



# Bridging the Energy Access Gap for Industrialization of Africa: Roundtable for Scale-Up Solutions

**Date:** Monday, 7 May 2018 | **Time:** 15:30 – 17:00 Hrs

**Venue:** OS14-15

## Background

Sustainable development, universal energy access and energy security are the themes that echo from various corners of the world today and dominate development discourses for all nations. Energy sector in developing countries has been receiving considerable funding in the recent past. However, despite massive funds and the incremental state of development, access to renewable and clean energy to the masses has not been achieved satisfactorily so far across the globe. Currently, around 640 million people in Africa still lack access to electricity, with close to 800 million people continuing to depend on traditional biomass to meet their cooking and heating requirements. Additionally, most countries still continue to experience numerous load shedding occasioned by over-reliance on hydro-power which is affected by drought as a result of climate change. While there has been a substantial progress in ensuring access to energy over the last few years, energy poverty and shortage continues to be a major issue for most African countries.

Most importantly, energy is at the center of realization of every development strategy in Africa. As such, successful realization of all the AfDB's high5, including industrializing African continent will mean that affordable, reliable and clean energy is provided at every part of the continent, including in the very remote parts that are far from the national grids. This will provide an opportunity to spur Africa's rural economic opportunities, thus ensuring that no one is left behind in the industrialization process.

This side event will seek to engage AfDB's team drawn from the energy directorate, as well as CSOs and coalitions engaged in energy work in Africa to discuss the place of energy access gap for industrialization in Africa, as well as strategies for bridging the current gap on energy access (particularly for productive use).

## Panelists:

- Dr. Abdu Mukhtar - Director for Industrial and Trade Development (AfDB) - the place for energy access in industrial action for Africa (tbc)
- Augustine Njamshi - Overview of RE and access land scape
- Wesley Litaba – Joint Policy Research Findings on Energy Access (Zambia, Kenya & Malawi)
- GERES – Bringing in the practical side of implementing DRE for productive use
- Engedasew Negash Habtemichael – Renewable Energy Division Manager, AfDB – 'the place of Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE) targeting productive use as part of promoting industrial actions/opportunities in Africa's rural communities' (tbc)
- Dr. Anthony Nyong' – Director, Climate Change & Green Growth, AfDB; to share thoughts and reflections on issues raised by the other session from the bank's approach to Climate Change & Green Growth Strategy" (tbc)

