



Future of Energy **Conference**
2025

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

Action Points



**Africa
Centre for
Energy Policy**



Introduction



The Future of Energy Conference 2025 brought together stakeholders from across Africa and beyond for two days of rich dialogue on the continent's evolving energy landscape. Plenary and side-event discussions spanned critical issues including financing Africa's energy future, governance and accountability, electric mobility, productive use of energy, methane mitigation, and Africa's positioning in emerging global value chains. Participants, representing governments, regional bodies, businesses, financial institutions, civil society, and academia, explored practical solutions to ensure that Africa's energy future is not only low-carbon but also inclusive, affordable, and growth-oriented.

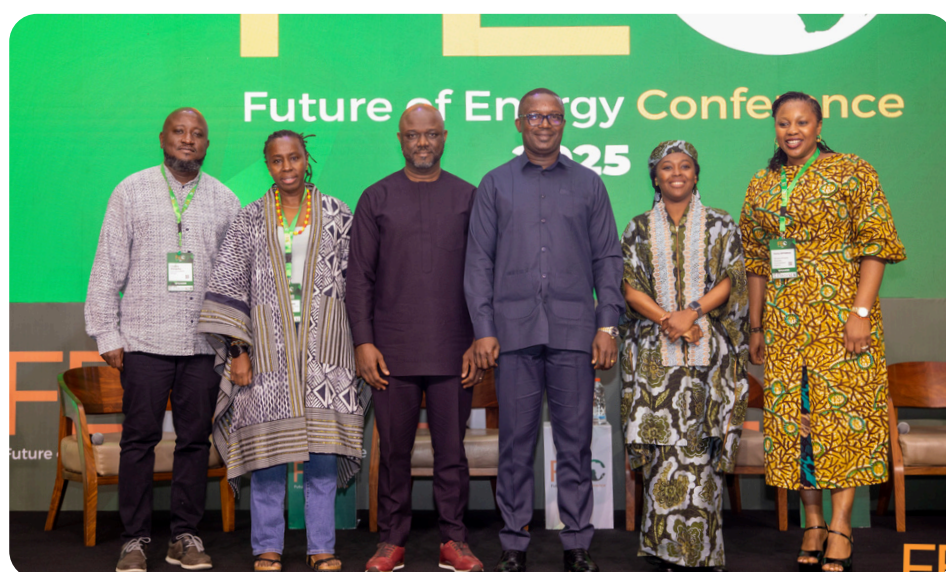
This document presents a synthesis of the key outcomes and action points from the conference. It highlights the shared priorities that emerged across sessions and clusters them into actionable steps for different stakeholder groups. The goal is to move beyond conversation to concrete actions that can be tracked, measured, and scaled in the months and years ahead.



Top-Level Takeaways from the Conference

- 1. Africa must assert agency in the global energy transition:** The continent cannot afford to be a passive participant in the global energy transition. Africa must put skin in the game by committing its own resources, shaping financing models, and building governance frameworks that reflect its priorities and realities.
- 2. Energy access must drive productivity, not just connections:** Electricity access must extend beyond household lighting. It must translate to improved livelihoods and drive productivity. In this regard, the next phase of improved electrification must prioritise productive use of energy for industrial activities such as agro-processing, manufacturing and mineral beneficiation to support both large industries and small enterprises. To achieve this goal, tariff reforms, targeted subsidies, and credit lines should be designed not merely to supply kilowatt-hours of energy but to stimulate enterprise growth and competitiveness.
- 3. Africa must strategically position itself in emerging value chains:** Africa must go beyond extraction and import dependence to capture value in Electric Vehicles (EVs), batteries, and critical minerals. Africa must leverage standards, local manufacturing, skills development, and inclusive innovation to capture greater value. This approach would enable the continent to shift from being a raw material supplier to becoming an active player in global industries.
- 4. Africa must unlock innovative financing for its energy future:** Africa receives approximately 2% of global clean energy investments, underscoring the scale of underinvestment in the continent. Therefore, urgently scaling innovative financing through blended finance, green bonds, hedging tools, and mobilising domestic capital must be a priority. Governance safeguards must also accompany these investments to ensure transparency and accountability.
- 5. Africa must strengthen governance, inclusivity, and regional cooperation:** Effective governance is the backbone of Africa's energy future. Strong institutions, transparent contracts, anti-corruption measures, and sound revenue management systems are essential safeguards without which progress will falter. At the same time, governments must embed communities, women, youth, and SMEs in design and ownership models. Regional blocs must also harmonise standards, pool resources, and leverage collective bargaining power in global negotiating platforms.

