Promoting Private Sector Participation in Africa's Power Grids – Development Partners Forum

Forum 2: Private Sector Experience in Africa's Grid Infrastructure Projects

Context

Despite their crucial role in delivering power to homes and businesses, transmission and distribution networks in Africa have received little attention from both the public and private sectors. Indeed, most Africans still do not have access to electricity, or the supply is unreliable. On the generation side, issues with access and reliability are being addressed with the help of increasing private sector participation, however, this is not matched by efforts on the transmission and distribution side. Between 2010 and 2020, 99.7% of private sector investment in African electricity sectors has been directed to generation. In the absence of grid development, future gains in renewable generation may also be undermined by a grid network unable to cope with increasingly complex electricity flows. Consequently, overcoming the barriers in Africa's electricity sectors requires consistent and parallel efforts in the generation, transmission, and distribution.

RES4Africa Foundation and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) propose the creation of a Forum to bring together development partners (DPs), public energy institutions, and private sector parties from across Africa to share knowledge and discuss best practices on how to facilitate more private sector participation (PSP) and much-needed investment in grid infrastructure projects. The first forum workshop took place virtually on Tuesday, November 22nd, 2022 and included success stories from other regions and highlighted some of the current developments in Africa, with a discussion on what lessons could be used from these to increase investment for future transmission projects in Africa. The second forum workshop is planned to take place in **person and virtually on Monday, June 19th, 2023 from 12 :30 to 18 :00 and will expand on the first session by adding to the success stories and allow for more discussion amongst stakeholders on how to unlock the sector.**