



Concept Note and Programme

Expert Group Meeting & Ministerial Conference

West Africa Economic Integration and Investment Summit 2026

**Powering Regional Integration through Energy Trade, Strategic Minerals,
Agribusiness and Digital Transformation**

Freetown, 29th – 30th April 2026 EGM and a Pre-EGM Social Dimension Event on 28th April 2026
Convened by H.E. Brigadier (Rtd.) Julius Maada Bio President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government

1. Background

Fifty years since its founding in May 1975, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) stands at a pivotal juncture as it celebrates 50 years of existence reflecting on achievements and gains of the organization of member states. While the Community has played an indispensable role in post-conflict reconstruction, democratic transitions, and regional security, these priorities have overshadowed its original mandate of economic and trade integration. Marking its golden jubilee, H.E. Brigadier (Rtd.) Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, in his capacity as Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, has called for a return to the foundational mission of ECOWAS by convening a **"West Africa Economic Integration and Investment Summit" (WAIS 2026)** in Q4 2026, on the theme: *"Powering Regional Integration through Energy Trade, Strategic Minerals, Agribusiness, and Digital Transformation."* The aim of this initiative is to redefine the development pathway of West Africa countries by strengthening economic cooperation and integration for a shared prosperity of the region.

The Summit will be a high-level, deal-focused platform bringing together Heads of State, senior ministers, private sector leaders, development finance institutions, civil society, academic and research institutions and strategic partners to agree on a coordinated economic pathway across the four strategic pillars, as identified key drivers to improve energy access, accelerate beneficiation of mineral reserve, enhance competitiveness, support industrialization, accelerates food system transformation, develop cross-border market and economic corridors, and expands digital connectivity to catalyse investment commitments.

- **Pillar I – Energy Trade and Industrial Growth**
- **Pillar II – Strategic Minerals and Natural Resource Development**
- **Pillar III – Agribusiness and Food Systems Transformation**
- **Pillar IV – Digital Transformation and Connectivity**

A cross-cutting dimension on Women, Children, and Youth will be integrated across all pillars, with dedicated programming developed in partnership with the Organisation of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD). To this end, a pre-EGM social dimension event will take place on **28th April 2026** at the Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel, Freetown, convened under the leadership of **H.E. Mme. Fatima Maada Bio**, First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone and President of OAFLAD. The High-Level Policy Dialogue on **Clean Cooking, Gender Equality, and Child Protection** will also bring together Mme. Rachel Ruto, the First Lady of Kenya, and H.E. Mme. Samira Bawumia Fmr. Second Lady of Ghana, the Former Second Lady of Ghana, alongside senior government representatives and regional partners, to address the intersection of clean cooking access, women's economic empowerment, and child protection across the Summit's four pillars.

As a precursor to the Heads of State Investment Summit (WAIS-2026), an **"Expert Group Meeting (EGM) and Ministerial Conference"**. This technical preparatory meeting will be held on **29th–30th April 2026 at the Bintumani International Conference Centre in Freetown**. The EGM cum Ministerial Conference will bring together senior technical experts and ministers from across West Africa to refine the analytical foundations across each pillar, identify and validate priority national and regional investment pipelines, agree on critical policy enablers, and prepare and present the **Freetown Communiqué** and other outcomes documents for adoption at the WAIS-2026 Summit. Under the leadership of H.E President Maada Bio and his designated Special Envoy (Hon. Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella), the outcome of the EGM will define the scope of WAIS-2026 with the aim to reposition West Africa as a regional hub in the global energy transition, and equitable supply chain across sectors powered by clean energy and digital technologies.

2. Envisaged Outcomes of the EGM and the Ministerial Conference

The EGM cum Ministerial Conference will deliver four outputs for the WAIS-2026 Summit:

- i. **Align Barriers and Opportunities across the four Pillars** - Experts will review and consolidate the technical Baseline Reports prepared by the Technical Working Groups (TWGs), identify investment bottlenecks, and outline national and regional investment opportunities that define would define WAIS-2026 deal room agenda.
- ii. **Prioritize Investment Pipeline Opportunities** - A core output will review a shortlist of priority investments opportunities and validate a shortlist of priority investment categorized by sector, stage of readiness, and regional significance. The EGM will therefore chart the pathway for advancing prioritized investment pipelines across sectors from concept to bankable investor friendly projects, including identifying project preparatory technical assistant required.
- iii. **Agree on Critical Policy Enablers** - Working backwards from the priority investments identified, the EGM will agree the policy and regulatory changes, capital and de-risking instruments, and cross-border enablers required to unlock investment at scale across the four pillars. These will form the substantive basis of the commitments that will be contained in the Freetown Communiqué.

