



Future of Energy Conference 2026

**Powering Africa's Industrial Transformation: Energy Systems
for Value Addition and Competitiveness**

25th-26th August, 2026
Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra



**Africa
Centre for
Energy Policy**





Future of Energy **Conference**
2026



Welcome Note from Host



We are delighted to welcome you to the 2026 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 possesses a unique combination of mineral wealth and renewable energy potential that positions it to become a global hub for value addition, industrialisation, and clean energy innovation. Countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia, South Africa, Mozambique, and Madagascar anchor global critical mineral supply chains, while emerging initiatives in Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Namibia reflect continental commitment to domestic processing and beneficiation.

Yet, industrial ambitions confront a persistent energy paradox: mineral processing, smelting, and advanced manufacturing require reliable, affordable, large-scale electricity in systems already constrained by access deficits, infrastructure gaps, high industrial tariffs, and utility financial fragility. Without deliberate energy planning, industrial policies risk remaining aspirational rather than transformative.

This year's theme, "Powering Africa's Industrial Transformation: Energy Systems for Value Addition and Competitiveness" evolves the agenda to address the structural drivers of energy costs, infrastructure readiness, and industrial energy competitiveness, ensuring that Africa's value-addition and industrialisation ambitions are practically achievable.

FEC 2026 is about turning vision into action. Over the next two days, we will confront tough questions, spotlight homegrown solutions, and forge partnerships that

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," focused on mobilizing the capital and partnerships needed to deliver universal access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy while driving inclusive economic growth.

By convening diverse stakeholders, FEC 2026 evolves the agenda to address the structural drivers of energy costs, infrastructure readiness, and industrial energy competitiveness, ensuring that Africa's value-addition and industrialisation ambitions are practically achievable.

Africa is at a critical juncture in the global energy and industrial transition. The continent is rich in minerals essential to renewable technologies, batteries, and green hydrogen. This resource position allows Africa to both export raw materials and to capture higher-value segments of global supply chains.

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.

We are profoundly grateful to our partners—Enzi Ijayo Africa Initiative, Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundation, Diakonia, Global Methane Hub, Natural Resource Governance Institute, Resource Justice Network, Judith Neilson Foundation, Global Witness, Quadrature Climate Foundation—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, 25TH AUGUST 2026 (Adesa Hall)

Time	Activity
8:00 - 9:00	Arrival & Registration
9:00 – 9:20	Welcome Address & Opening: Mr. Benjamin Boakye (Executive Director, Africa Centre for Energy Policy, ACEP)
9:20 – 9:30	Address by Guest Speaker: Dr. John Abdulai Jinapor (Minister, Ministry of Energy and Green Transition, Ghana)
9:30 – 9:40	Address by Guest Speaker: Ms. Claudine Sigam (Interim Director General, African Minerals Development Centre – AMDC, African Union)
9:40 - 9:50	Address by Guest Speaker: Mr. Yagouba Traore (Head of Policy Planning and Strategy, Africa Energy Commission – AFREC, African Union)
9:50 –10:10	Address by Keynote Speaker: Dr. George Nana Agyekum Donkor (<i>President, ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development – EBID</i>)
10:10 - 10:20	Musical Interlude
10:20 - 11:25	Panel Session 1: Repositioning Africa’s Energy Systems for Industrial Competitiveness Moderator: Ms. Rushaiya Ibrahim-Tanko (Global Policy Director, Energy for Growth Hub) Discussants: Dr. Olufunso Somorin (Regional Principal Officer, African Development Bank) Ms. Wangari Muchiri (CEO, RE.Think Energy) Dr. Ishmael Ackah (Technical Adviser, Ministry of Energy and Green Transitions) Mr. Kabiru Sarki Bello (Director, Investment and Sector Development, Ministry of Power, Abuja, Nigeria) Mr. Kossi Toulasi, (AUDA-NEPAD Head of Industrialisation, Trade & Markets and Economic Analysis & Foresight)
11:25 – 12:40	Opening Address and Launch of Afrohackathon - Innovation Challenge 2026 : Mr. Donovan Antony Chimhandamba (President CEO, Nyanza Light Metals – South Africa) Afrohackathon - Innovation Challenge Part I

Time	Activity
12:40 – 13:00	Coffee/Health Break/Visit to Exhibition Booths/Networking
13:00 – 14:00	Side Events 1.Unlocking Investment Pathways for Sustainable Energy Solutions (Association of Ghana Industries, AGI) 2.How Self Supply Power is Serving as a Parallel Grid for Firms and Industries in Africa (Energy for Growth Hub) 3.Justice in Critical Minerals Governance: Rethinking Africa's Energy Costs, Supply Chains and Industrial Competitiveness (King's College) 4.Considering Alternative Dynamics and Sources for Sustainable Energy: Natural Resources and Human Development transitions in Africa's Sustainable Transformation (Lake Turkana) 5.From Deployment to Industrialization: Green Tech Innovation, Youth Employment and Industrial Competitiveness in Africa (APRI/NRGI) 6.Technology Pathways for Competitive Industrial Energy: Leveraging Innovation to Power Africa's Industrial Transformation (Virtual, Africa Centre for Digital Transformation)
14:00 – 15:15	Lunch/Exhibition Tour
15:20 – 16:20	Panel Session 2: Financing Competitive Industrial Energy Systems: Who Pays, Who Invests, and What Must Change? Moderator: Ms. Doris Edem Agbevivi (Project Manager for Energy Transition and Green Infrastructure for Ghana and Liberia, Agence Française de Développement) Discussants: Dr. Joseph Asenso (Head, Macroeconomic and Research Studies Division, Ecowas Bank for Investment and Development) Ms. Olanrewaju Atiqhuat Shasore (Senior Advisor, Sustainable Energy For All) Ms. Rachel Antwi, Sustainability Expert Mr. Chama Reuben Tisa (Chief Technical Officer, Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines-Investment Holding) Dr. Nqobile Xaba, (Programme Manager, Resources Futures in Africa)
16:20 – 17:20	Innovation Challenge Afrohackathon - Innovation Challenge Part II
17:20	Recap and Closing Remarks

