

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE
PROGRAM

**Regulatory frameworks for the
deployment and integration of
solar energy in the power
sector of African countries**

**FEBRUARY 24TH, 25TH AND 26TH; 2:00PM
TO 4:00PM GMT (ACCRA) TIME**



PROGRAM FOR AN OPEN ONLINE CONFERENCE

on

Regulatory frameworks for the deployment and integration of solar energy in the power sector of African countries

Dates: Feb. 24 – 26, 2026

The African School of Regulation (ASR), in collaboration with the International Solar Alliance (ISA), is hosting a three-day, open, online, high-level conference to discuss how regulation can enable and promote the deployment and integration of solar electricity generation in African countries' power sectors at scale and with sustainable models. The conference will consider utility-scale power plants, distributed grid-connected solar resources, and off-grid solutions, with a focus on the former.

Context

Africa possesses some of the richest solar resources in the world.¹ Yet, despite this potential, as of 2023 the continent's installed utility-scale solar PV capacity stood at approximately 15 GW—less than 2% of the global total of over 1 TW.² By comparison, the European Union alone had over 260 GW³, and China more than 500 GW⁴.

Africa's electricity demand is expected to more than double by 2040⁵, driven by population growth—from 1.4 billion today to 2.5 billion in 2050—and economic development. More than 600 million people in Africa lack any access to electricity today. Solar PV represents a critical opportunity to deliver affordable, clean, and scalable power to meet the associated demand.

¹ IRENA, *solar resource and cost data*, 2023

Link: <https://www.irena.org/Publications/2023>

² IRENA, *Renewable Capacity Statistics*, 2024

<https://www.irena.org/Publications/2024/Mar/Renewable-capacity-statistics-2024>

³ The Rise of Solar PV in the EU – key facts

Link: <https://www.solarpowereurope.org/insights/interactive-data/total-eu-27-solar-pv-capacity-a-growth-story>

⁴ Fang, L.; Honghua, X.; and Jinhong, D. *National Survey Report of PV Power Applications in China 2023*

https://iea-pvps.org/national_survey/national-survey-report-of-pv-power-applications-in-china-2023/

⁵ IEA, *Africa Energy Outlook*, 2022

<https://www.iea.org/reports/africa-energy-outlook-2022>

Falling technology costs—utility-scale PV levelized cost of electricity has dropped by 89% since 2010 globally⁶—make it competitive with fossil fuel generation in many African countries.

However, achieving full electrification, adequate economic development, and a decarbonised economy by 2050 will require hundreds of billions of dollars in new investments, as well as operation and maintenance costs for solar PV generation. These investments must be supported by predictable regulatory frameworks that inspire confidence among developers, financiers, and utilities. A sound regulatory framework for solar generation is essential at all levels.

Opportunities and Barriers

Opportunities include abundant land and solar resources, falling technology costs, emerging regional power pools, and growing interest from development finance institutions (DFIs) and private investors. However, barriers remain:

- Regulatory gaps: unclear licensing and permitting processes, lengthy timelines, and inconsistent application of grid codes.
- Procurement challenges: absence of competitive, transparent tendering in some markets, and weak contract enforcement.
- Grid integration constraints: inadequate transmission infrastructure, limited system flexibility, and curtailment risk.
- Financial risks: high cost of capital, currency volatility, off-taker payment delays, and limited credit enhancement mechanisms.
- Policy uncertainty: changes in support schemes, limited long-term planning, and lack of clear renewable energy targets.

In addition to the barriers to the deployment and integration of solar generation that should be removed, it is also necessary to examine what regulations could do to accelerate the deployment and integration of solar projects, and also what regulation should not do, such as an inefficient allocation of support to the various kinds of solar projects or the extension of support to competing fossil technologies.

The Need for Capacity Building.

Well-designed regulation can unlock the full potential of large-scale, distributed and off-grid solar PV. This requires capacity within regulatory agencies, ministries, system operators, and utilities to:

- Streamline permitting and licensing while ensuring environmental and social safeguards.
- Implement competitive procurement mechanisms that drive cost efficiency and transparency.
- Integrate solar generation reliably into national and regional grids.
- Structure bankable power purchase agreements and mitigate key risks.
- Design fair and targeted subsidies where necessary.

The African School of Regulation (ASR) is a pan-African professional training platform. In collaboration with partner organizations, such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the

⁶ IRENA, *solar resource and cost data*, 2023

Link: <https://www.irena.org/Publications/2023>

ASR is uniquely positioned to address this gap. The ASR provides the necessary skills and adapts the best international practices to the African context in order to design and implement effective regulations for utility-scale, distributed, and off-grid solar projects. This three-day, open, online, high-level conference is one of a series of ASR events aimed at developing the human capital necessary for this monumental task.

Organisation.

The conference will convene a select group of experienced participants, including regulators, policymakers, development finance institutions, utilities, potential or existing private investors in renewable energy generation, think tanks, and academia. These participants will engage in online panel discussions. The debates will be accessible free of charge to all registered interested individuals, who will have the opportunity to submit questions and comments through the conference platform. These inquiries and remarks may then be effectively utilised by the panel moderators during the discussion sessions or answered by the expert participants in the chats.

