

OTL QUARTERLY INSIGHT SERIES

Interrogating “Just and Inclusive” Energy Transition for Africa

The January edition of the OTL Africa Quarterly Insight Series focused on the theme: "**Interrogating ‘Just and Inclusive’ Energy Transition for Africa**," The event featured a panel of four eminent industry experts, including **Mrs. Adedoyin Pearse**, an investment professional at Siemens Energy Ventures; **Mr. Chibuzor Ifeanyi**, the Country Manager for Vitol Nigeria; **Mr. Ian Brown**, the Managing Director of Afri-Inspect Nigeria and **Ms. Ogutu Okudo**, the CEO of Guru Energy in Kenya.

The panelists shared their experiences and insights on the energy transition in Africa, with a focus on a range of pertinent issues. The event was moderated by Mrs. Joyce Akabogu, the Chief Executive Officer of the OTL Africa Downstream Energy Week.

Some of the key highlights from the event are listed below:

1. **Leverage Africa’s fossil fuel resources responsibly:** Use existing natural gas and fossil fuel reserves as transitional resources while shifting toward renewable energy.
2. **Invest in clean energy infrastructure:** Target an estimated \$200 billion in annual investment to achieve universal energy access, focusing on solar and renewable energy sources.
3. **Encourage local processing of rare earth minerals:** Develop local processing capacity for rare earth minerals to retain value within the continent and reduce the carbon footprint.
4. **Support regional cooperation:** Foster collaboration between governments, private sectors, and communities to de-risk investments and attract affordable financing for energy projects.
5. **Promote a just and inclusive energy transition:** Ensure that no one is left behind in Africa’s energy shift, with equitable energy access for all.
6. **Develop inclusive energy policies:** Prioritize people and local contexts in policy creation, focusing on gender, skills development, and reducing inefficient energy practices.
7. **Improve financing mechanisms:** Push for more African-controlled institutions to manage funding, ensuring a more balanced allocation of resources for clean energy projects. African governments to leverage the African Energy Bank and other pan-African financial institutions to finance energy transition projects.
8. **Encourage Pan-African energy funding:** Support regional and continental financial institutions to fund energy transition projects, ensuring local benefits and sustainable development.
9. **Invest in STEM education:** Address skill gaps and encourage the development of energy technologies locally, rather than relying on external innovations.
10. **Implement existing policies:** Focus on the effective implementation of current energy policies instead of creating new ones, ensuring alignment and progress.
11. **Strengthen local energy industries:** Promote the development of local energy businesses and industries through projects like the Longonjo mining and processing example.
12. **Develop sustainable aviation fuels and hydrogen production:** Explore and invest in emerging technologies like sustainable aviation fuels and hydrogen to diversify Africa’s clean energy landscape.

The next edition of the OTL Quarterly Insight Series (QIS) will be announced soon.