



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Climate Parliament

Green Energy Zones: Economic opportunity in a warming world

Marrakech Parliamentary Green
Investment Dialogue
19 – 21 June, Morocco



Key outcomes and takeaways



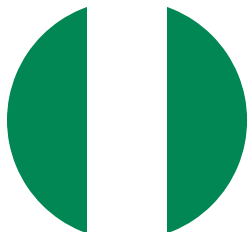
Ghana

- Commitment to two Community Green Energy Zone (CGEZ) tracks: optimising existing infrastructure and establishing new Green Zones
- Proposed a six-stage implementation framework: resource mapping, stakeholder engagement, financial planning, implementation, and monitoring
- Development of a CGEZ project pipeline and integration into the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)
- Launch of school-based green projects and pilot solar market electrification
- Identified challenges: land availability, policy coordination, and financial innovation needs



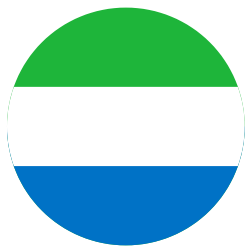
Kenya

- National CGEZ dialogue held (3-4 July) focusing on smart agriculture and clean cooking
- Local governance emphasised - counties manage 35% of the national budget
- Strong engagement with governors, NDA, ministries, and private sector actors
- Key deliverable: submission of a CGEZ concept note to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)



Nigeria

- Legal harmonisation across energy, land, and climate laws prioritised for CGEZ alignment
- Focus on aligning CGEZ with the Electricity Act and Energy Transition Plan
- Commitment to simplify licensing and enhance stakeholder engagement
- Development of CGEZ concept note underway; need for public awareness on “green” qualifications



Sierra Leone

- Green Zones to be embedded into the Climate Change Bill, NDC 3.0, and GCF priority documents
- Initial CGEZ projects to focus on school and clinic electrification
- Emphasis on community engagement due to land tenure held by Paramount Chiefs
- Parliamentary oversight committed to monitoring barriers and adjusting priorities



Tanzania

- Development of CGEZ concept notes focusing on renewable energy for agriculture and fisheries
- Solar-powered cold chains prioritised to reduce postharvest losses (up to 40%)
- VAT exemptions for equipment and call to reduce electricity costs
- Support for mini-grids in remote areas and islands
- Enabling policies to include streamlined permitting and strict procurement standards

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	01
Opening remarks- Urgency and opportunities	02
Session 1 - From commitments to projects	04
Session 2 - Green Energy Zones - a strategy to attract investment	07
Session 3 - The role of Parliamentarians in establishing Community Green Energy Zones	10
Session 4 - Countries' commitments and next steps.....	13
Conclusion	14
Appendix 1- Attendee list	15

Introduction

As the world strives toward a low-carbon future, the need for climate finance has never been more urgent. With generous support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Climate Parliament and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) organised the Marrakesh Parliamentary Green Investment Dialogue, convening 38 participants in total, including financial experts, investors and influential Members of Parliament (MPs) from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Tanzania.

The event was organised under the *Parliamentarians for Climate Finance (PCF) project*, which supports legislators in 15 African countries to mobilise climate finance for renewable energy and green industry. The aim is to advance sustainable, inclusive socio-economic development and respond to the continent's urgent adaptation challenges.

A central focus of the dialogue was to develop a Green Energy Zones model aimed at attracting investment in renewable energy to power green industry along with community services and businesses.

MPs are key to driving the transition to renewable energy by shaping policies and setting legislative and regulatory frameworks to derisk investments. They play a vital role to foster political will, build public support and ensure energy transitions are responsive to the needs of their communities and aligned with national climate and economic goals.

The event began with a visit to the Green City of Benguerir, an innovation hub for sustainable urban development showcasing solutions in renewable energy, green construction and cooling, e-mobility, public-private partnerships (PPPs) and climate-resilient planning. The visit highlighted Morocco as a leading example of what can be achieved through strong national commitment to a clean energy future.



MPs visit the Green City of Benguerir

Opening remarks- Urgency and opportunities

Mr Santiago Nocelli Pac, Industrial Development Expert at UNIDO, opened the event with a call for urgent action to scale up green investment across Africa, emphasising its critical role in accelerating the energy transition and building climate resilience. Despite being one of the regions most vulnerable to climate impacts, Africa currently receives just 4% of global climate finance.

Countries choosing to prioritise green over carbon-intensive development stand to gain access to some of the most affordable capital available today. The transition to clean energy is a climate imperative and a powerful driver of energy access, job creation and improved public services.

