

2022 IEA Ministerial – Side Event

Post-Cop 26 priorities: supporting Africa's clean energy transitions

Chair's Statement

March 23, 2022

The ambitions expressed by world leaders at COP26 in November 2021 to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions will require a fundamental transformation of the energy sector across all countries and regions. Yet, while Africa is already one of the most affected by climate change, it accounts for less than 2% of global cumulative emissions. Achieving universal access to reliable and affordable energy to its citizens that can stimulate economic growth and help the continent attain its development goals must remain a priority. The clean energy transition can be an opportunity for Africa to bypass traditional fuels and infrastructure, but strong collaboration and support – especially in terms of facilitating investment – will be critical.

This event was organised by H.E. Tinne Van der Straeten, IEA Ministerial Vice Chair and Minister of Energy of Belgium, to provide a platform for African leaders and stakeholders to share their views on the continent's energy priorities and challenges in the context of the COP26 outcomes, as well as the aims of COP27, which will be hosted by Egypt later this year. A particular emphasis was placed on how the International Energy Agency can most effectively engage with and support counterparts across Africa in their clean energy transitions, including through implementing effective investment mechanisms and promoting clean technology uptake.

Following on this productive discussion, Minister Van der Straeten commends these outcomes to the broader IEA Membership:

Recognising the IEA's central position in the global energy conversation, we request the IEA to:

- Heighten further its engagement with Africa, mainstreaming the continent across all work streams;
- Continue its regional work on clean energy transitions with an emphasis on best practices, and focus on promising CET technologies, such as the potential for low-carbon hydrogen in Africa;
- Identify practical actions that industry, government and international multilateral mechanisms, such as the Clean Energy Ministerial, Mission Innovation, and the G20, can take to drive down the cost and accelerate energy investment on the continent; and
- Agree on the need for strengthened international action to address existing barriers to investment and to promote capital deployment to clean energy across the continent.

H.E. Tinne Van der Straeten
IEA Ministerial Vice Chair and Minister of Energy
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