Program Outline - Day 2

WEDNESDAY, 26TH AUGUST 2026 (Adesa Hall)

Time	Activity
8:00 – 9:00	Arrival & Registration
9:00 – 9:10	Address by Guest Speaker: Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson (Minister of Finance, Ghana)
9:10 – 9:30	Address by Keynote Speaker: Dr. Marit Kitaw (Economic Affairs Officer, UN Economic Commission for Africa - UNECA)
9:50 – 10:00	Musical Interlude
10:00 - 11:00	PLENARY THEMATIC DISCUSSION From Industrial Capacity to Competitive African Economies
	Panel Discussion: Powering Value Addition Through Competitive Industrial Value Chain Moderator: Dr. Theo Acheampong (Technical Adviser, Ministry of Finance) Discussants: Dr. Ketakandriana Rafitoson (Executive Director, Resource Justice Network) Mr. Donovan Antony Chimhandamba (President CEO, Nyanza Light Metals – South Africa) Mr. George Chikondi Lwanda (Economic Adviser, Energy and Natural Resources Division, Commonwealth Secretariat) Ms. Benedicta Lasi (Executive Chair – African Trade Chamber) Mr. Jerry Ahiadje (Chief Minerals Officer, African Natural Resources and Investment Centre, African Development Bank - AfDB)
	11:00 - 11:30 Expert Chat: Competing in a New Global Industrial Order: What Must Africa Get Right? Moderator: Dr. Juliette Twumasi-Anokye (Principal Consultant, Anojul Afriyie & Company) Discussant: Mr. Benjamin Boakye (Executive Director, Africa Centre for Energy Policy)
11:35 - 11:50	Coffee/Health Break/ Visit to Exhibition Booths/ Networking

Time	Activity
11:55 – 12:55	Side Events 1.From Data Gaps to Coordinated Action: Scaling Measurement Based Emissions Reporting across Africa's Energy Sector to Enhance Global Competitiveness (Stakeholder Democracy Network) 2. Powering Africa's Mineral Value Addition: Energy Systems, Regional Infrastructure and the Viability of Alumina Refining (Natural Resource Governance Institute) 3. Driving Industrial Competitiveness through Coherent Energy Systems and Policy Reforms (Strategic Youth Network Democracy) 4. Financing Africa's Green Industrialisation in the Energy Transition (TJNA/Enzi Ijaye) 5.Women Powering Africa's Industrial Transformation (AWEIK/NWEC) 6.The West African Power Pool (WAPP) High Level Strategic Dialogue: Financing Regional Integration through WAPP (Africa Change Lab)
13:00 - 1400	Side Events 1.From Methane Data to Risk-Informed Action: Strengthening Decision-Making for Effective Methane Management (ACEP, NRG, CATF, AMMIN) 2. Who is going to run Africa's Energy Transition?: Why Human Infrastructure is the Missing Line Item in Africa's Energy Investment Case (Energy Transition Africa) 3.Beyond Energy Access: Leveraging Decentralised Energy for Rural Infrastructure, Enterprise and Inclusive Growth (Dream Renewables/Tangelic) 4.From Minerals to Manufacturing: Powering Africa's Green Industrialisations (Sustainable Energy For All) 5.From Extraction to Transformation: Aligning Africa's Energy Transition Minerals with Industrial Policy and Structural Economic Transformation (SARW/TWN) 6.Investing in the Future: Policy Frameworks and Capital Pathways for Energy Innovations in Africa (Youth Council/RGCH) 7.The West African Power Pool (WAPP) High Level Strategic Dialogue, Building the Future Grid: Storage Readiness, Electrification, and Community Benefits. (Africa Change Lab, Labadi Conference Suite)
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch/Exhibition Tour
15:05 – 16:05	PLENARY THEMATIC DISCUSSION Panel 4: Beyond Resources: What Capabilities Must Africa Build to Compete in the Clean Energy Economy? Moderator: Ms. Alaka Lugonzo Discussants Dr. David Ofosu-Dorte – Co-Founder Senior Partner, AB & David Africa Ms. Sigam Claudine (<i>Director General, African Minerals Development Centre – AMDC, African Union</i>) Mr. Vincent Egoro (<i>Executive Director, Energy Transitions Africa</i>) Dr. Cledwyn Mangunda (<i>Program Convener for the Leaders in Extractives and African Development, University of Cape Town</i>) Ms. Nafi Quarshie (<i>Africa Director, Natural Resource Governance Institute - NRG</i>)
16:05– 17:05	Afrohackathon - Innovation Challenge (Grand Finale and Awards Presentation)
17:05	Conference Action Points 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 NRG 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

DR. GEORGE AGYEKUM DONKOR

President, ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)

Dr. George Agyekum Donkor has been the President and Chairman of the Board of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) since 2020, previously serving as Vice-President of Finance and Head of Legal/Compliance. With three decades of experience in corporate law and development banking, he has driven significant achievements at EBID, including credit rating upgrades, Green Climate Fund accreditation, and awards for innovation and sustainability.

