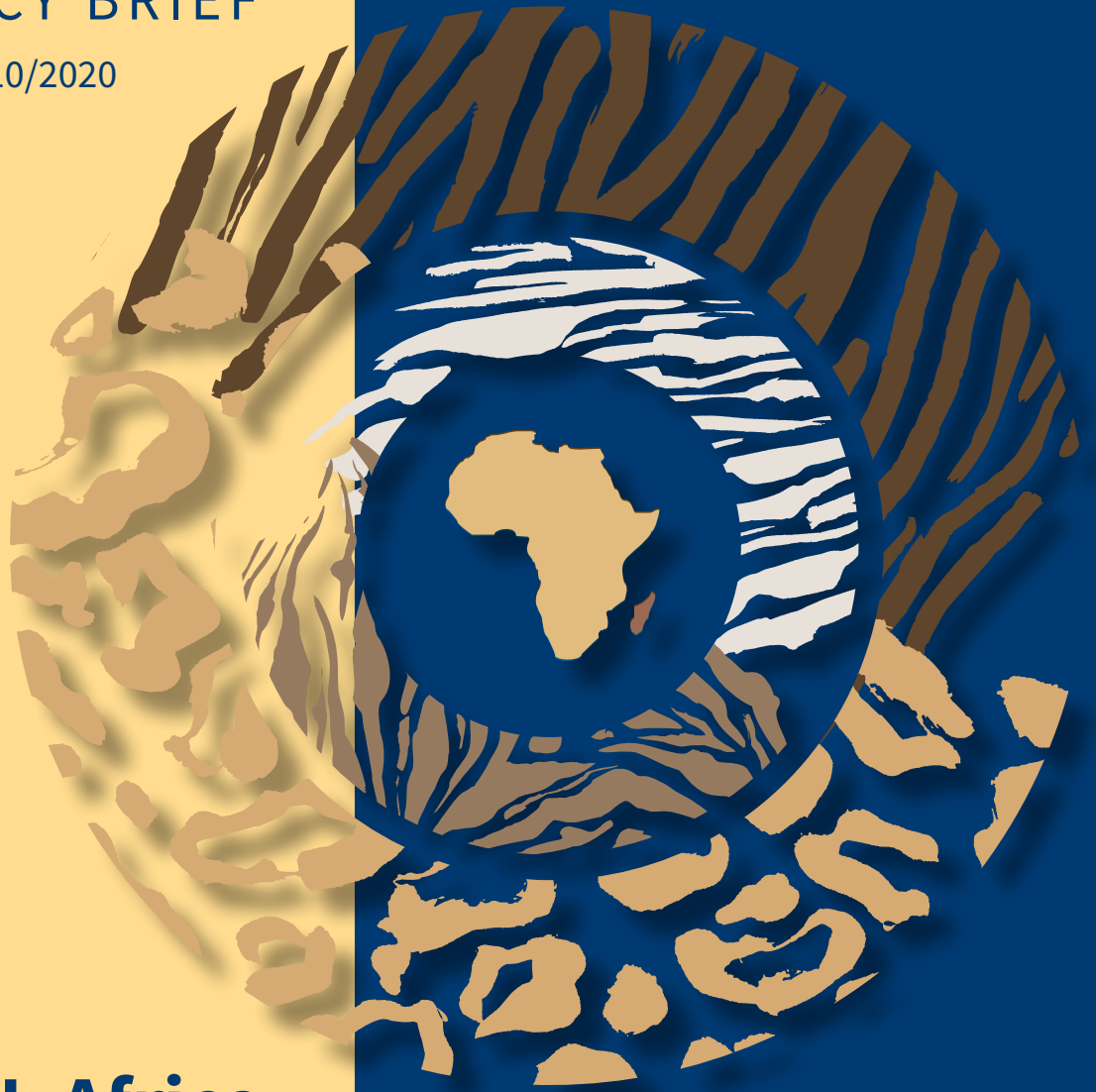


# POLICY BRIEF

10/2020



## The EU–Africa Strategy

An Opportunity to set Ambitious New Targets and Approaches to Guarantee the African People’s Wellbeing

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## Brief Summary

**Recommendation 1:** Adopt social performance and sustainability as the frames of reference in developing and implementing the green transition and energy access partnership.

