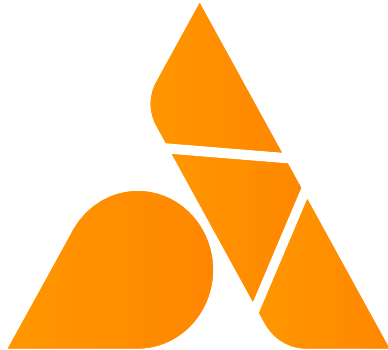




Africa Think Tank Summit

12th Edition

THEME

From Energy Access to Economic
Transformation: Practical Policy Pathways
for Power Sector Viability, Growth, and
Reform in Africa

AGENDA



Day 0 (28 October 2026) |

From Tools to Transformation: Building the Foundations for Energy Reform

08:00 09:00	REGISTRATION Participant registration & badge collection Accreditation and summit information packs. Virtual participant onboarding and platform orientation for hybrid attendees.
09:00 15:30	STATUTORY MEETING By-Invitation Only [ROOM ALIBORA & DONGA]
09:00 17:30	SIDE-EVENTS OF THE 2026 AFRICA THINK TANK SUMMIT Hybrid for Registered Participants A series of partner-led side events running throughout the day, providing a platform for organizations to showcase innovative research, initiatives, and policy solutions, foster dialogue on priority development issues, and strengthen collaboration among think tanks, policymakers, development partners, academia, and the private sector. These sessions are open to registered Summit participants in both in-person and virtual formats.
09:00 17:30	WORKSHOP Knowledge Sharing Session A — Addressing key regulatory challenges in the African energy sector [ROOM LES COLLINES 1] A discussion on the regulatory measures required to achieve universal energy access, improve the efficiency in the utilization of generation resources, and attract private investment in energy infrastructure across the complete electricity supply chain in African countries. - Delivered by the African School of Regulation (ASR). Panel 1: From Regulatory Gaps to Investment Confidence: Strengthening Utilities' Financial Viability - Moderator: Dr Charly Gatete; Senior Research Associate, African School of Regulation (ASR) - Panelists: Mr. Alagi Basiru Gaye, Lead Global Energy Specialist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Mr. Harold R. Obiga, Director, Legal Services and Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA), Uganda Mr. Kokou Laurent Tossou, Director General of Benin Electricity Generation Company (SBPE), Benin Panel 2: Regulating for Universal Access, Decentralized Energy, and Emerging Technologies. - Moderator: Ing. Nutifafa K. Fiasorgbor; Senior Training Associate, African School of Regulation (ASR) - Panelists: Dr Abdulkadir Shettima; Directeur, Director, African School of Regulation (ASR), former Manager at NERC, Nigeria Dr Geoffrey Aori Mabea; CEO, Regional Association of Energy Regulators for Eastern and Southern Africa Dr Ismael Ackah, Council Member-Economist, ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority OBJECTIVE ▶ The first panel will show the existence of present regulatory barriers that create unnecessary uncertainty and create difficulties to attracting investment. ▶ The second panel shows the importance of adequate regulation to take advantage and avoid the risks of new developments in the power sector driven by technology

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ Des approches pratiques pour renforcer la viabilité financière des compagnies d'électricité et la Key regulatory barriers deterring private investment across the electricity supply chain are clearly identified.
- ▶ Practical approaches for strengthening utilities' financial viability and investment confidence are shared.
- ▶ Guidance on regulating decentralized energy and emerging technologies is captured for regulators and policymakers.

09:00
13:00

WORKSHOP

Knowledge sharing Session B – Energy data, evidence, and policy use: tools for think tanks and researchers

[ROOM LES COLLINES 2]

Applying energy data systems and research evidence to real-world policy decisions; hands-on work with tools and open data platforms.

- ▶ Delivered by ATTP Secretariat.
- ▶ Facilitator: **Dr. Adebunsi Adewumi Adeyemi**; Technical Advisor, Africa Think Tank Platform (ATTP) Project, African Union Commission [confirmed]
- ▶ Contributors:
 - **Dr Bjorn Lomborg** ; President, Copenhagen Consensus Centre
 - **Mme Dominique Dryding** ; Capacity Building Manager for the Basics Track, Afrobarometer
 - **Dr. Adel Ben Yousef**; Research Fellow, Economic Research Forum)

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To strengthen the ability of African think tank researchers to locate, interpret, and communicate energy data in ways that directly support policy advice, bridging the gap between data availability and policy utility that continues to limit think tank influence.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ Participants build hands-on skills using open energy data platforms to produce policy-relevant evidence briefs.
- ▶ A curated Africa energy data resource guide is compiled and shared with all ATTS delegates.
- ▶ Session tools and outputs are archived in the ATTP Knowledge Repository for lasting use.

10:30
11:30

BREAK
Coffee break

09:00
10:30

ROUNDTABLE

Roundtable 1 – Unlocking African Philanthropy's Potential: Ecosystem Tools and Policy Frameworks for Sustainable Impact

[ROOM BIO GUERA]

Across Sub-Saharan Africa, national development agendas and policy think tanks are increasingly looking toward philanthropic capital to sustain long-term growth. However, philanthropic capital remains constrained by fragmented support infrastructure, restrictive legal and fiscal environments,

and limited integration with state policy. To address these systemic bottlenecks, WINGS brings two foundational operational tools. The Enabling Environment Guide, grounded in over twenty national case studies, offers actionable pathways for fiscal and regulatory reform. Complementing this, the Playbook of Practices serves as a practical toolkit detailing how Philanthropy Support Organizations and governments co-create functional ecosystem infrastructure. The fiscal rationale for African state actors is compelling. Unlocking just 0.5 percent to 1 percent of the continent's private wealth into structured local philanthropy can mobilize an additional 14 billion to 28 billion dollars.

