

NIGERIA : Electricity Demand and Energy Transition Plan

Moving towards a just energy transition in Nigeria

Nigeria's Energy infrastructure varies considerably between cities and rural areas, and between public and private provision. Overall, the country lacks the robust sustainable facilities, equipment, and capabilities it needs to tackle the considerable energy challenges it faces.

A myriad of issues are accelerants of energy transition which has gained traction lately. They include: energy poverty, energy security, energy sovereignty and geopolitical interest of different states, climate change and lately the COVID 19 pandemic and its disruptions.

A just transition in energy transition discourse for Nigeria means dealing with the economic and social fallout of movement from the fossil fuel-based energy system to a low carbon system, with impacts including stranded assets, loss of jobs and livelihoods.

Although renewables can play a very important part in Nigeria and Africa it cannot in the short term cover all needs, similar to the transition in developed economies, and is important to adapt to the local context.

The country has recorded some milestones in terms of appropriate policies and programmes. This includes the development of its energy transition plan (ETP); introduction of its first building energy efficiency code, which sets minimum 20 standards for energy efficiency for new buildings; and Nigeria's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Action Agenda, which has a target of almost tripling generation capacity in the next decade, to reach a total of 30GW by 2030.

Of this 30GW, 30% will be generated from renewable energy resources. In energy access, there is the ambitious energy compact which includes the government's flagship project to provide 5 million households and 25 million people with decentralized solar energy solutions, amongst others.

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