

## **ACCESS Coalition Position Paper on The World Bank and the African Development Bank on Mission 300**

### **Global Call to Action for Policy Pathways to Transform Africa's Clean Energy Future**

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The World Bank's Mission 300 represents a transformative ambition to provide modern, affordable, and sustainable energy services to 300 million additional people by 2030 in Africa. As global leaders converge in Tanzania for the Mission 300 Africa Energy Summit to make commitments on energy access, Africa, with both its vast renewable energy resources and the majority of energy poor people in the world, holds a pivotal role in advancing this mission.

Achieving this ambitious goal will require significant scaling on electrification, decentralized renewable energy (DRE) systems and clean cooking solutions. These innovations are not only essential for advancing Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) but also unlock critical socio-economic benefits, such as improved health, enhanced education outcomes, increased climate resilience and promotes equity and social inclusion. Despite Africa's potential, Sub-Saharan Africa remains the global epicenter of energy poverty, with nearly 600 million people lacking electricity and over 900 million people have no access to clean and safe cooking fuels and technologies. These conditions pose severe health risks, particularly for women and children, contributes to environmental degradation, and hinder economic development.

The Alliance of Civil Society Organizations for Clean Energy Access (ACCESS Coalition), a global network of over 100 organizations dedicated to advancing clean energy solutions, welcomes the Mission 300 initiative but urges all stakeholders to ensure that Mission 300 prioritises the needs of energy poor and marginalized communities and aligns with global climate goals. The Energy Compact and associated investments must deliver equitable and sustainable energy access, supporting a just energy transition that leaves no-one behind.

To achieve this, ACCESS calls on the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and implementing partners to provide a transparent framework with clear objectives and indicators detailing how this initiative will accelerate progress on energy access in the region. This includes a clear roadmap for providing energy access to underserved communities, and what mechanisms there will be for community and Civil Society Organization (CSO) engagement in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these projects to ensure accountability.

Sub-Saharan Africa faces persistent barriers to achieving universal energy access, including inadequate and misaligned financing, with funding heavily reliant on loans that increase debt burdens for low-income countries, while continued fossil fuel investments hinder the region's

transition to renewables. Nearly 900 million people still depend on traditional biomass for cooking, causing severe health and environmental impacts. Potentially transformative solutions like electric cooking and improved biomass technologies remain underfunded. In addition, energy poor and marginalized communities, including women, and civil society organizations (CSOs) are often excluded from energy planning and investment decision-making processes, undermining their efforts to support deliver inclusive and sustainable energy solutions.

ACCESS Coalition calls on the World Bank, AfDB and key implementing partners, government and other stakeholders to prioritize on the following strategic areas:

1. Redirect fossil fuel investments toward renewable energy projects that align with global climate goals. This strategic reallocation can reduce financial constraints, foster equitable energy access, and catalyze sustainable development in Africa.
2. Embrace a financing paradigm shift with scaled targeted concessional financing including significant grant-based funding for decentralized renewable energy (DRE) systems and clean cooking solutions, prioritizing the solutions needed by marginalized and underserved communities. Current reliance on loans exacerbates the debt burdens of low-income countries, limiting their ability to invest in long-term sustainable solutions.
3. Adopt inclusive, cross sectoral planning approaches where energy services are planned into wider development and climate initiatives and designed to meet communities' priority development needs. Energy and energy access projects should not be planned and implemented in silos but as catalysts for broader socio-economic development, in sectors such as health, education, agriculture, to maximize co-benefits and build climate resilience. This requires building capacity for inclusive, cross sectoral energy planning across government sectors and private project developers. This can lead to transformative impacts for underserved populations.
4. Establish robust governance structures for Mission 300 energy investments that actively involve communities and civil society organizations (CSOs) in decision-making and in oversight and accountability. Empowering Civil Society as active participants, rather than passive observers, ensures that energy projects are designed and implemented transparently in alignment with community needs. Existing stakeholder engagement frameworks should foster inclusivity to ensure no one is left behind.
5. Development and implementation of clear, measurable indicators to assess the impact of Mission 300 energy initiatives. Integrating lessons learned from past projects including failures, into new programmes will improve their effectiveness. Establishing robust feedback loops will help interventions to adjust on an ongoing basis to changing local realities and global best practices to maximise their impact.

In conclusion, achieving Mission 300 requires a bold and inclusive approach that positions clean energy as a catalyst for sustainable development. ACCESS Coalition pledges to collaborate more with Multilateral Development Bank, government, private sector and key stakeholders to produce evidence and deepen the understanding of the energy needs among populations living in energy poverty, and to drive targeted sustainable energy solutions.

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