REPORT
5TH AFRICA OIL GOVERNANCE SUMMIT
2019
22ND-23RD OCTOBER
LABADI BEACH HOTEL CONFERENCE HALL

THEME:
“Optimizing Oil and Gas Resources in Africa: The Role of New Discoveries in The Continent’s Development Agenda”

SPONSORS:
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Africa is bequeathed with significant oil and gas resources that makes it an important player in the global oil industry. Between 1998 and 2018, total reserves in the continent have grown by at least 62%. This increasing trend is likely to continue as many other African countries including Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, and Mozambique among others are aggressively exploring and making new discoveries.

While these significant reserves hold the promise to catalyse economic development and transformation, the history of oil and gas production shows that in many oil rich African countries the impact of the oil industry on national development has been sub-optimal. Most of these countries have failed to translate the oil and gas resources into tangible, equitable and sustainable development. Countries on the continent rank lowest in the Human Development Index and many other indicators of wellbeing. Twenty-seven of the 28 poorest countries in the world are in Sub-Saharan Africa and the number of poor people in Africa is expected to rise by 2030. Poor governance of the extractive sector, characterised by corruption, rent-seeking, weak institutional capacity and poor citizenry oversight among others, prevent benefit maximisation of the resources. Ensuring the benefits from Africa’s resource wealth is maximised to catalyze the continent’s development and reduce poverty requires deliberate improvement in governance and policy formulation to optimize foreign direct investment in the resource sector and advance efficient spending of resource revenues. This therefore calls for an active engagement among stakeholders (business, government and civil society) to fashion the appropriate strategy for the development of the oil and gas sector.

ACEP, for the past five years through the Africa Oil Governance Summit (AOGS) has created the platform and fostered a relationship among stakeholders to engage on revising Africa’s oil and gas story. Instituted in 2015, the main goal of the Summit is to collectively engage on the governance challenges confronting the sector and adopt strategic approaches to addressing those gaps pertaining to the management and benefits from the oil and gas resources across the African continent. The AOGS thus creates the avenue for and brings together stakeholders in the oil and gas space across Africa and beyond to deliberate on topical issues and policies that have implications for sustainable and inclusive exploitation of Africa’s oil and gas resources. The 2019 Summit was held on the 22nd and 23rd October 2019 at the Labadi Beach
Hotel, Accra Ghana under the theme “Optimizing Oil and Gas Resources in Africa: The Role of New Discoveries in the Continent’s Development Agenda”.

The 2019 summit recorded an increased participation from 286 in 2018 to 351 in 2019 representing countries from across the world including Ghana, Nigeria, Niger, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Morocco, Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, Australia, South Africa, Mozambique, Angola, Italy, Norway, United States of America, and United Kingdom.

The Summit was structured into keynote speeches, panel discussions and presentation of a technical papers. Panel discussants and moderators were selected from diverse backgrounds to reflect a balance between government, industry, academia, civil society, and the international community.

1.1 The objectives of the Summit were to:

1. Provide a platform for regional consensus building on strategies that must be adopted to promote regional planning for the utilisation of oil and gas resources.
2. Encourage alignment of Africa’s petroleum resource exploitation with the development of the continent and its people.

1.2 Topics Discussed

The following specific topics were discussed:
1. Value addition to petroleum resource extraction through industrialization: the possibilities and challenges.
2. Powering Africa’s economy through oil and gas resources: questions of independence, innovation, security, and investments.
3. The opportunities and threats of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement in creating linkages between the oil and gas sector and other sectors of the African economy.
4. Oil and gas for inclusive development of the youth, Persons with Disability (PWDs) and women.
1.3 Communique

The main output of the summit was a communiqué that encapsulates key concerns and demands by players in Africa’s oil and gas sector as summarized below:

Essentially, it was agreed that oil and gas is the important foundation required for industrialization and sustainable development. New discoveries provide an opportunity to transform economies, alleviate poverty and reduce inequality. The sector must therefore be seen creating multiplier effects in African economies beyond revenue generation.

In the area of exploiting resources for development, a key consensus was that Africa is energy deficient and has poor energy security. In the face of the increased global drive towards cleaner energy and commitments towards achieving SDG 7, African governments are faced with the dilemma of aggressively exploring their oil and gas resources to provide cheaper power to develop their economies through the supply of reliable electricity and for industrialisation while keeping an eye on energy transition and climate change concerns. Despite this challenge, it was agreed that countries should not be forced to choose between renewable or oil and gas-powered energy to be able to industrialize at a good pace. Focus must rather be placed on creating a fair balance of oil and gas resources and renewables for power generation. Countries must do this in an economically feasible and environmentally sustainable manner that capitalizes on technological advancement.

Optimizing gas resources provides an advantage for meeting climate change targets since it is relatively cleaner than oil and considered a transition fuel to clean energy. Additionally, gas is cheaper than oil and will be significant as a base load in the provision of electricity for powering industrialization.

On development of infrastructure needed to transform resources into sustainable development, participants agreed that it is possible to have intercountry infrastructure for the production, transportation and processing of oil and gas resources. The West African Gas Pipeline is a good example and a source of learning for investing in and developing shared infrastructure. The capital required for investment in the development of shared infrastructure is available with crowdfunding being a good source of financing. It is important to note that while there is a huge appetite for services and infrastructure which can further boost energy demand, investment deployment to Africa remains constrained in the midst of abundant options in the capital markets. In some instances, some bonds in Europe are yielding negative returns but investors are comfortable with those instruments instead of investing in Africa.
The critical question that must be asked is: why can’t Africa attract investment even though financing is available?

The Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement offers the opportunity to develop petrochemical industries and boost the trade of petroleum products within the sub-region especially natural gas for power generation, fertilizer production to boost agricultural productivity and processing of Africa’s mineral resources. Establishing linkages between the oil and gas sector and other sectors of the economy will create opportunities for job creation in the light industrial sector.

It was also agreed that there is a lot of room to mainstream Persons with Disability (PWDs) in the oil and gas sector. There are opportunities for PWDs in formal employment areas. As long as there is adequate training there are no limitations. Again, women and youth are still challenged in finding opportunities in the oil and gas sector. Current conversations on creating opportunities tend to be tokenistic. There is the need to harness the potential and creativity of young people to influence the policies and the model of resource extraction.

1.4 Challenges Facing Efforts to Transform Oil and Gas Resources into Sustainable Development:

The following were identified as key challenges hindering efforts to transform Africa’s oil and gas resources into sustainable development. These increase the risks for investment in the oil and gas sector of the continent:

1. Governance, which is fundamental to the success of the sector is weak. Governments are seen to be short-sighted and populist in their actions.
2. Political interference in technical areas of energy supply which hinders efficiency in the sector.
3. A lack of policy coherence and suboptimal regional collaboration among countries.
4. Companies that desire to expand business across boarders are faced with cumbersome bidding processes and sometimes unreasonable requirements.
5. Although African businesses understand the contextual realities and risks, weak partnership culture among businesses limits their ability to pool resources to undertake big ticket projects in the oil and gas sector.
6. The regulatory environment tends to be bureaucratic in most countries. Regulators are also seen to act in the interest of specific interest groups or individuals instead of the national interest.
7. The capacity of Civil Society Organizations to monitor and engage is often limited.
8. Extractive sector laws and policies are not inclusive enough and therefore relegates the interest of women and PWDs to the background or yet, given pseudo attention.
9. Gender Responsive Budgeting even though recognized as a tool to achieving inclusion and empowerment of women, enforcement is weak.

1.5 How can we ensure that exploiting new discoveries translates into sustainable development?

1.5.1 Role of citizens
It was agreed that Africans must graduate from being “spectators” to become “active citizens” that are concerned about the governance and management of energy resources. In this regard;
1. Citizens must hold their leaders to account by actively participating in the election of leaders based on integrity, qualification and capacity and not on popularity, tribe, religion or wealth. This requires a change of mindset.
2. Citizens must be interested in policy development in the oil and gas sector to ensure shared benefits and opportunities in the sector.
3. Each person should be an ambassador for women, youth and PWDs to reduce stereotypes and provide opportunities for an inclusive industry.

1.5.2 Role of Government
National governments and regional organizations play a significant role in optimizing oil and gas resources. However, there is significant room for improvement for African governments to ensure resource extraction leads to sustainable and inclusive development. To achieve this, governments must deliver on the following actions based on the themes of the Summit:

A. Value addition to petroleum resource extraction through industrialization.
1. Focus on improving governance of the energy sector by being transparent in policy development as well as encouraging active public discourse to attract capital for industrialization.
2. Depoliticize institutions to build an environment based on meritocracy. This will de-risk the environment and facilitate business success.
3. Governments must shift focus from competing with private sector for business to creating the environment businesses require to thrive.
4. Focus on creating investor friendly legislation and the right regulatory environment that is insulated from regulatory capture.

