

Background Note
Ministerial Roundtable on Accelerating Africa's Energy Transition
and Green Industrialisation Agenda

1. Rooted in the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and launched at COP28 in Dubai by African countries and international partners, the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA), is designed to help realise Africa's vision for sustainable socioeconomic development. It is an African country-led international partnership which brings together governments and stakeholders working to accelerate the deployment of renewables to enhance energy access, enable green industrialisation, and improve economic and societal resilience. The Partnership promotes a holistic approach to energy transitions, provides political leadership, mobilises action and commitments from public and private entities, and coordinates international efforts for meaningful systemic change. APRA's current membership includes Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe. APRA will expand in the coming months and years, to engage more African countries with high ambition on renewable energy and green industrialisation.
2. The partnership is supported by Denmark, Germany, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America, as well as the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Under the auspices of IRENA, hosting the APRA secretariat, these collaborative efforts are committed to advancing renewable energy and catalysing economic growth in APRA Member Countries.
3. The Partnership's implementation is based on national action plans purposefully developed by each APRA country in a nationally consultative approach facilitated by IRENA and the Partners. APRA focuses on fostering and aligning international cooperation with the view of accelerating the realisation of country priorities and to demonstrate impact and efficacy. National action plans have been developed for seven countries¹ and the remaining will be completed in 2025.
4. National Action Plans consolidate current priorities to accelerate progress in a holistic manner and guide in-country public and private support. As such, they facilitate a strategic approach to energy transition and targeted partner engagement under strong national political leadership. Common priorities across the National Action Plans completed for Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Sierra Leone involve enhancing renewable energy system integration, rapidly expanding energy access, and improving energy infrastructure.

¹ Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe

Objectives of the session

5. This Ministerial Roundtable aims to take stock of APRA's implementation a year after its launch, present key outputs from its national consultative processes and project facilitation engagements. It will also provide the platform for (i) the outlining of the national priorities of the APRA countries and (ii) raising the interest and support from (potential) partners to contribute to the achievement of the Partnership's objectives. Within this context, High level representatives from APRA countries and global stakeholders will discuss how collective action can amplify individual efforts.
6. The session will include a scene-setting followed by a presentation of the progress by IRENA and interventions from APRA Members and an open discussion.

Guiding questions

- What systemic changes are needed to attract the necessary capital for transformative renewable energy projects that align with Africa's broader economic and development goals?
- What arrangements are necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the support being given to the countries in line with their national priorities, and for the long-term sustainability of APRA?
- How can APRA engage new donors through a holistic approach that aligns their contributions with Africa's broader energy transition and green industrialisation objectives for maximum impact across the continent?