



**Illuminating Lives
and Dreams Across
Sub-Saharan Africa**

Urgency for Renewable Energy Investments in Sub-Saharan Africa

Outcome of the launch and strategy workshop of the Six30 Campaign held on the sidelines of the 10th African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (10th ARFSD) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 22 April 2024

As we conclude the Launch and Strategy Workshop of the Six30 campaign, we are reminded of the stark reality that over **630 million people** in our region still live without electricity while almost a billion cook and heat their homes with firewood, charcoal, and other inefficient and hazardous biomass-based fuels.

These are not just statistics; they represent countless unfulfilled dreams and missed opportunities. The absence of modern energy services perpetuates poverty, limits economic opportunities, enhances vulnerabilities to climate extremes and jeopardises sustainable development.

While multiple factors account for the situation, most are linked to or exacerbated by a lack of substantial and adequate financing, especially for renewable energy, which has the strong potential to provide reliable and affordable electricity to millions. Policies are also out of tune. Only 25 African countries have clear strategies for energy access.

The lack of substantial and adequate financing for energy access in the region has multiple developmental and climate implications. The number of people without electricity is rising not declining. At least 4% more people in the region lived without electricity in 2021 than in 2019. The increase in energy poverty is linked to extreme poverty, which is set to quadruple in some areas (IEA, 2022). Finally, energy poverty and its impacts exacerbate the region's high vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

As the world transitions towards cleaner and more sustainable ways of fueling the production and distribution of goods and services, investing in Africa's renewable energy sector is crucial to leveraging its untapped potential, providing energy access to millions and contributing to global sustainability efforts.

We, therefore:

1. Acknowledge that the global energy transition offers Africa an opportunity to build a clean and resilient energy system that powers endless opportunities and prosperity for all its

people and industries. The last five years of the sustainable development goals should serve as a thrust to expand universal energy access for all in Sub-Saharan Africa.

2. Welcome and support the Six-30 Campaign, an ambitious initiative to elevate the urgency of substantial and adequate investments in reliable, productive, affordable, clean energy access in sub-Saharan Africa to drive sustainable transformation for everyone.
3. Call on public and private decision-makers in Africa and beyond to commit at least USD 630 billion to providing reliable, productive, and affordable clean electricity access to the 630 million sub-Saharan Africans without access by 2030, using existing financing mechanisms and exploring new ones.
4. Invite African leaders and policymakers to seize the moment and work with all stakeholders to undertake urgent and profound reforms to prioritise energy access and promote renewable energy development in the region.
5. Denounce the apparent trend to increase the extraction of Africa's energy resources, such as green hydrogen, critical transition minerals and petroleum gas, primarily for export, and entreat African leaders and investors to shift their focus towards meeting expanding domestic needs and demand.
6. Invite relevant stakeholders in policy, practice, and academia to urgently begin dismantling and proposing alternatives to the colonial legacies and neocolonial approaches responsible for energy poverty and other challenges in Africa.
7. Encourage more robust conversation on the energy transition pathways in Africa that balance the complex interplay between high levels of energy poverty, the pressing need to develop and industrialise, the imperative to reduce global emissions and other factors of the African context.
8. Call on all stakeholders to rally behind the Six30 campaign and raise their voices to demand adequate policies and substantial investments in reliable, productive, affordable and clean energy access in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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