He holds a Doctorate in Business Administration, an Executive MBA, and is a Harvard alumnus. He serves on various boards, including Ecobank and ASKY Airlines, and is involved in academia as a visiting lecturer. His accolades include multiple leadership awards and recognition as a top influencer in Africa.

Additionally, he is Chancellor of NiBS University, Honorary President of G-NEXID, and President of the African-Jewish Chamber of Commerce, recognized as a prominent public speaker at international events.

Keynote Speaker- Day 2

DR. MARIT KITAW

Economic Affairs Officer
UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)



Dr. Marit Kitaw, PhD is currently an Economic Affairs Officer at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), leading the minerals sector portfolio. She is the Former Interim Director of the African Minerals Development Center (AMDC), a Specialized Agency of the AU dedicated to harnessing Africa's minerals for inclusive, people-centered transformational growth by implementing the Africa Mining Vision (AMV). In this role, she led the adoption of key strategies, including Africa's Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS). She served on the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals as the AU's representative. Dr. Kitaw held positions at the AMDC in UNECA, at UNDP Mozambique as Chief Technical Advisor on Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development, at COMESA, the African Development Bank, and the Institute of World Affairs in Washington, DC. Dr. Marit Kitaw holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Nice/Sophia-Antipolis in France and an MBA in Leadership and Sustainability from the University of Cumbria, UK. She is passionate about Africa's development and prosperity and welcomes out-of-the-box analytical thinking and bold ideas to move the continent forward.

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 for 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 holds a PhD in Development Finance at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa and an MSc in Energy Economics, an MSc in Development Finance, an MBA in Marketing, and an MA in Economic Policy Management.

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.

Claudine Sigam

Director General,
African Minerals Development Centre, African Union



Claudine Sigam is Director General of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), where she leads African Union efforts to advance implementation of the Africa Mining Vision and the Africa Green Minerals Strategy, with a focus on mineral governance, value addition and sustainable mineral-led industrialization across the continent. She brings extensive expertise in the extractive industries, including oil, gas and mining, gained over more than 30 years within the United Nations system, spanning natural resource-based industrialization, economic diversification, investment, commodity finance and the just energy transition. She contributed to the development of the Africa Mining Vision and later held a senior leadership role at the AMDC during its pilot phase at United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

At UNCTAD, she designed and led major global programmes and policy platforms, including the OILGASMINE Global Policy and Investment Platform, which she led for 17 years, bringing together governments, industry, civil society and development partners.

She holds an MBA from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a Master's degree in Industrial Economics from Université Pierre Mendès France, Grenoble.

Guest Speakers



Yagouba Traore

Head of Policy Planning and Strategy,
Africa Energy Commission – AFREC, African Union

Mr Yagouba Traore is the Head of Policy Planning & Strategy at the African Energy Commission (AFREC). He has more than 25 years of experience in Infrastructure and Energy fields and related policy development at national, regional, and continental levels. Prior to joining AFREC, Mr. Yagouba served as Chief of Infrastructure Unit within the African Union Commission where he coordinated, among others, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), an AU adopted strategic framework to address the infrastructure gaps in the sectors of Energy, Transport, ICT and Water. In his role, Mr. Yagouba is responsible for leading the delivery of AFREC's strategic programmes on the development of energy resources in Africa, while providing policy and strategic support to the African Union Member States based on continental, regional and national priorities. He leads the continental programmes that ensure energy security including on expanding renewable energy, enhancing energy efficiency, modernizing African bioenergy, supporting energy transition, providing clean cooking services, improving institutional capacities and skills in the Africa Energy sectors.

Hon. Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson

Minister for Finance, Ghana

Dr. Cassiel Ato Baah Forson is Ghana's Minister for Finance and Member of Parliament for the Ajumako Enyan Essiam Constituency since 2009. He is an economist, chartered accountant, and tax professional with over 20 years of experience in public finance and economic policy. He holds a PhD in Finance and an MSc in Economics from KNUST, an MSc in Taxation from the University of Oxford, and a BSc in Accounting from London South Bank University. He is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Ghana, and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, Ghana.



He has held key leadership roles in Parliament, including Leader of the Minority Caucus and Ranking Member of the Finance Committee, contributing to fiscal oversight and economic legislation. Dr. Forson previously served as Deputy Minister for Finance (2013–2017), where he oversaw budget implementation, debt management, and tax policy. He also served on the Boards of the Bank of Ghana and COCOBOD, was a member of the Economic Management Team, and acted as Ghana's Alternate Governor to the IMF.

He played a key role in negotiating Ghana's 2015 IMF Extended Credit Facility programme and contributed to the passage of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).

