

High-Level Public-Private Dialogue on Private Sector Investment in Electricity and Infrastructure Development in Africa

28th of March 2023
UN Conference Center, Addis Ababa

African Union's Agenda 2063 articulates the importance of developing Africa's infrastructure and closing the energy access gap to march towards the socio-economic transformation of the continent. Achieving the goals set by the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 requires substantial investments in infrastructure development over the next decade and improving electricity capacity to meet SDG7.

Thus far, African governments have shouldered the bulk of the responsibility to finance energy infrastructure development through public resources and bilateral and multilateral financial arrangements with development partners. The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa recognizes that private sector still plays too limited a role in financing infrastructure investments in the Continent, averaging about 23.5% of total commitments in the year 2020 – 26% in the energy sector. With rising debt-to-GDP ratios, a tax-to-GDP ratio of 13%, and the effects of COVID-19, the space for public spending on infrastructure has narrowed. Private sector investment is essential to complement public sector efforts to sustainably finance infrastructure development.

The role of conducive policy and regulatory (P&R) frameworks in crowding-in private investments is widely recognized. In the African context, however, policy and regulatory frameworks are still perceived by investors as a major barrier and a deterrent to entering African markets. While no one-size-fits-all solution exists in terms of policy and regulatory reforms, their impact in ensuring appropriate *openness*, *attractiveness* and *readiness* of markets towards private investments has to be carefully considered by decision-makers.

Moved by this ambition, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and RES4Africa Foundation partnered to provide support to African countries in building a conducive P&R environment for private sector participation in electricity markets. Since 2019, UNECA and RES4Africa have worked to: (i) assess the preparedness of African electricity P&R in crowding in private investors; (ii) define tools and instruments that can help decision-makers and regulators take well informed decision to plan, conceive and implement P&R reforms roadmaps; and (iii) enhance public-private dialogue around what is need to ensure satisfactory market *openness*, *attractiveness* and *readiness* of African electricity markets.

This work complemented and built upon parallel work from UNECA on advancing Public-Private Partnership in infrastructure development in Africa with the goal of supporting the development of PPP pipeline projects in six priority countries, and the establishment of the Africa PPP network.

The High-Level Public-Private Dialogue: objectives and expected outcomes

The High-Level Public-Private Dialogue will gather private and public stakeholders supporting the development of Africa's infrastructure and engage in policy dialogue on what is needed to advance Africa's electricity sector reform agenda and ensure adequate investments flows towards this sector.

The Dialogue will be the opportunity to discuss the main findings from the UNECA and RES4Africa supported national electricity market regulatory reviews and trigger forward-looking conversation about how policy and regulatory environments can ensure adequate *openness, attractiveness* and *readiness* of African electricity markets to crowd-in private investments and deliver on Agenda 2063 and SDG-7 targets.

Achieving these objectives requires data-driven and evidence-based dialogue about the current strengths and gaps of African electricity P&R environments, the building of consensus and buy-in around roadmaps for reforms inspired by successful experiences in Africa and worldwide, and strengthening capacity of national regulators to drive reforms and oversee to their correct implementation. The dialogue between public and private stakeholders can play a fundamental role in better shaping P&R reforms to maximize their efficiency in ensuring adequate electricity markets' *openness, attractiveness* and *readiness* and enable the scale-up of investments in Africa's electricity infrastructure.

In particular, the Dialogue will try to address three strategic questions that can guide the definition of a transformational agenda for increasing private sector role in developing strategic infrastructures in Africa:

- How to foster public-private coordination to scale-up infrastructure investments in Africa?
- How could policy-makers ensure that policy and regulatory frameworks are conducive to private participation in strategic markets?
- How to shape an agenda of reform to ensure market *openness, attractiveness* and *readiness* towards private sector participation?

By stimulating debate around these questions, the Dialogue has the aim of discussing forward-looking ideas supporting African countries to reform their policy and regulatory frameworks. The main conclusions of the Dialogue will also inform UNECA and RES4Africa forthcoming action plan and shape their support to interested African countries in building conducive electricity policy and regulatory frameworks to crowd-in private investments.

