

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE

REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS FOR THE DEPLOYMENT AND INTEGRATION OF SOLAR ENERGY IN THE POWER SECTOR OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES

MEET THE SPEAKERS

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

TUESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 2026

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DR. ABDULKADIR SHETTIMA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AFRICAN SCHOOL OF REGULATION

Dr. Abdulkadir Shettima is the Director of the African School of Regulation (ASR). He brings over two decades of leadership experience in electricity market development, regulatory reform, and energy policy across Africa. A seasoned energy economist, he has held several senior positions at the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), including General Manager and Chair of multiple national committees. His work has been instrumental in shaping Nigeria's power sector, particularly in tariff regulation, market analysis, consumer protection, market restructuring, and metering frameworks. His international experience includes serving as Programme Coordinator at Watford Training Services in the United Kingdom, where he developed advanced professional training programmes for energy practitioners across Africa and beyond. He holds a PhD in Energy Economics from the University of Buckingham and an MBA in Banking and Finance.

Dr. Shettima's research focuses on energy poverty, energy transition, and sector efficiency, with high-impact, peer-reviewed publications to his credit. He is deeply committed to promoting regulatory excellence, regional market integration, energy access, and sustainability across the continent through ASR's initiatives in training, research, and policy engagement.

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MR. ASHISH KHANNA

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA)

Mr Ashish Khanna has over twenty-six years of experience leading energy sector development in the private and public sectors in more than fifteen developing countries in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. He has unique experience working in the solar sector across the entire value chain, ranging from project conceptualisation to resource mobilisation, financing, bid process management, and project implementation. As the former Head of the World Bank's West and Central Africa Program, he led the Mission 300 for energy access to 300 million people in Africa by 2030. He has also worked as the Program Leader in the Middle East and North Africa, leading the program that enabled private sector investment of USD 20 billion in the energy sector for the first time in Egypt. In India, as the Lead Energy Specialist at the World Bank, he worked with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy on policy and regulatory reforms to enable private sector engagement in solar. Born and raised in India, he has experienced first-hand the basic human need for energy access and the constraints of developing countries in achieving the same. He believes that the success of the International Solar Alliance requires a strengthened organisation with the right skills and accountability framework to earn the respect and trust of countries and their agencies in designing and implementing solar pathways for energy access and transition.

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DR. CHARLY GATETE

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

AFRICAN SCHOOL OF REGULATION (ASR)

Charly Gatete is an experienced energy economist with a PhD in Energy Economics from the University of Paris-Sud (France) and another in Energy from 2iE (Burkina Faso). He is the senior applied researcher at the African School of Regulation (ASR). Before his role at ASR, he worked as an economist at the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ARREC), where he helped establish economic regulation for the ECOWAS regional electricity market. Charly has also held the regional energy programme officer position for an international NGO, overseeing and monitoring various energy projects throughout West Africa. Additionally, he has been a researcher at the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE) and CIRAD. Dr. Gatete teaches at Thomas Sankara University (Burkina Faso), where he founded and directed the master's program in Renewable Energy, Development, and Green Economy. He has also served as an energy consultant and expert for UNDP and UNITAR. His contributions to the field include authoring and co-authoring several academic publications and co-authoring the recently published book « Energy Regulation in Africa: Dynamics, Challenges and Opportunities» by Springer in 2024.

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MR FELIPE SALIBA

**CHIEF OF UNIT FOR KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
& CAPACITY BUILDING
INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE**

As an experienced Italo-Brazilian executive with over 20 years in international project management and leading multicultural teams, he has developed a deep expertise in knowledge and data management, business transformation, and IT-driven innovation across various industries. His professional journey has allowed me to work in different corporate sectors, managing complex, high-impact initiatives that focus on driving growth, enhancing collaboration, knowledge sharing and optimizing business processes.

Currently, he is in India, engaged in a global challenge with a significant environmental commitment and social impact. This opportunity allows him to apply his expertise in a context that aims to drive meaningful, sustainable change, particularly in the areas of renewable energy and social development.

He is always open to connecting with professionals and organizations focused on innovation, sustainability, and the positive impact of technology in the world.

