



CONCEPT NOTE

**LAUNCHING
OF THE AFRICAN SINGLE ELECTRICITY MARKET
(AfSEM)**

Online

3rd JUNE 2021 (12:00-13:00 EAT)

I. BACKGROUND

The African Union (AU) has decided to pursue the creation of the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) – a continent-wide electricity market which will become one of the largest electricity markets in the world covering all 55 AU Member States to serve a population of about 1.3 billion people.

The AfSEM is particularly relevant to the AU's vision for an integrated and prosperous continent, as outlined in the AU Agenda 2063 development blueprint. It is one of the tools which equips the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to enable productive transformation and fuel economic development, create jobs, fight poverty, and advance prosperity. The AfSEM and AfCFTA will offer African industries, households and businesses more secure, sustainable, reliable, competitive, and affordable electricity in a very strong continental market. AfSEM will be the most cost-efficient response for strong growth of electricity demand in Africa, most essential tool to optimise the full potential of the continent's renewable energy sources, and an effective accelerator to 100% access of electricity in the continent.

The AUC with the support of the European Union under its Technical Assistance Facility (EU TAF) for SE4ALL coordinated by the Department of Infrastructure and Energy developed a Policy Paper, Roadmap and the Governing Structure for the AfSEM. The market will be implemented progressively starting as early as 2023, with full operationalisation foreseen to be achieved by 2040. The AfSEM is supported by the implementation of a Continental Power System Masterplan currently under development under the coordination AUDA-NEPAD. The AfSEM Policy Paper, Roadmap and the Governing Structure were validated by Regional Economic Communities, the Power Pools and other Pan African Institutions, adopted by the Extraordinary STC-TTIIET on 12th January 2021 and endorsed by the AU Heads of States and Government on 7th February 2021 at the 34th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly.

The AU plans to hold a ceremony to launch AfSEM on 3rd June 2021 on the sidelines of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, and Energy.

II. OBJECTIVES

- a) The official launching – take-up of the AfSEM.
- b) Understand, promote and popularize the AfSEM initiative to the stakeholders, MS and global Community.
- c) Disseminate – share experiences with the EU regarding the Single Electricity Market.
- d) Prepare blue print for the Continental Power Master plan

III. AGENDA 12:00 – 13:00 EAT

The ceremony will start with a brief video giving an overview of the Africa Single Electricity Market (AfSEM). This will be followed by statements by the AU and EU Commissioners in charge of energy. Other statements will be given by the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD and the AfDB Vice President in charge of Power, Energy, Climate &

Green Growth. AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities will get an opportunity express support to champion AfSEM. The climax of the event will be the key note address and launch of AfSEM by the AUC Chairperson.

The programme, which will be moderated by the AUC Acting Director of Infrastructure and Energy, is attached.

IV. PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 200 participants are expected to attend the virtual event, comprising the following:

- Ministries/ers in charge of Energy and Power from AU Member States.
- RECs, Power Pools, Regional Regulators, Regional Centres for Renewable energy and Energy Efficiency.
- AU Continental Energy Institutions (AFREC, AFSEC, APUA, AFUR and AREI).
- EU and EU institutions, EUDs to AU, and EUDs to AU Member States.
- Development partners, development financial institutions.
- International Organisations and Institutions (IEA, IRENA, IAEA, UNECA, UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP, WB, kfW, FDA and more).
- Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations.
- Media.

V. LINK TO THE LAUNCHING EVENT:

<https://zoom.us/j/94441372778?pwd=WXpWNk1sYnMwV3BLcXFxR25lY09ZUT09>

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information relating to this event, following staff can be contacted:

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