
Facilitating Renewable Energy Project Financing Opportunities in Africa

Background

The Energy Transition Accelerator Financing (ETAF) Platform is an inclusive, multi-stakeholder climate finance solution managed by the International Renewable Energy Agency to advance the energy transition across the Agency's 166-strong membership. The Platform – launched at COP26 – aims to support the implementation of ambitious National Determined Contributions (NDCs) to meet the Paris Agreement targets and the realisation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while serving important national objectives.

IRENA's project facilitation roles aim to improve project quality, market visibility, and access to finance. The Project Facilitation and Support Division with support from the Country Engagement and Partnerships Division have organised a series of webinars to showcase the ETAF platform to the intended users.

The Regional Webinar for Africa will take place via Zoom on 6th December 2021 starting at 14Hours Gulf Standard Time (GST).

Objectives

The objective of the webinar is to contextualise the renewable energy development and financing challenges in the African region and introduce the ETAF platform to the stakeholders in the region.

The session will cover the following:

1. The renewable energy development landscape in Africa – lessons learned by developers
2. Sustainable affordable energy access – challenges and opportunities
3. Insights on the renewable energy financing status in Africa sub-regional and regional perspectives
4. An introduction of the ETAF Platform, its features and navigation

Audience:

1. IRENA Focal Points in Africa
2. Local, regional, and international renewable energy project developers and associations with focus on the African region.
3. Local, regional, and international renewable energy funders, focussing on projects in the African region.
4. Sector eco-system including facilitation providers and development agencies, government stakeholders, centres of excellence, Academia and research centres etc.

Programme: Facilitating renewable energy project financing opportunities in Africa – 2021-12-06

| Time (GST) | Description | Lead resource |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1345hrs | Link open for participants to join | IRENA |
| 1400-1405 | Event opening | Mr. Kamlesh Dookayka Programme Officer, CEP/IRENA |
| 1405-1410 | Welcome remarks and introduction to ETAF | Ms. Susana Vivares Senior Programme Officer, PFS/IRENA |
| 1410-1420 | Panel introductory remarks | Panellists |
| 1415-1420 | Factors affecting the pace of deployment of projects in Africa | Mr Andrei Klevchuk Head of Project Finance, AMEA Power |
| 1420-1425 | Sustainable electricity access for the low-income communities | Ms. Angela Homsí CFO, Ignite Solar |
| 1425-1430 | Financing renewable energy projects in Eastern and Southern Africa | Mr. Eyob Easwaran Senior Advisor – Lending Operations, Trade Development Bank |
| 1430-1435 | Challenges and opportunities mobilising and coordination of co-financing of renewable energy projects in Africa | Mr. Wale Shonibare Director for Energy Financial Solutions, Africa Development Bank |
| 1435-1440 | Navigating the ETAF Platform | Mr. Job Mutyaba Programme officer, PFS/IRENA |
| 1440-1525 | Discussions /Q&A | Mr. Kamlesh Dookayka Programme Officer, CEP/IRENA |
| 1525-1530 | Closing remarks and Wrap-up | Ms. Susana Vivares Senior Programme Officer, PFS/IRENA |

Panellist Bios

Andrei Klevchuk

**Head of Project Finance****AMEA Power**

Mr. Klevchuk is a practitioner in the project finance. Since 2021 Mr. Klevchuk has served as the Director, Project Finance at AMEA Power, a fast-growing developer owner and operator of power assets in emerging and frontier markets, based in Dubai, UAE. He has directed the Project Finance Team, which leads debt structuring and negotiation, financial modeling and project finance activities for all the investments and bid proposals made by the firm. Prior to the current position, Mr. Klevchuk has been the Project Finance Director with Access Power (UAE). From 2008 to 2013, Mr. Klevchuk was a consultant and the team leader of the

Investment and Modelling Team (IAMT) of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Mr. Klevchuk was a faculty member of “Program on Investment Appraisal and Management” Harvard Institute for International Development, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA; and “Program on Investment Appraisal and Risk Analysis”, John Deutsch International Executive Programs, Queens University, Kingston, Canada; and “Program on Investment Appraisal”, Cambridge Resources International, Cambridge, MA, USA.