**Recommendation 2:** Commit to developing financial environments that provide sustainable capital for climate-friendly investment, with a special focus on small-scale renewable energy projects.

**Recommendation 3:** Strengthen African leadership, ownership, and good governance as guiding principles for the EU–Africa Energy Partnership.

## Imprint

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### Publisher:

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October/2020

This publication can be downloaded at:

<https://germanwatch.org/en/19420>

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Bundesministerium für  
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit  
und Entwicklung

This publication is financially supported by Bread for the World with additional funding from Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Germanwatch is responsible for the content of this publication.

## Introduction

The world is facing unprecedented challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate change crisis, and the need to transition to clean and sustainable energy systems that enable healthy and secure livelihoods and social and economic prosperity for all nations. There are numerous opportunities to address these challenges in sustainable and resilient ways. To respond to both these enormous challenges and opportunities, in March 2020, the European Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy proposed a new EU–Africa strategy. This strategy duly recognises that solving the current challenges requires new types of collective action, based on shared values and with an orientation towards resilient societies and sustainable futures. The strategy aims to build partnerships for (1) green transition and energy access, (2) digital transformation, (3) sustainable growth and jobs, (4) peace and governance, and (5) migration and mobility. These new partnerships, if designed appropriately, could elevate existing EU–Africa cooperation to a new level, counterbalance Chinese investments in fossil fuels with investments in green and sustainable growth, and develop actions that ensure people-centred and environmentally and socially appropriate change processes.

The new EU–Africa strategy was supposed to have been endorsed at the European Union – African Union Summit in October 2020. This summit also offered an occasion to reaffirm joint commitments towards implementing the Paris Agreement and its agreed-to goals. These include delivery of new and updated climate plans, long-term zero-carbon development strategies—along with agreed-to targets for development partners' effective support for Africa and other vulnerable countries—and building and advancing climate alliances ahead of the 'African COP27.' Unfortunately, the EU–Africa Summit has now been postponed to 2021. While this delays the opportunity to advance the above-mentioned commitments, it also provides a chance to intensify the ongoing dialogue between African and EU leadership on how to shape and implement the EU–Africa strategy so it is effective for the people and the planet. With the focus on **green transition and energy access**, this Policy Brief identifies key policy recommendations to ensure that the subsequent policies and implementation strategies, developed in the context of the proposed EU–Africa strategy, deliver over the long term for the people of Africa and the planet.

## The Situation in Africa

African countries are undergoing dynamic development, yet they are faced with a multitude of interlinked and mutually reinforcing crises, including the climate emergency, extreme weather, COVID-19, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, food production crisis, and political unrest. The sum of these challenges leaves billions of people vulnerable and unable to meet their basic needs and incapable of hoping for good, healthy lives. At the same time, Africans desperately need to solve the immediate challenge of providing clean, affordable, and reliable energy access for all. This is a precondition for ensuring social and economic prosperity and resilient societies, and it can facilitate the wellbeing of individuals. About 600 million Africans lack access to electricity services and

about 850 million lack clean cooking facilities (IRENA, 2015; Onyeji-Nwogu, 2017). The situation is complicated by the expectation that electricity demand will triple by 2030 due to changing demand dynamics and population growth. To meet this growing demand, Africa should double its energy supply by 2040. This endeavour requires investments averaging USD 70 billion annually between now and 2030, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA, 2015). Therefore, while the EU–Africa strategy should be grounded in both continents' shared objectives and values, the African people's wellbeing should not be compromised in favour of partnerships in the interest of the political and economic elites in Africa or by one-sided EU strategic priorities. Most importantly, it is not sufficient for the EU to align its objectives with the African agendas such as Agenda 2063. The EU, to stay true to its democratic and human rights values, must vigilantly ensure that the ultimate beneficiaries of the proposed partnerships are the African people, who ultimately have been left behind. At the core of the green transition and energy access partnership's success and efficacy is the development, implementation, and use of renewable energy (RE) in an effective, just, and sustainable manner.

