



Professor Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga, ASR Interim Director giving a presentation at the ASR Launch

Editorial

By Professor Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga, ASR Interim Director

Despite the summer break (in the Northern hemisphere), the ASR has achieved some important institutional goals and expanded its portfolio of activities during the third quarter of 2023.

In early July, several ASR members - joined by the President of the EUI - held meetings with the Executive Secretary and other members of the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) at the offices of the future ASR host organisation in Ghana, and with other local institutions as well as detailed in the previous ASR Newsletter. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the European University Institute (EUI), representing the ASR parties, and the ACBF. In September, the ASR was officially launched during a major African meeting and its creation was formally recognised and welcomed by the African Union, with a call to Pan-African energy organisations to support the ASR.

The program of ASR Talks has continued, a new three-day virtual conference has taken place, and the preparation of a series of podcasts has finalised and will commence shortly.

The search for the new Director is ongoing and two new members have joined the ASR staff.

Details of all this can be found in this newsletter.



Hon. Herbert Krapa, Republic of Ghana's Deputy Minister of Energy, gives keynote remarks at ASR launch event

Institutional development

ASR launched at the African Climate Summit

The African School of Regulation (ASR) was officially launched at the [Africa Climate Summit 2023, co-hosted by Kenya and the African Union](#). The ASR, which is expected to be soon hosted by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) in Accra, Ghana, aims to strengthen Africa's energy sector in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2063. The event welcomed distinguished guests and speakers, including: Herbert Krapa, Deputy Minister of Energy, Ghana. A panel discussion took place with:

- Ashvin Dayal, Senior Vice President (Power & Climate), The Rockefeller Foundation.
- Linus Mofor, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
- Mamadou Biteye, Executive Secretary, ACBF.
- Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga, ASR Interim Director.

African School of Regulation (ASR) gains ground at AU Energy Ministerial

The African School of Regulation (ASR) is pleased to announce a significant achievement at the recent African Union (AU) 4th Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee on Transport, Interregional Infrastructure and Energy (STC-TTIE). At this important AU energy meeting, the ASR received resounding support, which has now been incorporated into the Zanzibar Declaration. The official recognition of ASR's contributions within this Ministerial Declaration, marks a key strategical milestone in ASR's ongoing journey. This achievement underscores the expected ASR's pivotal role in promoting sound regulation and policy in the African energy sector, via the design and implementation of training courses, policy dialogues, applied research and the development a solid body of knowledge adapted to the needs of the African continent.

[Download the Zanzibar Declaration document](#)

Forging partnerships and collaborations

Implementation of capacity-building activities

During the third quarter of 2023, the ASR continued to develop its 2023 programme of activities, focusing on current issues in energy regulation in Africa and inviting and facilitating interaction with African and global experts from policy makers, regulators, utilities, independent developers, academia and development partners to identify the key issues and how to address them. These events lay the foundation for further activities and help to shape the training content and research objectives of the ASR.

Online conferences

From 26-28 September, the African School of Regulation (ASR) and the Global Association for the Off-grid Solar Energy Industry (GOGLA), in partnership with Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP, World Bank Group) and the African Forum of Utility Regulators (AFUR), [co-hosted a three-day online conference](#). The conference brought together a powerhouse of experts in the off-grid solar (OGS) industry and attracted a total of 380 registered participants, with an average attendance of 115. The topic of the next three-day ASR online conference will be the regulatory support of private investment in transmission infrastructure.

ASR Talks and webinars

The series of ASR Talks with experts aims to promote policy dialogue and complement ASR's research and training activities on topical issues. [On 4 August, the ASR Talk on "Powering Progress: The Role of Regulation in Fast-Tracking Electricity Access" took centre stage](#). During this dynamic session, we delved into Uganda's regulatory framework, which has significantly accelerated electricity access. Our distinguished guest speaker, Eng. Ziria Tibalwa Waako, Chief Executive Officer of the Ugandan Electricity Regulatory Authority, added valuable insights to the discussion. The conversation allowed us to explore the regulatory landscape in Uganda, which has held the top position since the inception of the African Development Bank's Electricity Regulation Index in 2018.

