

Africa, a key player in the energy transition

High Level Forum on Financing Energy Transition in Africa

Co-organised by the AUC and IEA

9 November 2022, 15.00-16.30, Africa Pavilion

The Africa Union Commission (AUC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) propose to organise an event at COP27 to discuss critical energy issues facing Africa and mobilise efforts to ensure energy access, security and respond to climate change. The IEA in partnership with the AUC produced the *Africa Energy Outlook* launched in June 2022, which looks at possible pathways for Africa's energy systems to evolve towards achieving African development goals, including universal access to modern and affordable energy services by 2030 and Nationally Determined Contributions.

In June 2022, the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, and Energy (STC-TTIIE) comprising of ministers of transport and energy adopted the *African Common Position on Energy Access and Transition* which was endorsed by the AU Executive Council in July 2022. While demonstrating the need for Africa to use its abundant resources to close the energy access gap, the African Common position identifies financing as a key pillar for developing the African energy sector and meeting its ambitions for a low carbon and climate resilient development. However, there is a huge financing gap of about US\$ 90 billion annually. There is, therefore need to accelerate efforts and expand financing sources as well as introduce innovative financing mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels. Climate finance is one such opportunity whose flows to Africa need to increase from the current 3% to levels comparable with other regions.

The COP27 being hosted in Africa presents a unique opportunity to bring together key decision-makers to focus on the next steps for the continent's energy access and transition and mobilise its financing in the context of the AUC-IEA High-Level dialogue.

The event is expected to expand on the *Africa Energy Outlook* findings, their implications and opportunities for addressing the continent's energy needs and closing the policy and financing gaps to accelerate the transition as well as strengthening the partnership between AU and IEA Member States.

The event will be a 90 minute-round table, opened by the IEA Executive Director and the AUC Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, followed by a moderated panel discussion. The discussion will cover the following questions:

- **Which opportunities exist for the African continent to achieve its development objectives under the ongoing energy crisis and what are the potential benefits? How is the current crisis reshaping Africa's energy future?**
 - *Near-term market opportunities must not distract from declining oil and gas export revenues in the future*
 - *Job creation, including for women and youth in mineral, manufacturing sectors, etc.*
 - *Greater focus on strengthening Africa's internal energy market to minimise effects of external shocks*
- **How can Africa lead the energy transition? Where are its competitive advantages?**
 - *Solar and wind resources*

- *Critical minerals resources*
- *Achievement of climate objectives (phase out of traditional use of biomass)*
- *Strategic location in proximity with high demand regions for energy transition fuels*
- **What are the key pillars to help achieve the transition?**
 - *Regional and international cooperation, technology transfer*
 - *Stronger institutions with clear strategies and enhanced capacities.*
 - *Greater financing flows required for energy access and just transition*
 - *Building Africa’s capacity to access climate financing*
- **What does Africa need to do to increase the flow of green funds to accelerate energy access and transition?**

Agenda – tentative duration of 1h30	
<i>Moderator</i>	tbd
15:00	Opening remarks Dr. Fatih Birol Dr. Amani Abu-Zeid
15 :10	IEA Presentation – scene setting from the AEO
15:25	Round table, around the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which opportunities exist for the African continent under the ongoing energy crisis and what are the potential benefits? How is the current crisis reshaping Africa’s energy future? • How can Africa lead the transition? • What does Africa need to do to increase the flow of green funds for energy access and transition? • The need to track progress and to build capacity.
<i>Panellists</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers of Energy, from 5 countries with regional and gender balance (invited: Senegal, Benin, Morocco, Egypt, Uganda, Comoros, Mozambique, South Africa) • Minister of Energy, from 1-2 IEA Member countries
16:10	Q&A from the participants to the panellists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>AfDB</i> • <i>Private sector / investor</i>
16:25	Closing remarks by the co-organisers

