

Private sector roundtable discussion: **Accra, Ghana**

**‘Equipping the African private sector for leadership
in the region’s energy transition’**

September 3, 2025 | 14:30 – 15:45 GMT | 20:00 – 21:15 IST

At Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana



Context

Africa holds enormous potential for solar energy, with some of the world's highest levels of solar irradiation, a growing population, and rising electricity demand. Yet despite this potential, the continent still represents a small share of global solar capacity.

As of 2024, Africa had installed an estimated 19-20 GW of solar PV, with significant disparities across regions. South Africa leads the market with nearly 9 GW, followed by Egypt, Morocco, Kenya, and Nigeria. While utility-scale projects are growing, particularly in North Africa and Southern Africa, much of the continent's solar momentum lies in off-grid and mini-grid solutions aimed at addressing energy access gaps in rural areas.

Solar is increasingly seen as a critical solution to meet Africa's dual challenges: ensuring universal access to electricity and enabling sustainable, climate-resilient growth. The decentralised nature of solar makes it particularly well-suited to remote areas and communities underserved by national grids. Innovative business models such as pay-as-you-go, solar home systems, and productive use of energy are gaining traction across East and West Africa. In parallel, large-scale developments are being supported by regional auctions and international financing mechanisms, particularly in countries with clear policy frameworks.

However, the continent still faces structural challenges: limited grid infrastructure, high perceived investment risks, policy and regulatory uncertainty, and the high upfront cost of solar and storage technologies. To fully unlock Africa's solar potential, there is a need for strengthened institutional capacity, innovative financing instruments, and stronger regional cooperation alongside the scaling-up of local skills and manufacturing.

In collaboration with:

The Meeting

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) launched the CEO Caucus as a high-level forum designed to bring together C-level industry representatives to exchange ideas, network, and contribute to the global advancement of solar energy. This initiative builds on the success of the 2024 CEO Caucus Roundtables, which focused on developing a diversified and resilient global supply chain, enabling access to technology, mobilizing capital, and creating an enabling policy environment.

Themes of deliberations

Deliberations will be focusing on issues related to:

1. Grid integration and infrastructure bottlenecks in the Region:

In many countries, outdated grid infrastructure is a bottleneck. Weak transmission infrastructure, curtailment issues, and lack of regional interconnection hinder the full utilization of solar resources.

- *Will regional power pools and cross-border electricity trading accelerate solar growth in Africa or are they unrealistic distractions from urgent national grid upgrades?*

2. Regulatory stability and investment climate in the Region:

Despite abundant resources, perceived risks and weak financial ecosystems still limit large-scale investment. Clear, long-term policy signals are critical to sustain momentum.

- *Are blended finance instruments and other innovative financing models truly the game-changer for scaling solar in Africa, or just a temporary fix that delays deeper financial reforms?*

3. Resilience, energy access and inclusive growth in the Region:

Solar PV is increasingly recognized as a driver of both energy security and socio-economic development. In many rural and underserved areas, solar offers an opportunity to leapfrog traditional grid infrastructure, enabling faster, modular electrification through decentralized solutions. This requires strategies that promote local job creation, gender inclusion, and long-term climate resilience. Agri-PV offers a way to address land degradation (desertification), support smallholder farmers, and deliver energy where it's most needed without competing with food production.

- *Should Africa bet on decentralized solar to leapfrog both grids and mobility, or prioritize large, climate-resilient projects?*
- *Should Agri-PV be pursued aggressively as a dual solution for energy and agricultural resilience, or should resources focus on scaling mainstream solar PV to maximize overall energy generation?*

4. Local manufacturing in the Region:

To focus on Africa's specific market needs, instead of large-scale PV module production, opportunities may lie in assembling or producing smaller-scale solar kits, components for off-grid systems, or equipment adapted to local energy use patterns.

- *Should local production focus on smaller, off-grid solar kits adapted to local needs, or aim to produce utility-scale PV modules to compete globally?*

5. Transforming the energy landscape through AI and digitalization

- *Is AI the fastest path to a resilient and efficient African energy system, or a risky distraction from basic infrastructure needs?*

In collaboration with:

Structure and Planned activities of the Ghana CEO Caucus

- Roundtable Discussions: A series of roundtables will be organized to deliberate on the key themes. These discussions will involve industry leaders, policymakers, and experts from the solar sector and others.
- Networking Events: Networking opportunities will be provided to foster collaboration and partnerships among participants.
- Policy Briefs and White Papers: The outcomes of the discussions will be documented in policy briefs and white papers, outlining actionable recommendations for stakeholders.

The outcome of the session

The ISA CEO Caucus represents a significant step towards advancing solar energy globally. By bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, and experts, the Caucus aims to drive innovation, foster collaboration, and influence policymaking to create a sustainable and resilient solar energy sector.

Agenda

Time (in GMT)	Agenda Item
Lunch at 13:30 to 14:30, at Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra	
14:30 to 14:40	Opening remarks and context setting presentation - ISA
14:40 to 14:45	Inaugural address by Mr. Ashish Khanna, Director General, ISA
14:45 to 15:45	Thematic deliberations with roundtable discussants

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