The dialogue will examine two entry points open to any government: legal recognition, illustrated by Kenya's Public Benefit Organizations Act, passed in 2013 but not brought into force until May 2024, and multi-stakeholder country platforms, illustrated by South Africa and Senegal's Just Energy Transition Partnerships. It also continues the conversation WINGS has been building in collaboration with ACBF since the first Online Action Dialogue in June 2026, carrying it from online exchange into an in-person commitment at ATTS 2026.

- ▶ Hosted by WINGS Network
- ▶ Facilitator: **Ms. Ya Sally Njie**; Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, WINGS [confirmed]
- ▶ Framing presentation: **Mr. Leandre Banon**; Africa Regional Engagement Lead, WINGS [confirmed]
- ▶ Panel:
 - **Mme Alia K. Uduhiri**; Senior Director, GSF Global Advisors
 - **M. Christian Marie-Xavier Loupeda** ; Co-Founder & Managing Director, Inclusive Finance Accelerators (IFA)

OBJECTIFVE

- ▶ Introduce the EE Guide and the Playbook of Practices as instruments African think tanks, PSOs and policymakers can act on directly, using Kenya's PBO Act and the South Africa and Senegal JETPs as worked examples.
- ▶ Examine the concrete legal, fiscal and operational constraints affecting African philanthropic flows, and test what would make the continental fiscal case actionable for the finance and planning ministries in the room.
- ▶ Identify which governments and institutions are ready to take one of the Guide's three first steps, mapping the philanthropic landscape, reviewing legal and fiscal rules, or opening a structured consultation channel, and carry that commitment into the Beyond Alignment series.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ Increased use of the EE Guide and Playbook of Practices by participating think tanks and PSOs, with digital copies distributed to ATTS delegates.
- ▶ A clear, comparative picture of legal recognition and country platforms as the two entry points open to any government, grounded in what worked and what proved difficult in Kenya, South Africa, and Senegal, captured in WINGS' post-event brief.
- ▶ At least two to three governments or institutions expressing interest in a concrete follow-up step, feeding directly into the Beyond Alignment series.

11:30
13:00

ROUNDTABLE

Roundtable 2 — Powering Africa’s Trade Transformation: Think Tank Insights on AfCFTA Implementation

[ROOM BIO GUERA]

This roundtable will showcase research and policy studies undertaken by African think tanks on AfCFTA implementation and explore how evidence-based insights can support Africa’s ambition to achieve regional integration and structural transformation. It will also situate AfCFTA implementation within the broader continental integration architecture, highlighting how energy systems underpin trade, industrialization, labor mobility (APFMP), and connectivity (SAATM), and enable the development of regional value chains and cross-border industrial ecosystems.

- ▶ Hosted by ACBF Capacity Development for Africa’s Structural Transformation (CADAST) Project.
- ▶ Moderator: **Dr. Odilia B. Gnassingbe-Essonam**; Coordinator, Trade Programs, ACBF [confirmed]
- ▶ Presenters:
 - **Hon. Dr Gloria Somolekae** ; Executive Director, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA)
 - **Mme Eugenia Kayitesi** ; Executive Director, Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR-Rwanda)
 - **Dr Emmanuel Akwetey** ; Executive Director, Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG Ghana)
 - **M. Zali B. Chikuba** ; Executive Director, Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR)
 - **M. Barnabé Okouda** ; Executive Director, Center for Analysis and Research on Economic and Social Policies (CAMERCAP), Cameroon

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To present evidence from African think tank studies on AfCFTA implementation and explore how research can inform policies and strategies that strengthen Africa’s trade transformation, including addressing critical enablers such as access to reliable energy, productive capacity, infrastructure, and competitiveness of enterprises.
- ▶ To examine how aligning energy, trade, mobility, and transport systems can enhance the effectiveness and economic returns of AfCFTA implementation.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ Increased visibility of think tank research on AfCFTA implementation, with policy priorities linking energy, trade, and transformation.
- ▶ Recommendations for embedding a “systems integration” approach, aligning energy, transport, and trade into AfCFTA strategies.
- ▶ Stronger think tank–policymaker–private sector collaboration, positioning energy as a foundational enabler of integration.

13:00
14:00

LUNCH

Hosted luncheon for participants

14:00
15:30

POLICY DIALOGUE

Policy Dialogue 1 — Mission 300 country compacts: translating pledges into connections

[ROOM LES COLLINES 1]

This roundtable will convene country delegations and institutional partners to assess the implementation status of Mission 300 Country Compacts, share lessons from early movers, and examine the link between policy reforms, institutional capacity, and financing. The discussion will focus on identifying common bottlenecks, strengthening coordination among partners, and defining priority actions to sustain progress toward universal electricity access. A summary of key outcomes and agreed actions will be shared after the session.

- ▶ Hosted by the African Development Bank/ACBF.
- ▶ Moderator: Dr. Fode Ndiaye; President, Center of Excellence for Leadership and Management for Africa's Development (CELMAD)

Speakers:

- **Dr Damilola Oluwole** ; Senior Energy Specialist (Sector Planning, Regulation and Utilities), Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation Department, African Development Bank Group
- **M. Eric Kouevi**, Senior Program Manager, Regional Emergency Preparedness and Access to Inclusive Recovery (REPAIR) Program, African Risk Capacity (ARC) Ltd
- **Dr. Ali Abdi** ; Managing Director, Horn Economic and Social Policy Institute (HESPI)
- **Mr Romain Abilé HOUEHOU**; Coordinator of the ICT Consumers' Network for African Countries (RéCATIC)

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To provide a focused partner-level platform to review progress on Mission 300 Country Compact implementation, identify key challenges and gaps, and agree on practical actions to accelerate reforms, mobilize financing, and advance electricity access commitments.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ A consolidated implementation status matrix tracks progress, reforms, and support needs across Mission 300 countries.
- ▶ Key regulatory, institutional, technical, and financing bottlenecks are identified.

