

Twelfth session of the IRENA Assembly

Ministerial Meeting on Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions in Africa: Promoting Development and Industrialisation

14 January 2022, 14:30 – 16:30, Room A1
St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

Background

With a rapidly growing population, Africa is home to vibrant economies and significant industrialisation potential. Ensuring access to affordable, reliable and secure energy will be critical to the continent's socio-economic development process over the next decades as well as its resilience to withstand exogenous shocks and the impacts of climate change countries are already experiencing. This is of particular importance for the large proportion of the population which continues to live without access to electricity and clean cooking fuels and technologies.

Abundantly available renewable energy solutions offer an opportunity to meet energy needs of communities, farms, enterprises, industries and households alike in an inclusive, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable manner, while creating millions of jobs and supporting local industry development. Africa's role in the energy transition goes beyond capacities and installations regionally. The continent is endowed with many of the minerals that are essential inputs to the energy transition related technologies such as wind turbines or electric batteries. Building on this endowment and moving past commodity-based economies remains among the key tasks in the coming years. The energy transition can provide a route to diversify the economies, progress industrialisation and industry-oriented services as well as ultimately pave the way for a just and inclusive future, enabling development and addressing imperatives such as electricity access, clean cooking, and jobs.

IRENA's Regional Market Analysis: Africa and its Sub-Regions explores the opportunities and challenges of supporting economic development through increased renewable energy deployment, hence creating the respective markets, with the twin goals of promoting sustainable energy access and sustainable industrialisation. It provides a detailed analysis of the status, challenges and socio-economic implications of the energy transition. It also proposes a broad and comprehensive policy framework for the energy transition of the African continent and its five sub-regions (Northern, Eastern, Central, Western, Southern Africa) with a view to helping policy makers identify, prepare and foster the virtuous relationship between energy transition and overall development.

The international community has an important role to play in supporting African countries as they forge their own paths towards sustainable development and industrialisation tailored to their unique circumstances and priorities. With financing remaining a key challenge, involving financial institutions and leveraging private sector engagement will likewise be crucial.



Objectives

The Ministerial Meeting sets out to discuss the relationship between development and energy, diving deep into the interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on Affordable and Clean Energy and other SDGs, including SDG8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

The Ministerial Meeting will provide a platform to showcase leadership and commitments in support of putting the energy transition at the centre of development and industrialisation goals in Africa, and enable discussions amongst Ministers from Africa and IRENA's wider global Membership as well as high-level private sector participants on this important topic.

It will also offer an opportunity to consider the outcomes of the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy and COP 26 and how the international community can support African countries in achieving their energy, climate and sustainable development and industrialisation objectives.

The launch and presentation of IRENA's *Renewable Energy Market Analysis: Africa and its Sub-Regions*, developed in partnership with the African Development Bank, will also take place during the meeting.

The statements at the meeting will inform the future work of IRENA on the continent, both in terms of further analysis needed as well as concrete assistance and partnerships.

Guiding Questions

- What best practice examples can you provide of initiatives that are harnessing renewable energy to fuel sustainable development and industrialisation in Africa that can inspire similar projects or initiatives?
- What role should the private sector play in the energy transition in Africa, particularly in creating domestic value and jobs, and how can they ensure positive socio-economic impacts for local economies and communities?
- What aspects of the energy transition for Africa require multilateral action? What can be priority actions? How can the Africa Free Trade Area (AfCTA) be leveraged for renewable energy value chains and related industrial development?
- How can multilateral efforts and international cooperation be strengthened, in particular through transfer of funds from the Global North to the Global South, South-South cooperation and transfer of technological know-how, to ensure a just and inclusive energy transition in Africa? Can you share experiences of successful collaborations to date? What commitments or plans has your country/organisation made or is considering and why?
- How can IRENA further support accelerated progress to ensure the energy transition in Africa is just and inclusive?

Associated Publications

- Africa Regional Market Analysis (Forthcoming)
- [World Energy Transitions Outlook](#) (2021)

For more information please contact:

Kamlesh Dookayka, Regional Programme Officer, Country Engagement and Partnerships
KDookayka@irena.org
Zoheir Hamed, Regional Programme Officer, Country Engagement and Partnerships
ZHamed@irena.org