Mr Nocelli Pac highlighted the crucial role of parliamentarians in shaping national climate policies that attract green investment by reducing risk, improving regulatory frameworks and streamlining licensing processes.

Sergio Missana, Secretary-General of the Climate Parliament, conveyed a powerful message of both urgency and opportunity. Climate change is no longer a distant threat. In 2024, global temperatures reached 1.55°C above pre-industrial levels. Renowned climate scientist James Hansen has warned that limiting warming to 2°C is now out of reach and we are effectively locked into even higher temperatures. If emissions continue unchecked, a +4°C world could emerge by 2070, rendering vast regions, including large parts of Africa uninhabitable due to extreme heat. This would mean the evacuation of the tropics within our lifetime.

Avoiding such a future demands a profound and immediate reduction in global emissions. However, given the scale of warming already underway, adaptation must become a central pillar of climate action, particularly in the most affected regions. In this context, renewable energy can serve a dual purpose, helping to reduce emissions while also building resilience to climate shocks. Access to clean electricity is essential not just for economic development, but for withstanding extreme weather events, improving health systems and safeguarding livelihoods.

Today, 1% of the world is a barely livable hot zone



By 2070, that portion could go up to 19%.



Billions of people call this land home.

Africa receives some of the highest solar radiation in the world, giving it a unique advantage in the clean energy transition. Solar and other renewables offer major opportunities for job creation, economic growth and universal energy access. Whilst commitments to climate finance on the global stage are being made, these fall short when compared to fossil fuel subsidies - at COP29 in Baku, a \$300 billion climate finance pledge was made, but for comparison, the IMF reports that annual fossil fuel subsidies amount to \$7 trillion globally. Encouragingly, global investments in renewable energy have now surpassed those in fossil fuels, making the clean energy transition one of the most promising investment opportunities of our time. But unless countries make clear political commitments, these benefits will not be evenly distributed. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) must be treated not just as policy tools, but as actionable portfolios of investment projects that can channel climate finance where it is most needed. Mechanisms such as the GCF are crucial but can only deliver impact if supported by clear policy frameworks and strong national coordination.

In response, UNIDO and the Climate Parliament are promoting Green Energy Zones and Corridors as a strategic solution to integrate clean energy into high-emission sectors such as steel, cement, fertiliser and other hard-to-abate sectors. Thus supporting industrial decarbonisation alongside sustainable economic growth. In parallel, the concept of Community Green Energy Zones offers a practical model for local development and climate adaptation, delivering clean power to clinics, schools and businesses in vulnerable communities.

Realising this vision requires strong partnerships between governments, parliamentarians, industry leaders and development partners.

Parliamentarians have a critical role to play. Through their legislative, oversight and convening powers, they can elevate climate priorities on national agendas, remove barriers to green investment and ensure that the energy transition is inclusive, just and resilient.

Ms Awele Ikobi-Anyali, Head of Legal, National Council on Climate Change in Nigeria (GCF's National Designated Authority in Nigeria), highlighted Nigeria's leadership within the PCF project and emphasised the energy transition as a unique opportunity for Africa. Achieving net zero is not only a moral imperative, it also represents a significant economic opportunity. While Africa accounts for just 4% of global emissions, it faces some of the most severe climate impacts. Meeting the continent's climate goals will require an estimated \$3 trillion in investment. There is an urgent need for climate finance, innovation and bold, forward-thinking policy leadership.



Ms Awele Ikobi-Anyali, Head of Legal, National Council on Climate Change, Nigeria

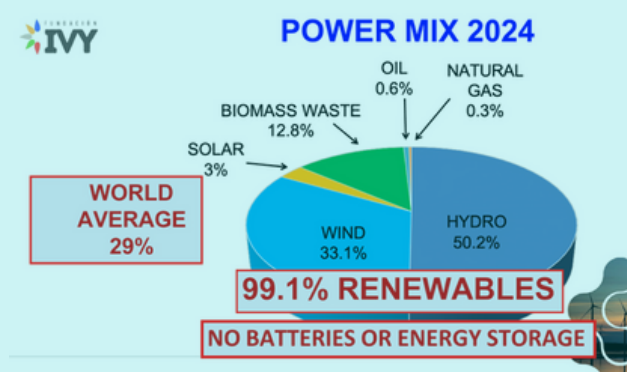
Session 1- From commitments to projects

Case study: Energy transition in Uruguay

Mr Ramón Méndez Galain, President of REN21 and former Energy Secretary of Uruguay, shared the inspiring story of Uruguay's rapid energy transformation which he led during his tenure in government. Moving to a fully renewable power system is not only possible, but also economically and socially transformative.

