



Campaign Statement_English_01

WATTS UP AFRICA

Empowering Africa's Transition to Renewable Energy

Africa stands at a pivotal moment. With over **600 million people lacking access to electricity**, the choices made today will define the continent's energy future for generations. We, the undersigned organizations and allies, unite under the **Watts Up Africa** campaign to demand a people-centred and just transition to **100% renewable energy** - one that empowers communities, advances climate justice, and breaks the chains of fossil fuel dependency.

For decades, Africa has been treated as a resource hub for global energy markets, fuelling economies elsewhere while its own people remain in energy poverty. Governments, financial institutions, and multinational corporations continue to push **fossil fuels, large-scale extractive projects, and false solutions** that do not serve African communities. Instead, these projects worsen the **climate crisis, increase debt burdens, and perpetuate inequalities**.

We reject this outdated model. Africa is rich in **solar, wind, and geothermal potential**, and a just transition is not only necessary - it is **possible**. Renewable energy can power industries, create jobs, and provide reliable and affordable electricity to all Africans while ensuring environmental sustainability and protecting the rights of communities.

Our Demands

We call on African governments, regional bodies, development banks, and international partners to take immediate action on the following:

1. Commit to a 100% Renewable Energy Future and Green Industrialization

- Develop and implement **national and regional energy transition roadmaps** that prioritize **solar, wind, geothermal, and decentralized renewable energy systems** to ensure **universal, affordable, and reliable energy access** by 2030.
- Institutionalize **energy sovereignty** by investing in **African-led renewable energy industries**, including localized **manufacturing of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, wind turbines, battery storage, and geothermal technologies** to drive **green industrialization, job creation, and economic resilience**.
- Align energy transition strategies with **Agenda 2063** and the **Africa Mining Vision (AMV)** to ensure **value addition, local beneficiation, and regional supply chains** that prevent resource exploitation and maximize economic benefits for African countries.
- Legally recognize **energy access as a fundamental human right** and establish **binding policy commitments** to phase out fossil fuel dependency, ensuring a **just, low-carbon energy transition** that prioritizes Africa's development needs.

2. Reject Fossil Fuel Expansion and False Solutions

- **Implement an immediate moratorium** on new oil, gas, and coal exploration, extraction, and infrastructure development that threatens African communities, ecosystems, and economies.
- **Reject the gas-as-a-transition-fuel narrative**, recognizing that gas **locks Africa into fossil fuel dependency**, exposes economies to volatile global energy markets, and **diverts critical investments away from renewables**.
- Oppose misleading **techno-fixes** such as large-scale **carbon capture and storage (CCS)**, **carbon offsets**, and **hydrogen projects that lack sustainability and equity**, ensuring that Africa's energy future is not dictated by extractive corporate interests.

3. Ensure Equitable and Inclusive Energy Access

- Accelerate the deployment of **off-grid, decentralized, and mini-grid renewable energy solutions** in rural and underserved areas to close the energy access gap.
- Enact **progressive energy governance frameworks** that mandate the participation of **women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized communities** in energy planning, policy development, and benefit-sharing.
- **Dismantle regulatory and financial barriers** that impede renewable energy adoption, including **punitive tariffs, restrictive policies, and fossil fuel subsidies** that distort energy markets and discourage sustainable investment.
- Scale up investments in **clean cooking solutions**, such as **biogas systems, improved cookstoves, and solar cooking technologies**, to reduce reliance on traditional biomass and improve public health.
- Ensure that regional initiatives such as **Mission 300, Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA), and Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI)** are **community-centered, participatory, and directly benefit grassroots energy users rather than serving corporate or elite interests**.

4. Advance Climate Justice and African-Led Solutions

- Establish **transformative climate finance mechanisms** that reject **debt-based financing models** and prioritize **grants, concessional funding, and community-driven renewable energy initiatives**.
- Strengthen **continental energy integration** through platforms such as the **African Union (AU), African Development Bank (AfDB), and Regional Economic Communities (RECs)** to accelerate the development of **cross-border clean energy infrastructure**.
- Demand that **Global North countries fulfil their climate finance obligations**, particularly by scaling up **loss and damage funding** and supporting Africa's just transition without **conditionalities that undermine national sovereignty and development priorities**.

5. Protect People, Nature, and Resources in the Energy Transition

- Enforce **mandatory Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) standards** and strengthen **land tenure rights** to prevent land dispossession and environmental injustices in renewable energy projects.

- Implement **robust social and environmental safeguards** in the extraction of **transition minerals** (lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements), ensuring **sustainable mining practices, community benefits, and local value addition** in line with the **Africa Mining Vision (AMV)**.
- Align Africa's energy transition with **green industrialization goals** by investing in **local processing and manufacturing of renewable energy technologies**, ensuring that Africa **retains value from its resources** rather than continuing to export raw materials for foreign industries.
- Introduce **legally binding corporate accountability mechanisms** to prevent **greenwashing and exploitative investments**, ensuring **ethical supply chains, transparency, and African ownership** in the energy transition.

A Call to Action



We, the undersigned organizations, urge **African governments, regional bodies, development partners, and financial institutions** to take decisive action in advancing a **just, community-driven, and industrially transformative renewable energy transition**.

The time for bold leadership is now. **Join us in making Africa a global powerhouse for renewable energy, energy justice, and sustainable development!**

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