

# Recommendations from the Senior Business and Policy Roundtable: Catalyzing Energy Investments in Africa

*Second Stakeholder Forum of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership: “Business and Science: Leading the way to sustainable energy”. Hosted by Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy, 16-17 May, 2016*

Panelists and Chair of the Senior Business and Policy Roundtable recommend the following actions to stakeholders and leaders of Africa-EU energy cooperation.

1. Create alternative financing mechanisms that facilitate access to finance for small-and-medium enterprises.
2. Put greater emphasis on facilitating European and African private sector co-development partnerships on energy projects, including with non-traditional actors such as pension funds.
3. Explore facilities to support in making utilities bankable off-takers to unlock and speed up the financing of energy projects in Africa.
4. Help originate pipelines of investible projects.
5. Focus on the crucial role of public funds in de-risking projects to crowd in and leverage private long term capital.
6. Project developers’ risk capital supporting the preparation of early stage projects should be seen as a formal stage of the project by development partners, lenders and governments alike.
7. Project preparation facilities supported by development partners should be accessible to private developers and should consult long term investors to ensure that the supported projects meet their new and ever-changing institutional investability criteria.
8. Look beyond investors alone, also into companies who are key actors in making it easier for companies to retain their equity.
9. Use public finance to reduce private risk – for example create an EU trust fund that is able to underwrite PPAs of companies and develop guarantee and first loss investment instruments and products with African projects.
10. Create a mechanism for the exchange of best practices on *permitting*. And a league table of countries and how long it takes from project inception to project award and implementation.
11. Champion a dialogue on investigating solutions to the wider-spread application of unsolicited bids, based on global best practice and keeping in line with high transparency standards.
12. Engage the private sector from the policy formulation stage.
13. The NEPAD Continental Business Network should be a leading African private sector interlocutor for the AEEP Business and Policy Dialogue series.
14. Give priority to engaging women and building their capacity in the energy market, supporting their participation and business involvement.

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