

**Speech by**  
**Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina**  
**President and Chairman of the Boards of Directors**  
**The African Development Bank Group**  
**Opening Speech**  
**Africa Energy Summit**  
**28 January 2025 | Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania**

Your Excellency, Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania,

Your Excellency Mohamed Oud Ghazouani, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Chairman of the African Union,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

The Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations,

President of the World Bank Group,

President of the Rockefeller Foundation,

Heads of multilateral development finance institutions,

Honorable Ministers,

Private sector leaders,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the Africa Energy Summit!

I wish to thank Y.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan for graciously and generously hosting us for the Summit. You are such a remarkable leader! It is always a joy to be in Tanzania!

I wish to express our appreciation to the Chairman of the African Union, President Ghazouani, the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for co-hosting the Summit.

I am extremely grateful to you, Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government, for honoring our invitation and for being here in such large and unprecedented numbers. It shows the high priority and the political commitment you place on expanding the access of your populations to electricity.

Access to electricity is critical to Africa's economic growth. The lack of adequate electricity reduces the GDP of Africa by 2–4% annually.

Your Excellencies,

Since the African Development Bank Group launched the New Deal for Energy for Africa in 2016, at the start of my first term as its president, significant progress has been made in expanding access to electricity. The share of the population with access to electricity in Africa significantly increased from 39% in 2015 to 52% in 2024. The African Development Bank Group has supported over 25 million people to have access to electricity.

However, despite the progress being made, Africa still has 571 million people without electricity, accounting for 83% of the global population without electricity.

And over 1 billion people do not have access to clean cooking solutions, which negatively impacts on women's health, children's health and lives.

We must now take decisive actions to further drive these numbers down.

That is why Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank Group and I joined forces to launch the Mission 300 with the goal of expanding access of 300 million people in Africa to electricity by 2030.

Mission 300 has grown into a global movement, as we were joined by the African Union Commission and several global partners, including the Rockefeller Foundation, Sustainable Energy for All of the United Nations and the Global Energy Alliance for People and the Planet.

We are not alone. We have also been joined by the Islamic Development Bank, the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, the French Development Agency and several bilateral development agencies.

We will only succeed if we work closely with and open more space for the private sector. That is why we are delighted that several leading CEOs have joined us today.

Critical reforms will be needed to expand the share of renewables, improve functioning and performance of utilities, transparency in licensing, power purchase agreements, and predictable tariff regimes that reflect the cost of production.

Private sector will also be critical to expand mini-grids and off-grid systems to reach millions of people without access to grid-based power in rural areas.

Our collective effort is to support you, heads of state and government, to develop and implement clear action plans embedded in country-led national energy compacts, to deliver on your visions for electricity in your respective countries.

The African Development Bank and the World Bank have developed a very clear path to achieving the 300 million access goal. Together, the African Development Bank and the World Bank will commit \$40 billion towards the Mission 300, with \$18.2 billion from the African Development Bank Group and \$22 billion from the World Bank Group.

It is an unprecedented alliance.

Thank you very much Ajay for your partnership!

And thank you very much Raj Shah, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, for providing critical technical assistance support of \$20 million that made the preparation of the Country Energy Compacts possible!

Your Excellencies, support for Mission 300 keeps pouring in.

Yesterday, on the first day of the Summit, several development partners made huge announcements in support of Mission 300: the President of the Islamic Development Bank announced \$2.5 billion in support. The President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank announced \$1.5 billion in support. The President of the OPEC Fund announced \$2 billion in support. The French Government will be making a major announcement today.

We are confident that other development partners present here, will also join and announce their respective commitments, as well.

Your excellencies, we now need your personal leadership to get this done.

Together, let us decisively use Mission 300 to deliver 300 million people with access to electricity across all your countries by 2030.

The African Development Bank's \$20 billion Desert to Power program, will complement the Mission 300, and develop 10,000 megawatts of solar power across 11 Sahelian countries, and provide access to electricity to an additional 250 million people. The Mission 300 and the Desert to Power will collectively provide 550 million Africans with electricity.

That will deliver **universal access** to electricity for Africa.

What a difference that will make for your respective countries!

And what a difference it will make for Africa!

You will be remembered as the Presidents who gave your countries 100% access to electricity!

You will be remembered as the Presidents who said, "let there be light" and "there was light"!

Thank you very much.

*Asante Sana!*