After the welcome addresses, two brief presentations will introduce the main topics to be debated during the conference. After that, the conference will consist of a series of moderated panels where a reduced group of experts will discuss the different aspects of the topic of the conference in a structured way. The panel on the first day will focus on the current situation of solar PV in Africa and will examine the present barriers and opportunities for further solar deployment and integration. The panels on the second day will focus on the identification of regulatory remedies and the business models that will be necessary to achieve the ambitious goals of the contribution of solar PV to electrification and economic development of each country. Finally, on the third day, the debate will concentrate on defining the strategic path forward for implementing the actions identified during the conference.

Preparatory reading materials will be provided to all participants prior to the scheduled conference dates. Subsequent to the conference, the ASR team shall disseminate a concise summary outlining the principal findings and insights, and will arrange subsequent activities—including interviews, podcasts, and debates on specific topics—to further explore the discussed subjects.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

All times GMT (Accra Time)

DAY 1. STATE OF PLAY, BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DEPLOYMENT AND INTEGRATION OF SOLAR GENERATION IN THE POWER SECTOR OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

2:00 to 2:20 pm: **Conference opening.**

- Welcome and conference opening by Dr. Abdulkadir Shettima, Director of the African School of Regulation (ASR).
- Opening words, Mr. Ashish Khanna, Director-General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

2:20 to 2:50 pm: **Present approaches, challenges, and best worldwide practices.**

- Present situation of investment, business models and regulation of solar electricity generation in African countries, by Saachi Singla, Private Sector Specialist, ISA.
- Regulation as enabler, promoter or obstacle to solar electricity generation in African countries, by Dr. Charly Gatete, Senior Research Associate, ASR.

2:50 to 3:00 pm: **BREAK**

3:00 to 3:50 pm: **PANEL 1 – Present opportunities and barriers for solar electricity generation in Africa.**

The panel will focus on large-scale solar PV plants, but grid-connected distributed solar and off-grid solutions will also be considered. The issues and opportunities identified and highlighted in this panel will be the basis of the debate in the panels of Day 2.

Moderator: Eng. Nickson Bukachi, Senior Policy Advisor, AFREC

Panellists:

- Eng. Seth Agbeve Mahu, Director of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy, Ghana
- Mr. John van Zuylen, CEO, Africa Solar Industry Association
- Mr. Yann Tanvez, Senior Investment Officer, IFC

3:55 to 4:00 pm: **CLOSING for the day.**

DAY 2. IDENTIFICATION OF REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS TO PROMOTE DEPLOYMENT AND INTEGRATION OF SOLAR PV GENERATION.

On the second day, the experts will discuss the most effective regulatory frameworks to address the challenges identified on the first day and to achieve the proposed objectives of solar generation. This topic will be primarily examined from two perspectives, with the focus on large solar plants, but also for grid-connected distributed solar, minigrids and standalone solar systems. One panel will look at ways to remove regulatory barriers to developing solar

energy generation, while the second panel will concentrate on the integration of solar PV generation in the power sector, from technical, regulatory, business model and financial perspectives.

2:00 to 2:05 pm: **Presentation of the program of the day.**

- ASR

2:05 to 2:55: Panel 2 – **Removing regulatory barriers to solar PV electricity generation.**

Moderator: Ms Onyi Iyizoba, Legal Specialist, ISA

Panellists:

- Mrs Francine Mbock, Principal Energy Specialist (Renewable Energy), AfDB
- Prof. Geoffrey Mabea, CEO, COMESA
- Mr. James Manda, Technical Manager, AFUR
- Aminata Bocar Ba, Africa Regional Manager, RELP

2:55 to 3:05 pm: **BREAK**

3:05 to 3:55: Panel 3 – **Regulatory measures in enhancing reliable and efficient integration of solar electricity generation in the power system.**

Moderator: Neeraj Kuldeep, Senior Officer, Energy Transition, SEforALL

Panellists:

- Eng. Abel Didier Tella, Director General, APUA
- Eng. Frederick Ken Appiah, Deputy Director for Renewable Energy, Energy Commission, Ghana
- Mr. Julius Abayateye, Head of System Operation Coordination Division, WAPP, Information and Coordination Center Department

3:55 to 4:00 pm: **CLOSING for the day.**

DAY 3. FOCUSING ON THE BIG PICTURE

2:00 to 2:05 pm: **Introduction and schedule of the day**

- ASR

2:05 to 2:35: **Presentation. Wrap up of days 1 and 2. Open issues and key lessons learned.**

- Nutifafa Fiasorgbor, Senior Training Associate, ASR

2:35 to 3:50: **PANEL 4 – A call to action. What works, what can be improved and the need for a comprehensive and long-term vision.**

This final session will underscore and consolidate the key messages on the potential of these approaches to enhance solar energy deployment and integration in the African power sector, including the necessary regulatory interventions, business model designs, and financial instruments, as well as the important roles of all actors across the power sector.

Moderator: Nutifafa Fiasorgbor, Senior Training Associate, ASR

Panellists:

- Mr. Yagouba Traore, Head of Policy, AFREC
- Mr. Callixte Kambanda, Manager of Energy Policy, AfDB
- Mr. James Manda, Technical Manager, AFUR
- Mr. Alex Hogeveen Rutter, Manager, Research and Diligence Unit, Third Derivative
- Ms Florencia Agatiello, Research Director, Global Renewable Energy Mass Adoption Program ASBL (RELP)

3:50 to 4:00 pm: Conference closure,

- Closing words by
Mr. Felipe Saliba, the Chief of Unit for Knowledge Management & Capacity Building, ISA and
Dr. Abdulkadir Shettima, Director, ASR

4:00 pm: Conference ends.