- iv. **Validate the Freetown Communiqué.** Finalise this outcome document which will divorce from broad policy aspiration but contain specific measurable commitments with monitoring mechanisms for adoption at the WAIS-2026 Summit.

3. Programme Structure and Design Philosophy

The two-day EGM event is structured to maximise working time while preserving the political weight of senior participation, and adheres to the follow principles:

- i. **Substance over Ceremony** - Opening and closing plenaries sessions are streamlined ensuring that the majority of time is allocated to breakout technical sessions where pipeline validation and policy negotiation occur.
- ii. **Political Gravitas** - Senior figures anchor specific high-impact moments, such as the Presidential keynote, the Ministerial Roundtable, and the Communiqué adoption, rather than being dispersed across generic speaking slots.
- iii. **Output-Driven Sessions** - Each parallel session will produce a written segment of the Communiqué and a validated shortlist of pipeline by close of Day 2.

4. Participants

The EGM is designed as a working meeting of 200 to 300 participants with substantive expertise across the four thematic pillars drawn from:

- **Governments Officials and Experts** - Ministers and Experts from the Ministries of Energy, Mines, Agriculture, and Digital Economy / ICT from West Africa countries.
- **Government**- Ministers and senior technical officials from the Ministries of Energy, Mines and Mineral Resources, Agriculture, and Digital Economy/ICT from ECOWAS member states.
- **Regional and International Institutions** - Invited institutions including the ECOWAS Commission, African Development Bank, Africa Finance Corporation, IRENA, UNIDO, SeforALL, IDRC, OPEC Fund, CIFF and other development partners active in the region.
- **Development Finance Institutions** - Representatives from bilateral and multilateral DFIs and investment platforms with active portfolios in West Africa.
- **Private Sector** - Senior executives and investment decision-makers from regional and international companies active across the four pillars.
- **Research and Academic Institutions:** Regional research institutions and academia providing analytical support for the TWG Baseline Reports and drafting of the Freetown Communiqué.

5. Governance Arrangements

Convener	H.E. Brigadier (Rtd.) Julius Maada Bio President of the Republic of Sierra Leone; Chairman of the Authority of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government
CEO & Special Envoy	Hon. Dr. Kandeh Kolloh Yumkella Special Envoy of H.E. President Bio for the West Africa Integration and Investment Summit 2026; Chairman of the Presidential Initiative on Climate Change Renewable Energy, and Food Security (PI-CREF)
Summit COO	Joseph Nganga Chief Operating Officer for the West Africa Integration and Investment Summit 2026; Chief Executive Office of the Africa Climate and Energy Nexus (AfCEN)
Summit Contacts	<p>PI-CREF and AfCEN Co-Executive Secretariat.</p> <p><i>For inquiries, please contact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abraham Grass-Sessay – Director of Renewable Energy +232 80 033 124; abraham.grass-sessay@statehouse.gov.sl; oabrahamsessay@yahoo.com ▪ Fuad Yusuf Bangura – Director of Climate Change +232 76 609 151; fuad.bangura@statehouse.gov.sl; fuad.bangura@gmail.com ▪ Anthony Kamara – Director of Partnerships, Comms, and Outreach akkamara@statehouse.gov.sl; kamaraanthony@msn.com ▪ Olivia Robinson – Chief of Staff - AfCEN +44 77 1196 9604; olivia.robinson@africacen.org

6. Venue and Logistics

The EGM and Ministerial Conference will be held at the **Bintumani International Conference Centre** in Freetown, Sierra Leone. A detailed Logistics Note covering travel, accommodation, visa facilitation, and ground transport will be circulated separately to confirmed participants.