As Minister for Finance, he is leading efforts to restore macroeconomic stability, ensure debt sustainability, and strengthen fiscal discipline.

Speakers



Rushaiya Ibrahim-Tanko

Global Policy Director, Energy for Growth Hub

Rushaiya Ibrahim-Tanko is Global Policy Director at the Energy for Growth Hub and a lawyer with expertise in energy and natural resource governance, contract transparency, and public-sector accountability across emerging markets. Her work focuses on energy contract transparency, government engagement, utility governance, and the relationship

between energy, mining, industrialization, and economic growth. She works with governments, policy institutions and civil society to strengthen power-sector governance, improve the design and oversight of energy contracts, and address the fiscal and investment risks associated with electricity markets.

Rushaiya previously worked with the Natural Resource Governance Institute and served as Technical Advisor to the UK-funded Strengthening Action Against Corruption program, where she contributed to transparency reforms including Ghana's Companies Act, 2019 and beneficial ownership register. She has also practiced law in Ghana and served as Head of Research for Ghana's 2024 Constitution Review Consultative Committee. She holds qualifications from the Ghana School of Law, Mountcrest University College, and the University of Ghana.

Dr. Theophilus Acheampong

Technical Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Ghana

Dr. Theophilus "Theo" Acheampong is an economist, political risk specialist, and academic with 15+ years' experience across public finance, energy, and extractives. He serves as Technical Advisor at Ghana's Ministry of Finance, where he spearheaded the setup of the country's first Independent Fiscal Council and Value for Money Office, and sits on the Investment Advisory Committee overseeing Ghana's USD 1.4 billion oil-backed Sovereign Wealth Fund. He has



delivered 60+ consulting engagements on economic modelling, resource taxation, macrofiscal reform, and industrial policy for clients including the World Bank, FCDO, African Development Bank, and NRGI. Theo holds a PhD in Energy Economics and an MSc from the University of Aberdeen, a BSc in Chemical Engineering from KNUST, and is reading an MSc in Taxation at Oxford University. He is regularly engaged by global media outlets such as the BBC, The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, and Bloomberg on Africa's macroeconomic landscape and energy sector issues.



Doris Edem Agbevivi

Project Manager, Energy Transition & Green Infrastructure
(Ghana & Liberia) Agence Française de Développement

Doris Edem Agbevivi is a Ghanaian expert in sustainability, energy policy, and finance, with over ten years of experience in clean energy and climate action across Africa. As Project Manager for Energy Transition and Green Infrastructure at the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), she oversees energy portfolios in Ghana and Liberia and supports climate objectives through strategic financing and policy. She has significantly influenced Ghana's energy and transport sectors, contributing to key policies and leading initiatives like the Drive Electric Initiative, the country's first E-mobility Conference, and national EV standards.

Doris has also consulted for the World Health Organization and spoken at over 50 global platforms on sustainable mobility and climate action, participating in high-level forums like COP and UN HLPF. She is a Yale Emerging Climate Leaders Fellow and an Obama Africa Leader, holding MSc degrees in Energy Economics from the University of Aberdeen and Sustainability from the University of Oxford.

Alaka Lugonzo

Partnerships Lead- Africa, Global Witness

Alaka Lugonzo is a seasoned programme management professional with over twelve years of experience working at the intersection of community and stakeholder engagement, law, policy, advocacy, gender, business and human rights, and environmental justice within the energy and extractives sectors. Her work spans oil, gas, and mining, with a strong focus on just transition and climate justice.

Over the course of her career, Alaka has led and supported strategic initiatives that strengthen accountability and responsible resource governance across Africa. Her expertise includes project management, strategic partnerships, resource mobilization, and policy engagement. She has extensive experience collaborating with development organizations, donors, governments, extractive industry actors, civil society organizations, coalitions, and regional networks to advance equitable and sustainable approaches to natural resource governance.

Alaka is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Energy Law and Policy from the University of Dundee in Scotland. She also holds an Executive Certificate in Oil, Gas and Mining Governance from the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford.

Alaka currently serves as Partnerships Lead – Africa at Global Witness, where she works at the intersection of transition minerals, climate justice and Land and Environmental Defenders, supporting collaboration between civil society actors and global stakeholders to promote a responsible and equitable energy transition.





Dr. Olufunso Somorin

Regional Principal Officer at the African Development Bank

Dr. Olufunso Somorin, Regional Principal Officer, coordinates the carbon market program at the African Development Bank, leading the strategic partnerships with public and private sectors on scaling carbon investments in Africa. He combines this with leading the climate change and green growth program in the 13 countries of Eastern African region. He also contributes to Bank's program 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. Dr Somorin has written more than 50 publications on climate policy. Somorin holds a PhD in International Environmental Policy from Wageningen University, the Netherlands. As an Erasmus Mundus scholar, he holds two MSc degrees in agriculture and forest policies. 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 (UK) and Strathmore University (Kenya). He is a recipient of several 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.

Wangari Muchiri

CEO, RE.Think Energy

Wangari Muchiri is a prominent figure in Africa's clean energy transition, with 15 years of experience as a Renewable Energy Engineer, entrepreneur, and policy strategist. As CEO of RE.Think Energy, she focuses on building Africa's energy infrastructure through project incubation, R&D, policy development, and supply chain localization a just energy transition for Africa. Previously, as Africa Director at GWEC, she led initiatives that doubled Africa's wind capacity from 6 GW to 12 GW and now advises the Global Solar Council. Wangari has been recognized globally for her influence in energy and climate, receiving awards from several prestigious organizations.