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MR. JOHN VAN ZUYLEN

CEO

AFRICA SOLAR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

John is a seasoned solar energy executive with over 20 years of global experience, spanning utility-scale, commercial, and residential projects across Europe, the United States, the Middle East, and Africa.

Prior to leading AFSIA, he advised venture-backed clean energy companies and spearheaded the development of FRV (Fotowatio Renewable Ventures) utility-scale solar and wind projects across Africa.

He holds an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, specializing in Strategy, Managerial & Organizational Behavior, and Entrepreneurship.

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YANN TANVEZ

SENIOR INVESTMENT OFFICER

**INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION,
WORLD BANK GROUP**

Yann is a Senior Investment Officer in the IFC Africa Infrastructure department based in Rabat, Morocco. In his current capacity, Yann works on early-stage projects development and financing across the infrastructure spectrum, with a focus on climate related investments. Yann is also the current Africa business development lead for Energy Access under Mission 300, with focus on scaling up Distributed Renewable Energy solutions on the continent. Prior to joining IFC in 2018, Yann held various positions at the World Bank in Washington DC, respectively in the Climate Change, Urban Development and Energy Global Practices working on the World Bank's strategy in sustainable energy as well as working on landmark infrastructure transactions across emerging markets globally.

Yann started his career in the private sector, including within Schneider Electric strategy department and as international affairs advisor to Areva's CEO. French national, Yann holds an LLB and an LLM from Lyon III University, a BA in Classic Philosophy from Paris I Sorbonne University, as well as a MA in International Affairs from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Paris - Sciences Po. He also holds an executive education certificate in Public-Private-Partnerships and Project Finance from Harvard University.

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

WEDNESDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 2026

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SETH MAHU

DIRECTOR OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND GREEN
TRANSITION, GHANA**

Seth Mahu, the Director of Renewable Energy at the Ministry of Energy and Green Transition, is a key figure in Ghana's renewable energy development. His role involves guiding the country's biofuel policy, which aims to unlock renewable energy potential and reduce carbon emissions. Mahu has been instrumental in the development of the Renewable Energy Master Plan, which provides a framework for the promotion and development of Ghana's renewable energy resources. His efforts have been recognized with significant funding, including a \$1 billion climate financing package to support renewable energy projects and green enterprises. Mahu's commitment to sustainability and renewable energy is evident in his leadership and initiatives that aim to diversify Ghana's energy mix and advance climate action.

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ENG. NICKSON BUKACHI

SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

THE AFRICAN ENERGY COMMISSION (AFREC)

Eng. Nickson Bukachi Ongeru is a Senior Policy Officer for the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio at the African Energy Commission of the African Union. He is a leading voice on renewable energy in Africa, possessing hands-on, transformational experience in developing Kenya's solar industry at both policy and regulatory levels, as well as in project development and implementation.

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ONYI IYIZOBA

LEGAL SPECIALIST

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

Ms. Onyi Iyizoba is the Legal Specialist at the International Solar Alliance. She pioneered and manages the Regulatory Support Initiative of the ISA, focused on driving legal and regulatory changes for clean energy integration. Much of her work includes clean energy ecosystem assessment, stakeholder aggregation and technical assistance, with a focus on the use of solar energy to facilitate universal energy access, foster energy security and drive clean energy transition in ISA member countries.

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Francine MBOCK is Principal Energy Specialist at the Renewable Energy Division, African Development Bank (AfDB). She's an electrical engineer, energy regulation, project and portfolio management professional. She's coordinating the Desert to Power (DtP) Green Climate Fund facility. She's also managing renewable energy projects and programs (infrastructure and technical assistance) at national and regional scale across Africa.

FRANCINE MBOCK

PRINCIPAL ENERGY SPECIALIST

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

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PROF GEOFFERY MABEA
ENERGY ECONOMIST

Prof. Geoffrey Mabea is an energy economist with extensive experience in energy and infrastructure development across Africa. He has led complex, multi-stakeholder initiatives on regional energy integration, regulatory harmonisation, and market development, particularly within the COMESA region, working closely with regional economic communities, national governments, the African Union, and development partners. His work focuses on energy market design, policy frameworks, and cross-border infrastructure strategies that support efficient and resilient power systems.