## **Why Renewable Energy Matters**

Africa has the benefit of being a latecomer that can leapfrog to smart, participatory, and distributed RE systems and bypass locking itself into stranded fossil fuel assets and overly centralised energy systems (Onyeji-Nwogu, 2017). RE's importance for Africa is underscored in the International Energy Agency's energy access outlook. There, distributed RE systems such as mini-grids and solar home systems are said to provide the most cost-optimal solutions for addressing the challenge of accessing electricity. This is especially the case for the 70% of the rural population in sub-Saharan Africa that presently lacks such access (IEA, 2017). Additionally, RE has the potential to address multiple crises simultaneously, strengthening the sustainability and resilience of society as a whole. RE can contribute to food security, improve education and gender equality, and reduce both indoor and outdoor air pollution. For these reasons, it can enhance health and wellbeing, particularly of women and children, promote sustainable use of ecosystems, especially forests, and can be deployed in decentralised ways reaching millions of vulnerable and underserved communities. African countries and people are, in this area, at a great advantage. The abundant RE sources—including wind, solar, hydropower, wave power, geothermal, and biomass—and the decreased costs of energy technologies provide a path to such an energy system transformation. Africa can therefore show the way to the future through bold plans and implementation on the ground, and it can bring in the needed RE vision to help address the twin challenges of climate change and clean and sustainable energy access for billions of the world's people.

Moreover, Africa is a continent of young people: projections show that by 2030, African youth will account for 42% of the world's youth and 75% of Africa's population (Perlotto, 2019). This is a population in need of social and economic opportunities, such as secure employment and livelihood opportunities. RE development and implementation can provide these and are well positioned to do so. Current IRENA estimates show that RE

created 11.5 million jobs in 2019 alone (IRENA, 2020). In Africa, RE can play a central role in creating green jobs, as well as in modernising key economic sectors such as agriculture, which is currently characterised by minimal youth engagement (Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2019).

However, despite positive development in RE deployment, and RE's importance in powering the green transition and addressing energy access challenges on the African continent, investments and advancement remain concentrated in a few frontrunner countries (Quitow et al., 2019). In the past decade, only 2% of the global RE increase occurred on the African continent (IEA, 2019). For the green transition and energy access partnership to be successful and have a long-term and substantive impact on the people and the planet, especially in African countries, actions are required that increase acceptance, development, deployment, and use of RE at all levels of society and of economic and social sectors. More importantly, to accelerate RE's development and ensure long-term viability of both small- and large-scale RE projects, these actions should be socially, environmentally, and economically beneficial and cause no harm. This is especially true with respect to improving individual and local communities' livelihoods and wellbeing.

Against this backdrop, this policy brief puts forth three recommendations for the EU and its African partners to consider when developing policies and implementation strategies. These are given in the context of the green transition and energy access partnership.

## **Recommendation 1: Adopt social performance and sustainability as the frames of reference in developing and implementing the green transition and energy access partnership.**

Given the enormous social and economic constraints posed by the coronavirus pandemic, there is a risk that countries will once again turn to fossil fuels to jumpstart their economies and social activities. This new EU strategy with Africa thus provides a timely opportunity for intervention. However, the strength and effectiveness of the strategy, and more specifically of the green transition and energy access partnership, rest heavily on the RE's performance in improving quality of life and sustainably enhancing the wellbeing of individuals and local communities. At the core of the social performance and sustainability concepts is the need to design and implement RE with the central goal of improving individuals' and communities' quality of life and general wellbeing (IASS, 2020; Mbungu, 2020; Setton, 2020). Based on this understanding, RE's potential for delivering the types of impacts envisioned in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement will be determined by the willingness and ability to develop and implement processes and projects

that generate social and economic value and long-term opportunities for individuals and local communities. To ensure acceptance, ownership, and long-term viability of proposed policies and implementation strategies, Africans' values, needs, and aspirations should be the ultimate motivation in developing RE policies and implementation strategies in the context of the green transition and energy access partnership (Mbungu, 2020). The partnership must focus on the following three action points to achieve these outcomes.