She holds engineering degrees from the University of New South Wales and the University of Technology Sydney, along with an Executive MBA from Oxford University. Beyond her professional roles, she serves on multiple boards and is a passionate global traveler, committed to promoting





Dr. Ishmael Ackah

Technical Adviser,
Ministry of Energy and Green Transitions

Ishmael is a Technical Advisor at Ghana's Ministry of Energy and Green Transition, where he chaired the Technical Committee for the National Energy Compact (M300) and coordinates the Energy Sector Recovery Program. He has been involved in various committees, including the Government's Power Purchase Agreement Renegotiation Committee and the Energy sector Cybersecurity Project. Previously, he served as the Executive Secretary of the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission and worked as a Regulatory Expert for the USAID West Africa Energy Program. Ishmael is a Senior Advisor at the Energy for Growth Hub and has provided advisory services to organizations like the World Bank and the African Development Bank. An accomplished academic, he is an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Ghana Law School and GIMPA, with over 70 publications and an H-index of 20. He holds a PhD in Energy Economics and has completed executive education at top universities. Ishmael has received several awards and recognitions, including the Emerald Literati Award and the Australian Awards for Africa.

Kabiru Sarki Bello

Director of Investment and Development, Ministry
of Power, Nigeria

Kabiru Sarki Bello hails from a royal family in Paiko Town of Niger State, Nigeria. He attended Federal Government College Sokoto and the University of Sokoto in Northern Nigeria, where he studied Geography. He entered into service from the National Commission for Refugees, Nigeria. He served in various institutions ranging from the Federal Ministry of Health, The Federal Ministry of Water Resources, and the Federal Ministry of Works. He rose through the ranks of the service to the position of a director. Currently, Director, Investment and Sector Development, Federal Ministry of Power. He is happily married with four (4) children. He loves reading, swimming and table tennis as hobbies.



Kossi Toulassi

AUDA-NEPAD | Head of Industrialization, Trade
& Markets and Economic Analysis & Foresight

Senior executive with more than 20 years of experience across continental institutions and multinational organisations in Africa and Europe. Proven track record in green industrialisation, transition minerals and extractive industries, industrial policy, trade facilitation, market development, economic analysis, strategy, finance and resource mobilisation. Experienced in leading cross-functional teams, shaping policy-relevant and investable programme concepts, facilitating high-level stakeholder dialogue, and producing analytical and strategic outputs for governments, development partners and decision-makers.



Dr. David Ofosu-Dorte

Snr. Partner & Co-founder, AB & David Law

David Ofosu-Dorte, is the founder of AB & David Africa, a trailblazing Africa focused global business law firm spanning multiple African countries. His deep insights over three (3) decades are great value to clients seeking to succeed in Africa and he is the go-to-person when boardrooms require balanced analysis of issues that impact businesses in Africa.

David has recently been appointed to serve on the newly formed independent Advisory Group of Eminent Personalities to advance the African Union Development Fund, an initiative of AUDA-NEPAD. David holds a Doctorate Degree in Business Administration, a Masters in Public Administration, a Masters in Applied Business Research and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport and a Fellow of the Ghana Institute of Planners.

Nafi Quarshie

Africa Director, Natural Resource Governance Institute

Nafi Quarshie (nee Chinery) is the Africa Director at the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and a seasoned international development strategist with 30 years of experience in the international development sector and civil society. She leads NRGI's Africa strategy, partnerships, programs on transition mineral governance and just energy transition, working with governments, civil society, and strategic partners to advance inclusive, equitable, and accountable resource governance. She is recognized for bridging high-level policy dialogue with on-the-ground impact and reshaping narratives on Africa's extractive sector and energy transition. A 2014 Aspen New Voices Fellow, Nafi has written quite a bit about the extractive sector in Africa and holds degrees from the University of Reading, the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government, and the University of Cape Coast. She is a steering committee member of the 2027 Africa Mining Indaba.



Vincent Egoro

Executive Director, Energy Transitions Africa

Vincent Egoro is the Executive Director of Energy Transition Africa (ETA), an independent Africa-led institution advancing the continent's energy transition through research, leadership development and strategic convening. His work focuses on one central question: how Africa can build the people and institutions needed to deliver a competitive, inclusive and resilient energy transition. Through ETA, Vincent leads the production of evidence-based analysis, develops the next generation of energy transition leaders through the ETA Fellows Programme, and convenes policymakers, industry, researchers and development partners to strengthen the human infrastructure that underpins Africa's energy future. Vincent has worked across energy transition, natural resource governance and climate policy for more than a decade, collaborating with governments, regional institutions, civil society and international partners across Africa. He is a TED speaker and is recognised for advancing practical conversations on how stronger leadership, institutions and technical expertise can translate Africa's energy ambitions into industrial development, economic competitiveness and long-term prosperity. He believes Africa's greatest energy opportunity will be determined not only by the resources it possesses, but by the capabilities it deliberately builds.

