

AUDA-NEPAD Africa Policy Bridge Tank 2024 Inception Conference: African Futures

Concept Note For Parallel Workshop:

Towards a Just Energy Transition in Africa: Challenges, Results of Cooperation, and the Moroccan Case Study

Context:

Ensuring a just energy transition in Africa is one of the most pressing issues in today's climate change agenda. With only 4%¹ contribution to carbon emissions, Africa suffers from the most severe consequences of climate change. In order to create the right conditions for an efficient and just energy transition on the continent, African governments and their development partners have a key role to play.

In recent years, several African countries started transitioning from traditional energy sources to utilising renewable ones. This action is driven by initiatives such as the Paris Summit and the United Nations Climate Change Conferences.

Within this framework, African countries have regarded the European Union (EU) as a crucial strategic ally for a considerable time. The European Green Deal transformative agenda launched by the European Commission in 2019 outlines the EU's ambition to become the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This illustrates how Europe is shaping its energy vision, but also offers opportunities to converge modalities with Africa, encouraging mutual cooperation towards more sustainable energy solutions. However, for the African continent, climate justice financing, technological barriers and regulatory frameworks are among the burdens that still hamper the continent's efforts to channel an efficient energy transition.

Climate justice in Africa and its financing was highlighted at COP27 through the Loss and Damage Fund, but also through various initiatives addressing Africa's financing needs for the energy transition, including the new financial architecture framework. However, it's important to assess where Africa stands today in terms of resources and energy mix.

The North African region has demonstrated strong performance in the use of renewable energy sources, particularly solar and wind. As a result, Morocco has emerged as a major contributor to Africa's transition to sustainable energy by committing to renewable resources, reducing dependence on conventional fossil fuels, and building a resilient and sustainable energy infrastructure. It's therefore important to look at Morocco's current energy mix, how the country has considered renewable energy sources in its energy transition path, and what the country's strategy is when it comes to green hydrogen.

Objective:

The aim of this 90-minute workshop is to provide insights into the current energy transition landscape in Africa and the path towards an equitable energy transition that fosters effective cooperation. It will explore the prospects for cooperation between African countries and the European Union, examine the convergence of initiatives announced by the EU and those directly affecting African countries, highlight the financing needs and gaps for energy transition in Africa, and provide an overview of Morocco's energy transition vision and strategy, focusing on key projects, obstacles and achievements.

¹ <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/africasource/climate-change-will-not-be-fixed-without-africa/>

Approach:

The workshop will employ an informative and comprehensive methodology, commencing with an introduction to the present status of Energy Transition in Africa and Euro-African collaboration in this regard. It will be then followed by a description of the prevailing Energy situation in the African continent, with emphasis on Morocco's energy transition agenda and objectives.

Structure:

1. **Discussant 1 (30 minutes):** The first discussant will share insights about the Euro African cooperation overview in the Energy field, accomplishments, and outcomes. He will also discuss the financial aspect of the climate justice in Africa, the new financial architecture framework, and Morocco's energy transition strategy and state of the art.
2. **Discussant 2 (30 minutes):** The second discussant will deliver a presentation featuring statistics on the prevailing energy resources in Africa, development of renewable energy sources in the continent, the obstacles that impede their utilization. She will then be discussing Morocco's energy transition strategy with a focus on the Green Hydrogen strategy.
3. **Interactive Discussion (30 minutes):** The remainder of the session will be dedicated to a Q&A segment for participants with questions directed towards the experts. Additionally, the panel will deliver concluding key messages regarding the previously discussed topics.

Discussant #1: Professor Larabi Jaïdi,
Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

Discussant #2: Mrs. Sabrine Emran
Economist, Policy Center for the New South

Expected Outcomes:

- Examining how the Euro-Africa partnership is shaping the energy sector in the African continent,
- Identifying successful methods and anticipating challenges in transitioning to renewable energy in Africa,
- Providing impactful recommendations to help Africa make tangible progress towards an effective energy transition.

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