**1. *Support community-based and small-scale value creation in energy sector development.***

The lack of safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy access and the presence of limited or struggling local RE small- and medium-sized businesses in Africa, despite the wealth of RE resources, should be a concern for both the EU and African leaders. However, current and past RE development efforts have clearly shown the inadequacy of throwing money and technologies at the problem, or simply aligning donor strategies with African development visions. Moving forward, Africa and its partners should act strategically to accelerate and sustain RE development pathways. Energy processes can be directed towards the development of society as a whole, towards meeting individual and/or community needs, while others can serve both purposes in varying degrees. For example, while large-scale RE projects, such as the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project (LTWP) in Kenya, have potential to generate broader economic and social development for Kenyans, direct positive impacts on individuals and local communities might be limited. This is especially true because the LTWP has not been designed or implemented to meet local needs and/or to account for local energy uses.

In this respect, greater expectations should be placed on large-scale RE projects. For example, to ensure local value, it is critical to ensure stringent, thorough, and participatory assessment processes. Additionally, if projects are deemed acceptable, such large-scale investments should be complemented with small-scale individual or community-owned off-grid projects (Opfer et al., 2019). This necessitates a more comprehensive and diverse energy development approach (Mbungu and Fritzsche, 2017; Mbungu, 2020) that takes into account the diverse needs and uses of energy services in different contexts. Indeed, while large-scale investments remain an important aspect, especially for powering a green economy and sustainable industrial development, small-scale, off-grid, community-owned energy-generation projects should also be prioritised. This is especially necessary to meet the individual and community energy needs in remote, underserved, and sparsely populated regions, and to address the broader energy access challenges. The needs include provision of energy access to enable productive use such as small-scale agriculture and micro-, small-, and medium-sized businesses, and community services that form the backbone of livelihoods and economies in Africa. This goes beyond the bare minimum focus on, for instance, light provision for households (Adow, 2020). Moreover, for long-term efficacy, these systems should be

resilient and demonstrate an ability to adapt to changing circumstances, especially to evolving demand dynamics and population growth.

Finally, African countries need foresight in their planning so as to avoid becoming mired in stranded fossil fuel assets or overly centralised RE solutions. Appreciating and capitalising on the evolving innovation and development of distributed and smart RE systems are especially important. Current developments show that even the heaviest industrial demand for electricity can be met by a network of many small- and medium-sized, interconnected power producers. Resilience and cost effectiveness, especially through limited infrastructure costs and transmission losses, provides African countries with an opportunity to invest in a green economy with speed and at large scale.

**2. *Invest in empowerment of local entrepreneurs and policymakers through targeted RE skills development, capacity building, and development of local industries.***

RE's slow development on the African continent, despite the presence of RE resources, underscores that the presence of RE resources does not guarantee widespread acceptance, adoption, and use. To ensure continued access and sustainability of envisioned RE development projects, local actors should be well prepared in RE-focused education and skills development. Inclusive research and innovation, especially where citizens and civil society organisations are engaged, can help ensure proposed investments are feasible and aligned with users' needs and realities. Moreover, capacity-building measures are important for ensuring that local policy and the market environment are ready to absorb change and be sustainable. Additionally, with the right preparations, Africa can potentially capitalise on the employment opportunities created by RE development and implementation. The number of RE-related jobs worldwide expanded from 7.3 million in 2012 to 11 million in 2018: these are projected to triple by 2030 (IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank, & WHO, 2020).

**3. *Position research and development as a main focus area.***

Given the current research gaps in energy access and green transition in African countries, including the lack of gender-disaggregated data, it is in the interest of the EU and Africa to position research and development (R&D) as a pillar in its new partnership. Worryingly, the current proposed strategy fails to include R&D as a focus area. This is a mistake, given the importance of research in the needs assessment and deployment of context-compatible solutions (Mbungu, 2020) and the need for capacity building in the region. Cooperative, African-based R&D with local partners is key for ensuring that policies and investments have significant and lasting impacts on the wellbeing of African and EU citizens. The ongoing development of the EU–Africa strategy presents an opportunity to reconsider its position in its focus areas where R&D is omitted.