Annex I

Tuesday 28th April, 2026

Pre-EGM Social Dimension Event:

High-Level Policy Dialogue on Clean Cooking, Gender Equality, and Child Protection

Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel, Freetown

TIME	SESSION	DESCRIPTION
08:00 – 09:00	Registration	Guest arrival, registration and networking.
09:00	Call to Order	Ms. Antonia Howard — Event Host
09:05 – 09:25	Programme Overview & Welcome Remarks	Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, Chairman, PI-CREF <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Setting the stage — Sierra Leone's clean energy and gender equality journey▪ Objectives of today's High-Level Dialogue
09:25 – 09:40	Remarks: Environment & Climate Change	Hon. Mimi Soba-Stephens, Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ National context on climate resilience, clean cooking policies and the CCDU
09:40 – 09:50	▶ Video Message	Ms. Dymphna van der Lans, CEO, Clean Cooking Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Global progress on clean cooking access and the role of the Clean Cooking Alliance▪ Regional priorities for West Africa and support for the ECOWAS LPG Programme▪ A message of solidarity to Sierra Leone and ECOWAS member states on the clean energy transition
09:50 – 10:10	Partner Statements	ECOWAS Commission Clean Cooking Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Regional perspectives on LPG market harmonization across ECOWAS states▪ Gender equality and women's economic empowerment in the clean energy transition▪ Clean Cooking Alliance: global advocacy, financing and partnership frameworks for West Africa

TIME	SESSION	DESCRIPTION
10:10 – 10:30	Address	<p>Mrs. Samira Bawumia Founder & CEO, Samira Empowerment and Humanitarian Projects (SEHP); Global Ambassador, Clean Cooking Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women's energy access advocacy and the Clean Cooking Global Alliance ▪ Progress and priorities for West Africa
10:30 – 10:55	Ministerial Statement	<p>Hon. Cyril A. Grant, Minister of Energy, Republic of Sierra Leone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National energy policy and LPG sector priorities for Sierra Leone ▪ Sierra Leone's commitments under the Mission 300 Energy Compact
10:55 – 11:45	Addresses by First Ladies of Africa	<p>H.E. Dr. Fatima Maada Bio, First Lady of Sierra Leone & President, OAFIAD H.E. Rachel Ruto, First Lady of Kenya H.E. Mrs. Ana Dias Lourenço, First Lady of Angola</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Dr. Fatima Maada Bio — Sierra Leone's clean cooking transition: from policy to action; advancing the GEWE Act and protecting the girl child as pillars of sustainable development ▪ H.E. Mrs. Ana Dias Lourenço — Champion of women's economic empowerment and girls' education; Founder of the Ngana Zenza Foundation; advocate for ending child marriage and gender-based violence; leading voice for inclusive trade and women's entrepreneurship through the AfCFTA ▪ H.E. Rachel Ruto — Regional solidarity in clean cooking, women's empowerment and lessons from Kenya's institutional clean cooking model; shared commitment to ending biomass dependency and elevating women across the energy value chain
11:45 – 12:00	Keynote Address	<p>H.E. Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sierra Leone's bold vision: positioning the nation as West Africa's benchmark for clean cooking transition, gender justice and inclusive green growth ▪ From declaration to delivery — the ECOWAS LPG Programme as a vehicle for regional energy sovereignty, job creation and the protection of women and children from the harms of biomass ▪ A call to action for Heads of State, First Ladies and development partners to match political commitment with resources, and transform West Africa's energy landscape for the next generation
OFFICIAL LAUNCH: ECOWAS LPG PROGRAMME 12:00 – 13:00		
12:00 – 12:20	Launch Keynote Address on behalf of the ECOWAS Commission	<p>H.E. Amb. John Azumah, ECOWAS Resident Representative to Sierra Leone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional harmonization of LPG markets across the 15 ECOWAS member states ▪ Positioning Mano River Union countries as early adopters ▪ ECOWAS LPG Programme — objectives, scope and implementation roadmap