6. Africa must build synchronised industrial corridors: Africa's energy future will only drive industrialisation if it is embedded within coordinated industrial corridors that link power, transport, and trade infrastructure, supported by coherent policy and financing. Technology costs are no longer the most significant hurdle; competitiveness now depends on policy alignment, grid reliability, and strategic partnerships.



Action Points for Stakeholders

A. National Governments

1. Pass binding climate and energy transition laws with cross-party accountability to prevent policy reversals and provide long-term certainty.
2. Prioritise regulation and governance roles instead of direct state operation of energy businesses, ensuring a level playing field for private investment.
3. Establish national energy compacts that embed broader stakeholder participation, including civil society, industry, and communities.
4. Mobilise domestic resources such as pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and carbon taxes to unlock sustainable energy financing.
5. Create an enabling environment and provide catalytic financing for distributed renewable energy, particularly in underserved communities, while using policy and financing tools to ensure long-term sustainability.
6. Develop stranded asset conversion plans, such as repurposing old fossil facilities for renewable energy production.
7. Strengthen monitoring, reporting, and enforcement, such as Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) programs, and robust Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems, with policies that allow cost recovery for emission abatement investments.
8. Integrate renewable power into industrial corridor planning, linking rail, ports, grids, and special economic zones (SEZs) to drive industrial competitiveness.

B. Regional Economic Blocs (AU, ECOWAS, EAC, SADC, etc.)

1. Integrate power markets and optimise cross-border energy value chains to improve reliability, efficiency, and affordability of supply.
2. Establish regional risk-pooling mechanisms covering tariffs, political risk insurance, and currency hedging platforms to lower investment risks and attract capital.
3. Promote shared infrastructure models, such as interconnectors, refineries, and regional energy exchanges, to reduce duplication and maximise scale economies.
4. Lead collective bargaining on transition minerals, ensuring Africa secures fair and equitable terms in global markets.

5. Facilitate Research and Development (R&D) hubs that strengthen African innovation and manufacturing capacity, anchoring the continent in emerging clean energy value chains.
6. Enable lesson-sharing on emissions governance while aligning regional standards with regional and global regulations, so African oil and gas producers remain competitive in export markets.
7. Establish a regional SEZ regulator or authority to harmonise permitting, standards, and incentives, and prevent a race-to-the-bottom in investment attraction.

C. Private Sector

1. Properly structure Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) with transparent contracts and credible transaction advisors, to build trust and reduce investment risks.
2. Invest in local content and skills transfer in all joint ventures, ensuring African workers and firms gain long-term benefits from energy projects.
3. Adopt context-specific transition strategies, aligning decarbonisation plans with their technical and financial capacities to avoid stranded ambitions.
4. Diversify portfolios into renewables, hydrogen, and critical minerals, while decarbonising existing operations.
5. Refine business models to ensure long-term financial viability and scalability in rapidly changing markets.
6. Partner with governments to co-design bankable industrial projects that integrate logistics, energy, and finance, creating stronger value chains across Africa.

D. Financial Institutions

1. Provide local currency loan facilities and expand regional capital markets, reducing foreign exchange risks that undermine project viability.
2. Strengthen political risk insurance to cover structural risks across energy investments, not only guaranteeing foreign investments.
3. Engage early with project developers to shape bankability criteria and align financing with the real needs of the project.
4. Scale blended finance models, including first-loss capital, concessional finance, private equity, and green bonds, to crowd in larger pools of investment.
5. Expand financing for adaptation, loss, and damage, ensuring that resilience receives as much attention as mitigation.

E. Civil Society, NGOs, Academia and Research Institutions

1. Advocate for inclusive and transparent planning processes, ensuring that community voices, especially women, youth, and SMEs, are fully integrated in decision-making.
2. Drive public communication campaigns linking energy justice to affordability and fairness, while building public support for reforms.
3. Monitor and hold governments accountable on contract transparency, financing flows, and national oil company reforms.
4. Build and share evidence on why policy misalignment derails projects, providing accountability mechanisms and supporting consensus-building on difficult reforms such as subsidy removal and oil and gas futures.
5. Provide data-driven tools, such as energy indexes, forecasting models, and real-time monitoring systems, to guide effective planning and policymaking.
6. Strengthen research on the economic viability of renewables, storage, EV adoption, and local manufacturing value chains, embedding R&D into policy and industrial strategies.
7. Train the next generation of engineers, financiers, and policy experts, while championing grassroots innovation and community-driven solutions to anchor the transition in local economies.







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