



COP28 – Dubai, December 4, 2023

Regulation and Energy Development in Africa

10:30 am local time, at the Net Zero Futures Pavilion

The path to a sustainable energy model in Africa – including universal access and climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as the growing presence of decentralised energy resources in the midst of a much-needed industrialisation process – requires new approaches to policy, regulation, technology, innovation and skills to achieve this goal. Sound regulation stands out as an indispensable component of any strategy to guide African countries in designing and implementing this transition.

Training in this area is urgently needed. The African School of Regulation is an ambitious initiative that seeks to harness the powerful influence of policy and regulation in the overlapping areas of energy and climate change by building the human capital that the African energy sector needs to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063 for sustainable development on the continent. The ASR is a professional education and applied research organisation, soon to be established in Africa, for Africa and run by Africans, see <https://africanschoolregulation.org>.

This session on "Regulation and Energy Development in Africa" will show how appropriate adaptation of international regulatory best practices to the African context, as well as innovative regulatory approaches, can significantly improve the performance of the energy sector in some critical areas: regional power trading, financial viability of distribution companies, sustainable and scalable off-grid electrification solutions, overall supply and demand efficiency improvements, investment in renewable generation, and socially beneficial deployment of distributed energy resources, all with a positive impact on climate change mitigation and adaptation. More specifically:

- Regulation can facilitate investment in cross-border transmission interconnections, increase and improve the efficiency of electricity trading and enable the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM).
- Regulation can turn bankrupt distribution companies - or the distribution segment within vertically integrated utilities - into financially viable companies with satisfactory performance.
- Regulation can help kick-start the necessary mass deployment of mini-grids and off-grid solar systems by ensuring that business models are sustainable and scalable.
- Regulation can introduce measures to improve efficiency across the energy sector, both on the supply and demand side.
- Regulation can increase the appetite for investment in renewable generation in Africa - both utility-scale and off-grid solutions - by streamlining permitting and contracting processes and removing existing regulatory barriers.
- Regulation can guide the deployment of socially beneficial distributed energy resources embedded in the main grid that meet the interests of individual owners - better reliability, lower costs, independence - while also being socially beneficial.

Program of the session

INTRODUCTION (3 min.): **Mamadou Biteye**, Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation.

WELCOME (3 min.): **Hon. Herbert Krapa**, Republic of Ghana's Deputy Minister of Energy.

PROGRAM PRESENTATION (5 min.): **Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga**, Interim Director, African School of Regulation.

- REGIONAL POWER TRADE (6 min.): **Wale Shonibare**, Director for Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulations, African Development Bank).
- VIABLE DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES (6 min.): **Ije Ikoju Okeke**, Managing Director of Global South Program, Rocky Mountain Institute.
- OFF-GRID ELECTRIFICATION (6 min): **Gillian-Alexandre Huart**, CEO, Engie Energy Access.
- EFFICIENCY IN SUPPLY AND DEMAND (6 min.): **Rashid Abdallah**, Executive Secretary, Africa Energy Commission, AFREC.
- RENEWABLES INVESTMENT (6 min.): **Lily Odarno**, Director of CATF's Energy and Climate Innovation Program.
- DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES (6 min.): **Naomi Wagura**, Director of Country Programs, Global Alliance for the People and the Planet (GEAPP).

Q&A (13 min.)