Other activities by ASR staff

Two members of the ASR team attended and participated in September in the Africa Climate Summit: Carol Ofafa and Louise Mathu.

The ASR Interim Director, Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga, participated in August in the World Forum on Energy Regulation (WFER) in Lima, Peru - the top event gathering energy regulators that happens every three years - presenting a two-hour tutorial on “Enabling universal access to electricity through regulation”.

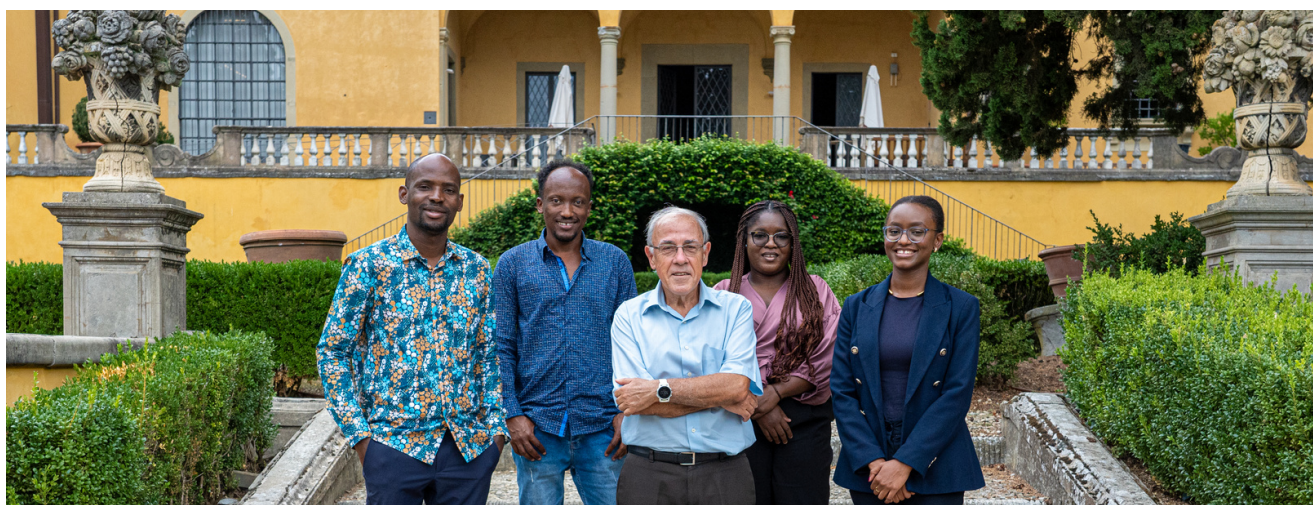
A series of podcasts on the overarching theme of "A Sustainable Energy Future for Africa" was launched on October 12. These podcasts will feature in-depth conversations with experts, highlighting different facets of energy regulation in Africa. [Our first episode, entitled 'Is SDG7 Within Reach?', features Ifey Ikeonu and Victor Otieno.](#)



The ASR Team at the Africa Climate Summit

In this episode of A Sustainable Energy Future for Africa, Ifey Ikeonu, a seasoned electricity policy advisor, former regulator in Nigeria and also former Chair of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA), shares her insights on the critical question of whether universal energy access is achievable in Africa and explores how regulation can play a key role.

The podcast will also introduce an emerging voice in the field, Victor Otieno, an energy access research associate at the World Resources Institute (WRI). Together they engage in a thought-provoking dialogue on the future of sustainable energy in Africa.



Some members of the ASR Team meeting in Florence

Action Plan

Human Resources

We are pleased to announce that two new people have joined the ASR permanent staff (currently based in Florence / Italy at the EUI/FSR premises) as of 1st September: a new research assistant (Keno Shiferaw, from Ethiopia) and an IT/communications person (Zita Ohikere, from Nigeria).

Furthermore, the ASR is seeking expressions of interest from individuals for the position of Director of the ASR. If you are interested in the position and would like to receive information about the requirements of the position and the selection process, please register at the following link. This information will be kept confidential and will only be available to the selection committee. The full text of the call and the job description can be found here: [ASR-Director-job-description.pdf](#).

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