## Action Points

1. Support community-based and small-scale value creation in energy sector development.
2. Invest in empowerment of local entrepreneurs and policymakers through targeted RE skills development, capacity building, and development of local industries.
3. Position R&D as a main focus area.

## **Recommendation 2: Commit to developing financial environments that provide sustainable capital for climate-friendly investment, with a special focus on small-scale RE projects.**

The new EU strategy with Africa offers an opportunity to pursue a comprehensive and integrative energy system in Africa by committing to further increase climate finance, phase out fossil fuel finance, and build a financial market that provides affordable and sustainable capital for climate-friendly investment, particularly for small-scale RE projects. Specifically, the EU Member States should reaffirm their commitment to the vastly inadequate USD 100 billion goal, to scaling up climate finance beyond 2020, and to doubling their climate financing between 2020 and 2025. This is profoundly important as current finance pledges fall short of what is required. Some studies suggest that developing countries will need more than USD 4 trillion to implement their climate change pledges, and much more needs to be mobilised to limit global warming to a level at which catastrophic climate change can be avoided<sup>1</sup>. In a time of constrained resources and climate crisis, there is also no place for public financing for fossil fuels. The EU, African countries, and financial institutions should use the time created by the summit's postponement to work out ways to accelerate phasing out fossil fuel finance, including through direct foreign investment, multilateral development banks, and export credits. Special attention must be paid to China's role as the main investor in coal in many African countries. The EU must strategically support African countries by providing suitable, sustainable alternatives to Chinese fossil investments and press for an EU–Africa diplomacy initiative to start engaging jointly in dialogue and cooperation with China. The EU, African states, development banks, and the private financial sector should also use the new EU–Africa green transition and energy access partnership platform to build financial environments and conditions that provide affordable and sustainable capital for climate-friendly investments to showcase the value of investing in modern technologies, as German

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/apr/22/climate-change-study-poor-countries-4tn-2030-avert-catastrophe-paris-agreement> for more information.



Chancellor Angela Merkel suggested during the Petersberg Climate Dialogue<sup>2</sup>. When building this financial environment, special attention should be paid to providing finance to decentralised, participatory, and people-centred RE projects. To guarantee an energy transition that society supports and that leaves no one behind, RE needs to deliver benefits through local value creation and by improving conditions for health and general wellbeing. We therefore recommend the following action points.

**1. *Guarantee direct access to sustainable financing and risk-taking instruments for local small- and medium-sized RE project development through adequate and appropriate financing instruments.***

Despite Africa's excellent RE potential, the growing global RE market, and falling costs for RE technology, communities and small- and medium-sized enterprise (SMEs) are often unable to implement people-centred RE projects because of the high initial capital associated with RE solutions, despite the potential for long-term returns (Sy and Copley, 2017). Financial support for communities and SMEs willing to implement small-scale projects is often unsuitable because most RE financing is directed towards large-scale projects and associated with high collateral and equity requirements and with high-interest rates (Escalante et al., 2016). Consequently, accessibility of funding and capacity to pay for RE technologies remains a major challenge for the majority of communities and SMEs in Africa. It also prevents otherwise viable projects from being pursued. The structure of financing must therefore be improved, with greater attention paid to the development of direct financial access opportunities to small- and medium-sized RE projects through adequate and appropriate financing and risk-taking instruments. There should be strong measures to ensure access to benefits of blended finance and guarantees for SMEs and micro-level actors, which might be taking on high-risk, innovative, decentralised RE projects. The AfricaGrow fund is a forerunner that can serve as a good example for future funding mechanisms. The fund is to provide equity capital for 150 innovative SMEs and start-ups in Africa by 2030. It intends to help SMEs close the existing financing gap and build a solid equity base.