**B. Powering Africa’s economy through oil and gas resources; questions of independence, innovation, security, and investments.**

1. Carry out extensive stakeholder engagement to secure buy in from communities (social license) for the security of gas-to-power infrastructure.
2. Promote investment and development of shared gas infrastructure across the region whiles dealing with economic challenges associated with cross border projects.
3. Build negotiation capacity devoid of politicization to ensure that agreements signed promote competitive tariffs needed for industrialization.
4. Develop a robust payment mechanism across the value chain to ensure that revenues are not locked at the distribution end of the value chain.
5. Pay attention to developments in the renewable energy space to complement oil and gas generated power and provide accelerated access for the estimated 70% energy poor in Sub-Saharan Africa and prioritize achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**C. Opportunities and threats of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);**

1. Harmonize local content policies across the region and develop firm country level support to their SMEs and micro industries to develop capacities that feed into bigger industries and create opportunities for export.
2. Collaborate regionally to ensure that policies developed do not only protect national interest but are also coherent and facilitate regional integration. This will require governments to cede some amount of power to the regional bodies to facilitate regional agreements and policies.
3. Deepen the inclusion and consultation of the private sector and civil society players in the AfCFTA process to ease implementation.
4. The African Union should develop a framework for developing regional infrastructure and investment attraction.

**D. Inclusive development of the youth, PWDs and women;**

1. Deliberately mainstream disability issues in the formation and implementation of regional and national policies.
2. Ensure standards for accessibility is available for all to adhere to especially in relation to inclusive design for infrastructure.
3. Make specific provisions for youth, women and PWDs to benefit from oil revenues through national budgets.
4. Provide support for education and training for youth, women and PWDs to qualify and take up opportunities in the oil and gas sector.
5. Include Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) as key requirement in budget preparation and a tool for addressing gender gaps

1.5.3 Role of Regulators
Regulators play an important role in ensuring that a conducive environment exists for investment while ensuring that industry players operate within the framework of regulations. Regulators must ensure that:
1. Enforcement of regulations in the oil and gas industry is fair, transparent and standardized.
2. Enforcement of regulations is done effectively to ensure that companies account for the environmental and health impacts of their activities.
3. Companies are evaluated on social investment and inclusion of women, youth and PWDs.

1.5.4 Role of Civil Society Organizations
Civil Society Organizations have a significant oversight role on ensuring transparency and accountability of government, industry and regulators. To successfully carry this out Civil Society Organizations must:
1. Engage and encourage governments to improve transparency and accountability in the sector.
2. Create spaces to engage and monitor policy development and implementation to ensure that oil and gas catalyses Africa’s industrialization.
3. Engage in research, education and sensitization of citizens on taking advantage of opportunities in the oil and gas sector, especially new opportunities that the AFCFTA presents.
4. Analyse and engage governments (and key stakeholders) on the practical opportunities and threats of optimizing oil and gas resources for Africa’s industrialization through the AFCFTA vis-à-vis national development plans.
5. Monitor efficiency of the power sector value chain in African countries and propose policy options that impact on end-user tariffs.
6. Monitor business approaches to de-carbonization strategies and sustainable energy initiatives.
7. Set up functional networks that builds and amplifies the voices of women, youth and PWDs in decision-making processes.
8. Strongly advocate for the removal of cultural and systemic stereotypes that marginalize persons with disabilities.
9. Equip the youth, particularly in the areas where extraction takes place, with the right attitudes and skills to effectively participate in the governance process.

1.5.5 Role of Business
The private sector has a key role to play in the transformation of resources to development. For the private sector to participate effectively, players must:
1. Invest in training and boosting local capacity.
2. Participate in policy development to create a conducive environment for investment in the oil and gas sector.
3. Ensure that corporate social investments are aligned with national development.
4. Proactively identify opportunities and seek buy-in from government for infrastructure development.
5. Develop inclusive policies and create opportunities for women, youth and PWDs.

1.6 Conclusion of communique

Indeed, new discoveries across Africa present a great opportunity to transform the economy of the continent and guarantee sustainable development through industrialization. However, this dream will only be a reality if the fundamentals required are in place and working efficiently. All stakeholders must work together to ensure that the narrative of weak governance is changed. Governments must be transparent and held accountable for their actions. Civil Society Organizations must diligently play the role of a watchdog and develop the capacity to monitor the activities of government and the private sector. Additionally, there must be strong advocacy to ensure that governments avoid populism, develop the needed regulations and policies and implement them fairly, efficiently and effectively. Regional collaboration in policy development is a key element required to ensure that no country is left behind in the development agenda. In the process, countries must ensure that all barriers to having an inclusive society where women, PWDs and the youth can take full advantage of the gains from new discoveries are removed.
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**Acronyms and Abbreviations**

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<td>Africa Centre for Energy Policy</td>
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<td>AfCFTA</td>
<td>Africa Continental Free Trade Area</td>
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<td>AU</td>
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<td>CBOD</td>
<td>Chamber of Bulk Oil Distributors</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<td>Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations</td>
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<td>LNG</td>
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UNECA United Nation Economic Commission of Africa
UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WAGP West African Gas Pipeline
2.0 Introduction

The Africa Oil Governance Summit (AOGS) is the flagship programme of the Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP). Instituted in 2015, the Summit convenes relevant stakeholders to collectively engage on the governance challenges confronting the oil and gas sector and adopt strategic approaches to addressing those gaps to ensure efficient management of the benefits from the oil and gas resources across the African continent. The AOGS thus creates the avenue for and brings together stakeholders in the oil and gas space across Africa and beyond to deliberate on topical issues and policies that have implications for sustainable and inclusive exploitation of Africa’s oil and gas resources. The 2019 Summit was held on the 22nd and 23rd October 2019 at the Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra Ghana under the theme “Optimizing Oil and Gas Resources in Africa: The Role of New Discoveries in the Continent’s Development Agenda”.

The 2019 AOGS recorded an increased number of participants totalling 351. This number is composed of speakers, panellists, media and other participants who were drawn from the public sector, the private sector, academia, think tank and civil society spaces, development agencies/partners, and local and international media. The Summit has, since 2015, recorded about 800 direct participants with a yearly average of about 200. This excludes virtual participants who are engaged through both the electronic and social media.

2.1 OPENING CEREMONY

2.1.1 Opening Remarks by Chairperson
The 2019 Africa Oil Governance Summit (AOGS) was chaired by Madam Rosalind Kainyah, the Managing Director of Kina Advisory Services and a distinguished personality in the energy space. In her opening address, she first and foremost underscored the relevance of such a gathering of experts across the continent and various spheres of life and congratulated ACEP for putting together such a unique intervention.
Rosalind Kainyah—Chairperson, 2019 AOGS

She then highlighted the importance of efficiently utilising the oil and gas resources in Africa for economic transformation and for sustainable development, particularly bearing in mind new discoveries that are spurring up. Moreover, it is also important to position the continent to take advantage of the rise of Renewable Energy (RE) and balance the dependence on hydrocarbons in the fourth and fifth industrial revolution as well as how this will positively affect all sectors of the value chain.

To achieve this, African countries first need to extract the resources, and this requires huge capital investment, deep technical expertise and effective research. There is therefore the need to first of all understand the size of that resource and how that potential translates into real values for the average African citizen.

Ms. Kainyah also mentioned that Africa needs to create favourable political and business environment to be able to attract worthy investors to help achieve the continent’s broader industrialization agenda.
In closing her opening address, she entreated panellist and experts to explain the issues in simpler terms so that the average African and individuals will be able to understand and relate to the necessity of the discussions and how it impacts them, the opportunities to be tapped. She also encouraged participants to contribute to the discussion to help align Africa’s petroleum resource exploitation with the development of the continent.

2.1.2 Welcome Address by the Executive Director of ACEP

The Executive Director of ACEP, Mr Benjamin Boakye, in his welcome address acknowledged the presence of stakeholders across the continent of Africa including Civil Society, Business Community, Academia, and Disability Groups and stated that for the past five years ACEP through the AOGS has fostered a relationship among stakeholders to revise Africa’s story on oil and gas. The history of oil and gas production shows that in many oil rich African countries the impact of the oil industry on national development is sub-optimal.

He highlighted that the desire to see a strategy and measurable road map that will support translation of Africa’s resources into sustainable development has heightened over time. “It is ACEP’s believe that changing the African oil curse narrative requires an active dialogue among
all stakeholders to build consensus which the AOGS seeks to do”. He therefore encouraged active dialogue to build consensus on objectives of extractive exploitation and entreated all participants to bring on board their various expertise to solve challenges in the sector.

Last year’s summit centred on local content development where the challenges to effective local content development as well as strategies to promote local content were discussed. The 2019 summit focuses on developing strategies to integrate the growing oil and gas industry and the many new discoveries made in the region over the last decade into Africa’s development and transformation.

Mr Boakye indicated that new discoveries have the potential to improve trade among African nations, provide jobs, generate revenue for social investments and provide electricity access to the 70% of Sub-Saharan Africans who still live without electricity. He however cautioned that while Africa harnesses the opportunities stated above, there is the need to pay attention to the climate change implications of fossil fuel extraction and the potential transition to climate sensitive technologies that provide alternatives to energy from oil and gas.

Mr. Boakye expressed his gladness for the presence of diverse stakeholders to help provide answers to key questions at the summit. He therefore urged stakeholders to bring on board their rich expertise and experience to push the continent’s development agenda. He also assured the gathering that through the development of a communiqué, a consensus will be arrived at on a strategy geared towards harnessing Africa’s oil and gas resources in ways that meet the continent’s industrialization and social economic transformation agenda.

Finally, he took the opportunity to acknowledge the sponsors of the summit, key among them included Oxfam in Ghana, FORD Foundation, Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD), Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), Open Society for West Africa (OSIWA) and the Ministry of Energy for their commitment and relentless support to ensure the summit was successfully organized.