Priority follow-up actions and a partner coordination mechanism are agreed to sustain momentum.

14:00
15:30

POLICY DIALOGUE

Policy Dialogue 2 — Powering Africa's Green Industrialization: An Africa-Europe Partnership for Productive Energy and Economic Transformation

[ROOM LES COLLINES 2]

The session will convene African and European institutions to examine the policy, regulatory, and financing conditions needed to connect energy systems more effectively with industry, agro-processing, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and emerging green value chains. Drawing on recent research by African and European think tanks, including AEF's ongoing work on productive-use energy and financing green industrialization, the discussion will generate practical recommendations and highlight existing examples of impactful cooperation in energy, industrial development, and innovative financing that could be strengthened or scaled through the Africa-Europe partnership.

- ▶ Delivered by the Africa-Europe Foundation.
- ▶ Facilitator: **M. Andrzej Dabkowski**; Head of Program Performance and Operations, Africa-Europe Foundation
- ▶ Remarks
 - **Mr Rodolphe Bance**; Head, Economic and Social Governance Unit, ACBF
 - **Mrs. Holy Ranaivozanany**, Deputy Executive Director, Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF)e
- ▶ Scene-setting
- ▶ Open debate
 - What are the binding constraints in relation to energy systems development and strengthening the industrial capacity in Africa – and what role clean and green energy should play: generation, grids, tariffs, utility performance, industrial demand or project preparation; and which reforms should be prioritized first?
 - What would make productive-use energy projects bankable for local firms, investors and development-finance institutions?
 - How can African and European partners combine policy reform, concessional finance and private capital to move priority projects from pipeline to delivery?
 - Which concrete commitments, evidence gaps and investable opportunities are critical for the implementation of the Africa-Europe partnership, thus should be tracked by the think tank platform/ Ideas Bank?
- ▶ Conclusions, wrap-up, and actions

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Advance the Africa-Europe green industrialization agenda, with a particular focus on energy systems for productive use.
- ▶ Identify opportunities to scale up effective initiatives and strengthen delivery against AU-EU commitments on energy, investment and industrialization.
- ▶ Generate practical policy and financing recommendations, serving as an Africa-Europe Think Tank Ideas Bank, mapping existing examples of impactful cooperation.
- ▶ Provide independent evidence and a balanced Africa-Europe narrative in support of collaborative research processes, including the tracking of commitments and wider monitoring of the Africa-Europe partnership.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ A focused set of practical recommendations to advance productive-use energy, green industrialization and investable value chains.
- ▶ Evidence to strengthen Africa-Europe Green Industrialization research and AU-EU commitment-tracking work.
- ▶ Priority areas for Africa-Europe cooperation on policy reform, project preparation and financing.
- ▶ Actionable inputs for the Africa-Europe Think Tank Platform/Ideas Bank, focused on moving commitments into delivery.

14:00
15:30

POLICY DIALOGUE

Policy Dialogue 3 — Blended finance and guarantees for African energy infrastructure

[ROOM BIO GUERA]

Guarantee instruments, risk de-risking tools, and blended finance structures applicable to Sub-Saharan Africa's infrastructure gap. Includes a FAGACE co-financing model case study.

- ▶ Hosted by the Fonds Africain de Garantie et de Coopération Economique (FAGACE) and GSF Global Advisors
- ▶ Facilitator: **M. Basile Tchakounte**; Secrétaire General, FAGACE
- ▶ Speakers:
 - **M. Abdou Diouf Ndiaye** ; Director, FAGACE Institute
 - **M. Arnaud Djoko** ; Senior Advisor, Innovative Financing, GSF Global Advisors
 - **M. Marc Galinier**, Director for Sub-Saharan Africa, Qair Energy
 - **Mme. Kathryn McPhail** ; President & CEO, EnergyCC
 - **Mr. Vincent Egoro**; Executive Director & Founder, Energy Transition Africa

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To demystify the practical architecture of blended finance instruments for energy project developers and policymakers who understand the concept but lack experience in structuring transactions, with FAGACE's instruments as a concrete reference case.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ A plain language 'blended finance instruments guide for African energy projects' published as a summit resource paper.
- ▶ FAGACE's co-financing window for energy projects formally presented to summit delegates,

15:30
16:00

BREAK
Coffee break

16:00
17:30

SPECIAL SESSION

Special Session 1 — Sustainable Domestic Financing for Tobacco Control in Africa: From Evidence to Action

[ROOM LES COLLINES 1]

Drawing on the lived experience of senior officials from Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Ethiopia, and Kenya — five African countries at the forefront of tobacco tax reform and tobacco control financing — this side event translates that continental and global call to action into a practical, evidence-grounded dialogue. It asks a simple, practical question: what does it actually take to move from a signed commitment to a funded, functioning tobacco control system?