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JAMES MANDA

TECHNICAL MANAGER

AFRICAN FORUM FOR UTILITY REGULATORS

Mr. James Manda is currently the Technical Manager at the African Forum for Utility Regulators, (AFUR), where he is responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing technical projects.

He possesses a Master's Degree (Msc) in Sustainable Energy Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology.

He has more than 20 years' experience working in the Energy Sector in southern Africa in particular, and the continent in general.

He has worked at the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) in Zambia as Technical Director, where he was responsible for ensuring technical and operational compliance for Utilities operating in the energy sector. Prior to that, he worked at the Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC PLC) as Projects Manager.

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AMINATA BOCAR BA

AFRICA REGIONAL MANAGER

RELP

As Africa Regional Manager, Aminata drives RELP's strategy in Africa, forging partnerships with governments, MDBs, and DFIs and securing agreements for program implementation. She collaborates with the iTrust team to position it as a regional guarantee facility and manages relationships with potential funders.

She is an Electrical Engineer and has a Master's Degree in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient.

Since 2022, Aminata has been a senior advisor for the Tony Blair Institute, supporting Togo's Minister of Energy to advance universal access by 2030. With over 8 years of experience, including roles at Engie and Power Africa, she has secured \$4M for off-grid businesses, fostered regulatory reforms, and driven energy access in rural areas. Aminata is an Electrical Engineer with a Master's in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency from ÉTS, Montreal.

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NEERAJ KULDEEP

**SENIOR OFFICER, ENERGY TRANSITION AND
ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL (SEFORALL)

Neeraj Kuldeep provides technical expertise in developing demand flexibility and utility demand-side management programs in India to support the G20 Energy Efficiency agenda follow-up, as well as national efforts to double energy efficiency in India. Neeraj has over 10 years of experience working within and outside India supporting governments, at national and sub-national levels formulate new schemes and programmes, bring regulatory reforms, prepare state renewable energy roadmaps, and conduct demonstration pilots. Neeraj holds a Master's degree in Energy Systems and a Bachelor's degree of Technology in Energy Science and Engineering.

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ENG. FREDERICK KEN APPIAH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RENEWABLE ENERGY
GHANA ENERGY COMMISSION

Ing. Frederick Ken Appiah is a Mechanical Engineer and Deputy Director for Renewable Energy at Ghana's Energy Commission, where he has worked since 2006. He leads renewable energy licensing, policy development, regulation, and technical standards, and has coordinated major initiatives including the National Rooftop Solar Programme and the Net-Metered Solar PV component under SREP. He also lectures Renewable Energy Law, Policy and Practice at the University of Ghana School of Law and is currently pursuing a PhD in Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

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ENG ABEL DIDIER TELLA

DIRECTOR GENERAL

**ASSOCIATION OF POWER UTILITIES OF AFRICA
(APUA)**

Abel Didier TELLA is a Beninese electrical engineer and currently Director General of the Association of Power Utilities of Africa (APUA).

He holds a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, a Diploma of Specialized Higher Studies in Renewable Energy, a photovoltaic solar option, a Certificate of Accreditation of High Voltage Line Techniques from EDF, and a master's degree in management of energy companies.

Abel Didier TELLA is a recognised expert in the energy sector in Africa and beyond, with 40 years + experience and knowledge in the field, and is fluent in French, English, Spanish, Russian and some Portuguese

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JULIUS ABAYATEYE

**HEAD OF SYSTEM OPERATION COORDINATION
DIVISION
WEST AFRICAN POWER POOL (WAPP),
INFORMATION AND COORDINATION CENTER
DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Abayateye is currently the Head of Division, System Operations Coordination in the Information and Coordination Center Department of the West African Power Pool (WAPP), managing the team responsible for real time monitoring and situational awareness, operational planning functions including reliability assessment studies, outage coordination studies, etc. He has about 19 years' experience in power systems engineering and research including, technical, in-depth and hands-on studies and analysis for power grid transmission planning and power systems operation. He is currently playing an active role in the development and operationalization of the Regional Electricity Market in West Africa. Prior to joining the West African Power Pool in 2014, he worked with the Ghana Grid Company Limited (GRIDCo) as a Power System Planning Engineer in the Engineering Department.