2.1.3 Keynote address by the Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Ghana
The Norwegian ambassador to Ghana, H.E. Gunnar Andreas Holm delivered the keynote address at the opening of the summit. In the address, he highlighted the importance of governance and politics in maximizing the benefits of oil and gas resources. He stated that active public discourse, transparency along the value chain and in reporting are key components of good governance in the oil and gas sector. According to H.E. Holm, “good governance stimulates debate” and this leads to innovation to tackle problematic aspects of the sector.
Ambassador Holm reiterated that natural resources including petroleum belong to the people of the nation and it is in the people’s interest and right to know how such national resources are managed. He added that there are good examples of good governance practices in the extractives sector that resource rich African countries can learn from and praised efforts towards promoting dialogue. H.E. Holm made reference to the Norway example and indicated that there was a conscious decision to build capacity and learn about the then new industry before exploitation commenced. This was part of efforts towards avoiding the phenomenon of the resource curse.

The Norwegian example demonstrates that governance holds the key to transparency and accountability in ensuring competitive bidding for oil blocks, efficient exploration and production as well as environment sustainability. Simply put in his words, “governance holds the full potential of the resource sector and this is in tune with the theme of AOGS 2019 summit”. Ambassador Holm further reiterated government’s responsibility of prudently and sustainably managing resource revenues.
H.E. Holm concluded his address by urging all participants to contribute to the debate and share lessons as well as best practices to ensure the output of the summit will lead to transformation from actions on the key recommendations to promote good governance, especially with the new discoveries in the oil and gas sector.

2.1.4 Opening Address by the Hon. Deputy Minister of Energy, Mohammed Amin Adam (PhD)

Honourable Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam, a Deputy Minister of Energy represented the Ghana’s Minister for Energy to deliver the opening speech. In his speech, Hon. Dr Amin underscored the importance of such regional level conversations in arriving at common approaches to address Africa’s challenges and applauded ACEP for such innovations.

Dr Amin highlighted the importance of the theme for the 2019 summit as it encapsulates important conversations Africa must have about its oil and gas industry. Particularly, these conversations define our ability and constraints in transforming the oil and gas resources into tangible development. Africa has been a major contributor to global oil production with the potential for increased production from its significant reserves. Between 1998 and 2018, total reserves on the continent has grown by at least 62% and continues to increase. The increasing trend is likely to continue as many other African countries including Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique are aggressively exploring their basins and making new discoveries.

Dr Amin mentioned that African countries have pursued and enjoyed significant revenues from resource exploitation over the years. However, due to weak revenues management structures, most of these countries have failed to link resources revenues to development policies. However, he remarked that the story is not all gloomy as a number of countries have begun putting measures in place to translate their resources into development. He shared the example of the government of Ghana using oil revenues to provide Free Senior High School education to Ghanaians. This has resulted in an astronomical increase in the number school enrolment from about 430,000 in 2017 to over a million in 2019. He also mentioned government’s plans to set up a petroleum hub in Ghana. Therefore, Dr Amin called for the equitable distribution of oil revenues and the institution of structures to maximize the opportunities new discoveries present. the landscape of good governance is changing especially in the oil and gas sector. For instance, in 2019, about seven African countries conducted competitive bidding rounds to award oil blocks. He therefore called for civic participation and on CSOs to monitor such improvements.
Furthermore, Dr Amin touched on the place of renewable energy in the energy mix of the various countries in the African continent and highlighted the challenge of competing renewable energy resources. To address these challenges in the context of new discoveries, he proposes tasking companies to give attention to value creation in the petroleum business. He also touched on the importance of natural gas as a transition fuel for accelerating the transformation of African economies.

Hon. Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam, Deputy Minister of Energy, Ghana

He encouraged African countries to blend domestic strategy with regional efforts to boost industrialization that is linked to the petroleum industry as the demand for petrochemicals is growing.

The Minister concluded his address by expressing his expectation of the summit to make recommendations that will contribute to addressing the many challenges of the sector including the following:

1. The opportunities that exist for the petroleum sector in the context of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and how anticipated challenges can be surmounted.
2. Financing the development of Africa’s refinery capacity beyond its current level of 2.5% of global refinery throughput.

3. Development of shared infrastructure needed to facilitate regional collaboration and ensuring the security of same.

4. The opportunity to power the continent with abundant natural gas resources and creating an environment conducive for boosting investment and,

5. Most importantly, ensuring that the development of oil and gas facilitates development and provides opportunities for all.

The speech by the Hon. Minister drew the curtain on the opening ceremony to an end and ushered into session the various deliberations which were straddled in sessions.
3.0 Panel Session One

3.1.1 TOPIC: Value Addition to Petroleum Resource Extraction through Industrialization: The Possibilities and the Challenges

Facilitator: Ms. Rosalind Kainyah, MBE (Managing Director, Kina Advisory Services)

Discussants:
1. Dr. Osman Abdel Rahman Fadul (Executive Director, Ben Barkiya and former Minister of Petroleum and Gas, Sudan)
2. Ms. Abena Amoah (KOSMOS Energy Advisory Council Member)
3. Prof. Omowumi O. Iledare (GNPC Professional Chairman Oil and Gas Economics & Management, Institute for Oil and Gas Studies, University of Cape Coast)
4. Ms. Dalila Iddrisu (Business Development Manager, Friburge Oil and Gas, Angola)

Panel session 1 discussing approaches to value addition in Africa’s petroleum resources

Objective of the session:
This session explored strategies to optimally develop Africa’s petroleum resources to meet the petroleum product demands of the growing African population
3.1.2 Panelists’ discussions

The facilitator began the debate by providing some context on deploying petroleum resources to stimulate Africa’s industrialization drive. A number of critical questions were raised regarding the possibility or otherwise of translating the potentials associated with value addition to Africa’s oil petroleum resources to facilitate industrialization. Africa has the potential to meet all of its internal energy demand from oil and gas despite the soaring population with excess for exports. This is evident in Africa’s oil and gas production indicator (PI) of 200% and 159% respectively.1

Ms Rosalind reminded panellists that the fundamental factor to successful industrialization is ensuring adequate infrastructure. Unfortunately, due to inadequate requisite infrastructure, Africa is resigned to the exportation of a larger portion of its crude production and importation to meet its consumption needs of refined petroleum products. Thus, African countries are unable to maximize the full benefits of oil and gas endowments beyond the fiscal gains. This was further buttressed by Dr. Juliette during the wrap up of the session while advising African governments to move beyond just revenue capture but to see the sector as one with a multiplier effect.

Environmental sustainability and climate change are also key elements that must be considered in the quest to add value to Africa’s crude and ultimately industrialize our economies. Abena Amoah of KOSMOS Energy indicated that most African countries have signed on to International climate agreements like the Paris Climate Change Accord, and the United Nations Frame Work Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was signed in 2016 and seeks to among others; keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels; and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C, recognizing that this would substantially reduce the risks and impacts of climate change. A big trend has been noticed for instance, where energy stocks are now 5% of the S.M.P. 500 Index, down from 13% 10 years ago. Many countries including New Zealand factor this into their future decisions especially where no new explorations will be permitted, and new contracts will not be signed by 2030-2040. This is a wake call for Africa not to get stuck with the new oil discoveries but to look beyond these into the future focus.

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The IOGP Production Indicator (PI) for oil is based on dividing daily production in thousands of barrels or, for gas, billion cubic meters per year by demand. The PI indicates the level of a region’s self-sufficiency (and export potential). A PI above 100% demonstrates the ability to export; below 100% shows the need to import.
Dr. Osman Abdel Rahman from Sudan dwelled on the “principle of quality management” to explain the fact that if Africa seeks to industrialize through its petroleum industry, it must adopt appropriate technology to manage emissions, stressing that the world is changing and so is technology and Africa cannot be left behind. He however lamented governance challenges in many resource rich countries where decisions of political leadership do not seem to promote integration of the continent but are rather individualistic. He added that these levels of discussions are significant steps towards industrialization and development of the petroleum industry, but it should be extended to the heads of state level in Africa through the African Union and the various regional blocks.

Prof. Omowumi warned Africa to avoid what he termed the “regulatory capture” espousing the key role that regional bodies such as ECOWAS and the AU should play to remove all forms of unnecessary barriers that hinder Africa’s free trade and industrialization. He also added that “We need to move away from populist governments”. Ms Dalia Iddrisu agreed with Professor Omowumi and advised that border closures were detrimental to achieving the objectives of free trade and that Africa should invest in the youthful population with appropriate technology education to encounter future risks of integration. It was unanimous that there is the need to address certain key challenges that inhibit Africa’s industrialization including the need for legislative and regulatory reforms, political instability, corruption and fraud, lack of infrastructure, geopolitical issues, insufficient investment in research and development, technology, innovation competence, and creating an attractive fiscal and regulatory regime.

### 3.1.3 Participants’ Contributions and Recommendations

Participants mainly agreed with the views of the panelists on the possibility of industrializing Africa through the influence of the oil resources but added that ‘hostilities’ among nations must be addressed if Africa is to achieve the desired objective. Certain trade legislations and foreign policies are detrimental to Africa’s industrialization which must be addressed. Another key issue was the influence of Chinese investments in Africa which they described as ‘the Chinese dominance of Africa’. The same natural resources that Africa seeks to rely on to stimulate industrialization are the same resources being mortgaged or amortized for loans. Regrettably, most of these loans are not invested sustainably and are often fraught with misappropriations and corruption.