TIME	SESSION	DESCRIPTION
12:20 – 12:40	Programme Unveiling	Official launch of the ECOWAS LPG Programme Programme Unveiling — Mr. William Baidoe; Programme Overview — Ms. Aminata Wurie
12:40 – 12:55	Group Photograph	All distinguished guests, First Ladies, ministers and development partners
12:55	Heads of Delegation Invited to Networking Lunch	
13:00 – 14:00	Networking Lunch	Delegates, speakers and partners are invited to lunch. Informal networking and bilateral discussions are encouraged. Side meetings may be arranged with the Secretariat.
14:10 – 14:30	Research & Policy Presentation	AFRIWOCC — African Women's Clean Cooking Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence-based analysis on household and institutional clean cooking adoption ▪ Policy recommendations for ECOWAS member states
14:30 – 15:15	Panel Discussion	<p>Session Chair: Dr. Paul Yillia</p> <p>The panel will explore three thematic areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Female Capital & Innovation (Facilitator: Ms. Hawa Yokie) — GEWE Act implementation review; early marriage ban outcomes; education reintegration for pregnant girls and young mothers; technology and innovation with young women in STEM, digital ecosystems and AI; economic empowerment and access to finance; actionable policy recommendations. ▪ Institutional Clean Cooking (Facilitator: Mr. Shebora Kamara) — Transitioning schools, hospitals and military facilities from biomass to LPG and solar e-cooking; CCDU National School Clean Cooking Roadmap to 2040; lessons from Kenya's NACONEK model. ▪ Household Clean Cooking & Women's Empowerment (Facilitator: Mrs. Habiba Assamany) — LPG and e-cooking adoption pathways at household level; transition from biomass; women's participation across the LPG value chain; clean cooking for livelihoods including fish processing and SMEs; proposed Clean Cooking Fund for women-led businesses.
15:15	Session Rapporteurs: Summary of Key Outcomes	Highlights and policy recommendations from all three thematic sessions
15:20 – 15:30	Closing Remarks & Way Forward	Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, Chairman, PI-CREF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key commitments and concrete next steps arising from the Dialogue ▪ Call to action for regional and national stakeholders ▪ Vote of thanks and acknowledgements

TIME	SESSION	DESCRIPTION
15:30	End of Official Programme	Light refreshments available. Bilateral meetings may be arranged with the Secretariat.

Jointly organised by: PI-CREF · Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone · ECOWAS Commission



Annex II: Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th April - "Expert Group Meeting (EGM) and Ministerial Conference".

DAY 1 | Wednesday, 29th April 2026

TIME	SESSION	DESCRIPTION AND SPEAKERS*	LOCATION
08:00 – 09:30	Registration	Arrival and Registration of Participants. Work-in-Coffee, Distribution of Conference Package/Souvenirs	Entrance hall
09:30 – 11:30	Official Opening of EGM cum Ministerial Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome Address – Hon. Kenyeh Barlay Minister of Planning and Economic Development (5 mins) ▪ Statements – Hon. Timothy Musa Kabba Minister of Foreign Affairs and Intl. Coop. (5 mins) – Hon. Sheku Ahmed Fantamadi Bangura Minister of Finance (5 mins) ▪ Prelude – A video capturing key messages of the EGM and WAIS (5 mins) ▪ Message from Partners – Statements from: H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, ECOWAS Commission President (by video) H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AfCFTA Dr. Abdul Kamara, Interim Vice President, AfDB Ms. Julie Delhanty, President, IDRC (by video) Mr. Victor Djemba, Chief, Regional Bureau Africa, UNIDO Ms. Anita Otubu, Senior Director, SEforALL Ms. Keyzom Ngodup Massally, Director, AI Hub for Africa, UNDP (3 mins each) ▪ EGM and WAIS-2026 Updates – Mr. Joseph Nganga WAIS-2026 Chief Operating Officer (5 mins) ▪ Scene Setting – Hon. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella WAIS-2026 Special Envoy & Chairman PI-CREF (5 mins) <p>Master of Ceremony – Day I - Dr. Patrick M. Kormawa</p>	Plenary
11:30 – 12:30	Ministerial Roundtable	<p>High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on Energy-Trade, Strategic Minerals, Agribusiness, and Digital Transformation</p> <p>Moderator: Hon. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella WAIS-2026 Special Envoy & Chairman PI-CREF</p> <p>Hon. Haja Salima M. Bah, Minister of Communication, Technology and Innovation, Government of Sierra Leone Hon. Mr. Oliver S. Gbegbe, Assistant Minister for Energy, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Government of Liberia Hon. Mr. Cyril Arnold Grant, Minister of Energy, Government of Sierra Leone Hon. Mr. Nani Juwara, Minister of Petroleum, Energy and Mines, Government of The Gambia Hon. Mr. Moussa Koulibaly, Deputy Minister of Energy, Government of Guinea Hon. Mr. Julius Daniel Mattai, Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Government of Sierra Leone Hon. Dr. Henry Musa Kpaka, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Government of Sierra Leone Hon. Mr. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy, Government of Côte d'Ivoire</p>	Plenary

		Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Alpha Sesay, Minister of Trade and Industry, Government of Sierra Leone	
12:30 – 13:30	Presentation of Thematic Baseline Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Energy Trade and Industrial Growth – Mr. Bertrand Nkongdem ILEM Consultancy ▪ Strategic Minerals and Natural Resource Development – Mr. Sylvester Akpah Makona Consultancy ▪ Agribusiness and Food Transformation Systems– Ms. Carren Mwanzia AfCEN ▪ Digital Transformation – Ms. Olivia Robinson AfCEN 	Plenary
<i>Lunch and Networking 13:30pm – 14:30pm</i>			
14:30 – 15:30	TWG Parallel Session – I – Energy Trade and Industrial Growth <i>Opportunities and challenges to scale investment in the sector</i>	<p>Panel discussion on key themes of the baseline report. Selected focus theme: <i>Energy Network Infrastructure: Expanding Investment in Clean Energy Options</i></p> <p>Chair: Hon. Mr. Cyril Arnold Grant, Minister of Energy, Government of Sierra Leone Co-Chairs: Hon. Mr. Nani Juwara, Minister of Petroleum, Energy and Mines, Government of The Gambia; Hon. Oliver Gbegbe, Assistant Minister of Energy, Liberia; Hon. Mr. Moussa Koulibaly, Deputy Minister of Energy, Government of Guinea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion on Baseline Report – Energy-Trade and Industrial Growth (Session Facilitator: Sahr Abraham Grass-Sessay PI-CREF) <p>Speaker: Hon. Dr. Abdul Rahim Jalloh, Deputy Minister of Energy of Sierra Leone (5m) Presenter: Overview of Sierra Leone M300 Mr. Pete M. Kaindaneh, Country Coordinator (5m) Presenter: Key Elements of the Baseline Study Report – Mr. Bertrand Nkongdem ILEM Consultancy (10m) Review Feedback: Government and technical experts (10m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panel Discussion - Network Infrastructure: Expanding Investment in Clean Energy Options (30) <p>Session Chair: Dr. Chigoziri Egeruoh Principal Power Engineer, Africa Development Bank</p>	Breakout Room – Energy Trade and Industrial Growth
14:30 – 15:30	TWG Parallel Session – I – Strategic Minerals and Natural Resource Development <i>Opportunities and challenges to scale investment in the sector</i>	<p>Panel discussion on key themes of the baseline report. Selected focus theme: <i>Scaling Investment and Governance in West Africa’s Strategic Minerals Sector</i></p> <p>Chair: Hon. Mr. Julius Daniel Mattai, Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Government of Sierra Leone Co-Chair: Hon. Mr. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy, Government of Côte d'Ivoire; Engr. Obadiah Simon Nkom, Director General, Nigeria Mining Cadastre Office</p> <p>Mr. Nelson Ahedor, Director, Small-Scale Directorate, Ghana Minerals Commission Dr. Kelvin Anderson, Deputy Director General, National Minerals Agency- Sierra Leone Ms. Georgia Iordanescu, Chief, Sustainable Energy and Just Transitions Unit, UNIDO Mr. Alieu Jawo, Director of Geology, Ministry of Petroleum, Energy, and Mines, The Gambia Mr. Nicolas Maennling, Project Specialist, Global Alliance for Responsible and Green Minerals Dr. Esther Udo, Director Investment Promotion & Mineral Trade Department, Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, Nigeria</p>	Breakout Room – Strategic Minerals and Natural Resource Transformation