Just 15 years ago, Uruguay faced what Méndez called a “perfect storm”: the country had no proven reserves of oil, gas, or coal; no more room to expand large hydropower; soaring energy demand due to 6% annual economic growth and increasing dependence on costly fossil fuel imports amid regional shortages.

Today, Uruguay generates over 99.1% of its electricity from renewable sources, without relying on batteries or energy storage. This has powered near-universal electrification (99.9%) and cut electricity generation costs in half, from 10 to 5 cents per kilowatt-hour, representing just 1% of the national GDP. By harnessing its own natural resources, Uruguay has gained energy independence and resilience, shielding its economy from the price shocks of fossil fuel markets, geopolitical crises and carbon pricing.



Recommendations from the panel:

The presentation was followed by a panel discussion that brought together experts and investors from the energy and investment sectors to share insights and specific recommendations to lawmakers on unlocking Africa's renewable energy potential.

Ms Wola Joseph Condotti, Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of West Power & Gas Limited, the parent company of Eko Electricity Distribution PLC (EKEDP) and eight other subsidiaries with diverse interests across the energy sector, offered several key recommendations. First, there is an urgent need to harmonise energy laws across the continent.

The current patchwork of conflicting regulations discourages investment and complicates market integration. Streamlining procurement and licensing processes was also emphasised as a critical step, lawmakers must make these systems faster, clearer and more investor friendly. Ms Wola also advocated for the creation of dedicated financial instruments to de-risk investment.

She pointed to Nigeria's experience, where the central bank introduced a fund to provide formal backstops for private investors, an initiative that significantly boosted investor confidence. Infrastructure upgrades are equally important: outdated grids must be adapted to handle intermittent renewable energy sources effectively.



Panel discussion with Dr Jesse Ojor (Climate Finance Advisor, UNIDO, Nigeria), Mr Patrick Tonui (Head of Policy & Strategy, Gogla), Mr Ramón Méndez Galain (President, REN21) and Ms Wola Joseph Condotti (CEO, West Power and Gas Ltd.)

Ms Wola stressed the importance of involving the private sector more meaningfully in the regulatory process. Companies like hers should be consulted during lawmaking and their feedback must be formally documented and integrated. Doing so will ensure that new regulations are both effective and grounded in market realities.

Mr Méndez reflected on the key conditions that enabled Uruguay's successful power sector transformation. Two main lessons emerged from Uruguay's experience. First, political consensus is essential. The government built a strong national narrative focused on the social and economic benefits of the transition, framing it as a matter of national interest. This vision was endorsed across all political parties and coalitions, creating a unified commitment that held firm even through changes in government. Second, the "rules of the game" had to be redefined. Traditional energy markets are designed for short-term gains and fossil fuel dynamics.

In Uruguay, a different approach was adopted: long-term contracts were introduced and instead of purchasing energy as a commodity, the government began purchasing capacity.

This model is far better suited to the characteristics of renewable energy and helped shift how the market was perceived and structured.

Additionally, Uruguay developed a strategic plan to identify the most complementary mix of renewable resources, rather than leaving market outcomes to chance. This planning then guided the bidding process for new energy projects, ensuring coherence and efficiency.

Mr Patrick Tonui, Head of Policy and Regional Strategy, GOGLA, asked policymakers to reflect on whether they view private sector actors as partners or competitors to public utilities, as this perception fundamentally shapes how energy laws and regulatory frameworks are designed. He stressed that governments must fully embrace the role of the private sector in achieving energy goals, especially in last-mile delivery. He highlighted that many off-grid households have very limited ability to pay for energy. Yet, there is often an unrealistic expectation that private companies can operate without any subsidies. Without support to keep prices affordable, while also ensuring that businesses remain viable, the off-grid sector will struggle to grow.

UNIDO Foresight Study on clean energy and climate action in industry: Pathways to 2050

UNIDO's Foresight Study, presented by Mr Santiago Nocelli Pac (UNIDO), Dr Lucas Somavilla (Nova Terra Consulting) and Prof Yacob Mulugetta (University College London), explored how industry can lead a just and rapid transition to clean energy by 2050. Industry accounts for nearly a third of global emissions and over 35% of energy use, making its decarbonisation essential especially as 75% of the global urban infrastructure that will exist in 2050 is yet to be built, and it will all be built in developing countries (Global Infrastructure Basel, 2014).