- ▶ Hosted by ACBF Tobacco Control Program and Initiative for Education and Tobacco Control (IETC, Benin).
- ▶ Moderator: **Mrs Betina Edziwa**, Head of Special Program, ACBF [confirmed]
- ▶ Key Speaker: **Dr Omar Ba**; Tobacco Control Coordinator, Ministry of Health, Senegal & Former member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products [confirmed]
- ▶ Panelists:
 - **Dr Judith Segnon** ; Focal point for tobacco control; former member and representative of the African Region on the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the FCTC
 - **M. KOUASSI Konan Antoine**; Deputy Director of Legislation, Directorate-General of Taxation of Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of Finance, Côte d'Ivoire
 - **M. Kindalem Berekaw Addisu** ; Plan, Budget Preparation, Monitoring, and Evaluation Team Leader, Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA), Ministry of Health, Ethiopia
 - **Mme Alia K. Uduhiri**; Senior Director, GSF Global Advisors

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ Demonstrate the scale of the health and economic costs of tobacco use in Africa, and the case for sustainable financing to address them.
- ▶ Discuss sustainable financing mechanisms – including tobacco taxation and earmarking – Budget allocation to support tobacco control.
- ▶ Showcase concrete national experiences – successes, setbacks, and lessons – in linking tobacco tax policy to sustainable tobacco control financing in Africa.
- ▶ Identify actionable, replicable mechanisms for establishing domestic tobacco control funding streams, drawing on both African innovation and global best practices.
- ▶ Identify the institutional and technical capacities countries need to establish and operationalize sustainable tobacco control financing mechanisms.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ A shared continental narrative on the political economy of tobacco control financing, grounded in concrete African evidence.
- ▶ At least four country-specific models of domestic tobacco control funding (fiscal mechanisms, institutional arrangements, or earmarking modalities) documented and available for peer learning.
- ▶ A set of practical recommendations drawn from the panel and audience exchange for inclusion in continental and national tobacco control financing roadmaps.
- ▶ Increased visibility for ACBF's Tobacco Control program outcomes.
- ▶ Agreed capacity-strengthening priorities and technical-support needs.
- ▶ A summary report/policy brief of the event disseminated to ACBF Board of Governors members, MoH Member States, civil society organizations, and African tobacco control partners.

16:00
17:30

SPECIAL SESSION

Special Session 2 – Building the Next Generation of Agribusiness Institutions: IAPA's Journey in Advancing Energy-Enabled Agribusiness Transformation, Skills and Market Solutions

[ROOM LES COLLINES 2]

This side event aims to demonstrate how sustainable agribusiness institutions can help transform energy investments into productive economic outcomes through enterprise development, skills, technology adoption, innovation, and market integration. The session will feature the institutional development journey of the International Agribusiness Practitioners Association (IAPA) as a practical case study of how a network of Master Trainers has evolved into an emerging Pan-African professional institution that promotes professional standards, quality assurance, certification, knowledge management, consultancy, advisory services, partnerships, and innovation in agribusiness.

- ▶ Hosted by ACBF (ABF/GIZ)
- ▶ Moderator: **Mr. Edem Messa-Gavo**; Senior Impact Measurement Officer, ACBF
- ▶ Kick-off presentation: **Mr. Boureima Ouedraogo**; Executive Secretary, International Agribusiness Practitioners Association (IAPA)
- ▶ Speakers:
 - **M. Jacob Zulu**; Vice President, International Agribusiness Practitioners Association (IAPA)
 - **Mr. Clovis Gbewedo**; Pan-African Master Trainer, International Agribusiness Practitioners Association (IAPA)
 - **Dr Phebe Padolo Moye** ; Executive Director, Liberia Macroeconomic Policy Analysis Center (LIMPAC)
 - **Mr. Anthony Boateng** ; Board Member, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) & Chairman, Board of Directors, Npontu Technologies Limited, Ghana

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To demonstrate how sustainable agribusiness institutions can build the professional capacities, partnerships, and market systems needed to enable enterprises and value chain actors to convert energy access into productive investments, enterprise growth, value addition, competitiveness, and inclusive economic transformation.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ Improved understanding that energy-enabled agribusiness transformation depends on strong institutions and professional capacity.
- ▶ IAPA's institutional journey recognized as a replicable model for Pan-African professional institutions.
- ▶ A roadmap and collaborative models identified to help agribusiness actors convert energy access into productive investment.

16:00
17:30

SPECIAL SESSION

Special Session 3 — Sustainability, Ownership, and Accountability in Africa's Electricity Sector Policies and Reforms: What Role Do Consumers Play?

[ROOM BIO GUERA]

This side event will highlight the role and contribution of citizen-consumers, through consumer organizations, in designing, owning, and monitoring electricity sector reforms to strengthen their viability, effectiveness, and social legitimacy.

- ▶ Hosted by African Consumers Organization (ACO)
- ▶ Moderator: Mr Ernest Gbaguidi; Chairperson, Benin Health and Consumers' Survival (BSSC)
- ▶ Speakers:
 - **M. Émeric F. E. Tokoudagba** ; Chairperson, Electricity Regulatory Authority (ARE), Benin
 - **Mme. Josephine Sanny**; Director of Communications, Afrobarometer
 - **Dr Emmanuel Sogadji** ; Executive Director, African Consumers Organization (ACO)
 - **M. Marc Galinier** ; Director for Sub-Saharan Africa, Qair Energy
 - **M. Yaya Sidjim**; Coordinator, Chadian Consumers Association & Member of Chad's National Electricity Regulatory Authority

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ Analyze the impact of electricity sector crises and reforms on households — particularly the most vulnerable — and on small and medium enterprises across Africa.
- ▶ Identify concrete mechanisms for consumer engagement in the design, implementation, monitoring, and accountability of electricity reforms (user committees, complaint and mediation mechanisms, citizen oversight of public service performance).
- ▶ Strengthen the technical capacity and legitimacy of consumer organizations, including OAC, as effective partners in energy reform processes across Africa.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ A concise analysis of the impact of electricity sector crises and reforms on vulnerable households and small and medium enterprises, accompanied by recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures.
- ▶ A set of practical mechanisms and recommendations to consolidate the role of citizen-consumers in the design, implementation, monitoring, and accountability of Africa's electricity sector reforms.
- ▶ Strengthened recognition of OAC's institutional standing as a technical and advocacy partner on energy issues, reinforcing consumer organizations' role in reform processes across Africa.