**2. *Invest in awareness-raising, support, and regulatory reforms so that local financial institutions (public and private) are able to provide affordable and accessible credit for RE investments, and develop new forms of support and guarantee schemes that enable diversified ownership.***

Investments for decentralised projects by companies, communities, cooperatives, and public institutions thus far have often been lacking because of the high risk associated with RE and the absence of guaranteed investment returns, as well as bureaucratic red tape. From here forward, strategies must involve both raising

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.bundestkanzlerin.de/bkin-de/aktuelles/rede-von-bundestkanzlerin-merkel-im-rahmen-des-xi-petersberger-klimadiologs-am-28-april-2020-videokonferenz--1748018#> for more information.

awareness among local financial institutions (e.g. local banks) for which RE often offers good and safe lending opportunities; thus motivating affordable interest rates for local communities and companies. More importantly, however, is the need for clear, programmatic, regulatory and properly funded government systems and rules that enable guarantees, and other schemes that ensure investments in RE (especially decentralised, small-scale, and people-centred approaches) are safe and easy to undertake. Such bold policies can help create the enabling environment needed to reassure local, national, and international financial institutions, and to motivate them to actively seek RE-sector customers as a new, rapidly expanding growth sector.

**3. *Ensure support only for public–private partnerships that meet all requirements and principles of social and environmental safeguards and genuinely benefit local societies.***

Privatisation and public–private partnerships (PPPs) have led to an increasingly narrow perceived menu of policy approaches for governments and other institutions. They have also brought numerous problematic projects with regard to project implementation on the ground, and in terms of the vested and private interests they serve. It is therefore imperative to take a critical approach to PPPs, evaluate and draw on best practices of which conditions they can work well under, and guarantee that criteria and principles for stringent social and environmental safeguards are established to ensure real benefits and avoidance of any harmful PPP arrangements.

### **Action Points**

1. Guarantee direct access to sustainable financing and risk-taking instruments for local small- and medium-sized RE project development through adequate and appropriate financing instruments.
2. Invest in awareness-raising, support, and regulatory reforms so that local financial institutions (public and private) are able to provide affordable and accessible credit for RE investments, and develop new forms of support and guarantee schemes that enable diversified ownership.
3. Ensure support only for PPPs that meet all requirements and principles of social and environmental safeguards and genuinely benefit local societies.

### **Recommendation 3: Strengthen African leadership, ownership, and good governance as guiding principles for the EU–Africa energy partnership.**

Past experiences demonstrate that unless certain principles are sincerely respected, RE initiatives may turn into means for green-washing, consolidation of corporate power, increased inequity, support for authoritarian regimes, double-counting of aid, and perceptions of neo-colonialism. These are ultimately harmful to local people and ecosystems (Adow, 2020). The EU–Africa green transition and energy access partnership must, therefore, promote and demand success in good governance, respect for human rights, and the fight against corruption in all partner countries. The political initiative must also start with the countries' ongoing energy system transformations and take into account, in partnership with national and regional institutions, the realities, readiness, capabilities, needs, and RE resources in each country. Early and comprehensive involvement of African partners can help develop leadership and guarantee African ownership. This type of leadership is vital for breaking free from top-down, neo-colonial attitudes and actions and bringing about a truly mutual partnership the world so desperately needs in order to tackle the climate crisis. The EU unilateral announcement of the proposed strategy and the now postponed summit is a missed opportunity towards this end. The time leading to the proposed EU–Africa Summit 2021, however, provides a new opportunity for African leaders and civil society to demand the EU's commitments to procedural justice, especially in the context of green recovery and energy access partnership development and implementation. This is described in Sovacool and Dworkin (2015) as the presence of representation in decision-making, access to high-quality information, and free, prior, and informed consent. This type of inclusion and mutual decision-making can also signal the EU's willingness to depart from the often-asymmetric nature of past partnerships with Africa. The EU's unilateral announcement of the strategy was one recent example of such a tendency. To achieve these objectives, the EU and its African partners should focus on the following key action points:

- 1. *Support and align all RE interactions with Africa in accordance with the vision, frameworks, principles, and work priorities of African-owned, African-led, and African-initiated RE initiatives such as AREI, LDC REEEI, and AFRETRAP.***

For the green transition and energy access partnership initiative to be successful and sustainable over the long term, the new partnership must make sure African progress does not depend on a relationship with one country or a bloc of countries, and is rooted in Africa's local, national, and transnational coalitions and policies. The support for African priorities and existing initiatives, under African leadership, should therefore be prioritised. Additionally, the focus must be on transformative, programmatic, structural interventions, emphasising self-sustaining process, capacity mobilisation, long-term capacity building, and regulatory frameworks, rather than individual projects (Adow, 2020). Different African countries have already begun to

address these elements and have developed initiatives that articulate the type of vision necessary for tackling the climate change crisis and energy access challenges. Such promising African-owned initiatives include, for example, the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), the Least Developed Countries Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development (LDC REEEI)<sup>3</sup> operations in African countries, and the African Energy Transition Programme (AFRETRAP)<sup>4</sup>, a newer program and one of the five pillars of the African Energy Commission (AFREC). The AREI is a prominent case in point. The original framework, action plan, principles, and criteria of this genuinely African initiative is clearly aligned with all recommendations in this policy brief. Its framework envisions a model of people-centred, distributed, and participatory RE societies. The initiative, however, has been hijacked by certain African vested interests and with the EU seemingly complicit rather than calling out the many injustices. This must be rectified, with the EU ceasing further interaction until there are independent, third-party auditing and evaluations of the conduct thus far<sup>5</sup>. The EU–Africa green transition and energy access partnership should commit to working in full alignment with the frameworks and visions of these African-owned initiatives. Through respectful and genuine partnerships, it should explore how the EU's development, energy trade, and climate activities can support and provide opportunities to work collaboratively.

**2. *Ensure inclusive participation by CSOs and stakeholders according to a rights-based approach through appropriate formats for engagement and dialogue, targeted capacity building, and financial support.***

Strong and well-functioning civil society engagement is vital for guaranteeing that RE policy and implementation proposed for Africa is fit for the purpose. Forces for common good—including community change agents, civil society, social movements, and independent scholars and research institutions—must lead the work in close interaction with government, the research and academic community, and the private sector on both continents. These groups must be recognised for their roles as generators of ideas and vision, while simultaneously exerting pressure as watchdogs. Moreover, support and inclusion of local stakeholders, including Africa's youth and women, in development and implementation of the EU–Africa partnership for a green transition and energy access will not only be critical for the success and sustainability of this partnership, but also has the potential to strengthen the partnerships through inclusion of diverse perspectives and ideas. It could also ensure buy-in, prevent the partnership from being driven by external interests, and guarantee that it is designed with a thorough understanding of the local context, social norms, values, and customs. To be effective, participation should never be an afterthought. Instead, the inclusion

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<sup>3</sup> See <http://ldcreeei.org/> for more information.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://afrec-energy.org/publications/afrec-energy-transition-en.pdf> for the report outlining the programme.

<sup>5</sup> See <https://powershiftafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Reviewing-Africas-Renewable-Energy-Initiative.pdf> for more information.

of all relevant stakeholders must be fundamentally integrated into the partnership design. Meaningful engagement, however, requires time, flexibility, and sustained effort. Special attention should be paid to power dynamics and the lack of resources, which can hinder many interested stakeholders from active and effective engagement. From here forward, appropriate formats for engagement should be developed, attempted, and if effective, should be implemented or modified to meet the intended participants' needs and expectations. Multi-stakeholder engagement and civil society participation must be ensured in full compliance with the clear principles as formulated in the frameworks of the African-initiated initiatives such as AREI, LDC REEEI, and AFRETRAP. Such formats include, for example, civil society dialogues, wherein civil society organisations (CSOs) are in direct contact with both the African and EU leadership to present their perspectives and demands. The EU and its African partners, to achieve this level of inclusion, need to make sure all potential stakeholders are provided with an enabling environment that allows and encourages them to participate at every level of the green transition and energy access partnership processes, including the on-going strategy development and the upcoming EU–Africa Summit in 2021. More specifically, the partnership needs to account for, and make available and accessible, the necessary financial support and capacity-building opportunities, for all its target groups.