Dr. Cledwyn Mangunda

Senior Lecturer, University of Cape Town

Cledwyn Mangunda is an experienced chemical engineer with a passion for sustainable metal extraction and recovery, African leadership and resourcing African for tomorrow. His 19-year career has spanned managerial roles in food processing, metal and timber processing industries, industrial energy management, and academia. He currently serves on the advisory board of two higher

education institutions within Southern Africa. He is the Programme Co-convenor for the Leaders in Extractives and African Development (LEAD) programme and Coordinator for the GCRF Mine Dust and Health Network. His current research interests are in hydrometallurgical processes focusing on extraction, recovery and purification of renewable energy metal feed streams for the production, storage, and electrification of Africa (and beyond), waste treatment and valorisation, mine dust mitigation and control, and mine impacted stakeholder engagement.



Dr. Ketakandriana Rafitoson

Executive Director, Resource Justice Network

Dr Ketakandriana Rafitoson is a Malagasy political scientist, anti-corruption activist, and human rights defender who serves as the Global Executive Director for Resource Justice Network – formerly known as Publish What You Pay (PWYP), since 2024; and the Vice-Chair of Transparency International since 2023.

Her research and advocacy focus on just energy transition, good governance, democratization, citizens' engagement, and women and youth's empowerment. Fond of social justice, she holds a PhD in Political Science and another one in Sociology for Development. She lectures at the Catholic University of Madagascar and co-founded several social movements locally. Beyond her official roles, "Ke" also sits on the international boards of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) and the African Women Against Corruption Network (AWACN), and as a former TED Speaker, is the curator and founder of TEDx Manjakamiadana.

Donovan Anthony Chimhandamba

President | CEO, Nyanza Light Metals, South Africa

Donovan Chimhandamba is a visionary industrialist and founder of Nyanza Light Metals, a pioneering manufacturer of Titanium Dioxide and Energy Transition Materials including Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP), Zirconium Oxychloride (ZrOCl₂), located in Richards Bay, South Africa. Holding a Bachelor of Engineering (Honors) degree in Industrial and Manufacturing and an MBA, Donovan has extensive

experience including senior roles at Engen Petroleum Refinery (industrial engineer), PPC Cement (operations engineer), Vesuvius International (Manufacturing & Operations General Manager), National Empowerment Fund (Fund Manager - project preparation, project finance and private equity), and Group Five (Business Development). In 2011, he co-founded Arkein Capital Partners, establishing Nyanza Light Metals (2011), Razorite Healthcare Fund (2013, divested in 2015), Diaspora Infrastructure Development Group (2016), and Transition Metal Industries (2023). As President and CEO of Nyanza Group, Donovan drives economic growth, job creation, and sustainability through innovative industrial projects focused on transforming Africa's abundant mineral ores into high value products, earning him recognition as a thought leader in mineral beneficiation and value addition for Africa's industrialization and energy transition.





George Chikondi Lwanda

Economic Adviser, Energy and Natural Resources
Division, Commonwealth Secretariat

George Chikondi Lwanda is Economic Adviser, Energy and Natural Resources, at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. He advises 56 member countries on mining, petroleum, critical minerals, fiscal regimes, revenue management and energy transition finance, with particular attention to small states and least developed countries. A development economist with 25 years across Sub-Saharan Africa, he served as UNDP's regional adviser on extractive industries and natural resources governance, supporting 15 governments on mining policy reform, fiscal regime design, contract transparency and beneficial ownership. He co-authored the Country Mining Vision Guidebook, adopted by the African Union as the operational tool for turning the Africa Mining Vision into national action plans. He later headed the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in The Gambia, coordinating 21 UN agencies. His earlier career spans the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Jobs Fund at South Africa's National Treasury, the European Commission Delegation in Malawi and the Reserve Bank of Malawi. He holds an MSc in Economic Management and Policy from the University of Strathclyde and a postgraduate diploma in International Trade Law and Policy from the University of Cape Town. He is an Asia Global Fellow of the University of Hong Kong.

Benedicta Lasi Esq.

Executive Chair, African Trade Chamber

Benedicta Lasi is a Ghanaian lawyer and development strategist who serves as Executive Chair of the African Trade Chamber (ATC), where she promotes private sector-led trade, investment, and regional integration, advancing frameworks aligned with the AfCFTA. She also serves as the Chair of the Executive Council of the Africa Governance Centre (AGC) and as a Senior Partner at Fitch Attorneys. With a background in law, political science, economic policy, and peace and security, she bridges governance and economic development to support inclusive transformation across the continent. Benedicta has a diverse expertise in transactional law, energy, infrastructure financing, telecommunications, international trade, and impact investing on the African continent. She also currently serves as the Chairperson of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Commission on Trade & Investment.



Jerry Ahadjie

Chief Minerals Officer, African Natural Resources
and Investment Centre, African Development Bank

Jerry Ahadjie is a mining and natural resources specialist with 30 years of experience in mineral resource management, policy analysis, mineral sector regulation, investment promotion and development finance. He is currently Chief Minerals Officer at the African Development Bank, supporting the Bank's work on responsible mineral development, value addition, resource-based industrialisation, and implementation of the AMV and Africa's Green Minerals Strategy across Regional Member Countries, helping countries strengthen mineral governance and translate mineral endowments into sustainable development outcomes. Prior to the Bank, he worked with the Ghana Minerals Commission, rising to Deputy Manager for Sectoral Policy, Planning and Projects. He holds a BSc (Hons) in Mining Engineering and an MSc in Mineral Exploration (GIS-based applications) from the University of Twente, Netherlands, plus several professional certificates in mineral policy and economics, development finance, mineral value chains, strategic management, mine closure and project management. He has authored and delivered numerous publications and presentations on Africa's mining sector, particularly on mineral governance, value addition, critical minerals and sustainable resource-based development.