16:00
17:30

SPECIAL SESSION

Special Session 4 — Insights from the 2025 Africa Export Competitiveness Report: From Energy Access to Export Competitiveness

[ROOM ALIBORI & DONGA]

An interactive policy roundtable examining the key findings of the 2026 Africa Export Competitiveness Report, with a particular focus on how reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy can enhance industrial competitiveness, value addition, and export diversification across Africa. The discussion will explore how energy sector reforms can strengthen productive capacity, support implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and improve Africa's integration into regional and global value chains. The session will also identify policy priorities for ensuring that expanding energy access translates into higher productivity, competitive exports, and inclusive economic transformation.

- ▶ Hosted by ACBF, Institute for Competitiveness India, Shift Impact Africa & Institute for Competitiveness Africa
- ▶ **Moderator: Mr. Andrews Akoto-Addo**; Head of Business Development, Shared Value Africa & Focal Point, JamiiTrade [confirmed]
- ▶ Keynote Presenter:
- ▶ **Dr. Amit Kapoor**; Honorary Chairman, Institute for Competitiveness, India [confirmed] & **Dr. Barassou Diawara**; Senior Knowledge Manager Expert, ACBF [confirmed]
- ▶ Discussants:
 - **Dr Gibson Chigumira**; Executive Director, Zimbabwe Economic Policy Analysis & Research Institute (ZEPARI)
 - **Dr Mufor Atanga**; Founding Director, Centre for African Governance Transformation
 - **Mr. Michael Padilla-Pagan Payano**; Managing Partner/CEO, Al Thuraya Investments, Egypt

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To present and discuss the key findings of the 2026 Africa Export Competitiveness Report and examine how reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy can strengthen industrial productivity, value addition, and export competitiveness, while identifying integrated policy actions that align energy sector reforms with trade, industrialization, and regional integration to accelerate Africa's structural and economic transformation.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ Shared understanding of how energy access drives export competitiveness and structural transformation.
- ▶ Priority policy reforms identified integrating energy, trade, industrialization, and investment.
- ▶ Recommendations feed into the Report's dissemination and the Cotonou Action Agenda.

Day 1 (29 October 2026) | Powering Transformation: Leadership, Finance, and the Politics of Energy Reform

08:00
09:00

REGISTRATION

Final accreditation wave and virtual participant onboarding

08:00
11:00

OPENING CEREMONY

Official opening of the 2026 Africa Think Tank Summit

[ROOM LES COLLINES1/2] PLENARY

Welcome by the host government, institutional addresses by co-conveners, keynote address, and cultural moment. Simultaneous webcast for virtual participants.

Master of Ceremony:

Mrs Naomi Soumanou; Prime Time News Anchor, Société de Radio et Télévision du Bénin

- ▶ Video – about ATTS & Recap of side-events
- ▶ Host City Welcome: **Mr. Luc Gnacadja**, Mayor of Cotonou, Republic of Benin [confirmed]
- ▶ Partner think tank address:
 - **Dr Frejus Thoto**; Co-Founder & Executive Director, African Center for Equitable Development (ACED)
- ▶ African Union address:
 - **M. Babatunde Rosanwo**; Technical Advisor to the Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission
- ▶ Partners' addresses:
 - **M. Christopher Chibwana**; Program Officer, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
 - **Dr Ngueto Tiraina Yambaye**, President, FAGACE
 - **Mme Holy Ranaivozanany**, Deputy Executive Director, Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF)
 - **M. Amine Idriss Adoum** ; Director, Infrastructure, Industrialization, Trade and Regional Integration, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
 - **Prof. Kevin Chika Urama** : Chief Economist and Vice President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management, African Development Bank
- ▶ Opening remarks by the Key Convener: **M. Mamadou Biteye**; Executive Secretary, ACBF
- ▶ Introduction of the theme of the 2026 Africa Think Tank Summit: **H.E. Édouard Dahomé**, Minister of Energy, Water and Mines, Republic of Benin
- ▶ Address by the Guest of Honor and Official Opening: H.E. Aristide Medenou; Minister of Economy and Finance, Republic of Benin

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To formally open the summit with the highest level of political authority, set the thematic direction, and signal to the continent and international partners that African governments and institutions

are unified in treating energy transformation as a strategic development priority, not simply an infrastructure problem.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ A clear political mandate set by Benin and partners, referenceable for the final Communiqué.
- ▶ Full media coverage across 10+ African and international outlets.
- ▶ Africa's unified political commitment to evidence for energy transformation as a strategic priority is publicly signaled.

11:00
11:30

BREAK
Coffee break & group photo

11:30
13:00

MINISTERIAL PANEL

Ministers' Panel: Political leadership for power sector reform — challenges, trade-offs, and accountability

[ROOM LES COLLINES1/2] PLENARY

This ministerial roundtable will convene energy and finance ministers to discuss the political economy of power sector reform in Africa. Under the Chatham House Rule, participants will exchange experiences on navigating politically sensitive reforms, including tariff adjustments, utility governance, fiscal sustainability, and regional power market integration, while identifying practical approaches to sustaining reform momentum and strengthening accountability.

- ▶ Moderator: **Mr. Abdoulaye Cissé**; Journalist/Presenter, TFM (Télé Futurs Médias), Senegal
- ▶ Speakers:
 - **S.E. Édouard Dahomé**, Minister of Energy, Water and Mines, Republic of Benin
 - **Hon. Mariama Ciré Sylla**; Minister of Economy, Finance and Budget, Guinea
 - **M. Allé Nar Diop** ; Deputy Minister to the Minister of Economy, Finance, and Planning, in charge of Economy, Planning, and Cooperation, Senegal
 - **Dr Ngueto Tiraïna Yambaye**, President, FAGACE & Former Minister of Economy, Planning and Development of Chad
 - **Prof. Ourania Antonopoulou**; Former Alternate Minister for Combating Unemployment, Greece, and Director of the Gender and the Economy Program; Levy Economics Institute
 - **Dr Cheikh Tidiane Gadio** ; President, Institute for Pan-African Strategies, Peace-Security-Governance (IPS) & Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senegal.