Tentative Agenda

High Level Public-Private Dialogue, 28 th March 2023

8:30 – 10:00 am	Welcome coffee and registration
10:00 – 10:10 am	Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Antonio M.A. Pedro, Acting Executive Secretary of UNECA - H.E. Alberto Bertoni, Permanent Representative of Italy to the African Union and UNECA
10:10 – 11:00 am	High-level Political Forum: Energy Infrastructure Financing and Private Sector Role <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Antonio M.A. Pedro, Acting Executive Secretary of UNECA - H.E. Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union Commission (TBC) - H.E. Dr. Ing. Habtamu Itefa, Minister of the Ministry of Water and Energy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (TBC) - Mr. Kevin Kariuki, VP for Energy, Climate Change and Green Growth, African Development Bank Group (TBC) - Hon. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Ministry of Energy of Ghana (TBC) - Mr. Salvatore Bernabei, CEO of Enel Green Power and Head Global Power Generation at Enel
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Coffee break and press event
11:30 – 12:30 pm	High-level Political Forum: The Role of Policies and Regulations in Attracting Private Investments in Energy and Infrastructures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Amine Idriss Adoum, Director of Programme Delivery & Coordination, AUDA NEPAD - Amel Chadli, Vice President Strategy & Digital Energy for Middle East & Africa at Schneider Electric - Mr. Abdellatif Bardach, President of the National Electricity Regulatory Authority of Morocco and President of MEDREG (TBC) - Ms. Saharla Abdulahi, Director General of Petroleum and Energy Authority of Ethiopia (TBC) - Ms. Gwen Mwaba, Director and Global Head, Trade Finance, AFREXIMBANK (TBC) - Robert Lisinge, Acting Director Private Sector Development and Finance Division UNECA
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Lunch break
	Expert Session: Advancing the Electricity Reform agenda in Africa
2:00 – 2:10 pm	Key note: Ensuring Electricity Market Openness, Attractiveness and Readiness through Policy and Regulatory Reforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Antonio Nodari, Head of Central & South Europe Region, AFRY Management Consulting



02:10 – 02:20 pm	Setting the context: An overview of the Openness of African electricity markets - UNECA/RES4Africa
02:20 – 03:00 pm	Panel discussion: Developing competitive electricity markets in Africa <i>Moderator:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Oumy Khairy Diao Diop, Director of Strategy and Regulation, Ministry of Petroleum and Energies (TBC)- Mr. Daniel Kiptoo, Director General at Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority of Kenya (TBC)- Mr. Hans Koopman, Senior Advisor Future Energy Systems Africa, Siemens Energy- Mr. Andrea Gattini, Head of Business Development Africa and M.E., Enel Green Power
3:00 – 3:10 pm	Setting the context: An overview of the Attractiveness of African electricity markets UNECA/R4A
3:10 – 3:50 pm	Panel discussion: Transitioning to economically competitive markets <i>Moderator:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Jean Pascal Nkou, Director General of the Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency of Cameroon (TBC)- Director of Energy Department, Ministry of Energy of Zambia- Thomas Huyghebaert, Head of Cooperation at EC Delegation in Ethiopia (TBC)- Ms. Seble Geberegiorgis Baraki, Local Partner at Bonelli Erede- Mr. Amith Singh, Head of Energy at NedBank (TBC)
3:50 – 4:00 pm	Coffee break and networking
4:00 – 4:10 pm	Setting the context: An overview of the Readiness of African electricity markets UNECA/R4A
4:10 – 5:00 pm	Panel discussion: Ensuring reliable and accessible electricity systems <i>Moderator:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Charles KALINDA, Head of Policy and Planning, Ministry of Infrastructure of Rwanda- Mr Sengui Appollinaire Ki, Secretary General of West African Power Pool (TBC)- Raimondo De Laurentis, Senior Director Green Energy Solutions at RINA (TBC)- Taru Madangombe, Vice President Power and Grid Segment MEA at Schneider Electric
5:00 – 5:10 pm	Closing remarks Mr. Roberto Vigotti, Secretary General of RES4Africa Foundation Mr. Robert Lisinge, Acting Director Private Sector Development and Finance Division UNECA