



**ACSEA**  
African Coalition for  
Sustainable Energy  
and Access



# Communiqué

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## Side Event: Energy4Real – How Civil Society Can Engage to Ensure Mission 300 Delivers on Energy Access in Africa

We, participants of the side event convened by the African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access (ACSEA), the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), and the Bank-Civil Society Coalition on Climate Change and Energy, issue this communiqué following our deliberations on how to ensure that Mission 300 delivers not just electricity connections, but meaningful and transformative energy access for Africa's people. Through this dialogue, civil society actors, development finance institutions, private sector leaders, and technical experts discussed how to embed inclusivity, transparency, accountability, and community co-ownership into the design and implementation of Mission 300.

### Reaffirming the Urgency and Opportunity

Mission 300's ambition to connect 300 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030 is commendable. However, without institutionalized civil society engagement, this initiative risks replicating the pitfalls of past technocratic, top-down energy access programs, missing local realities, marginalising the vulnerable, and prioritising infrastructure over impact. We therefore reaffirm that energy access must be people-centered, rights-based, and accountable. Civil society's role is foundational in achieving this and to ensuring that energy access becomes a driver of equity, justice, climate resilience and sustainable development.

### Key Outcomes and Affirmations

**1. The Framework for CSO Engagement Must Be Adopted:** Participants welcomed the existing "From Margins to Mandate" framework as a practical and structured roadmap to embed civil society in the governance, implementation, and monitoring of Mission 300. We call on the AfDB, World Bank, and other partners to adopt and implement the framework's four pillars:

- **Governance and Representation:** Include CSOs in steering bodies, technical groups, and establish the Mission 300 Civil Society Advisory Council (M3-CSAC).
- **Programmatic Co-Implementation:** Fund and partner with CSOs to drive last-mile delivery, safeguards, and inclusive project rollout.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning:** Institutionalize CSO-led citizen audits, public dashboards, and community-defined success metrics.
- **Advocacy and Policy Influence:** Support capacity building and include CSOs in National Energy Compact processes and innovation dialogues.

**2. Civil Society Is a Co-Creator of Africa's Energy Future:** CSOs possess deep contextual knowledge, social trust, and innovation capacity. Their role in community-owned renewables, women-led energy enterprises, and social accountability mechanisms is irreplaceable. We reaffirm that Public-Private-Community Partnerships (PPCPs) must become the model of engagement, not Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) as is currently the case. This model reflects a more democratic and inclusive governance approach where communities are active partners, not passive recipients

**3. The Six30 Campaign Is a Strategic Ally:** The alignment between Mission 300 and the Six30 Campaign, which calls for \$630 billion to connect 630 million Africans to electricity by 2030, is vital. Together, they can shift the narrative from infrastructure delivery to inclusive development, backed by strong civic participation.

## Recommendations to AfDB, World Bank, and Stakeholders

- Endorse the CSO engagement framework and integrate it into Mission 300 implementation plans at continental, regional, and national levels.
- Allocate dedicated funding for CSO-led initiatives within Mission 300, with emphasis on gender-responsive and pro-poor interventions.
- Establish transparent accountability mechanisms through citizen audits, grievance redress systems, and open data platforms.
- Prioritize last-mile financing strategies that reduce affordability barriers for low-income and vulnerable communities.
- Ensure representation of women, youth, and marginalized groups through structured, resourced participation in all phases of the program cycle.

## Toward Energy for Real

We envision an Africa where access to electricity is not a privilege for the few, but a right for all. An Africa where women no longer walk miles for firewood, where schools can teach at night, and where energy powers health, dignity, and prosperity.

To achieve Energy for Real, we call for an energy transition that is inclusive, transparent, locally-owned, and just. We stand ready as civil society to walk alongside governments, banks, and businesses to make Mission 300 not only a success, but a turning point.

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