To meet climate goals, investment in clean industry and renewables must triple this decade. The study highlights key global shifts, such as how, in the 1.5 degree scenario, cumulative investment across the entire global energy system would need to reach USD 47 trillion by 2030.

Africa's opportunity lies in energy leapfrogging, its youthful workforce and decentralised, context-specific energy systems. Regional clean industry hubs and stronger power pool interconnections can address renewable intermittency. Strategic investment and bottom-up electrification are key to unlocking a clean energy future, advancing climate resilience, economic transformation and energy justice.

Key recommendations from the study:

- Centre people and fairness in industrial policy
- Broaden policy space for the Global South
- Align finance with real needs, not just emissions metrics
- Strengthen institutions to lead coordination
- Make polluting projects less attractive and green ones more rewarding
- Invest in local knowledge and open technology transfer



Mr Santiago Nocelli Pac (Industrial Development Expert, UNIDO), Dr Lucas Somavilla (Director, Nova Terra Consulting) and Prof Yacob Mulugetta (Head of International Partnerships, CCG programme)

Session 2 - Green Energy Zones: A strategy to attract investment

Despite being home to 60% of the world's solar potential, Africa generates only 3% of global electricity (International Energy Agency). This gap undermines economic growth and climate resilience.

The Green Energy Zone (GEZ) model offers a concrete, scalable solution that lawmakers can champion to help close the clean energy investment gap. GEZs are geographically defined areas with abundant renewable energy resources, integrated infrastructure and stable electricity demand from nearby industrial or productive users. Designed to attract large-scale climate finance, these zones reduce investment risk and accelerate project delivery, supported by streamlined permitting, simplified licensing and clear power purchase agreements.

At COP29 in Baku, the ministerial pledge on Green Energy Zones and Corridors was signed by 32 countries - and now endorsed by 57 countries - and several international organisations, including GCF and the World Bank. This growing support signals that the concept is gaining significant traction on the international stage as a strategic pathway to attract investment in green energy and sustainable infrastructure.

How do GEZs systematically reduce four major types of investment risk?

Construction risk:

- Use of standardised permits and fast-tracked approvals
- Streamlined administrative procedures

Operational risk:

- Shared services and infrastructure
- Economies of scale and efficient zone management

Offtake risk:

- Local energy demand built into the zone (e.g., industries)
- Standardised power purchase agreements (PPAs)

Currency risk:

- Collective insurance or hedging contracts

Together, these measures make renewable energy investments more bankable, offering much lower cost of capital.

Case study: Olkaria Special Economic Zone, Kenya

Integrated and connected zone:

- 754 MW of geothermal energy
- Integrated industries: ICT, textiles, agriculture, e-mobility
- Direct connection between industries and power plants → no transmission losses
- Investment in resilient high-voltage lines and smart technologies
- Rail and highway connections → optimised logistics

Risk reduction:

- Strong tax incentives: VAT and income tax exemptions, simplified procedures
- Stable framework aligned with national strategies (energy law)
- Public-private risk sharing
- Stable energy tariff: USD 0.05/kWh
- Secured PPAs: dollar-indexed, 25-year duration, sovereign guarantees

Other examples of Green Energy Zones in Africa:

Olkaria SEZ (Kenya)	Geothermal	Green manufacturing, agro-processing, textiles, e-mobility, data centers
Atlantis Greentech SEZ (South Africa)	Solar, wind	Wind turbine towers, solar panels, battery components
Evergreen City (Nigeria)	Solar, wind, hydro, biomass	Solar, battery, EV manufacturing; localization of green value chains
Zambia-DRC Battery Zone	Hydro, solar	Battery and EV component manufacturing, mineral processing
Morocco Battery Hub	Solar, wind	Battery gigafactory, advanced manufacturing
Ghana Industrial Zones	Solar	Industrial parks, solar-powered manufacturing
MozParks (Mozambique)	Solar	Mixed manufacturing, export-oriented industry



Olkaria SEZ, Kenya
Source: KenGen

How can MPs support the creation of GEZ?