14:30 – 15:30	<p>TWG Parallel Session – I – Agribusiness and Food Systems Transformation</p> <p><i>Opportunities and challenges to scale investment in the sector</i></p>	<p>Panel discussion on key themes of the baseline report. Chair: Hon. Dr. Henry Musa Kpaka, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Government of Sierra Leone Co-Chair: H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AfCFTA Mr. Aminou Arouna, Program Leader & Impact Assessment Economist, AfricaRice Mr. Obai Khalifa, Deputy Director, Gates Foundation Dr. Canisius Kanangire, Executive Director, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) Mr. Abdou Aziz Fall, Deputy CEO, External Financing and the Private Sector, Ministry of Planning, Cooperation and Economy, Senegal Ms. Fatmata Seiwoh, Acting Director of Agriculture, ECOWAS Commission Mr. Aba Gibril Sankareh, Registrar General, Department of Cooperative Development, Ministry of Agriculture, The Gambia</p>	<p>Breakout Room – Agribusiness and Food Systems Transformation</p>
14:30 – 15:30	<p>TWG Parallel Session – I – Digital Transformation</p> <p><i>Opportunities and challenges to scale investment in the sector</i></p>	<p>Panel discussion on key themes of the baseline report. Selected focus theme: “How can impact be delivered from the proposed USD 10bn AI Fund for Africa in the West Africa region?” Chair: Hon. Haja Salima M. Bah, Minister of Communication, Technology and Innovation, Government of Sierra Leone Co-Chair: Dr. Abdul Kamara, Interim Vice President, AfDB (to be confirmed) Moderator: Ms. Keyzom Ngodup, Director, AI Hub for Sustainable Development, UNDP Mr. Momodou Alieu Jallow, Director of Information and Communication Technology, Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy, The Gambia Monsieur Babacar Niang, Partnerships Director, Sénégal Numérique SA Ms. Raja Rajeshwari Chandrasekharan, DPI Safeguards Advisor, UNDP MC: Mr. Joseph Nganga, CEO and Founder, AfCEN</p>	<p>Breakout Room – Digital Transformation</p>
15:30 – 17:00	<p>TWG Parallel Session – II - Energy Trade and Industrial Growth</p> <p><i>Policy enablers to unlock investment</i></p>	<p>Presentation and panel discussion on policy enablers to unlock investment in the sector: Chair: Hon. Mr. Cyril Arnold Grant, Minister of Energy, Government of Sierra Leone Co-Chairs: Hon. Mr. Nani Juwara, Minister of Petroleum, Energy and Mines, Government of The Gambia; Hon. Oliver Gbegbe, Assistant Minister of Energy, Liberia; Hon. Mr. Moussa Koulibaly, Deputy Minister of Energy, Government of Guinea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Presentation of Policy Enablers to Unlock Investment in the Energy Sector (Session Facilitator: Dennis Nderitu AfCEN) Speaker: Ms. Anita Otubu Senior Director, SEforALL (SOGREA) (5m) Speaker: Overview of ECREEE Renewable and Energy Efficiency Policy Regime Ms. Anita Otubu Senior Director SEforALL (SOGREA) (5m) Presenter: Key Elements on Policy Enablers to Unlock Investment in the Energy Sector – Mr. Bertrand Nkongdem ILEM Consultancy (10m) Review Feedback: Government and technical experts (10m) ■ Panel Discussion - Green Industries: Regulatory Alignment, and Energy Efficiency Measures for Climate Energy Transition (30) 	<p>Breakout Room – Energy Trade and Industrial Growth</p>

Session Chair: Ms. Ngozi Beckly-Lines | Country Manager SEforALL (SOGREA)