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To enable peer-to-peer dialogue among ministers on the political, institutional, and fiscal dimensions of power sector reform, and to foster greater alignment on priority actions to accelerate sustainable sector transformation.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ Shared understanding of the political and institutional drivers and trade-offs in power sector reform.
- ▶ Priority national and regional reform actions identified to strengthen utility and regulatory performance.
- ▶ Ministerial recommendations feed into the Cotonou Action Agenda.

13:00
14:00

LUNCH
Networking lunch

14:00
15:30

PARALLEL PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel Discussion 1 — Africa Think Tank Leaders Forum: Who Owns Africa's Energy Transformation Agenda?

[ROOM LES COLLINES 1]

The Session will convene the continent's leading policy research institutions to examine the role of African think tanks in shaping the future of Africa's energy systems. It will explore how think tanks can move beyond producing research outputs to becoming strategic actors in energy policy design, reform implementation, investment mobilization, and public accountability.

- ▶ Moderator: **Mr. Eric Atalonmi Hinson**; Director of Planning and Development, General Directorate of Development Policies (DGPD), Ministry of Economy and Finance, Benin
- ▶ Panélists :
 - **Dr Frejus Thoto** ; Executive Director, African Center for Equitable Development (ACED), Benin
 - **Hon. Dr Gloria Somolekae**; Executive Director, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA)
 - **Mme Elizabeth Sidiropoulos** ; Chief Executive Officer, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)
 - **Mme. Mounia Boucetta**; Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South (PCNS), Morocco
 - **Mrs. Tighisti Amare**; Director, Africa Program, Chatham House

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To establish a continental platform for African think tank leaders to define their strategic role in shaping evidence-based energy transformation policies, strengthening policy influence, and ensuring that Africa's energy reforms are guided by credible research, local knowledge, and implementation-focused solutions.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ A continental think tank position on Africa's energy transformation agenda produced.
- ▶ A coordinated knowledge-sharing platform established for joint research and peer learning.
- ▶ A defined think tank action agenda with practical commitments on evidence-based policymaking.

14:00
15:30

PARALLEL PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel Discussion 2 — Financing energy transformation in a debt-constrained context

[ROOM LES COLLINES 2]

Exploring blended finance, domestic resource mobilization, tariff reform, and de-risking instruments. The panel challenges the assumption that more concessional money is the primary solution — focusing instead on governance and structural reforms that unlock existing capital flows. The discussion will also serve as a bridge to deeper system-level financing issues, such as currency risk, sovereign risk, payment systems, and the role of AU continental financial institutions (AIB, ACB, AMF), which are explored further in the subsequent high-level panel.

- ▶ Moderator: **Ms. Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi**; President & CEO, African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)
- ▶ Panélists :
 - **Dr Ngueto Tiraïna Yambaye**, President, FAGACE
 - **Professor João Bosco Monte**, President, Brazil-Africa Institute
 - **M. Marc Galinier**, Director for Sub-Saharan Africa, Qair Energy
 - **Dr James Cust**; Senior Economist, Office of the Chief Economist, Africa Region, World Bank
 - **Mr. Arona Oumar Kane**; Founder, Bangath Systems

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To move the financing conversation beyond the standard 'there is a gap, and we need more money' framing, toward an honest analysis of why existing capital is not flowing – focusing on risk perception, project preparation quality, currency exposure, and tariff signals – and what specific reforms would change investor calculus within a 2–3-year horizon.
- ▶ To identify structural financial barriers limiting energy investment and propose continental-level solutions to reduce risk and unlock capital at scale.
- ▶ To identify practical, near-term actions to improve project bankability, strengthen project preparation pipelines, and align tariff, regulatory, and contractual frameworks with investor expectations.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ Concrete demand- and supply-side reforms identified, with at least one institutional commitment.
- ▶ Policy inputs delivered on operationalizing AIB, ACB, and AMF to support energy transformation.
- ▶ Clear distinction drawn between national-level reforms and continental-level solutions (currency and capital market risk).

15:30
16:00

BREAK
Coffee break

16:00
17:30

BREAKOUT

Breakout A — Utility viability, regulation, and power sector governance

[ROOM LES COLLINES 1]

A focused discussion on the links between utility financial viability, regulatory credibility, and power sector governance, drawing on African reform experiences to identify practical lessons for cost recovery, regulatory independence, consumer protection, and turnaround management. The session will help participants distill context-specific standards and benchmarking tools that can be adapted across African power sectors.

- ▶ Facilitator : **Mr. Charles Kofi Owusu** ; Head, Climate Change and Energy for Productive Use, ACBF
- ▶ Speakers :
 - **Dr Abdulkadir Shettima** ; Director, African School of Regulation (ASR)
 - **Prof. Fatima Arib** ; President and Founder, International Institute for Sustainable Transition in Africa

- **Prof. Suweon Kim** ; Professor, Graduate School of International and Area Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies & Executive board member, Korea Academic Association of African Studies
- **Dr. Pius Kasolo** ; Strategy Director, Africa GreenCo/GreenCo Power Services Limited

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To interrogate the link between power sector governance and utility financial viability — drawing on African regulators and utilities with documented progress in cost recovery, regulatory independence and turnaround management — and to translate these lessons into practical, context-specific standards that institutions across the continent can adapt and apply.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ A shared regulatory benchmarking checklist compiled for dissemination.
- ▶ Three country cases identified for peer-learning on utility turnarounds.
- ▶ Practical, context-specific standards for cost recovery and regulatory independence distilled for continental use.