Again, there were suggestions that the oil and gas industry should not only be viewed as an avenue for just revenue generation but also as a resource to propel economic growth, income
generation and poverty reduction through industrialization. Oil producing countries should de-emphasize the export of crude oil and consider value addition with special focus on the downstream components of the crude oil value chain such as petrochemicals, refineries as well as more midstream activities. These will generate sustainable jobs and could trigger a multiplier effect on other sectors of the economy.

Investment in Renewable Energy (RE) was highlighted as another approach to ensuring energy sufficiency. African governments were therefore advised to focus on maximizing the energy supply mix to provide power to the continent for industrialization.
4.0 Panel Session 2

4.1.1 TOPIC: Powering Africa: Questions of Energy Independence and Innovation

Facilitator: Pauline Anaman  (Senior Policy Analyst & Head of Policy Unit, ACEP)

Discussants:
1. Jennifer Bocca  (Head of Environmental, Social and Governance, Lekela)
2. Roberto Danielle  (Chief Executive Officer, ENI Ghana),
3. Justice Tei-Mensah  (Economist, IFC/World Bank)

2nd Panel session discussing potentials of an oil and gas-powered Africa

Objective of the session:
This panel discussed the potentials of an oil and gas-powered Africa from a sustainability, innovation and independence perspective.
4.1.2 Panellists’ discussions

The facilitator began the session with some highlights of the energy situation in Africa. She mentioned the UNDP’s report that estimates that about 1.1bn people are without electricity access and 70% of these are in Africa (UNDP). It is therefore disturbing to note that only few African countries have achieved more than 50% electricity access, and this includes countries like Ghana, South Africa, Kenya and Senegal. Interestingly, the countries with the highest electricity access rates have the highest thermal contribution to their generation mix. On the other hand, the countries that have high Renewable Energy (RE) penetration record very low electricity access rates. This leaves the question of what considerations countries have to make in the quest to transition to cleaner fuels for power production.

Responding to a question raised by the facilitator on the place of RE in the continent’s energy mix, Jennifer Boca of Lekela Energy Company took participants through global development in the renewable energy space. Advancing the case for RE in the industrialization drive, she stated that there has been rapid shift globally towards cleaner energy sources, as more coal stations are being shut down and it is cheaper to replace a third of the world’s operating coal by 26% in a decade (Carbon Tracker Initiative, 2018). Renewable penetration rate is increasing on the continent, not only because of the environmental considerations but also because it is becoming more cost effective compared to fossil fuel power generation coupled with the fact that the industry is also becoming efficient.

However, because the pace of development and technological transformation in the energy sector is slow as compared to other sectors, gas (for powering Africa) will remain an important source of energy as a transitional source. According to Roberto of the ENI group in Ghana, gas is the “present, and the future” and it provides a fundamental stable and relatively cheaper source of power which is very necessary for industrialization. He added that non associated gas is not common in the continent and governments need to partner private companies to build industries that will utilize the gas being produced. This was countered by Jennifer who provided statistics to support the contrary. It costs between $29-56 to produce a unit of wind powered energy, $36-44 for solar PVs and 152-266 for gas. The challenge with the RE is the rate of technological growth and adoption in Africa.

New gas discoveries present the opportunities to actualize the Africa Trade Agreements. Justice Tei-Mensah cautioned African countries on the nature of gas agreements they sign because, if the fiscal terms are not favourable to the host countries, the implications could be dire, and they may not be able to address them in the medium to long term. It is good news
that the Africa Free Trade Agreement is coming into force. He mentioned that many countries across the continent are discovering gas resources, it is therefore important to consider at this stage is how to feed in the exploitation of these new discoveries into the deliberations detailing the arrangements on the AfCFTA. According to Dr. Tei-Mensah, gas will play key role in addressing the challenge of huge energy sector debts. However, if governments continue to sign gas purchase agreements that put them at a disadvantage without considering the long-term effect and the implications on the new discoveries, the future will be plagued with numerous challenges.

The question arising from the above is whether or not African countries are treating gas as transition fuel for power generation or a destination fuel especially with commitments to energy transition in most countries. All panellists agreed that gas is a transition towards cleaner energy.

The challenges confronting the drive to industrialize Africa is ensuring sufficient power supply which currently is being hampered by a myriad of factors including: inefficient power transmission and distribution systems, populist governments not willing to take tough decisions and poor contract negotiations.

However, industry is not happy with this widespread perception that contracts are not properly negotiated. The industry representative on the panel, Roberto Danielle from ENI expressed disquiet about the perception that international oil companies are only interested in profits and would go all lengths to fleece resource rich African countries during contract negotiations. According to him, that is very far from the truth. International companies are interested in the development of their host countries as they are interested in profits. He mentioned that ENI for example runs a dual flag approach to contracting in Africa which allows the host country the chance to develop from its resources beyond the company making profits.

4.1.3 Participants’ contributions and Recommendations

To fully optimize the gas to generate power, African countries need to ensure that the Production Agreements they sign with private companies must yield greater benefits to the people. It is also the responsibility of governments to have strategic plans that create linkages between exploitation and consumption of the gas resources. Responding to question on why ENI has not established a power generation plant that uses gas in Ghana as done in other countries it operates in, Roberto indicated that the needs of the countries and context vary, especially where Ghana currently has excess power. He indicated that it does not make economic sense
to enter into new Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) when there is excess installed capacity. This excess installed capacity was identified as a key influence government’s decisions or investments in promoting Renewable Energy in Ghana. Again, the cost of power relative to cost in the sub region is an important factor that affects investment decisions and the government must take a critical examination of the cost issues. On energy transition, there is the need for renewed partnerships to accelerate the transition. Companies need to invest, and governments needs to support.

A key consensus from the discussions was that Africa is still to a large extent, energy deficient and therefore should not be bottled down to choosing between renewable and gas-powered energy. African countries were cautioned to adopt approaches that work in the interest of the continent. Countries were advised not to depend on only one source of energy but should be focused on developing all their energy sources from renewable to gas resources for power generation. Besides, the numbers being thrown out there on the potential of renewable are mostly projections and estimations hence countries should exercise caution on jumping on the renewable energy bandwagon.

In essence, what is needed is a healthy mix of renewables and gas. While admitting this will take time, African countries need to modernize their energy systems and consider technologies that will facilitate the powering of Africa for jobs and growth.

On questions of whether African countries are late for the drive for increased renewable energy penetration, the consensus was that while African countries need to adopt technology, their development policy should not be developing technology for its sake. Rather the focus should be on eradicating poverty. Countries need to get the fundamentals right and stop hopping on every new policy.

To facilitate regional integration and leverage on resources in individual countries, shared gas infrastructure across the region must be built. This will require a lot of compromises (reduce populism and show of power by countries).

A recommendation was also made on ensuring a robust payment mechanism in the power supply chain that does not lock revenues at the distribution end of the value chain is be developed.
There is the need for an awakening on leaders to set the fundamentals right to build systems beyond whoever is in power. CSOs and citizens must hold their leaders to account through elections. An example was given of Kenyan government’s proposed decision to build 1,000 megawatts of coal which was heavily resisted by CSOs and the public, forcing the government to shelve the decision. This demonstrates the power citizens wield to compel duty bearers to ensure good governance, especially governance decisions that affect resource exploitation. The most effective incentive to set the fundamentals right is elections. Getting the fundamentals right also includes adopting strategies that create synergies and considers region rather than countries.

On industrialisation from oil resources and their environmental and health impacts, African countries are advised to invest the gains from industrialization for the provision of health, agriculture, education services and for environment protection. Again, regulations have to be clear and strict on companies to ensure they account for the environmental and health impacts of their activities. This goes to support the “Polluter-Pays-Principle” (PPP) which ensures that companies whose operations cause or contribute to causing environmental pollution are made to pay for the cost of the pollution.
5.0 Panel Session 3

5.1.1 TOPIC: Powering Africa: Questions of Investment in, and Security of, Shared Trans-boundary Infrastructure

Facilitator: Dr Juliette Twumasi-Anokye (Principal Consultant, Anojul Afriyie & Co. Ghana Ltd.)

Discussants:
1. Mr. Charles Darku (Chairman, Upstream Petroleum Chamber, Ghana)
2. Mr. Salum Mnuna (Project Coordinator, East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), Tanzania)
3. Mr. Ezekiel Adebayo Adesina (Executive Secretary, Africa Energy Study Group & Head of Strategy and Planning, Nigeria LNG Limited)
4. Mr. Senyo Kwasi Hosi (Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Bulk Oil Distributors (CBOD)
5. Mr. Dickson Kwaku Osei (Deputy Manager– Corporate Planning, West African Gas Pipeline Companies Limited)

3rd Panel session discussing Powering Africa: Questions of Investment, Security, and Shared Trans-boundary Infrastructure
Objective of the session:
The main objective of this session was to explore the potential and practicality of oil and
gas-powered Africa from shared oil and gas infrastructure investments and security perspec-
tive.

5.1.2 Panellists Discussions
This session was facilitated by Dr. Julliette Twumasi-Anokye who gave a brief overview of the
context to the topic as a prelude for the panellist’s presentations and discussions. Her introduc-
tion highlighted the key issues on powering Africa’s industrialization drive and the dynamics of
energy infrastructure in the continent. An oil and gas-powered Africa can be achieved if shared
infrastructure existed to fully maximize available resources. Shared pipelines will ensure that
gas produced is made available at important points of need. The possibility of developing the
necessary infrastructure can be influenced by regional collaboration, considerations of secu-
rity issues and availability of funding. The challenges that these present must be overcome for
successful shared infrastructure development.