### **Action Points**

1. Support and align all RE interactions with Africa in accordance with the vision, frameworks, principles and work priorities of African-owned, African-led, and African-initiated RE initiatives such as AREI, LDC REEEI, and AFRETRAP.
2. Ensure inclusive participation by CSOs and stakeholders according to a rights-based approach through appropriate formats for engagement and dialogue, targeted capacity building, and financial support.

## Conclusion

The African continent has the world's youngest and most rapidly growing population, projected to double by 2045 (AfDB, OECD, UNDP, and UNECA, 2012). This means policies and implementation strategies developed in the context of the EU–Africa green transition and energy access partnership must reflect this population's needs and aspirations. It can do this by offering energy services and by providing long-term employment opportunities and high-value social and economic services. Notable is that RE's potential sustained benefits do not automatically occur once people have access to modern energy services or the needed service infrastructure (Mbungu, 2020). Instead, actions are required in development of the abilities and opportunities at every level of society—micro, meso, and macro (Mbungu, 2020) —to ensure an acceptable, accessible, effective, sustainable, and resilient energy system. Finally, the empowerment and active engagement of local organisations, including CSOs, is critical to the success of the EU–Africa strategy and its five thematic focus areas. This has the potential to strengthen commitment, ownership, and responsibility on both sides, and to provide a forum for the partners to shape the world in which they truly want to live. Ultimately, this new EU–Africa strategy's strength and effectiveness will be judged on the grounds of its contribution to the development of just and sustainable societies, and the wellbeing of citizens on both continents. More specifically, the success of RE development, on which this partnership's success rests, will not be judged by the financial support to African countries, the number of technologies developed and implemented, or merely the minimum access to basic electricity, such as lighting services. Instead, it will be judged on the basis of its contributions to sustainable and secure livelihoods, health, and wellbeing of individuals and communities, both in Africa and in the EU.

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## Germanwatch

Following the motto of Observing. Analysing. Acting. Germanwatch has been actively promoting global equity and livelihood preservation since 1991. We focus on the politics and economics of the Global North and their world-wide consequences. The situation of marginalised people in the Global South is the starting point for our work. Together with our members and supporters, and with other actors in civil society, we strive to serve as a strong lobbying force for sustainable development. We aim at our goals by advocating for prevention of dangerous climate change and its negative impacts, for guaranteeing food security, and for corporate compliance with human rights standards. Germanwatch is funded by membership fees, donations, programme funding from Stiftung Zukunftsfähigkeit (Foundation for Sustainability), and grants from public and private donors.

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## Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

The Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) conducts research with the goal of identifying, advancing, and guiding transformation processes towards sustainable societies in Germany and abroad. Its research practice is transdisciplinary, transformative, and co-creative. The institute cooperates with partners in academia, political institutions, administrations, civil society, and the business community to understand sustainability challenges and generate potential solutions. A strong network of national and international partners supports the work of the institute. Among its central research topics are the energy transition, emerging technologies, climate change, air quality, systemic risks, governance and participation, and cultures of transformation. The IASS is funded by the research ministries of the Federal Government of Germany and the State of Brandenburg.



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## Power Shift Africa

Power Shift Africa (PSA) is a climate and energy think tank and NGO established to provide policy, advocacy, and communications from an African perspective, to educate and inform within Africa, and amplify the African moral voice in the international climate arena. PSA's mission is to mobilise climate action in Africa, intensify African voices by presenting a united, well-evidenced message to governments, other stakeholders, and the media, and to support a shift in climate and energy policies towards zero-carbon and resilient alternatives. PSA, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, was founded in 2018 to drive public debate on climate and energy. It does so through networking with African CSOs, experts, and the media to increase Africa's engagement in climate and energy issues locally, regionally, and internationally.



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