Angela Homsí

**Chief Finance Officer****Ignite Solar**

Angela Homsí is a technology and sustainability-focused entrepreneur and investor, with experience spanning capital markets, venture capital and building businesses in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle-East as well as in the U.K. and the US. She is particularly interested on scaling disruptive “real-needs-focused innovation”, cross-border and JV partnerships bringing cutting-edge tech to new markets, and conflict transformation.

She co-founded Ignite Power & Technologies (Africa-focused cleantech, agritech and medtech operator, which developed new models of clean electrification, smart agri and solar+satellite-

connected digital health clinics), and chairs Ignite Investments which invest in innovation that solves large unmet sustainable needs globally.

She is also on Microvest Capital's investment committee, which funds' portfolio serve 5 million micro, small and medium-sized businesses in emerging markets. Previously, Angela spent time at Generation Investment Management, a \$30bn+ investment manager founded by former VP Al Gore and Goldman's David Blood; and was also a macro trader at Goldman Sachs in London and New York.

As per her advocacy focus, Angela is the chair of Seeds of Peace Global Leadership Council, is part of the Israel-GCC Policy Forum, was a founding board member of Harvard's Negotiation Strategies Institute, she is part of YPO where she has been an awarded Chair of YPO Global Diplomacy Network; and has previously worked with Sir Ronald Cohen's Portland Trust in the Middle East. She is also a lecturer and speaker in multiple media, universities and institutions globally, such as Technion, Tel Aviv university, University of Galilee, TEDX, at Milken Institute global conference, AIM Dubai, Globes, I24 News, Ynet News, JFN, the University of California and more, particularly focusing on the theme systemic change and system design, sustainability and scalable impact. Angela has been a UAE and Israel resident for several years and is Lebanese-Egyptian-Israeli; she is a mathematician, economics and finance scholar, and a Singularity University Executive Graduate. She speaks French, English, Spanish, some Arabic and Hebrew.

Eyob Easwaran



**Senior Advisor – Lending Operations,
Trade Development Bank**

Mr. Easwaran is a seasoned Project Finance and Private Equity professional with over 30 years of experience in the power and finance industries in various capacities including equity and debt investing, project financing, and asset management for private equity funds and other financial institutions. Currently, Mr. Easwaran serves as Senior Advisor on Power and Infrastructure for the Trade and Development Bank for Eastern and Southern Africa. Most recently, he served as a Director of Development for Black Rhino based in Addis Ababa. Prior to that, he was a Managing Director at Power Capital Partners LLC, a startup private equity firm. Previously, Mr. Easwaran was a Partner at

Conduit Capital Partners, a private equity firm investing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Easwaran received a B.E. in Mechanical Engineering from CUJAE in Havana, a Post-Graduate Diploma from Auckland University and an M.S. in Business from Johns Hopkins University.

Wale SHONIBARE



**Director | Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation
African Development Bank**

Wale Shonibare has over three decades experience spanning Asia, Europe, Middle East and Africa in Investment Banking and Consulting. He joined the African Development Bank (AfDB) in 2017 as the inaugural Director responsible for Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation. The Financial Solutions team has since established itself as a leading transactions team across Africa, having undertaken several Mandated Lead Arranger roles and facilitated total investment of approximately USD 29 billion in numerous projects ranging from solar PV, concentrated solar, hydro-electric dams, gas-fired power plants, LNG facilities, battery storage

solutions and geothermal energy plants. The Policy, Regulation and Statistics team has, under his leadership, launched well-acclaimed flagship initiatives such as the Electricity Regulatory Index to improve the enabling environment for private sector investment in the energy sector.

Wale is currently a Non-Executive Director on the Board of the Africa Guarantee Fund, and an Advisory Board Member of the Nigeria Infrastructure Debt Fund and Inspired Evolution Investment Management respectively. Prior to joining the AfDB, he held various senior management-level positions at Investment Banks and Consulting Organisations in the UK, UAE and Nigeria.

Wale holds a B.Eng (hons) in Civil Engineering from Glasgow University and an MBA from Imperial College, University of London.