Commenting on whether or not it is possible for Africa to have an inter-country infrastructure
for gas, Mr. Salum Mnuna from Tanzania shared the example of the East Africa Gas Pipeline,
a shared gas infrastructure which will enable Tanzania to transport natural gas from Darel
Salaam to Uganda. Tanzania boasts of estimated recoverable natural gas reserves of over 57
trillion cubic feet (tcf), mostly in offshore fields in the south of the country. The project, when
completed will supply natural gas to feed Uganda’s steel industry where there is significant
iron ore deposit. It is an integrated project which is estimated to be about 1,445 km pipeline
also connecting the Hoima oil fields in Uganda to the Tanga port and is expected to be the
longest electrically heated crude oil pipeline in the world. This infrastructure will cost the two
countries US $ 3.55 billion.

The design of the East Africa Gas Pipeline project is similar to the West Africa Gas Pipeline
Project (WAGP) which ensures transmission of gas from Nigeria’s Escravos region of Niger
Delta area to Ghana through Benin and Togo. It is a 678 km pipeline which was commissioned
in 2006, becoming the first of its kind in the sub region.

Unlike the WAGP which is operational, the East Africa Gas pipeline project is still at the contract
negotiation stage and intergovernmental agreements have been signed. Part of the project
design seeks to create a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the project as part of the invest-
ment strategy.
Discussing the challenges of the West Africa Gas Pipeline project (WAGP), Mr. Dickson Kwaku Osei of the WAGP stated some external factors responsible for the irregular supply of gas to Ghana including developments in Nigeria. A key factor he touched on was the increase in domestic consumption of gas in Nigeria. This significant increase is mainly due to increased demand by emerging industries and this has created competing needs for gas thereby affecting the quantity available for the WAGP. He indicated plans to connect other gas producing sources in other parts of Nigeria to the WAGP to increase gas availability.

Another challenge with the WAGP is liquidity and cash flow concerns which results from irregular payments by governments, which at a point in time led to insufficient power supply popularly referred to as “dumsor” in Ghana. He added that the introduction of the Ghana Energy Sector Levy (ESLA) has helped significantly in reducing the liquidity deficits and it is expected to improve further.

Mr. Ezekiel Adebayo Adesina, the Executive Secretary, Africa Energy Study Group & Head of Strategy and Planning, Nigeria LNG Limited espoused the relationship between insufficient energy and GDP growth rate of countries while blaming inadequate collaboration among African governments for the state of energy supply in the continent.

He further stated that “government has no business in business”. When governments get involved in production, transportation and utilization of gas, there will definitely be challenges as is currently witnessed across the continent. The role of government is to ensure enabling environment through policy formulation and legislative promulgation rather than engaging directly in business.

Furthermore, policy incoherence in Africa was mentioned as a contributor to the inability of the various countries to collaborate in undertaking joint projects. Mr. Adesina lamented the fact that Nigeria for instance has not been able to meet the supply needs of the WAGP but rather wants to pursue a project that will enable it supply gas to Spain through the Trans-Delta Pipeline project.

Thus, it was generally agreed on the need for policy synchronization among African governments to ensure that the continent is able to derive maximum benefits from the extractive resources, with examples of the European Union that has a common Energy Policy which gives them ability and security of supply cited. There is therefore the need for African coun-
tries to develop common policies and embark on legislative reforms to address a number of challenges and barriers to integration.

Mr. Senyo Kwasi Hosi, the Chief Executive Officer of Chamber of Bulk Oil Distributors (CBOD) in his contribution to the discussion argued that strong institutions need to be built with harmonized continental policies to ensure integration and strong partnerships between private sector and governments. He added his voice to calls for stronger and integrated Africa through the auspices of the regional bodies such as African Union (AU), ECOWAs, SADEC, among others. He agreed with other panellists that the African Union could play key roles in addressing the challenges of integration of Africa, unbundle the issues to determine the deficient areas, areas that need improvements, de-politicize the system that affect efficiency of the institutions and de-risk the business environment to be able to attract the needed capital investment.

He also emphasized the urgency in building capacity of the youth in Africa, particularly on appropriate technology to prepare them adequately for the future. However, according to him these outcomes cannot be realized because of weak and politicized nature of African institutions largely caused by the political leadership. He therefore advised that partisan politicization of institutions should be stopped and meritocracy ensured in appointments.

Commenting on how Africa can mobilize capital to transform the oil and gas industry and stimulate industrialization, Mr. Charles Darku stated that there is huge appetite for services in the continent; building cross border roads, aviation industry, telecommunication and technological growth. “The demand is available; the capital is available; the question is how do we bring in the high capital”? The energy sector has the potential to attract significant investment; unfortunately, it has been poorly managed just as other state Institutions most of whom collapsed and the energy sector is probably described as “the last laughing stock standing”. here is the need to address the inefficiencies in the energy sector and re-position it as the growth pole that could attract capital investment. The role of private sector is critical in mobilizing capital but there is the need for legislative reforms that provide stability and certainty to attract high investment. It was agreed that Africa is growing and improving in the area of technology, but the pace of technological growth is not commensurate with the population growth relative to other parts of the world.

Moreover, the tax regime should be one that encourages investors to invest in the countries. However, in attempt to woe investors to invest in the various countries, some tax regimes are poorly designed to the extent that is detrimental to the interest of the host country. Therefore,
there is the need to strike a balance in attracting the needed investment without compromising the interest of the resource dependent country.

5.1.3 Participants’ contributions and recommendations

A key theme from the comments of the participants regarded excessive politicization in the governance of the extractive sector. Specifically, politicization of strategic national institutions is seen as a bane of resource-dependant countries’ ability to efficiently manage the natural resources in sustainable manner and to stimulate the drive towards industrializing Africa.

Participants raised concern on the possibility of de-politicizing institutions on the continent to allow them some autonomy and independence. The example of the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) – Power Distribution Services (PDS) transaction agreement in Ghana was cited. Within the short period of the PDS (a private revenue collection and management company) management, revenue of the ECG significantly improved. This was achieved using the same Ghanaian workers insulated from political influence. What made the difference is that there was no political interference. In the words of one participant, “we need to develop a culture of meritocracy in the management of public institutions and avoid this political patronage that is killing our institutions.”

Again, harmonization of the continent’s fiscal regimes and legislative reforms were identified by participants as sin qua non for the growth of the oil and gas industry and for promoting industrialization. Tax policies must be designed to meet the dynamics of the oil and gas industry. The current situation shows that the tax regimes are varied in Africa because the risks factors vary; cost of capital is an important factor in determining appropriate tax policies. There is the need to harmonize tax policy regimes across Africa especially pertaining to the oil and gas industry. Thus, private sector must not be passive about policy and needs to be proactive and contribute to advocacy that seeks to influence policy formulation especially those that relate to oil and gas. For instance, WAGP’s fiscal regime is designed on the basis of getting a common tax regime across the participating countries while working to eliminate barriers to trade and investment.

Another issue that was raised involved how Africa can tackle the vulnerability and information gap which foreign investors take advantage of, given foreign investors are the preferred choice for engagements by African leaders. The consensus was that foreign investors are largely interested in profits, it thus behoves on African countries to build strong institutions that are protected and empowered to function to deliver optimal outcomes.
The issue of social license became topical given its critical role in ensuring security and stability of any shared infrastructural system. To secure social licence for shared regional infrastructure, planning and delivery of projects cutting across communities must be participatory and the interest of community members must be clearly accounted for. Again, there is the need to ensure the transmission of the numerous benefits that accrues to communities from shared infrastructure including employment, local content among others to the affected communities.

Again, while social license is necessary in building cordial relationships between the company exploiting the resource and the community, in recent times, there have been concerns that this social license is being abused and is sometimes often described as “bribery” of the community, apparently to keep them silent and support the operations of the company. There are also concerns about abuse of the rights of the host communities which must be addressed by governments and regulatory institutions.
6.0 Panel Session 4

6.1.1 TOPIC: Opportunities and Threats of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) in Creating Linkages Between the Oil and Gas Sector and Other Sectors of The African Economy.

Facilitator: Ibrahima Aidara (OSIWA)

Discussants:
1. Oliver Maponga (UNECA, Zambia),
2. Michael Akurang Opoku (Ministry of Trade, Ghana),
3. Sylvester Bagooro (Third World Network)

4th Panel session discussing AfCFTA and opportunities for the Petroleum industry

Objective of the session:
This panel session explored how Africa can leverage on the opportunities a successful implementation of the AfCFTA presents in optimizing its petroleum resources.
6.1.2 Panelist presentations and discussions

The facilitator of the session, Ibrahima Aidara from OSIWA, took participants through the context of the Africa Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) stating that it is the most important Trade Agreement in Africa now and commands very high political momentum in Africa to fast forward Africa’s economic integration scheduled to be operational in 2019.

While giving background information on the AfCFTA, Michael Akurang Opoku of Ghana’s Ministry of Trade, stated that the African Continental Free Trade Area was created by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement among 54 of the 55 African Union nations. The free-trade area is the largest in the world in terms of the number of participating countries since the formation of the World Trade Organization. The agreement was signed in Kigali, Rwanda but entered operational phase after a summit in July 2019.

