



Brief on Mission 300 for Ministerial Engagement

INCLUDE

KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES



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Overview of Mission 300

Mission 300 is a high impact initiative launched by the World Bank Group (WBG) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to connect 300 million people in sub-Saharan Africa to electricity by 2030¹. With 600 million Africans currently lacking electricity, this initiative promises to be a game changer in addressing energy poverty and unlocking economic opportunities.



Mission 300 aims to²:

- Expand the electricity grid and increase connections in under-served areas.
- Deploy mini-grids and standalone solar solutions for off-grid communities.
- Modernize Africa's energy sector through policy reforms, private sector engagement, and infrastructure investment.

This initiative is built on strong partnerships between multilateral development banks, African governments, private investors, philanthropies, and local communities, making it one of the most ambitious energy access programs to date³.

Strategic Priorities for Ministerial Engagement

Ministers engaging in Mission 300 should focus on driving policy coherence, ensuring inclusivity, and leveraging evidence-based solutions. Below are key priority areas to focus on:

1. Positioning Energy Access as a Driver of Employment & Economic Growth

- Energy access must be linked to job creation, particularly in sectors where youth and women can thrive⁴.
- Evidence-based policy recommendations should focus on:
- Skills development in solar and renewable energy TVET programs.
- Labor-based incentives for green jobs⁵.
- Facilitating productive use of energy (e.g., in agribusiness, digital economy).
- Ministers should champion investment in energy-linked economic clusters, ensuring that electrification leads to enterprise growth⁶.

2. Policy Reforms for Scaling Private Sector Investment

- Unlocking regulatory barriers to independent power producers (IPPs) and distributed renewable energy.
- Strengthening public-private financing models to de-risk investments.
- Encouraging local capital mobilization, including blended finance models.



Actionable Steps:

- Create clear legal and financial frameworks for private investment in electricity generation and distribution.
- Develop national-level incentive schemes to attract financing for renewables.

3. Ensuring Data-Driven Decision-Making in Energy Policy

- Mission 300 calls for National Energy Compacts, which set measurable targets. These must be backed by robust data and evidence.
- INCLUDE can support through synthesizing policy evidence to:
- Monitor energy access gaps.
- Track financing efficiency.
- Evaluate the social and economic impact of electrification.



Actionable Steps:

- Ministers should advocate for transparent and inclusive data collection mechanisms to guide energy investments.
- Ensure that evidence informs decision-making by embedding research partnerships with institutions focused on inclusive policy analysis.

4. Expanding Regional Power Integration for Cross-Border Trade

- Many African countries already trade electricity (e.g., Côte d'Ivoire exports power to six neighboring countries).
- Ministers should advocate for harmonized regulations that facilitate energy trading within regional power pools.



Actionable Steps:

- Strengthen policy coherence at regional levels for better cross-border electricity trade.
- Ensure that regional grid integration plans are incorporated into Mission 300's National Energy Compacts.

5. Prioritizing Universal Access to Clean Cooking

- Over 1 billion Africans lack access to clean cooking, leading to health, environmental, and economic challenges.
- Ministers should push for integrated energy strategies that include clean cooking solutions such as:

- LPG expansion with pay-as-you-go models.
- Carbon credit incentives for clean cooking businesses.
- Support for sustainable biomass and electric cooking innovations.



Actionable Steps:

- Advocate for clean cooking to be a core part of energy policy and financing discussions.
- Strengthen public-private partnerships to scale up clean cooking adoption.

6. Capacity Building & Institutional Strengthening

- Mission 300's M300 Fellowship Program plans to embed energy specialists within African ministries to drive policy execution.
- Ministers should leverage this opportunity to enhance technical expertise and streamline energy sector governance.



Actionable Steps:

- Identify priority areas for technical assistance and work with development partners to ensure capacity-building efforts are aligned with national priorities.

Conclusion

Mission 300 is a catalytic initiative with the potential to transform Africa's energy landscape. Ministers engaging in this initiative should prioritize policy coherence, inclusive energy strategies, and evidence-driven approaches to ensure sustainable and equitable energy access.

Next Steps:

- Ministers should align their country's National Energy Compact with Mission 300's goals.
- Advocate for data-driven implementation and multi-stakeholder engagement.

Reference

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³Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL). (2025). 'Ambitious Commitments at the Historic Mission 300 Energy Summit Aim to Transform Africa's Energy Sector'. [online] Available at: <https://www.seforall.org/news/ambitious-commitments-at-the-historic-mission-300-energy-summit-aim-to-transform-africa> [Accessed 10 March 2025].

⁴'Decent Jobs for Youth and Women in Nigeria's Low-Carbon Transition.' INCLUDE Platform, April 2024

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⁶TIME. (2024). 'Damilola Ogunbiyi: TIME100 Climate 2024'. TIME. Available at: <https://time.com/7172533/damilola-ogunbiyi/> [Accessed 7 March 2025].

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