

## AEEP Energy Talks

# Sunlight Success: Pursuing African Development Priorities Through a Solar Economy

The international community is moving beyond significant installations of solar energy and towards a solar economy. This includes the manufacturing of solar panels, supply chains, logistics, advisory services (financial, legal, engineering), as well as distributed solar energy, development on battery storage, and utilising solar to produce renewable hydrogen.

Africa is blessed not only with abundant solar resources, but also with abundant land and a rich endowment of critical minerals. The development of a solar energy industry has the potential to usher a broader development of a solar economy in Africa, while simultaneously multiplying African development imperatives as outlined in Agenda 2063.

Outdated assumptions and perspectives among policymakers have, however, hindered the continent's ability to fully exploit this opportunity and prevent Africa from positioning itself as an early mover to reap the maximum benefits of a thriving solar economy. With a shift in mindset and the implementation of forward-thinking policies, Africa can change this and unleash its solar potential. The continent has the potential to attract substantial investments and emerge as a pioneer in the renewable energy revolution, with broad development benefits.

To discuss what is needed to unlock this potential the AEEP is convening its 11<sup>th</sup> AEEP Energy Talks, bringing together expertise from Africa and Europe to pave the way forward.

Date: 05 July 2023 (14:00 – 15:30 CEST)

#	Item	Presenter	Min.
1	<b>Welcome and introduction</b>	<b>Mr Johan van den Berg</b> Moderator, Head of Secretariat Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP)	5
2	<b>Opening Remarks by AUC and EC</b>	<b>Dr Kamugisha Kazaura</b> , Director Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission  <b>Mr Stefano Signore</b> , Head of Unit DG INTPA European Commission	10
3	<b>Keynote: How a solar explosion in Africa can benefit the broader development goals of Agenda 2063</b>	<b>Dr Towela Jere</b> , Head of Economic Integration, AUDA-NEPAD	20
4	<b>Panel Discussion incl. Q&amp;A:</b>		50

The AEEP is supported by its Steering Group:



- **Dr Towela Jere**, Head Economic Integration, AUDA-NEPAD
- **Rabia Ferroukhi**, Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, IRENA
- **Máté Heisz**, Director of Global Affairs, SolarPower Europe
- **DR Maged Mahmoud**, Technical Director, the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)

**Panel discussion and audience participation**

5	Closing remarks	Facilitator	5
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