



Discussion guidance note - Working Group 5 **Energy Efficiency**

General topic

Implementation of country priorities on energy efficiency.

Working Group Context

While Energy Efficiency is often the lowest-cost means of increasing the reliability, affordability and sustainability of energy supplies, its potential remains largely untapped in Africa. There are often gaps from a policy standpoint with regard to a focus on energy efficiency along with the lack of financial resources such as lending facilities, particularly for medium and small-scale projects.

African countries have embraced the SEforALL objective and embarked on developing country specific Action Agendas as a framework energy sector development document. These documents have been finalized in 20 countries and are under development in another 9 countries. Each Action Agenda identifies a series of priority actions that a country plans to carry out to reach its energy objectives. Energy efficiency offers a powerful and cost-effective tool for increasing energy access and is a core component of the Action Agendas developed by the African countries. It is closely linked to the improvement of cooking techniques and fuels, and in general to the quest to close the electricity demand gap with fewer resources and less expensive investments.

Moderator and scene setting

Three “scene setters” will make short presentations:

- Katrina Pielli, Senior Energy Advisor at Power Africa will moderate the session and will speak about the work Power Africa have been leading in developing an Energy Efficiency roadmap in Uganda.
- Mark Lister, Acting Head of the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (UNEP-DTU) will present the work of the Centre and how they provide energy efficiency technical assistance to cities and countries.
- Paula Edze, the SE4ALL focal point in Ghana, will present her country’s priority actions in terms of Energy Efficiency, their implementation and the main barriers/challenges to be addressed.



Energy Efficiency Priority Actions

Some common priority actions identified in the AA with regards to EE are:

- The need for a proper *enabling environment*: priority actions in this area include development of a comprehensive regulatory framework that specifically addresses energy efficiency with concrete goals and targets; and national energy efficiency strategies and programmes to assess EE potential in multiple sectors. Other actions include the definition of performance standards for appliances, industrial processes, and buildings; and where appropriate, pairing these standards with energy efficiency labelling and other requirements (e.g., the installation of solar heaters in new buildings).
- *Institutional capacity* is also given attention in the Action Agendas. Priority actions include improving the capacity of national institutions to coordinate, monitor and evaluate, and report on energy efficiency initiatives; and to develop national communication and awareness campaigns. Other priority actions include setting up a dedicated energy efficiency unit within the designated institution.
- *Supply side actions* are also envisaged to improve efficiency, such as grid-loss reduction plans, implementation of smart grids, optimization of generation efficiency through benchmarking programmes, and the rehabilitation and modernisation of existing power plants.

In addition, the Agendas also include specific measures for large consumers (like industries and mines), public and private buildings, agriculture and for clean cooking appliances and fuels.

Working Group objectives

This roundtable discussion will take into account the priority actions on Energy Efficiency identified in the AA and reflect on their implementation status and challenges, and will in particular discuss the following four themes:

- 1. Understanding the highest-impact energy efficiency opportunities** – *What are the priority actions in terms of EE? What are the highest impact EE opportunities? How to promote the role of EE to achieve universal energy access (i.e. efficient off-grid appliances)?*
- 2. Moving from ambitions to implementation** – *How to strengthen the policy and regulatory framework for implementation of energy efficiency measures at country level? How to address capacity building needs? How to create organizational structures for delivery?*



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- 3. Mobilization of required technical assistance and investments for energy efficiency** – *What support instruments are available to assist countries in implementing the priorities related to clean cooking in their Action Agendas? How to engage expert advice and private sector service and technology providers? How to formulate projects and investments – technical and financial feasibility? What are the different funding mechanisms?*
- 4. Tracking progress** – *How to set concrete national EE goals and targets? How to track progress towards these targets at national level?*

Expected outcomes

The working group will elaborate a set of **key recommendations** to be reported for discussions to the plenary session.