15:30 – 17:00	<p>TWG Parallel Session – I – Strategic Minerals and Natural Resource Development</p> <p><i>Policy enablers to unlock investment</i></p>	<p>Presentation and panel discussion on policy enablers to unlock investment in the sector:</p> <p>Chair: Hon. Mr. Julius Daniel Mattai, Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Government of Sierra Leone</p> <p>Co-Chair: Hon. Mr. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy, Government of Côte d'Ivoire; Engr. Obadiah Simon Nkom, Director General, Nigeria Mining Cadastre Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Presentation of the Policy Enablers Report: ■ Panel discussion: <i>Unlocking Policy Enablers for Scaled Investment in the ECOWAS Extractive Sector</i> <p>Dr. Comfort Asokoro Ogaji, Executive Director, Women in Mining Africa</p> <p>Mr. Ahmed Badr, Director, Project Facilitation & Support Division, IRENA</p> <p>Engr. Simon Nkom, Director General, Nigeria Mining Cadastre Office</p> <p>Mr. Sascha Markus Raabe, Head of the Global Alliance for Responsible and Green Minerals, UNIDO</p> <p>Ing. Lima Sufian-Kargbo, CEO Sierra Rutile and President of the SL Chamber of Mines</p> ■ Roundtable Q&A 	<p>Breakout Room – Strategic Minerals and Natural Resource Transformation</p>
15:30 – 17:00	<p>TWG Parallel Session – II – Agribusiness and Food Systems Transformation</p> <p><i>Policy enablers to unlock investment</i></p>	<p>Presentation and panel discussion on policy enablers to unlock investment in the sector:</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Victor Djemba, Chief, Regional Division for Africa, UNIDO</p> <p>Co-Chair: Prof. Abdulai Jalloh, Chief Agriculturist, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Presentation of the Policy Enablers Report: ■ Panel discussion: <p>Mr. Baguiou Evrard Bako, SOciété FAso TOMate SOFATO</p> <p>Mr. Djibril Drame, FAO-SFW - Agribusiness Specialist</p> <p>Mr. Edet Bassey Iwara, Director, Agribusiness and Market Development, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Nigeria</p> <p>Dr. Michele Leone, Senior Program Specialist, IDRC</p> <p>Dr. Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director, CORAF</p> <p>Ms. Anna Wada, Head of Industrial Policy and Technology Promotion Division, ECOWAS Commission</p> ■ Roundtable Q&A 	<p>Breakout Room – Agribusiness and Food Systems Transformation</p>
15:30 – 17:00	<p>TWG Parallel Session – II – Digital Transformation</p> <p><i>Policy enablers to unlock investment</i></p>	<p>Presentation and panel discussion on policy enablers to unlock investment in the sector:</p> <p>Chair: Hon. Haja Salima M. Bah, Minister of Communication, Technology and Innovation, Government of Sierra Leone</p> <p>MC: Mr. Joseph Nganga, CEO and Founder, AfCEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Presentation of the Policy Enablers Report 	<p>Breakout Room – Digital Transformation</p>

- **Panel discussion: *What policy enablers are required for the first Data Embassy in West Africa?***
 Ms. Hani Eskandar, Senior Project Manager, ITU
 Mrs. Folashade M. Lojede, Acting Director, Nigerian Federal Ministry of Comms, Innovation & Digital Economy
 Ms. Hafsatu Rakie Sesay, Sierra Leone Ministry of Communication, Technology & Innovation
 Mr. Shadrick G. Tougbay, Anti-Fraud Officer, Liberia Telecommunications Authority
 Mr. Leonard Vibbi, Digital Lead, UNDP
- **Roundtable Q&A**

17:00-18:00 **End of Day 1 Drinks Reception**

End of Day 1

DAY 2 | Thursday, 30th April 2026

TIME	SESSION	DESCRIPTION AND SPEAKERS*	LOCATION
09:00 – 09:15	Goals for the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work-in-Coffee, Recapitulation of Day–1 and Overview of Day–2 – Hon. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella WAIS-2026 Special Envoy & Chairman PI-CREF 	Plenary
09:15 – 11:15	Scaling regional investment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Keynote: H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AfCFTA (to be confirmed) ■ Presentations: Prof. Abdullai Jalloh, Chief Agriculturist, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Government of Sierra Ms. Anita Otubu, Senior Director, Regional Director, SEforALL ■ Panel: Ms. Benedicta Lasi, Executive Chair, African Trade Chamber; Mr. Ahmed Badr, Director, Project Facilitation & Support Division, IRENA; Mr. Victor Djemba, Chief, Regional Division for Africa, UNIDO; Ms. Roslyn Ngeno, Senior Investment Expert, AfCFTA; Mr. Roberto Ridolfi, Senior Vice President, AfCEN; 	Plenary
11:15 – 13:00	TWG Parallel Session – III - Energy Trade and Industrial Growth <i>National investment pipelines</i>	<p>Presentations of national investment pipelines and discussion on gaps, and how to prioritise projects for the Deal Rooms process</p> <p>Chair: Hon. Mr. Cyril Arnold Grant, Minister of Energy, Government of Sierra Leone Co-Chairs: Hon. Mr. Nani Juwara, Minister of Petroleum, Energy and Mines, Government of The Gambia; Hon. Oliver Gbegbe, Assistant Minister of Energy, Liberia; Hon. Mr. Moussa Koulibaly, Deputy Minister of Energy, Government of Guinea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Presentations of National Investment Pipelines: (Session Facilitator: Augustine Alieu PI-CREF) Speaker: Dr. Flaubert Mbiekop Senior Programme Specialist IDRC (5mns) Speaker: Overview of ECREEE Renewable and Energy Efficiency Policy Regime Ms. Anita Otubu Senior 	Breakout Room – Energy Trade and Industrial Growth

Director SEforALL (SOGREA) (5mns)
 Presenter: Pipeline of Regional Portfolio Energy Projects – Mr. Bertrand Nkongdem | ILEM Consultancy (10mns.)
 Review Feedback: Government and technical experts (10m)
 Country Presentations: Cote d'Ivoire; Ghana; Guinea; Liberia; Guinea; Nigeria; Senegal; and The Gambia (40mns.)