The objectives of the AfCFTA among others is to create a single market, deepen the economic integration of the continent and to encourage industrial development through diversification and regional value chain development, agricultural development and food security.

The framework Agreement establishing the AfCFTA has Protocols on the different areas including: Protocol on Goods (Liberalisation of tariffs, Importance of tariffs, and Reality of Economies), Protocol on Services and Protocol on Dispute settlement.

Oliver Maponga of UNECA, Zambia asserted that the timing and pace of negotiations is as a result of an awakening of African countries to the prevailing contextual realities of global trade arrangements. Motivation also came from the desire to link African markets to challenge the global trade arrangements. It also presents threats which must be addressed, as well as opportunities which must be leveraged to foster inclusive development on continent.

On its impact on the oil and gas sector, the AfCTA offers the opportunity to develop petrochemical industries within the sub-region where products such as plastics, rubbers, resins, synthetic fibres, adhesives, dyes, detergents, pesticides, and petroleum-derived paints and coatings can be produced and traded among countries. The development of this petrochemical industry can be financed through export tax on oil or other similar financing mechanisms. Opportunities also exist in the light industrial sector for job creation and learning the industrial discipline required for heavy industrialisation.
Key concerns of how to sustain the momentum, existing production capacity and inadequate consultations have been mentioned. Currently, the continent has isolated trade, investment and industrialisation policies that need to be harmonized.

The role of other key stakeholders including the private sector, civil society organizations, and recognized trade pressure groups is also key to driving the success of AfCFTA. It is therefore critical to ensure the participation of these recognized interest groups at every stage of the agreement to foster smooth implementation and compliance. Ensuring inclusion of all recognizable groups including the PWDs, women, and youth must be taken seriously from the onset. This was espoused by Sylvester Bagooro of the Third World Network.

African countries were advised to identify and map out other superpowers who are not part of the agreement but have vested interest in whatever happens in Africa’s trade dealings. These includes China and the United States of America. There is the need to implement this AfCFTA agreement in such a way that it does not destroy other already established trade relationship but to maintain and harmonize the existing trade relations in it.

6.1.3 Participants’ contributions and Recommendations

Generally, participants were satisfied with the level of discussions on the AfCFTA and the opportunities that come with it. The concerns were however centred on the ability of member states to translate these opportunities into concrete benefits for the people especially the youth and women.

Essentially, African countries have to identify products on the exclusion and inclusion lists where they can build competitive advantage and structure a robust financing mechanism to develop it.

On the ramifications of the AfCFTA for local content policies, countries are advised to negotiate policies that support supply chain development for Small and Medium Scale Enterprise (SMEs) programs rather than strict local content provisions at the regional level. There is also the need to harmonize local content policies across the region. Countries can then give firm level support to their SMEs and micro industries to develop capacities that feed into bigger industries and create opportunities for export. Again, there were suggestions that the light industrial sector has to be shielded from harsh liberalisation policies particularly because of its job creation potential.
To fully take advantage of the opportunities associated with AfCTA especially in relation to Africa’s oil and gas resources, countries need to identify areas to build linkages especially on how to reroute benefits of oil and gas into industrialisation. They must thus consider establishing knowledge and learning linkages in the oil and gas sector and industrialisation; creating production linkages to move from intermediate products beneficiation; and developing consumption linkages that is going to create the demand for goods and services.

Finally, member countries need to undertake policy harmonization which includes investment regimes that will allow for cross border collaboration with shared infrastructure, addressing immigration barriers and taxation regimes. This should be accompanied with extensive awareness creation and education of the public on these new developments. Citizens must be part of the whole process to avoid enforcement challenges and possible resistance in certain cases.
7.0 Panel Session 5

7.1.1 TOPIC: Oil and Gas for Inclusive Development of Persons with Disability (PWDs) in Africa

Facilitator: Ms. Rita Kusi Kyerema (Executive Director, Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations)

Discussants:
1. Mr. Justice Srem-Sai (Law Lecturer, GIMPA; Founding-Partner, Archbridge Solicitors; & Founding Fellow, Institute of Law and Public Affairs (ILPA))
2. Ms. Eva Kouka-Quenum (Programme Officer, West Africa- Ford Foundation)
3. Dr. Peter Obeng-Asamo (Executive Director, Ghana Blind Union, Ghana)
4. Ms. Esther AkuaGyamfi (Executive Secretary, National Council on Persons with Disability, Ghana)

A picture of a panel session discussing inclusion and disability

Objective of the session:
This session discussed how Persons with Disability (PWDs) can fully partake in the development gains from Africa’s oil and gas industry. It explored how stakeholders including governments can reduce barriers to social and economic inclusion along and beyond the oil and gas value chain for especially for PWDs.
7.1.2 Panelists’ presentations and Discussions

The session began with an overview of disability in Ghana and Africa. The facilitator, Rita Kusi of the Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations (GFD) stated that it is undoubted in many societies especially those in Africa that, Persons with Disability (PWDs) are faced with challenges and barriers that negatively affect their wellbeing. Some of these are socio-cultural, while others are economic with policy implications. Particularly, PWDs are less privileged in accessing opportunities for employment in many sectors of the economy including the oil and gas sector. It is important to understand what the barriers to entry are and the opportunities available for persons with disability in terms of employment and access to basic services of life. Increasingly, there is a call for an affirmative action to achieve inclusion of the vulnerable in society especially persons with disabilities. It is imperative to understand the potential benefits and risks of realizing this policy.

The panellists admitted without reservation that there exist barriers in societies that inhibit PWDs from realizing their full potentials and be able to participate as players not just beneficiaries. Discussing the issue on whether there is the necessary space for PWDs to unearth their potentials and make meaningful lives, Esther Akua Gyaami, a Disability Rights lawyer and Executive Secretary of the National Council on Persons With Disability (NCPD) in Ghana posited that that PWDs can have equal opportunities as both actors and beneficiaries in society through enforcement of laws. The barriers are social, cultural, religious, economic, legal and most importantly, attitudinal. All stakeholders need to recognize these barriers to realization of life for PWDs before any significant progress can be made.

Many African countries including Ghana are signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPDs) with its Optional Protocol which was adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and entered into force in 2008. The Convention is intended as a human rights instrument with an explicit, social development dimension and seeks to ensure all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. However, beyond the ratification of the convention, not much has been done to address the barriers and challenges faced by PWDs. The summit therefore provided a unique opportunity for governments and other stakeholders to adopt strategies that will contribute towards elimination of these barriers and also provide opportunities for PWDs especially in the extractive sector.

An example was given of Ghana’s District Assembly’s Common Fund (DACF) allocation of 3% of the fund to support disability interventions in the various Metropolitan, Municipal and Dis-
trict Assemblies (MMDAs). It is considered as a well-intended government policy to promote inclusion and equity. Even though, many PWDs have benefitted from this fund, there are still some challenges with its implementation including: Delay in disbursement of funds, District Assemblies unwilling to release funds to beneficiaries, many potential beneficiaries not aware that such a fund exists, Funds are inadequate, and generally poor administration of the fund. There are specific guidelines currently being reviewed to facilitate efficient utilization of the 3% share of the DACF for disability interventions.

Eva Kouka-Quenum, a Programme Officer, Ford Foundation agreed that attitudes of persons in African societies increase vulnerability of PWDs but called for disability friendly policies and legal reforms to address the barriers to inclusion and PWDS access to opportunities especially in the extractives sector. She indicated that the Ford Foundation is supporting ACEP and other CSOs to contribute towards advocacy and increasing capacity to ensure that PWDs are able to take advantage of opportunities available to get employment, improve livelihood, access to education, health services among other essential needs of life. She added that Ford Foundation and ACEP are setting up special funds to provide sub granting to disability movement in Ghana.

Commenting on opportunities available for PWDs in the informal sector of the economy and the oil and gas sector, Mr. Justice Srem-Sai, a law lecturer shared key findings of research work on disability which raised concerns about inadequate opportunities for direct employment for all persons in the oil and gas sector especially PWDs. In Ghana, the increase of the DACF allocation from 2% to 3% even though commendable is not being properly enforced. There is also low prioritization of interventions on disability. Example, the Minister of Finance has so much discretion to determine how to utilize aspects of the oil revenues on a long list of areas in which disability intervention comes 15th. He advocated for policy reforms that makes provision for enhancing capacity of PWDs in areas that they have comparative advantage in but not to impose specific skills on them. He further advocated for conscious efforts to redesign our infrastructure provision and change of attitude to create the space for PWDS to realize their full potentials.

Dr Peter Obeng – Asamoah, the president of the Ghana Blind Union advocated for education and skills development. He stated that the oil and gas sector is not isolation but a part of the entire system that contributes to deny PWDs equal opportunities to acquire the necessary skills, high education, and infrastructure that motivates PWDS to aspire for higher attainment in life. The cost of education materials for the blind is very high compared to others. Govern-
ment policies must therefore address challenges that deprive PWDs access to education and skills development.

7.1.3 Participants’ Contributions and Recommendations
Participants lamented about the fact that access to employment in the oil and gas sector is limited and capital-intensive with demands for only specific skills which poses limited opportunities for PWDs. Therefore, the assertion that the oil and gas sector will lead direct jobs is misleading. It was obvious from the beginning of oil production that the oil and gas sector was not going to create direct jobs for everyone let alone the vulnerable and marginalized groups such as PWDs.