16:00
17:30

BREAKOUT

Breakout B — Inclusive energy transition: clean cooking, gender, and decentralized solutions

[ROOM LES COLLINES 2]

Demand-side solutions, gender equity in energy access, off-grid, and mini-grid innovation. Co-facilitated by a senior female practitioner and a young innovator.

- ▶ Facilitator : **Mme Jane Karonga** ; Economic Affairs Officer, Regional Integration and Economic Diversification Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- ▶ Speakers :
 - **Mme Mariama Mamane**; Founder, Jacigreen
 - **Hon. Anu Katarina Saxén**; Former Ambassador of Finland to Senegal
 - **Mme Arielle Bekima**; Executive Director, The Okwelians
 - **Mme Eugenia Kayitesi** ; Executive Director, Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR-Rwanda)

OBJECTIVE

To build a concrete evidence base for gender-disaggregated energy access commitments — moving from broad statements to measurable targets that can be incorporated into national reform compact monitoring frameworks.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ Gender-responsive energy indicators proposed for national compact monitoring, submitted to the Communiqué drafting team.
- ▶ Three mini-grid or clean cooking business models documented as replicable one-page profiles.
- ▶ Evidence base strengthened linking gender equity to measurable energy access targets.

16:00
17:30

BREAKOUT

Breakout C — From Evidence to Energy Access: Emerging Findings from the ATTP Project Research Consortia

[ALIBORI & DONGA]

Each of the three ATTP research consortia presents preliminary findings on energy, economic transformation, and governance. Structured feedback from a policy respondent panel and open discussion. Flagship output delivery mechanism for the World Bank-funded ATTP Project.

- ▶ Facilitator : **Dr Themba Gilbert Chirwa**; Project Coordinator, Africa Think Tank Platform (ATTP), African Union Commission (AUC)
- ▶ POpening framing presentation
- ▶ **Dr Bjorn Lomborg** ; President, Copenhagen Consensus Centre
- ▶ Presenters :
 - **M. Alex Benkenstein** ; Programme Head for SAIIA's Climate and Natural Resources Programme, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) on 'Green Minerals Processing as an Anchor for African Energy Investment: Emerging evidence'
 - **M. Amos Onyango Okello** ; Policy Engagement and Knowledge Translation Specialist, Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) on 'Maximizing the Policy Value of Research: Lessons from PEP's Co-production and Knowledge Translation Model'
 - **M. Lawrence Adu Asamoah** ; Research Economist, African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), on 'Growth with DEPTH in Practice: Comparative Insight from Five Country Economic Transformation Outlooks: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tunisia and Zambia'
 - **Mme Yasmine Fahim** ; Director of Research Programs, Economic Research Forum
- ▶ Respondents :
 - **Mme Tighisti Amare**; Senior Economist, The World Bank Group
 - **Dr Abdou Diouf** ; Director, Africa Program, Chatham House

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To give the three ATTP consortia a high-visibility platform to share emerging research findings with policymakers before final publication — creating a structured feedback loop that strengthens the policy relevance of the research — and to demonstrate the value of the ATTP investment to the World Bank, AUC, and ACBF as the project approaches its mid-implementation phase.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ Substantive policy feedback received from the respondent panel for each consortium, formally recorded and transmitted to research leads for integration into final publications.
- ▶ A joint ATTP research highlights brief and/or one joint policy brief produced and widely disseminated.
- ▶ A policy brief summarizing the main recommendations emerging from the three research consortia.

17:30

END OF DAY 1 – NETWORKING

Day 2 (30 October 2026) | From Commitments to Delivery: Consolidating Action for Impact

09:00
09:10

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND REFLECTIONS

Day 1 Takeaways and Reflections

[ROOM LES COLLINES1/2] {PLENARY}

A concise synthesis of the key messages, insights and reflections emerging from Day 1 discussions. The session will highlight the most important lessons, areas of convergence and unresolved questions, with particular attention to what they mean for strengthening Africa's capacity to translate commitments, policies and evidence into implementation and impact.

- Rapporteur: **Dr Barassou Diawara**, Senior Knowledge Management Expert, ACBF
-

09:10
10:10

FIRESIDE CHAT

Fireside Chat— From Commitments to Impact: Youth Questions the Experience of Reform

[ROOM LES COLLINES1/2] {PLENARY}

Moving beyond theoretical sequencing, the conversation explores the political trade-offs, institutional bottlenecks, and implementation challenges that shape the journey from policy commitments to tangible results. It will highlight the role of project preparation and implementation units, regulatory institutions, and inter-ministerial coordination. The discussion will also draw out practical lessons and solutions for strengthening delivery capacity, accountability, and measurable outcomes. The session will conclude with an open exchange with the audience.

- Facilitator :
 - **Mme Isiba Syankuntan Koba Assou** ; Head of the Green Economy Promotion Division & National Focal Point for Gender and Climate Change, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Benin
- Fireside Chat
 - **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Beavogui**, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea
 - **Prof. Fatima Arib** ; President and Founder, International Institute for Sustainable Transition in Africa

OBJECTIVE

- Explore the realities and trade-offs of implementing reforms.
- Identify key institutional bottlenecks and delivery levers.
- Draw practical lessons from Africa's reform experience for the next generation of leaders.
- Connect reform commitments to concrete, measurable, and accountable results.
- Foster intergenerational dialogue among policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and youth.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ Practical insights into what enables or constrains reform implementation.
- ▶ A clearer understanding of the institutional conditions for effective delivery.
- ▶ Practical ideas to strengthen coordination, implementation capacity and accountability.
- ▶ A renewed dialogue on the role of youth in shaping Africa's reform agenda.

10:10
10:30

BREAK Coffee break

10:30
11:45

KEYNOTE PLENARY

Keynote Plenary — Regional power pools and cross-border electricity trade: from potential to implementation

[ROOM LES COLLINES1/2] {PLENARY}

Deep-dive panel on the political economy of regional integration in the power sector — financing transmission corridors, regulatory harmonization, and leveraging renewable energy assets across borders. Opens with a live data presentation on the current state of intra-African power trade.