■ **Panel Discussion - Socio-Economic Impact: Productive Use of Energy and Clean Cooking Technologies (35mns)**

Session Chair: Ms. Aminata Wurie | Head of Clean Cooking Delivery Unit, Office of the President (PI-CREF)

Presentations of national investment pipelines and discussion on gaps, and how to prioritise projects for the Deal Rooms process

Chair: Hon. Mr. Julius Daniel Mattai, Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Government of Sierra Leone
 Co-Chair: Hon. Mr. Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly, Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Energy, Government of Côte d'Ivoire; Engr. Obadiah Simon Nkom, Director General, Nigeria Mining Cadastre Office

Presentations on priority national pipeline projects given by West Africa country government officials and partners

Presentations of national investment pipelines and discussion on gaps, and how to prioritise projects for the Deal Rooms process

Chair: Hon. Dr. Henry Musa Kpaka, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Government of Sierra Leone
 Co-Chair: H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AfCFTA (to be confirmed)

Presentations on priority national pipeline projects given by West Africa country government officials and partners

Presentations of national investment pipelines and discussion on gaps, and how to prioritise projects for the Deal Rooms process

Chair: Hon. Haja Salima M. Bah, Minister of Communication, Technology and Innovation, Government of Sierra Leone

Presentations on priority national pipeline projects given by West Africa country government officials and partners

Mr. Jason Slater, UNIDO

Mr. Momodou Alieu Jallow, Director of Information and Communication Technology, The Gambia Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy

Mrs. Folashade Morisayo Lojede, Nigeria Federal Ministry of Comms, Innovation & Digital Economy

Mr. Babacar Niang, Senegal Numerique SA

Ms. Hafsatu Rakie Sesay, Sierra Leone Ministry of Communication, Technology & Innovation

11:15 – 13:00 **TWG Parallel Session – I – Strategic Minerals and Natural Resource Development**
National investment pipelines

Breakout Room – Strategic Minerals and Natural Resource Transformation

11:15 – 13:00 **TWG Parallel Session – III – Agribusiness and Food Systems Transformation**
National investment pipelines

Breakout Room – Agribusiness and Food Systems Transformation

11:15 – 13:00 **TWG Parallel Session – III – Digital Transformation**
National investment pipelines

Breakout Room – Digital Transformation

Lunch Breaking and Networking | 13:00pm – 14:00pm

14:00 – 15:30 **Unlocking Bankable Investment Opportunities in West Africa Countries: From**

Define “best practice” expectations for countries and investors in identifying bankable project and technical preparatory support requirements

Mr, Ahmed Badr, Director, Project Facilitation & Support Division, IRENA

Project Pipeline to Data and Deal Rooms

Ms. Charlotte Bisley, Africa Mining & Extractives Researcher, IFC
 Mr. Victor Djemba, Chief, Africa Regional Bureau, UNIDO
 Dr. Chigoziri Egeruoh, Principal Power Engineer, AfDB
 Mr. Wael Hamdy, El Sewedy Electric Group
 Mr. Obai Khalifa, Deputy Director, Gates Foundation
 Mr, Dennis Nderitu, Energy Lead, AfCEN
 Mr. Kossi Toulassi, Head of Industrialisation, Trade & Markets and Economic Analysis, Auda-Nepad

Plenary

15:30 – 17:00 Closing of EGM and Ministerial Conference

- **Freetown Communiqué** – Hon. Kenyeh Barlay | Minister of Planning and Economic Dev.
- **Keynote Address** – H.E. Julius Maada Bio | President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
 Chairman of the Authority of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government
- **Vote of Thanks** – Dr. Patrick M. Kormawa | Chief Technical Adviser, PI-CREF
- **Next Steps Post-EGM**– Hon. Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella| Special Envoy & Chairman of PI-CREF

Plenary

End of EGM and Ministerial Conference – Precursor Event of the West Africa Integration and Investment Summit WAIS-2026

**Some speakers pending confirmation*