistant Technical Manager.

Alaka Lugonzo

Senior Civil Society Advisor, Transition Minerals Campaign at Global Witness.

Alaka is a seasoned programme management professional with over eleven years demonstrable experiences on the intersections of community and stakeholder engagement, law, policy, advocacy, gender, business and human rights, and environmental justice aspects of the energy and extractives sector (Oil, Gas, and Mining, Just Transition and Climate Justice)



Alaka's expertise over the years has included managing projects, strategic thinking, influencing, securing resources for programmes, piloting innovations by identifying, working with, and building key strategic partnerships with development organizations, donors, governments, oil, gas and mining companies, civil society organizations, coalitions, and networks in Kenya and the African Region.

She is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and hold a Master of Laws Degree (LLM) in Energy Law and Policy from the University of Dundee in Scotland and an Executive Certificate on Oil, Gas and Mining Governance from the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford.

She is currently the Senior Civil Society Advisor working for the Transition Minerals Campaign at Global Witness.



Yaye Catherine Diop

Director - Energy Transition, Ministry of Energy, Petroleum and Mines, Senegal

Yaye is an Energy Engineer who graduated from Arts et Métiers ParisTech in 2014. She began her career at the EDF Cattenom nuclear power plant in France, where she worked as a Maintenance Engineer specializing in rotating equipment from 2014 to 2019. In 2019, she joined DR-SIEMENS in Le-Havre as a Turbo Product Engineer, focusing on the design of centrifugal compressors for the Oil and Gas sector until January 2021.

In April 2021, Catherine joined the Ministry of Energy, Petroleum and Mines in Senegal as an Energy Expert. She currently serves as the Director of Energy Transition, where she leads the country's energy transition agenda, including the design and implementation of sustainable development strategies, renewable energy projects, energy efficiency initiatives, clean cooking solutions, and preparations for future nuclear projects. She also oversees Senegal's Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP) and represents the government at international forums such as the COPs and other global energy transition events.

Sydney Nii Ayitey Tetteh

Executive VP - Energy & Infrastructure,
Stanbic Bank

Sydney is an expert in the Power Sector industry having been involved in and leading the financing of several award-winning power projects in Ghana and more recently in Cote D'Ivoire. With 18 years' experience in the financial services sector with deep knowledge across various industries, Sydney currently heads up the Energy & Infrastructure desk for the Standard Bank Group in Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire.



Sydney's prior years as a Credit Manager originating deals in the Oil & Gas, Mining, Agricultural, Telecom and Energy sectors has afforded him the opportunity to not only develop in-depth knowledge in risk management and Investment Banking, but to also have a broad knowledge across these key sectors. A Chartered Banker by profession, Sydney holds an MBA in Finance from the Coventry University and Certificates in Strategic Client Management and Apex Leadership from the Graduate School of Business – University of Cape Town.

Sydney is an avid biker and an adventurer at heart.



Herbert Frieze

General Manager, Dutch & Co.

Herbert Frieze is the General Manager of Dutch & Co Ltd, one of Ghana's leading renewable energy companies. Since 2013, he has led the firm's focus on solar PV and energy efficiency for the Commercial and Industrial sector, spearheading landmark projects such as the 16.82 MWp Helios Solar Project—Africa's largest single rooftop installation.

Under his leadership, Dutch & Co has achieved international accreditation for health and safety, and collected prestigious honours including the 2024 AFSIA Solar Project of the Year, Best Solar Company – EPC 2023, and the Innovation Excellence Award 2024.

Herbert has also shaped industry policy as Chairman of the Solar Working Group at the Association of Ghana Industries and is an active stakeholder.



Dr. Charles Gyamfi Ofori

Policy Lead - Climate Change & Energy Transition,
Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP)

Charles spearheads research and advocacy initiatives focusing on various aspects of the climate change and energy transition landscape, such as the economics of the energy transition, the solar PV value chain, clean cooking, and methane management in Africa's oil and gas sector. His expertise also extends to diverse projects in the extractive industry, covering topics like natural gas demand and supply dynamics in Ghana, local participation in the

oil and gas sector, local labor absorption in Ghana's extractive industry, and gender-responsive budgeting in mining-affected communities.