Not much space exists in the oil and gas sector for PWDs even though the Minister indicated that there are opportunities made available in the Petroleum Revenue Management Law, Act 215 of 2011 (PRMA) for PWDs. The limited opportunity available is at the discretion of the minister to allocate resources for disability work.

Participants called on African governments to recognize that the challenges faced by PWDs are as a result of governance deficiency which can blamed on legislation, policy and regulations. There is therefore the need for reforms and enforcement of the laws to address these challenges. For example, it is not uncommon to find that there is no adequate budgetary provision for disability inclusion and where there is, it is either meagre or not disbursed at all.

While the importance of developing and enforcing inclusive policies and disability responsive laws cannot be overemphasized, these will not yield the needed change until there is attitudinal change by society in ways that eliminate all forms of discrimination against PWDs and abuse of human rights. These, when accompanied with advocacy for legal and policy reforms will contribute to addressing the challenges faced by PWDs and have an inclusive society. Beyond government action, participants highlighted the critical role of CSOs and donors in augmenting governments efforts in making available opportunities for PWDs and advocating for the provision of the appropriate legal environment.

Again, participants called for the approach to addressing the employment challenge to be focused more on skills training and capacity building rather than a welfarism approach.
8.0 Panel Session 6

8.1.1 TOPIC: Oil and Gas for Inclusive Development of Africa’s Women and Youth

Facilitator: Nafi Chinery (Ghana Country Manager, NRGI)

Discussants:
1. Ikal Angelei (Friends of the Turkana, Kenya)
2. Nader Khalifa (Ministry of Energy and Mining, Sudan)
3. Fourera Sotty Maiga (Women in Mining, Senegal)
4. Professor Adriano Nuvunga (Centre for Democracy and Development, Mozambique)

Panelists discussing oil and gas for inclusive development of Africa’s women and youth

Objective of the session:
This session discussed the role of stakeholders in empowering Africa’s women and youth to fully participate in, and share in the development gains from, Africa’s extractives, mining, oil and gas resources. In this session, therefore, the challenges and the success of women and youth in their quest to participate in the industry were discussed, and way forward explored.
8.1.2 Panellists’ discussions and presentations

Introducing the topic for discussion, the facilitator, Nafi Chinery, NRGI’s Country Manager for Ghana made a brief presentation on the context. She gave some statistics to establish the fact that women do not get equitable share of Africa’s extractives sector even though they are involved in the actual work. It is estimated that about 650,000 women in 12 of the world’s poorest countries are engaged in Artisanal Small-scale Mining and between 1-1.5 million children are also involved in the sector. However, the benefits are not equitably shared due to barriers that affect women from achieving equal benefits from the sector. The valuable extractive resources in Africa (oil, gas and mining) are driving immense economic and social development and have the potential to drastically reduce poverty.

This engagement is taking place against the backdrop of recent discoveries in the oil and gas sector, the youth have a role to play as future managers of the resource. Regional integration for economic diversification through the AECFTA also presents opportunities for Africa’s youth in other sectors of the African economy. These raise questions on how Africa’s youth are currently placed in developing the needed capacities to manage oil wealth in the future, and to take advantage of opportunities that the linkages to the rest of the economy present. These opportunities must be assessed in the light of rising unemployment, automation and artificial intelligence and a growing entrepreneurship drive.

Diversity in terms of gender inclusion brings to bear diversity of thoughts and experiences that are fundamental to overcoming challenges that confront the oil and gas industry globally. A 2019 study by Ernst & Young showed that only about 11% of top global oil and gas senior executives are women. The study also cited a report by the Peterson Institute for International Economics which suggests that women leaders can add 6% to the bottom line of companies. There is therefore the need to attract, retain, and promote women leadership and women participation in the oil and gas industry. Again, in order to contribute to the achievement of goal 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, governments are advised to make conscious efforts to prioritize sectors dominated by women, in particular agriculture, in oil revenue expenditure to improve the livelihoods of women to ensure an inclusive economic growth in their respective countries.

Ikal Angelei from Kenya argued that conversations on women and youth participation in the oil and gas sector cannot happen in a vacuum because other factors play along to create the situation and therefore must be tackled in a holistic approach. Referring to an example of the Turkana area in Kenya, where inhabitants are mainly from a pastures background with illiter-
acy rate about 86% and a resulting 95% poverty level, the capacity to participate is low. Issues such as women’s participation in politics, land ownership and decision-making systems must all be addressed to ensure that the capacity of women and youth is built to enhance their meaningful participation in all aspects of governance and not just the oil and gas sectors. Again, Professor Nuvunga from Mozambique is convinced that the narrative is changing and the youth are beginning to take up the responsibility of ensuring participation through unconventional means such as the Arab Spring and the insurgency from the gulf. These are issues that cannot be ignored because they are a product of the failure of systems to create space for youth participation. He advised that policy reforms must address the demands of the youth and women.

Nader Khalifa from Sudan relating the situation of women and youth participation in the oil and gas sector in Sudan revealed that, while there are no specific laws or regulations that promotes gender inclusion in the sector, the levels of education has enhanced women participation in the oil and gas sector.

Responding to issues of local content, Ikal Angelei emphasized that for the youth in rural communities, brokerage has become an area of opportunity to participate in the oil and gas value chain. More and more young people who own land are using that as a leverage to participate through brokerage, albeit informally, in the oil and gas sector. The local assembly, because they are also an interested party are not very keen to formalize the process of brokerage and protect those who participate through in the process.

Non enforcement of laws and lack of patriotism by the political leaders can be blamed for the challenges faced in the extractives sector with respect to participation of women and youth according to Fourera Sotty Maiga, from Senegal. The lack of patriotism is reflected in the nature of contract negotiations with International Oil Companies (IOCs) whose main motive is to make profit. The effect is that the African countries do not get maximum benefit from the extractives resources. Unfortunately, political leadership in many African countries has assumed the notorious tag of corruption and this demotivates some Africans in the Diasporas who have the expertise and capital to contribute towards transforming the extractives into real economic growth. The role of civil society is also very critical in pushing for reforms that will create space for women and youth. For instance, Women In Mining in Senegal has been advocating for creating opportunities for women, youth and PWDs which is causing significant change in policy.
Africa has a significant growing youthful population and this can be harnessed to support the continent’s economic advancement. Actions by governments and leadership to unleash the potential of the youth are suboptimal. Though there is talk of inclusion, very little is being done to incorporate the youth and to use their potential and creativity to reform the industry. According to discussants, the oil and gas sector presents an opportunity to think long-term development impacts for peoples in Africa and how the youth can effectively contribute. Since oil and gas resource is finite, policy makers need to think beyond the period of extraction of these resources. This presents the opportunity to bring the youth to the table to utilize their creativity and potential to drive economic growth and inclusive development in the long term.

8.1.3 Participants’ contributions and recommendations

It was largely agreed that participation of women and youth in the oil and gas sector is important. Women are the most vulnerable to suffer the negative impacts of resource extraction. However, attempts at ensuring women participation can only be described as ‘pseudo participation’ or what some participants referred to as “tokenism”. Gender and youth focused policies are, at best, only meant to tick the boxes. There is very limited real commitment and action to achieve it.

Participation must be looked at holistically; it is critical that participation for women and youth is expanded to include real political participation since the oil and gas sector is not an isolated activity but interlinked with politics. Politics is where the decisions are made, and women and youth must be empowered to sit at that table.

Beyond the political barriers to participation, low participation of youth and women in the extractives sector can be attributed to the absence of requisite skills that will enable them take advantage of opportunities in the oil and gas industries. There is the need therefore for policy reforms that create platform for women and youth to be engaged. These must however be done within the context of what works for them and not the imposition of solutions that are not workable and do not serve their interest. Ghana’s local content law for example, has aspects that deal with gender requirements which presents the opportunity to track how those requirements are being met.

Again, there were calls for concerted efforts especially by CSOs to advocate for policy reforms and legislative promulgation that provide incentives for youth and women acquire the requisite skills and capacity to take advantage of opportunities in the extractives sector. The youth and women were also advised to show interest and be encouraged to participate in political
leadership since that is one of the opportunities to ensure that they are involved in decision making process.

Finally, there was an expression of the need for mentorship programs that seeks to promote positive attitudes and investment in technology because the world is modernizing towards technological advancement and Africa cannot afford to be left behind.
9.0 Conclusion

The two-day summit concluded with commitments made by governments, Civil Society, Private sector, investors and the Media to foster more continental collaboration in charting a common approach that works in favour of sustainable resource extraction and equitable benefit sharing. The Chairperson and the Executive Director of ACEP reiterated their appreciation to participants and sponsors of the summit and hopes that the stakeholders’ commitment enshrined in the communique will be followed through progress reported back to participants in the next summit.

Annex 1: Communique of the Summit

Communique
One key output from the Africa Oil Governance Summit was to produce a communique that contains key demands and recommendations on ensuring efficient and sustainable management of the extractive resources particularly oil and gas and to adopt workable approaches that facilitate optimization of the benefits from the sector through value addition and industrialization. This report is published along with the communique, however, some high lights of the communique are stated below:

Agreed Points
Essentially, it was agreed that oil and gas is the important foundation required for industrialization and sustainable development. New discoveries provide an opportunity to transform economies, alleviate poverty and reduce inequality. The sector must therefore be seen creating multiplier effects in African economies beyond revenue generation.