Political and strategic support:

- Integrate Green Energy Zones into national development and energy transition strategies (NDCs, NAPs, sectoral plans, etc.)
- Define the strategic location of zones in alignment with national industrial and energy priorities

Legislative support:

- Draft specific laws governing Green Energy Zones
- Propose tax incentives to attract investment
- Establish a legal framework suitable for public-private partnerships (PPPs)

Budgetary and financial action:

- Include Green Energy Zones in climate budget planning and finance laws
- Ensure proper management of public funds allocated to green projects

Risk reduction for investors:

- Promote the creation of guarantee funds and risk-sharing instruments
- Develop insurance mechanisms against political and currency risks

Advocacy and parliamentary diplomacy:

- Actively represent the country in regional and international energy transition forums
- Support the visibility and credibility of pilot projects under the Green Energy Zones initiative

Responses and recommendations from the panel:

The panel stressed that productive use must be built into energy projects from the start. Policies must deliver visible, local benefits and finance models should reduce risk and reward innovation. By focusing on real community needs and the right incentives, legislators can drive clean energy solutions that are both climate-smart and development-focused.



Ms Lovetta Yatta Juanah, Environment Protection Agency (GCF's Nationally Designated Authority), Sierra Leone

'There is a need to consider intersectional economic value when creating Green Energy Zones, taking to context the productive uses of energy.'

Ms Ojuru Adeniji, Head of Climate Infrastructure at InfraCredit Nigeria, shared a practical example from Jigawa State, where solar mini-grids were installed alongside agro-processing facilities, telecom towers and small enterprises such as barbershops and restaurants. Power is used by productive businesses during the day and by households in the evening. By embedding even modest productive use, communities can be economically revitalised and made more attractive for further investment, as small businesses grow and their demand for energy increases.

Mr Martijn Veen, Global Sector Head, Energy, SNV stressed that while the core model of GEZ can be standardised, it must be applied with flexibility to reflect different community needs and sectoral demands. There is no one-size-fits-all approach. Engaging local rural energy associations is essential to designing responsive and sustainable solutions. He highlighted the importance of creating an enabling environment through appropriate policies, tax exemptions and public-private cooperation to de-risk clean energy investments.

Dr Jesse Ojobor, UNIDO's National Expert on Energy and Climate Finance in Nigeria, focused on the political importance of delivering results. Policymakers gain trust and re-election when they can translate policy into jobs, infrastructure and support for local businesses. In many areas, unreliable and expensive electricity undermines business viability. The priority should be to scale up renewable energy solutions that are both financially bankable and directly linked to local economic activity.

Case study: Reverse auctions in Tanzania's Lake Zone

Mr Veen presented the innovative mechanism of reverse local auction, which has been successfully implemented in Tanzania. Instead of setting a fixed subsidy, governments ask private companies to indicate the level of subsidy they would require to operate in specific, often high-risk communities. The competition occurs around who can do it with the least subsidy, allowing for deployment in areas that would otherwise remain unserved. In Tanzania's Lake Zone, previously ignored by off-grid providers, this model attracted investment and turned the region into a dynamic clean energy market.



Mr Martijn Veen, Global Sector Head Energy, SNV

Session 3 - The role of Parliamentarians in establishing Community Green Energy Zones

Dr Missana highlighted that Community Green Energy Zones (CGEZs) offer a practical, scalable and politically viable model for accelerating clean energy access while advancing climate adaptation and sustainable development.

CGEZ are designated areas rich in renewable energy resources, where off-grid renewable energy solutions—such as rooftop solar—are integrated with productive uses of energy and essential community services. These include clean cooking, smart agriculture and solar-powered solutions for street vendors, among others. By catalysing local economic activity and delivering critical services, CGEZs help ensure sustainable and long-term demand for electricity.

Rooftop solar is a key component of CGEZs. By utilising existing built surfaces, it avoids competition with agricultural land and minimises transmission losses, as electricity is generated and consumed locally—eliminating the need to transmit power over long distances through aging national grids.



Senator John Muhia Methu, Kenya

‘Rooftops are ideal spaces. As parliamentarians we have to look to pushing resources to bring green energy to our people.’

Case Study: India’s PM Surya Ghar – A Scalable Rooftop Solar Model

India’s PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (Prime Minister Solar Home: Free Electricity Scheme) is a landmark rooftop solar initiative launched in 2024 with a \$9.5 billion budget. The scheme aims to install rooftop solar on 10 million homes by 2027, providing each household with 300 units of free electricity per month. The model shifts from long-term consumption subsidies to upfront capital support. Traditionally, the government subsidised electricity costs at around 4 cents/kWh on a delivered tariff of 7 cents/kWh. Under Surya Ghar, the government instead covers 55% of the solar installation cost upfront. The remaining 45% is financed through low-interest loans facilitated by India’s central bank.