Olanrewaju Atiqhuat Shasore

Senior Advisor, Sustainable Energy for All

Lanre Shasore is Senior Adviser for Africa at Sustainable Energy for All. In this role she provides senior-level coverage for the Africa programme including high-level government engagement and advocacy with regional institutions.

Dr. Ngobile Xaba

Program manager for Resources Futures in Africa opportunity at Open Society Foundations.



Dr Xaba is a program manager for Resources Futures in Africa opportunity at Open Society Foundations. She holds senior research fellowships at the Department of Geography & Environmental Management & Energy Studies (University of Johannesburg), and the Foundation for Renewable Energy and the Environment (New York). Her research work focuses on the just energy transition, and mineral resource development. She works with diverse teams in the African continent and globally, researching mineral resource development for the continent in the context of an evolving climate landscape and the socio-economic implications for the global energy transition. She has published her work on renowned scientific journal articles, has contributed book chapters and opinion editorial articles on leading South African publications. She is the co-editor and contributing author to the MISTRA volume A Just Transition to a Low Carbon Future in South Africa. She previously worked as a researcher at the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA). She was a chemistry lecturer at Tshwane University of Technology and previously worked as researcher at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for half a decade researching energy materials for clean energy technologies. She holds a BSc degree in pure and applied chemistry (cum laude) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), and BSc honours degree in chemistry, an MSc degree in chemical engineering science from the University of North-West (NWU), and a PhD in chemistry from the University of the Western Cape (UWC). She is an alumnus of the 72nd Lindau Nobel Laureate meeting.



Rachael A. O. Antwi

Sustainability Expert

Rachael A. O. Antwi is the Group Head of Sustainability, Environmental & Social Risk Management, and Sustainable Finance Governance at Ecobank Transnational Incorporated, overseeing operations in 34 African markets and 38 countries. Her role integrates sustainability strategy and risk management within one of Africa's largest banking groups. She has mobilized over USD 1.04 billion in sustainability-linked capital, including the USD 450 million Sustainable Agriculture & Natural Capital Bond, the first ICMA-designated Nature Bond from a commercial bank, listed on the London Stock Exchange in May 2026. Rachael has a background in corporate and investment banking at Absa Capital, contributing to Africa's first platinum ETF and multiple ETF listings. She holds various qualifications, including an MBA and MSc from the University of Oxford, and serves as the ICMA Regional Deputy Chair for West Africa.

Dr. Joseph Asenso

Head, Macroeconomic and Research Studies
Division, EBID

Joseph Kwadwo Asenso is the Head of the Macroeconomic Research and Studies Division and the Acting Head of the Operational Strategy Division of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID). He coordinates research, strategic planning and provides macroeconomic context to all investment decisions of the Bank. His notable contributions include the development of the Bank's Strategy

2025 (2021-2025), the GRO Strategy (2026-2030), and the West African Development Outlook, a socio-economic report and forecasting document. Prior to joining EBID, he was the Head of the Energy, Oil and Gas Unit at the Ministry of Finance. This task involved revenue forecasting, reporting and accountability to the state machinery and the public. He also coordinated national GDP forecasting.

Joseph holds a BA and an MPhil in Economics from the University of Ghana, a PhD in Economics from Oita University (Japan) and an MBA from the University of Liverpool, UK. He served as a director on the MA Economic Policy Management Programme Advisory Board, Department of Economics (University of Ghana) and Vodafone Ghana Mobile Financial Services and was a member of the National Accounts Committee, Ghana Statistical Service, among others.



Chama Reuben Tisa

Chief Technical Officer, ZCCM-IH

Eng. Tisa Reuben Chama is a mining engineer with more than 30 years of experience across technical, operational, project management, corporate governance, and investment oversight roles in the mining industry. His experience spans Zambia, Namibia, South Africa, East Africa, and West Africa, covering copper, cobalt, uranium, and gold. He currently serves as Chief Technical Officer at ZCCM Investments Holdings Plc, where he

provides technical leadership and oversight across mining, energy, and related investment portfolios. Prior to joining ZCCM-IH in 2020, he served as Senior Principal Mining Engineer for AngloGold Ashanti's Africa Region and held senior roles with ZCCM Ltd, Konkola Copper Mines Plc, Rio Tinto, AngloGold Ashanti, and Barrick. Eng. Chama has served as a non-executive director on the boards of Kansanshi Mining Plc, Mopani Copper Mines Plc, and Copperbelt Energy Corporation Plc, bringing governance-level exposure to mining operations, energy infrastructure, strategic oversight, and corporate decision-making. He is a Registered Engineer and a Fellow of the Engineering Institution of Zambia, and a member of the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. He holds a Bachelor of Mineral Sciences in Mining Engineering from the University of Zambia and an MBA from the University of the Free State, South Africa.