- ▶ Moderator : **Mme Fatou Diouf** ; Head of Communication and Influencing, ACBF
- ▶ Opening keynote: **Dr Kandeh Yumkella** ; Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy & Food Security, Office of the President, Sierra Leone
- ▶ Panelists :
 - **Dr Abdulkadir Shettima**; Director, African School of Regulation (ASR), former Manager at NERC, Nigeria
 - **Dr James Cust**; Senior Economist, Office of the Chief Economist, Africa Region, World Bank
 - **M. Victor Djemba**; Chief of Africa Regional Division, UNIDO
 - **Dr. Ebrima Sall**; Executive Director, Trust Africa

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To elevate regional power integration from a background technical discussion to a live policy priority — by having the operational heads of major African power pools share candid assessments of what is holding back cross-border trade, and by identifying the two or three specific actions that governments and DFIs could take in the next 18 months to move the needle measurably.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ A «regional integration action shortlist» of concrete actions identified and documented.
- ▶ Candid assessments from African power pools leadership elevate cross-border power trade to a live policy priority.

11:45
12:45

COMMITMENT DIALOGUE

Five Seats, One Ask: Youth, Consumers, Financiers, Think Tanks and Policymakers Commit to Africa's Energy Transformation

[ROOM LES COLLINES1/2] (PLENARY)

A consensus-building panel bringing together the key constituencies the Summit has engaged separately over three days – youth, financiers, think tank leaders, consumers, and policymakers – to translate three days of dialogue into a shared, named commitment before the closing ceremony.

- ▶ Modérateur : **Mme Qetsia Houessou** ; Communications & Partnerships Manager, ACED
- ▶ Panelists :
 - **Mme Mariama Mamane**; Founder, Jacigreen
 - **Dr. Rafael Latham-Proença**; Associate Program Officer, Coefficient Giving
 - **Dr Emmanuel Sogadji** ; Executive Director, African Consumers Organization (ACO)
 - **Prof. Fadel Ndiame** ; Executive Director, Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR)
 - **Mme. Pamla Gopaul** ; Unit Lead for Economic Analysis and Foresight & Head of the Africa Policy Bridge Tank, AUDA-NEPAD

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ Move from three days of parallel conversations to a single, cross-constituency commitment: what each group will contribute and by when..

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ A short joint statement reflected in the various Summit documents and knowledge products.
- ▶ Unveiling of current initiatives and/or future commitments toward evidence-based access to energy to transformation.

12:45
13:00

LAUNCH OF NEW INITIATIVES & SIGNING OF MOUs

Formal unveiling of flagship report and platforms.

[ROOM LES COLLINES1/2] (PLENARY)

Master of Ceremony: **Mrs Naomi Soumanou**; Prime Time News Anchor, Société de Radio et Télévision du Bénin

- ▶ Launch of the Africa Export Competitiveness Report 2025
 - Statement: Mr. Mamadou Biteye, Executive Secretary, ACBF
- ▶ Remarks: Dr. Amit Kapoor; Honorary Chairman, Institute for Competitiveness, India
- ▶ Launch of the Africa Knowledge Exchange
 - Remarks: **M. Abdrahamane Dicko**; Director, Programs, and Impact, ACBF
- ▶ Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between ACBF and the Regional Emergency Preparedness and Access to Inclusive Recovery Program (REPAIR)/African Risk Capacity Limited (ARC Ltd) **Mamadou Biteye and Eric Kouevi**

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To formally announce and launch a set of strategic initiatives and platforms emerging from the ATTS Summit, designed to strengthen Africa's capacity for policy implementation, knowledge exchange, and collaborative public sector transformation, while reinforcing continuity of the ATTS agenda beyond the Summit.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ Africa Knowledge Hub officially launched as a continental platform.
- ▶ Strengthened government/partner commitment to translate ATTS outcomes into coordinated post-summit action.
- ▶ Delegates enrolled into thematic Communities of Practice to sustain collaboration beyond the Summit.

13:00
13:30

CLOSING CEREMONY

Official closing ceremony – summit declaration & ATTS 2027 handover

[ROOM LES COLLINES1/2] (PLENARY)

Closing addresses from co-conveners and the host government. Special statement from a female head of state by invitation. Official closing declaration. Ceremonial handover of the ATTS 2027 flag to the designated host country.

- ▶ Master of Ceremony: **Mrs Naomi Soumanou**; Prime Time News Anchor, Société de Radio et Télévision du Bénin
- ▶ Communiqué presented by: **Mr. Cheigun Morayo Habib Tidjani**; Secretary General, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Benin
- ▶ Closing addresses:
 - **M. Luc Gnacadja**, Mayor of Cotonou, Republic of Benin
 - **M. Babatunde Rosanwo**; Senior Economist, The World Bank Group
 - **M. Mamadou Biteye**; Executive Secretary, ACBF
- ▶ Official closing: **H.E. Aristide Medenou**; Minister of Economy and Finance, Republic of Benin

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ To close the summit with a combination of institutional authority and symbolic significance, with a powerful signal that African leaders and partners view energy transformation as a matter of concern, and to ensure continuity of the ATTS platform by publicly confirming the 2027 edition.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

ATTS 2027 host country publicly confirmed.

Full summit outputs (Communiqué, briefs, research highlights, newsletter) committed for publication within 30 days.

Symbolic handover reinforces continuity of the ATTS platform and sustained political commitment to evidence for energy transformation.

13:30

LUNCH END OF SUMMIT & FAREWELL

CONTACTS

Questions related to the organization and delivery of the 2026 Africa Think Tank Summit should be directed to any of the following contacts:

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