

Launch Event: African Energy Dialogues

ENERGISING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

COP 28

THE AFRICAN PAVILLION,

5TH December 2023 AT 1300 – 1400 HRS Dubai, UAE

Background and Context

WRI Africa's targeted research (see "[A Path Across the Rift](#)") and survey of the energy transition landscape identified the need for inclusive, evidence-based dialogue on Africa's energy transitions. In response, WRI, UNECA, AFREC, and SEforALL collaborated to kick off the *African Energy Dialogues* during Africa Climate Week in September 2023 to identify and help meet the needs of African countries to develop tailored energy transition pathways. The African Energy Dialogues will officially launch at COP28 and will leverage the robust networks of all of the partner organizations, as well as their data, research, and convening capabilities to build a strong African-led dialogue platform and elevate its recommendations to relevant policy fora, investment communities, and decision-makers.

Africa's just energy transition is a critical topic at the intersection of climate, energy, and development. Africa is home to 20% of the world's population, yet accounts for less than 3% of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions. The continent has abundant energy resources, but 44% of Africa's population still lacks access to reliable energy sources for all uses both at the household level and for the continent's economic and industrial development. To deliver universal energy access by 2030, the rate of electricity connection needs to triple to meet the unmet energy needs of 600 million people, and 970 million people need to gain access to cleaner fuels for cooking. Achieving this goal will require an investment in modern energy of USD 25 billion per annum, but Africa currently receives less than 3% of global energy investment.

Varying positions on African countries' energy transitions – particularly regarding the role of fossil fuels -- have been taken by governments and other stakeholders across Africa and globally. In 2022 the African Union adopted a *Common Position on Energy Access and Just Energy Transitions*, which stipulates that Africa will continue to deploy all forms of its abundant energy resources, including both renewable and non-renewable energy, to address energy demand. At the same time, each of Africa's 54 sovereign countries needs to develop an energy pathway that best fits its circumstances and addresses its needs – including the need for adequate investments to significantly scale up renewable energy; unreliable and insufficient grid infrastructure in many countries; reliance on traditional biomass by millions of households; and Africa's growing industrial agenda. Some countries are already developing their own energy transition plans, but there is still a severe lack of country-specific research and capacity for energy transition planning in many African countries. There is an urgent need to provide space and resources for inclusive, evidence-based discussion of the complex issues surrounding countries' energy pathways, to support sound policymaking and energy planning across the continent.

Objectives of the Launch Event

To officially launch the African Energy Dialogues as a platform for discourse on Africa's energy transitions.

The event will:

- Provide an opportunity to elevate evidence-driven African perspectives on Africa's energy transitions at the climate negotiations through a high-level launch event of *African Energy Dialogues* involving leaders in the energy transition field.
- Raise awareness of the new initiative to ensure meaningful participation in the Dialogues.
- Establish the Dialogues as a trusted source of information and sharing of best practices to support countries' energy transition pathways.
- Obtain feedback from attendees on top priorities for the Dialogues to address.
- Invite stakeholders to partner and collaborate with the African Energy Dialogues through www.wri.org/african-energy-dialogues

Draft Programme: 5th December 2023, 1 pm to 2 pm (60 Minute event)

Moderator: Dr. Rebekah Shirley, Deputy Director for Africa, World Resources Institute

Time	Activity
1.00 – 1.05 pm	Welcome and opening remarks from Dr. Rebekah Shirley, Deputy Regional Director for Africa, World Resources Institute Outline the genesis of the platform; our partners and concrete outcomes of African Energy Dialogues.
1.05 – 1.12 pm	Keynote Address Dr. Carlos Lopes , WRI Global Board of Directors, Professor, Nelson Mandela School, University of Cape Town; Chair of the African Climate Foundation Board; Former Executive Secretary, UNECA
1.12 -1.15 pm	Introduction of panelists by Moderator H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid , Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union (TBC) H.E Damilola Ogunbiyi , CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All (TBC) Dr Hanan Morsy , Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist; United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) (TBC)
1.15 – 1.43 pm	Moderated panel discussion on the state of Africa's energy transitions and how the African Energy Dialogues can contribute key ingredients for a nuanced and fit-for-purpose, sustainable energy future.
1.43 – 1.45 pm	Mentimeter poll of attendees on the priority issues that the African Energy Dialogues
1.45– 1.55 pm	Rashid Abdallah, Executive Director, African Energy Commission (AFREC) & Linus Mofor, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer (Energy, Infrastructure, and Climate Change), UNECA - African Energy Dialogues next steps and an open invitation for partners to collaborate.

1.55 - 2.00 pm

Closing remarks: Emeka Oragunye Regional Director, Africa, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)