Dr. Juliette Twumasi-Anokye

Chairperson, ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority (ERCA); Managing Partner, Anojul & Associates

Dr. Juliette Twumasi-Anokye is an accomplished lawyer, international consultant, and natural resources governance specialist with over 25 years advising governments, regional institutions, and private sector clients across Africa. Her expertise spans oil and gas, mining, energy law, investment law, regulatory reform, ESG, local content, and institutional development. She currently serves as Principal Consultant at Anojul Afriyie Ltd., advising on petroleum, mining, infrastructure, regulatory compliance, investment, and public sector reform. She also chairs the ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority (ERCA) and the Centre for Extractives Development Africa (CEDA), leading initiatives advancing regional competition policy, transparency, and value creation across Africa's extractive industries.

Dr. Twumasi-Anokye has extensive experience drafting legislation, regulations, and institutional frameworks for the petroleum and mining sectors, including legal due diligence, fiscal analysis, contract review, and stakeholder engagement that strengthened governance and attracted responsible investment across the continent.

She is a dual-qualified lawyer, admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales and a Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Ghana. She holds a PhD in Law, an LLM, an LLB, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Competition Policy, and is a graduate of PETRAD, Norway, and the UN SDSN's SDG Academy.



Mkhululi Nkosilamandla Ncube

Programmes Officer, African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC)



Mkhululi Nkosilamandla Ncube is the Programmes Officer at the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), a specialized agency of the African Union. He provides strategic operational support and coordination for the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision and its Action Plan, as well as the minerals segment of the African Union Commodity Strategy. Mkhululi currently leads the Li-Ion Afro-Hackathon Initiative as a demonstrable implementation of the African Green Minerals Strategy and also oversees the Artisanal and

Small-Scale Mining (ASM) portfolio at AMDC, where he is currently leading the African Gemstone, Jewellery Exhibition and Conference (AGJEC) series - spurring multiple gemstone and jewellery events across the continent. With close to 20 years of minerals development experience, Mkhululi has held roles in development, knowledge management, and policy research at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Development Policy Management Forum (DPMF). His work has covered natural resources management, regional integration, trade, youth, and women empowerment. Additionally, Mkhululi has a separate background as a farmer, a small-scale mining beneficial owner, and an entrepreneur, having been recognized as a Start-upper of the Year and a multiple international finalist in community-based social enterprise competitions.

Session 1

Repositioning Africa's Energy Systems for Industrial Competitiveness



Moderator

Rushaiya Ibrahim-Tanko
Global Policy Director,
Energy for Growth Hub



Panelist

Dr. Olufunso Somorin
Regional Principal Officer,
African Development Bank



Panelist

Ms. Wangari Muchiri
CEO, RE.Think Energy



Panelist

Dr. Ishmael Ackah
Technical Adviser,
Ministry of Energy and Green
Transitions



Panelist

Mr. Kabiru Sarki Bello
Director, Investment and
Sector Development, Ministry
of Power, Abuja, Nigeria



Panelist

Kossi Toulassi
AUDA-NEPAD | Head of
Industrialization, Trade & Markets
and Economic Analysis & Foresight

Session 2

Financing Competitive Industrial Energy Systems: Who Pays, Who Invests, and What Must Change?



Moderator

Doris Edem Agbevivi

Project Manager for Energy Transition and Green Infrastructure for Ghana and Liberia, Agence Française de Développement



Panelist

Dr. Joseph Asenso

Head, Macroeconomic and Research Studies Division, EBID



Panelist

Olanrewaju Atiqhuat Shasore

Senior Advisor, Sustainable Energy for All



Moderator

Dr. Nqobile Xaba

Program manager for Resources Futures in Africa opportunity, Open Society Foundations.



Panelist

Rachel A. O Antwi

Sustainability Expert



Panelist

Chama Reuben Tisa

Chief Technical Officer, ZCCM-IH

Session 1

Powering Value Addition Through Competitive Industrial Value Chain



Moderator

Dr. Theophilus Acheampong

Project Manager for Energy Transition and Green Infrastructure for Ghana and Liberia, Agence Française de Développement



Panelist

Dr. Ketakandriana Rafitoson

Executive Director, Resource Justice Network



Panelist

Donovan Anthony Chimhandamba

President | CEO, Nyanza Light Metals, South Africa



Panelist

George Chikondi Lwanda

Economic Adviser, Energy and Natural Resources Division, Commonwealth Secretariat



Panelist

Benedicta Lasi

Executive Chair, African Trade Chamber



Panelist

Jerry Ahiadje

Chief Minerals Officer, African Natural Resources and Investment Centre, African Development Bank

Session 2

Beyond Resources: What Capabilities Must Africa Build to Compete in the Clean Energy Economy?



Moderator

Alaka Lugonzo

Senior Civil Society Advisor, Transition Minerals Campaign Global Witness



Panelist

Sigam Claudine

Interim Director General, African Minerals Development Centre – AMDC, African Union



Panelist

Dr. David Ofosu-Dorte

Snr. Partner | Co-founder, AB&David Africa



Panelist

Nafi Quarshie

Africa Director, Natural Resource Governance Institute



Panelist

Vincent Egoro

Executive Director, Energy Transition Africa



Panelist

Dr. Cledwyn Mangunda

Senior Lecturer, University of Cape Town

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