The financial logic is compelling. The government recovers its investment in just seven years, while the consumer breaks even around 11 well within the 25-year lifespan of the solar panels. Surplus energy sales to the grid further improve project economics. The scheme has seen rapid uptake and strong political support, offering a replicable model for energy access, subsidy reform and climate resilience. By linking clean energy with household savings and national self-reliance, it redefines how subsidies can accelerate a just and scalable energy transition.

In the face of intensifying heatwaves and extreme weather events, CGEZs contribute to grid resilience, provide community cooling spaces and support vital infrastructure such as cold chains for food and fisheries. Solar-powered irrigation strengthens agricultural productivity, while clean cooking solutions help reduce deforestation and indoor air pollution. These priorities align closely with the adaptation agenda of major climate finance institutions. The GCF, for instance, has committed to allocating 50% of its resources to adaptation, yet only 10% of climate finance currently flows to such projects globally.

CGEZs are also politically powerful tools. At the constituency level they allow MPs to deliver concrete benefits to their communities: energy access, job creation, local enterprise growth and reduced energy costs. This constituency-level ownership is essential for building the political will still missing in many energy transitions. By empowering MPs to deliver results locally, CGEZs help build broad, cross-party support for national climate and development goals.

How can MPs support?

- Financing mechanisms: Upfront payments for installation can be supported through concessional loans, subsidies, or feed-in tariffs (FiTs). Reverse auctions (where developers compete on the minimum subsidy needed) can drive down costs and improve efficiency, as seen in Tanzania’s “Lake Zone” mini-grid model.
- Legal and regulatory frameworks: Successful implementation depends on clear policies for licensing, grid access, installer certification, metering and the legal use of rooftops. Parliamentarians play a critical role in enabling these frameworks and aligning them with national energy laws.
- Risk reduction for investors: CGEZs reduce investment risk through stable pricing, simplified permitting, co-located infrastructure and secure power purchase agreements (PPAs). Public-private risk-sharing mechanisms and guarantees against political and currency risk can further enhance bankability.



Hon. Rebecca Yei Kamara, MP, Sierra Leone

‘We are the chosen few to ensure that what is good for our people is done in a correct way. We have a responsibility for our people.’



MPs panel discussion (from left to right): Hon. Rebecca Yei Kamara (Sierra Leone), Hon. Jackson Kiswaga (Tanzania), Hon. Yusuf Mackery (Sierra Leone), Hon. Andy Osi Kama Nkemkanma (Nigeria) Senator John Methu (Kenya), Hon. Yaw Frimpong Addo (Ghana)

MPs panel

The panel, moderated by **Hon Rebecca Yei Kamara (Sierra Leone)**, showcased how Members of Parliament across Africa are shaping clean energy transitions through legislation, oversight, constituency-level engagement and international partnerships.

Hon Andy Osi Kama Nkemkanma (Nigeria) emphasised the need for stronger legislative frameworks and sustainable capacity-building for MPs. He suggested retaining trained committee Chairperson and clerks as long-term advisors to build institutional memory. He also shared the “EverGreen City” concept in Nigeria as a model integrating green infrastructure and community empowerment.

Hon Yaw Frimpong Addo (Ghana) noted that Ghana’s private sector plays a major role in energy provision. He pledged to ensure energy laws prioritise remote areas and reinforce Ghana’s social contract. He underlined the importance of legislative oversight and collaboration with the executive on the one hand and community-level advocacy with traditional leaders on the other. Capacity building for MPs, he stressed, is the essential entry point for meaningful engagement on GEZs.

Hon Yusuf Mackery (Sierra Leone) said Sierra Leone is scaling up off-grid access, aiming for 85%

energy access by 2030. He called for closer cooperation with finance committees to introduce tax waivers and subsidies for investors. He highlighted ongoing opportunities: an upcoming national budget, a draft climate change bill and an active climate desk within the Ministry of Finance. He warned of exploitative investor deals due to limited local legal capacity, emphasising the need for parliamentary scrutiny. Sierra Leone’s NDA is working with MPs to include Green Zones in national climate planning.

Senator John Methu (Kenya) described Kenya’s leadership in renewables but noted persistent gaps in last-mile access. He argued that legal frameworks exist but need stronger implementation and budgetary backing. Localising national plans at the county level is essential, particularly for clean cooking and deforestation prevention. He stressed that budgeting is a key indicator of a strong political will.