In the area of exploiting resources for development, a key consensus was that Africa is energy deficient and has poor energy security. In the face of the increased global drive towards cleaner energy and commitments towards achieving SDG 7, African governments are faced with the dilemma of aggressively exploring their oil and gas resources to provide cheaper power to develop their economies through the supply of reliable electricity and for industrialisation while keeping an eye on energy transition and climate change concerns. Despite this challenge, it was agreed that countries should not be forced to choose between renewable or oil and gas-powered energy to be able to industrialize at a good pace. Focus must rather
be placed on creating a fair balance of oil and gas resources and renewables for power generation. Countries must do this in an economically feasible and environmentally sustainable manner that capitalizes on technological advancement.

Optimizing gas resources provides an advantage for meeting climate change targets since it is relatively cleaner than oil and considered a transition fuel to clean energy. Additionally, gas is cheaper than oil and will be significant as a base load in the provision of electricity for powering industrialization.

On development of infrastructure needed to transform resources into sustainable development, participants agreed that it is possible to have intercountry infrastructure for the production, transportation and processing of oil and gas resources. The West African Gas Pipeline is a good example and a source of learning for investing in and developing shared infrastructure. The capital required for investment in the development of shared infrastructure is available with crowdfunding being a good source of financing. It is important to note that while there is a huge appetite for services and infrastructure which can further boost energy demand, investment deployment to Africa remains constrained in the midst of abundant options in the capital markets. In some instances, some bonds in Europe are yielding negative returns but investors are comfortable with those instruments instead of investing in Africa. The critical question that must be asked is: why can’t Africa attract investment even though financing is available?

The Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement offers the opportunity to develop petrochemical industries and boost the trade of petroleum products within the sub-region especially natural gas for power generation, fertilizer production to boost agricultural productivity and processing of Africa’s mineral resources. Establishing linkages between the oil and gas sector and other sectors of the economy will create opportunities for job creation in the light industrial sector.

It was also agreed that there is a lot of room to mainstream Persons with Disability (PWDs) in the oil and gas sector. There are opportunities for PWDs in formal employment areas. As long as there is adequate training there are no limitations. Again, women and youth are still challenged in finding opportunities in the oil and gas sector. Current conversations on creating opportunities tend to be tokenistic. There is the need to harness the potential and creativity of young people to influence the policies and the model of resource extraction.
Challenges Facing Efforts to Transform Oil and Gas Resources into Sustainable Development:

The following were identified as key challenges hindering efforts to transform Africa’s oil and gas resources into sustainable development. These increase the risks for investment in the oil and gas sector of the continent:

1. Governance, which is fundamental to the success of the sector is weak. Governments are seen to be short-sighted and populist in their actions.
2. Political interference in technical areas of energy supply which hinders efficiency in the sector.
3. A lack of policy coherence and suboptimal regional collaboration among countries.
4. Companies that desire to expand business across boarders are faced with cumbersome bidding processes and sometimes unreasonable requirements.
5. Although African businesses understand the contextual realities and risks, weak partnership culture among businesses limits their ability to pool resources to undertake big ticket projects in the oil and gas sector.
6. The regulatory environment tends to be bureaucratic in most countries. Regulators are also seen to act in the interest of specific interest groups or individuals instead of the national interest.
7. The capacity of Civil Society Organizations to monitor and engage is often limited.
8. Extractive sector laws and policies are not inclusive enough and therefore relegates the interest of women and PWDs to the background or yet, given pseudo attention.
9. Gender Responsive Budgeting even though recognized as a tool to achieving inclusion and empowerment of women, enforcement is weak.

How can we ensure that exploiting new discoveries translates into sustainable development?

Role of citizens

It was agreed that Africans must graduate from being “spectators” to become “active citizens” that are concerned about the governance and management of energy resources. In this regard;

1. Citizens must hold their leaders to account by actively participating in the election of leaders based on integrity, qualification and capacity and not on popularity, tribe, religion or wealth. This requires a change of mindset.
2. Citizens must be interested in policy development in the oil and gas sector to ensure shared benefits and opportunities in the sector.
3. Each person should be an ambassador for women, youth and PWDs to reduce stereotypes and provide opportunities for an inclusive industry.

**Role of Government**

National governments and regional organizations play a significant role in optimizing oil and gas resources. However, there is significant room for improvement for African governments to ensure resource extraction leads to sustainable and inclusive development. To achieve this, governments must deliver on the following actions based on the themes of the Summit:

**A. Value addition to petroleum resource extraction through industrialization.**

1. Focus on improving governance of the energy sector by being transparent in policy development as well as encouraging active public discourse to attract capital for industrialization.
2. Depoliticize institutions to build an environment based on meritocracy. This will de-risk the environment and facilitate business success.
3. Governments must shift focus from competing with private sector for business to creating the environment businesses require to thrive.
4. Focus on creating investor friendly legislation and the right regulatory environment that is insulated from regulatory capture.

**B. Powering Africa’s economy through oil and gas resources; questions of independence, innovation, security, and investments.**

1. Carry out extensive stakeholder engagement to secure buy in from communities (social license) for the security of gas-to-power infrastructure.
2. Promote investment and development of shared gas infrastructure across the region whiles dealing with economic challenges associated with cross border projects.
3. Build negotiation capacity devoid of politicization to ensure that agreements signed promote competitive tariffs needed for industrialization.
4. Develop a robust payment mechanism across the value chain to ensure that revenues are not locked at the distribution end of the value chain.
5. Pay attention to developments in the renewable energy space to complement oil and gas generated power and provide accelerated access for the estimated 70% energy poor in Sub-Saharan Africa and prioritize achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
C. Opportunities and threats of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);

1. Harmonize local content policies across the region and develop firm country level support to their SMEs and micro industries to develop capacities that feed into bigger industries and create opportunities for export.

2. Collaborate regionally to ensure that policies developed do not only protect national interest but are also coherent and facilitate regional integration. This will require governments to cede some amount of power to the regional bodies to facilitate regional agreements and policies.

3. Deepen the inclusion and consultation of the private sector and civil society players in the AfCFTA process to ease implementation.

4. The African Union should develop a framework for developing regional infrastructure and investment attraction.

D. Inclusive development of the youth, PWDs and women;

1. Deliberately mainstream disability issues in the formation and implementation of regional and national policies.

2. Ensure standards for accessibility is available for all to adhere to especially in relation to inclusive design for infrastructure.

3. Make specific provisions for youth, women and PWDs to benefit from oil revenues through national budgets.

4. Provide support for education and training for youth, women and PWDs to qualify and take up opportunities in the oil and gas sector.

5. Include Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) as key requirement in budget preparation and a tool for addressing gender gaps

Role of Regulators

Regulators play an important role in ensuring that a conducive environment exists for investment while ensuring that industry players operate within the framework of regulations. Regulators must ensure that:

1. Enforcement of regulations in the oil and gas industry is fair, transparent and standardized.

2. Enforcement of regulations is done effectively to ensure that companies account for the environmental and health impacts of their activities.

3. Companies are evaluated on social investment and inclusion of women, youth and PWDs.
Role of Civil Society Organizations

Civil Society Organizations have a significant oversight role on ensuring transparency and accountability of government, industry and regulators. To successfully carry this out Civil Society Organizations must:

1. Engage and encourage governments to improve transparency and accountability in the sector.
2. Create spaces to engage and monitor policy development and implementation to ensure that oil and gas catalyses Africa’s industrialization.
3. Engage in research, education and sensitization of citizens on taking advantage of opportunities in the oil and gas sector, especially new opportunities that the AfCFTA presents.
4. Analyse and engage governments (and key stakeholders) on the practical opportunities and threats of optimizing oil and gas resources for Africa’s industrialization through the AfCFTA vis-à-vis national development plans.
5. Monitor efficiency of the power sector value chain in African countries and propose policy options that impact on end-user tariffs
6. Monitor business approaches to de-carbonization strategies and sustainable energy initiatives.
7. Set up functional networks that builds and amplifies the voices of women, youth and PWDs in decision-making processes.
8. Strongly advocate for the removal of cultural and systemic stereotypes that marginalize persons with disabilities.
9. Equip the youth, particularly in the areas where extraction takes place, with the right attitudes and skills to effectively participate in the governance process.

Role of Business

The private sector has a key role to play in the transformation of resources to development. For the private sector to participate effectively, players must:

1. Invest in training and boosting local capacity.
2. Participate in policy development to create a conducive environment for investment in the oil and gas sector.
3. Ensure that corporate social investments are aligned with national development.
4. Proactively identify opportunities and seek buy-in from government for infrastructure development.
5. Develop and implement inclusive policies and create opportunities for women, youth and PWDs.
Conclusion

Indeed, new discoveries across Africa present a great opportunity to transform the economy of the continent and guarantee sustainable development through industrialization. However, this dream will only be a reality if the fundamentals required are in place and working efficiently. All stakeholders must work together to ensure that the narrative of weak governance is changed. Governments must be transparent and held accountable for their actions. Civil Society Organizations must diligently play the role of a watchdog and develop the capacity to monitor the activities of government and the private sector. Additionally, there must be strong advocacy to ensure that governments avoid populism, develop the needed regulations and policies and implement them fairly, efficiently and effectively. Regional collaboration in policy development is a key element required to ensure that no country is left behind in the development agenda. In the process, countries must ensure that all barriers to having an inclusive society where women, PWDs and the youth can take full advantage of the gains from new discoveries are removed.