His research interests revolve around risk mitigation and investment decisions related to both utility-scale and small-scale renewable energy technologies in Africa. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Finance, with a specialization in Renewable Energy Investments, from the University of Ghana Business School. Additionally, Charles holds a master's degree in Operations Management and a Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics and Mathematics, both earned at the University of Ghana.

Session 1

Beyond Aid: Unlocking Innovative Financing Pathways for a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition



Moderator

Ikal Ang'elei

Director, Friends of Lake Turkana; Board Chair, Africa Centre for Energy Policy



Presenter

Nicolas Lippolis

International Finance Expert, Centre for the Study of African Economies | Columbia Climate Center



Presenter

Denis Gyeyir

Country Manager - Ghana, Natural Resource Governance Institute



Panelist

Dr. Emeka Vitalis Obi

Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Nigeria



Panelist

Nana Eduwah Appiah Searyoh

Head of Treasury and Business Finance, West African Gas Pipeline Company Limited (WAPCo)



Panelist

Dr. Olufunso Adegbeniga Somorin

Regional Principal Officer, African Development Bank Group (AfDB)



Panelist

Yaw Appiah Lartey

Head - Infrastructure, Capital Projects, and Economic Advisory, Deloitte Africa



Panelist

Bhekumuzi Dean Bhebhe

Senior Just Transitions Advisor, Power Shift Africa

Session 2

From Idea to Investment: Making Clean Energy Projects Bankable in Africa's High-Risk Markets



Moderator

Rita Effah

Senior Climate Finance Officer, Africa Development Bank Group (AfDB)



Presenter

Yaw Appiah Lartey

Head - Infrastructure, Capital Projects, and Economic Advisory, Deloitte Africa



Panelist

Abena Baidoo

Chief Finance Officer, Wahu Mobility Ltd.



Panelist

Paul Muthaura

Chief Executive Officer, Africa Carbon Markets Initiative (ACMI)



Panelist

Yaye Catherine Diop

Director - Energy Transition, Ministry of Energy, Petroleum and Mines, Senegal



Panelist

Sydney Nii Ayitey Tetteh

Executive VP - Energy & Infrastructure, Stanbic Bank



Panelist

Herbert Friese

General Manager, Dutch & Co. Ltd.

Session 3

Powering Africa, Made in Africa: Localizing Clean Energy Supply Chains from Minerals to Markets Through Regional Integration



Moderator

Alaka Lugonzo

Senior Civil Society
Advisor, Global Witness



Guest Speaker

Prof. Imasiku Nyambe

Vice Chancellor, Copperbelt
University; Member, Zambia -
DRC Battery Council



Discussant

Bright Simons

President, mPedigree;
Vice President, Imani Africa



Presenter

Charles Gyamfi Ofori

Policy Lead, Climate Change &
Energy Transition, Africa Centre
for Energy Policy (ACEP)

Innovation Challenge



Meet the Jury



Chairperson

Doris Edem Agbevivi

Project Manager - Energy Transition & Green Infrastructure, Agence Française de Développement



Member

Dr. Robert Sogbadji

Deputy Director - Nuclear & Emerging Green Technologies, Ministry of Energy and Green Transition, Ghana



Member

Mkhululi Nkosilamandla

Ncube
Programmes Officer, African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC)

Meet our Innovators

Participant	Country	Innovation
Ebenezer Anyadiegwu Orito	Nigeria	Waste to Clean Energy: Solar Mini-Grids in Remote Farming Communities, Integrating a Carbon Credit Revenue Model
Charlton Mandaza	Zimbabwe	Hydrogen-powered Stove as a Sustainable Solution to Zimbabwe's Cooking Energy Crisis
Ashaba Ajarah	Uganda	Plastics to Electricity: Carbon-neutral, prefabricated Housing Solution with Solar Photovoltaic Cell-infused Roof Tiles
Aisha Salifu	Ghana	Enhancing Climate-Resilient Agriculture in Asutuare through Solar Irrigation Pumps (SIPs) - ECRASIP
Herbert Bayo	Uganda	LBS Energy: Powering Rural Prosperity and Climate Action
Bienfait H. Mugenza	Democratic Republic of the Congo	AgriPower Roots (converting Agricultural Waste into Clean Energy for Rural Communities in Eastern DRC)

Thank You

to our partners and to all parties who contributed to making this conference a success.

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