Hon. Jackson Kiswaga (Tanzania) highlighted Tanzania’s Rural Energy Fund, financed by fossil fuel levies and the challenge of serving dispersed villages. He emphasised aligning GEZs with agriculture needs, citing initiatives to engage youth in farming and the urgent need for better storage infrastructure to reduce post-harvest losses. He committed to following up with relevant ministries and pledged to review Tanzania’s environmental law to better include private sector perspectives.

Session 4 - Countries' commitments and next steps

Parliamentarians from across five countries outlined their national-level plans to advance CGEZ, focusing on legislation, planning, financing and community engagement.

Ghana committed to two priority tracks: optimising existing infrastructure and establishing new Green Zones. An implementation framework was proposed with six stages: resource mapping, stakeholder engagement, financial planning, project implementation and monitoring. Key challenges include land availability, inter-ministerial policy alignment and financial innovation. A pilot example discussed was market electrification through solar panels, with strong local authority involvement. Ghana intends to develop a CGEZ project pipeline, integrate Green Zones into its NDC and initiate school-based green projects.

Kenya announced a national dialogue on CGEZ (3–4 July), focusing on smart agriculture (cold storage and climate-resilient farming) and on clean cooking. Local governance plays a key role, as counties independently control 35% of the national budget. Engagement with governors, Kenya's NDA and ministries is ongoing, with strong private sector partnerships. Kenya's key deliverable will be a concept note for submission to the GCF, aligned with CGEZ and national priorities set by the Nationally Designated Authority (National Treasury) and other stakeholders.



Hon. John Darko, MP, Ghana

Nigeria emphasised the need for legal clarity and harmonisation across energy, land climate laws. MPs will explore aligning CGEZs with existing frameworks like the Electricity Act and Energy Transition Plan. They stressed simplifying licensing and engaging communities, universities and the private sector. Work is underway to develop a CGEZ concept note and awareness-raising is essential to distinguish what qualifies as "green" under the GEZ model.

Sierra Leone committed to prioritising Green Zones in its climate change bill, in NDC 3.0 and in the country's GCF priority documents. MPs identified school and clinic electrification as initial project focuses. Community engagement is crucial due to land ownership by Permanent Chiefs. Oversight will help identify obstacles and adjust priorities.

Tanzania shared plans to develop concept notes targeting CGEZ to support energy needs in agriculture and fisheries. With up to 40% of post-harvest losses linked to inadequate storage, solar-powered cold chains are a national priority. Equipment is already VAT-exempt, but reducing electricity costs remains key. For islands and remote areas, mini-grids are essential. Tanzania also cited streamlined permitting processes and strict procurement standards as enabling policies.

'The Dialogue has generally been an eye opener for me. The Uruguay example about almost 100% of renewable energy as the source of power has taught me that it is possible to transition completely to renewable energy as the only source of energy energy and thereby healing and eventually saving the planet.'

Conclusion

The Marrakesh Parliamentary Investors Dialogue provided a valuable opportunity for MPs to deepen their understanding of climate finance and Green Energy Zones.



Hon. Yaw Frimpong Addo, MP, Ghana

It allowed them to explore how concepts can be adapted to their national contexts, aligned with national development priorities and climate agendas. MPs engaged directly with investors to test and refine their ideas. Clear roadmaps were developed to guide the next steps of the PCF project, setting a strong foundation for future implementation.

The enthusiasm for the CGEZ initiative underscores a firm political will and growing momentum behind the concept. It is being seen as a key driver for improving community livelihoods and strengthening resilience to climate threats across all constituencies, while ensuring a fair, inclusive and bottom-up approach to development.



Group photo of all participants



Santiago Nocelli Pac, Industrial Development Expert, UNIDO

UNIDO reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the efforts of the project, emphasising the potential of CEGZs to contribute meaningfully to national adaptation goals and unlock access to climate finance. The approach is timely, scalable and politically relevant, offering tangible community benefits while advancing broader global climate targets.