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DAY 3. FOCUSING ON THE BIG PICTURE

THURSDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 2026

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JAMES MANDA

TECHNICAL MANAGER

AFRICAN FORUM FOR UTILITY REGULATORS

Mr. James Manda is currently the Technical Manager at the African Forum for Utility Regulators, (AFUR), where he is responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing technical projects. He possesses a Master's Degree (Msc) in Sustainable Energy Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology. He has more than 20 years' experience working in the Energy Sector in southern Africa in particular, and the continent in general. He has worked at the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) in Zambia as Technical Director, where he was responsible for ensuring technical and operational compliance for Utilities operating in the energy sector. Prior to that, he worked at the Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC PLC) as Projects Manager.

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FLORENTIA AGATIELLO

CHIEF OF STAFF - RELP

As RELAs RELP's Chief of Staff, Florencia serves as a trusted advisor to the CEO, driving and monitoring progress across departments and teams, and ensuring alignment and collaboration toward the organisation's goals.

She holds a degree in Economics and a Master's in International Economic Relations from Buenos Aires University (UBA). Additionally, she has advanced qualifications in energy management and development, including a Postgraduate Degree in Management of Electricity Markets from the Buenos Aires Institute of Technology and a Diploma in the Development and Financing of Renewable Energy Projects from CEMA University.

She is a seasonal energy specialist with vast experience in research and economic and financial analysis of infrastructure projects. Before this role, Florencia worked as an economic consultant in the private and public sectors

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Alexander Hogeveen Rutter is the Electricity Sector Lead at Third Derivative, part of RMI, a world-leading climate think tank. He has worked in consulting, for MFIs and for a publicly-owned utility. He has worked extensively on technology and policy within energy and climate systems.

ALEX HOGEVEEN RUTTER

MANAGER, RESEARCH AND DILIGENCE UNIT,
THIRD DERIVATIVE

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YAGOUBA TRAORE

HEAD OF POLICY - AFREC

Mr Yagouba Traore is the Head of Policy Planning & Strategy at the African Energy Commission (AFREC). He has more than 20 years of experience in Infrastructure and Energy fields and related policy development at national, regional, and continental levels. Prior to joining AFREC, Mr. Yagouba served as Chief of Infrastructure Unit within the African Union Commission where he coordinated, among others, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), an AU adopted strategic framework to address the infrastructure gaps in the sectors of Energy, Transport, ICT and Water. In his role, Mr. Yagouba is responsible for leading the delivery of AFREC's strategic programmes on the development of energy resources in Africa, while providing policy and strategic support to the African Union Member States based on continental, regional and national priorities.

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CALLIXTE KAMBANDA

MANAGER OF ENERGY POLICY

AFREC

Callixte Kambanda is currently working with the African Development Bank as Manager for Energy Policy, Regulation and Statistics Division. He has extensive experience working in the African energy sector, particularly with African countries, Regional Economic Communities and Specialized institutions. He joined the Bank working with the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA), a G8 initiative housed by the African Development Bank. Before joining the Bank, Kambanda worked as Executive Secretary of the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) and with the Power Utility in his country Rwanda. His current work at the African Development Bank as Division Manager, focuses on leading the team that works primarily to enhance enabling environment for investments in African energy sector, including strengthening of Policy Dialogue, scaling up availability and harmonization of data as well as supporting African countries to enhance the power sector regulation.

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ING. NUTIFAFKA FIASORGBOR

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

AFRICAN SCHOOL OF REGULATION

Ing. Nutifafa K. Fiasorgbor is an experienced energy expert with over 17 years of progressive experience in power system engineering, energy economics, and utility regulation. He currently serves as a Senior Training Associate at the African School of Regulation, where he leads the design and delivery of professional training programmes on energy regulation, tariff design, electrification planning, and demand-side management.

Ing. Fiasorgbor is currently pursuing a PhD in Global Energy Policy at Euclid University; he also holds an MA in Energy Law from the University of Ghana, an MSc in Economics (Energy and Natural Resources) from KNUST, an MSc in Electrical Power Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Sweden, and a BSc in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from KNUST. He is additionally certified as an Energy Risk Professional (GARP), Project Management Professional (PMI), Certified Energy Regulator (ERRA), and Certified Expert in Climate & Renewable Energy Finance (Frankfurt School of Finance & Management).