

From Compact Commitments to Regional Power Markets: Regulatory Readiness for Mission 300 in East Africa

1. Background and Context

The African Development Bank, through the Electricity Regulatory Index for Africa (ERI), and the Africa Energy Portal (AEP) has continued to generate and disseminate evidence-based knowledge to support policy dialogue, regulatory reform, and investment readiness across Africa's electricity sector. As African countries move from policy commitments toward implementation under Mission 300, the need for credible policy and regulatory frameworks, financially sustainable utilities, and integrated regional electricity markets is becoming increasingly urgent. Under the framework of the ERI, a regional analysis of East Africa Power Pool (EAPP) member states highlights the growing importance of regulatory convergence as the region prepares for deeper cross-border electricity trade, including the development of harmonized tariffs, grid codes, market rules, wheeling charge frameworks, and dispute-resolution mechanisms. The brief notes that the EAPP is preparing the rules that will govern its emerging regional electricity market, while also emphasizing that regulatory fragmentation, transmission infrastructure deficits, and financing constraints remain major barriers to a fully functioning regional power market.

At the same time, the Mission 300 National Energy Compacts provide a new country-led framework for accelerating electricity access, clean cooking, private investment, utility reform, and regional integration. The Eastern Africa compact [policy brief](#) developed under the AEP umbrella reviews the commitments of Tanzania, Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, and Kenya, showing that all five countries are pursuing universal or near-universal access by 2030, while also setting targets for renewable energy expansion, clean cooking, private-sector participation, regional power trade, and utility financial sustainability. The brief further identifies over USD 45 billion investment needs across the five countries and highlights regulatory credibility, utility reform, and transparent financial management as core conditions for translating compact commitments into bankable projects and measurable results.

This webinar will seek to bring these two knowledge products together in a single policy dialogue to explore how evidence from the ERI can inform the implementation of Mission 300 National Energy Compacts, particularly in relation to regulatory reform, regional power integration, private investment, and utility performance. The discussion will also provide a platform for country and regional stakeholders, including national electricity regulators, Compact Delivery and Monitoring Unit (CDMU) representatives, regional electricity regulators, private sector and development partners to reflect on practical implementation challenges and opportunities.

2. Objectives

The overall objective of the webinar is to facilitate a policy dialogue on how regulatory reforms, regional power market development, and utility performance improvements can support the implementation of Mission 300 National Energy Compacts in East Africa.

Specifically, the webinar aims to:

1. Present key findings from the regional ERI brief on East Africa Regulatory Convergence (Africa Energy, 2026), focusing on regulatory convergence, cross-border trade, harmonized grid codes, market rules, and institutional arrangements for regional electricity markets.
2. Present key findings from the Mission 300 policy brief on Eastern African National Energy Compacts, focusing on access targets, renewable generation, clean cooking, private investment, regional integration, and utility reform.
3. Examine how ERI findings can support compact implementation by identifying regulatory gaps, reform priorities, and areas where technical assistance may be required.
4. Provide a platform for CDMU representatives and electricity regulators to share country perspectives on implementation challenges, reform sequencing, and investment readiness.

3. Format

The webinar will be a 2-hour virtual policy dialogue hosted through the Africa Energy Portal series on **14th July 2026, from 11:00-13:00 GMT**. The session will combine technical presentations, moderate policy dialogue, and interactive stakeholder engagement.

4. Target Audience

- Electricity regulators
- Ministries of Energy
- Compact Delivery and Monitoring Units
- Regional power pools and regional regulatory associations
- Utilities and transmission system operators
- Development partners
- Private-sector developers and investors
- Energy researchers and policy analysts
- AfDB regional and country teams

5. Key Discussion Points

- Regulatory convergence and regional power trade: The ERI brief on East Africa Regulatory Convergence (Africa Energy, 2026) shows that East Africa is entering a new phase of regional electricity integration, with interconnectors, cross-border trade, and the planned day-ahead market creating new opportunities for more efficient power exchange and improved regional energy security. However, realizing these benefits will require harmonized grid codes, clear market rules, transparent wheeling charges, and stronger regional dispute-resolution arrangements.

- Mission 300 investment implementation: From the policy brief, five East African compact countries share a common ambition to expand access, scale renewable energy, increase private investment, and improve utility performance. However, the brief also underlines that implementation will depend on credible regulatory frameworks, bankable project pipelines, transparent procurement, and stronger delivery coordination.
- Utility reform as a foundation for investment: Both knowledge products point to utility performance as a critical enabler of sector transformation. Weak utility balance sheets, high technical and commercial losses, delayed audits, and below-cost-recovery tariffs can undermine private investment, regional trade, and compact delivery. The webinar would therefore treat utility reform not as a parallel issue, but as a foundation for Mission 300 implementation.
- Linking ERI evidence to compact monitoring: The webinar can position the ERI as a practical diagnostic tool for compact implementation. ERI findings can help identify where countries need targeted technical assistance, where reforms are progressing, and where gaps in governance, regulatory substance, or regulatory outcomes may slow implementation.

6. Proposed Agenda

Time	Session	Lead / Speakers
11:00-11:10	-Welcome and Introductions -Opening remarks	MC: Rhoda Mshana , Chief Energy Regulation Specialist, AfDB Wale Shonibare , Director for Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation Department, AfDB
11:10-11:30	Presentation 1: Key findings from the ERI regional brief on East Africa regulatory convergence	Africa Energy
11:30-11:50	Presentation 2: Key findings from the Mission 300 East Africa compact policy brief	Aninver Development Partners
11:50-12:30	Panel discussion: Country perspectives on compact implementation, regulatory readiness and regional power trade	Moderator: Wale Shonibare Panelists: • Mr. Yalewayker M. Bezie, Director, Energy Resource Development and Conceptual Design, Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP), Ethiopia

		• Ms. Aurea Bigirwamungu, Director of Electricity, Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority, Tanzania • Eng. Ziria Tibalwa Waako, Ag. Director General, EAPP Independent Regulatory Board
12:30-12:50	Moderated Q&A	MC/Moderator
12:50-13:00	Closing reflections and next steps	Callixte Kambanda , Manager, Energy Policy, Regulation and Statistics Division, AfDB