Appendix 1 - attendee list

Country	Name	Role/Title	Organisation	Type
Argentina	Lucas Somavilla Croxatto	Director	Nova Terra Consulting	Academics & Experts
Argentina	Santiago Nocelli Pac	Industrial Development Expert	UNIDO	UN Agency
Chile	Luis Missana	Volunteer	Climate Parliament	Civil Society & NGOs
Chile	Sergio Missana	Secretary General	Climate Parliament	Civil Society & NGOs
Ethiopia	Yacob Mulugetta	Head of International Partnerships	CCG/UCL	Academics & Experts
Finland	Sirpa Pietikainen	MEP	Finland	Members of Parliament (MPs)
France	Léa Hillaireau	Programme Manager	Climate Parliament	Civil Society & NGOs
Ghana	Robert Mensah	Senior Budget Ofiicer	Ministry of Finance, Ghana	Government Officials
Ghana	Yaw Frimpong Addo	MP	The Parliament of Ghana	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Ghana	Hamza Adam	MP	The Parliament of Ghana	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Ghana	Faustina Elikplim Akurugu	MP	The Parliament of Ghana	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Ghana	John Darko	MP	The Parliament of Ghana	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Ghana	Yao Gomado	MP	The Parliament of Ghana	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Ghana	Emmanuel Marfo	Director, West and North Africa	Climate Parliament	Civil Society & NGOs
India	Sanjay Kumar	Chief Policy Advisor	Climate Parliament	Civil Society & NGOs
Kenya	John Muhia Methu	Senator	The Senate of the Republic of Kenya	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Kenya	Carolyn Cherop	Legislative & Procedural Officer	Parliament of the Republic of Kenya	Government Officials

Kenya	Patrick Tonui	Head of Policy and Regional Strategy	Gogla	Civil Society & NGOs
Netherlands	Martijn Veen	Executive Director	SNV	Project Developers
New Zealand	Nicholas Dunlop	Founder and Chief Strategy Officer	Climate Parliament	Civil Society & NGOs
Nigeria	Osi Kama Nkemkanma St Andy	MP	The National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Nigeria	Awele Ikobi-Anyali	Head of Legal	NCCCS	Government Officials
Nigeria	Ruth Soronnadi	Regional Coordinator	Climate Parliament	Civil Society & NGOs
Nigeria	Ojuru Adeniji	CEO	InfraCredit	Guarantos
Nigeria	Wola Jospeh-Condotti	CEO	West Power and Gas Ltd	Corporate Investors
Nigeria	Hakeem Condotti	CEO	BLK Hut Ltd	Corporate Investors
Nigeria	Jesse Ojobor	Climate Finance Advisor	UNIDO	UN Agency
Sierra Leone	Yusuf Mackery	MP	Government of Sierra Leone	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Sierra Leone	Zainab Bah	MP	Government of Sierra Leone	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Sierra Leone	Rebecca Yei Kamara	MP	Government of Sierra Leone	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Sierra Leone	PC Saffa M. Tamu	Paramount Chief/MP	Government of Sierra Leone	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Sierra Leone	Juanah Lovetta Yatta	Director of Programme Development and Performance	Environmental Protection Agency, Sierra Leone	Government Officials
Sierra Leone	Wilbourne Showers	Policy Coordinator, Sierra Leone	Climate Parliament	Civil Society & NGOs
Tanzania	Jackson Kiswaga	MP	The National Assembly of Tanzania	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Tanzania	Jacqueline Kainje	MP	The National Assembly of Tanzania	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Tanzania	Kassim Haji	MP	The National Assembly of Tanzania	Members of Parliament (MPs)
Tanzania	Jitu Soni	Director, East and Southern Africa	Climate Parliament	Civil Society & NGOs
UK	Eliza Cocksworth	Network Manager	Climate Parliament	Civil Society & NGOs
Uruguay	Ramon Mendez	President	REN21	Civil Society & NGOs

Acknowledgements

The **Parliamentarians for Climate Finance** project is designed to support lawmakers in 15 African countries. They are: Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The project helps mobilise climate finance and implements policies that accelerate the transition to renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure. Implemented by the Climate Parliament and UNIDO, with support from the Green Climate Fund, the project provides parliamentarians with the knowledge, technical expertise and financial networks needed to drive investments in clean energy, low-carbon transport and climate resilience initiatives. By strengthening the role of legislative action, the project supports national policies to align with international climate goals while fostering long-term economic growth.

Climate Parliament - an international, multi-partisan network of legislators working to combat climate change and protect the environment.

Contact:

<https://www.climateparl.net>

info@climateparl.net

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) - a specialized agency of the United Nations with a unique mandate to promote, dynamize and accelerate industrial development.

Contact:

<https://www.unido.org/>

s.nocellipac@unido.org



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Climate Parliament

With support from



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND