



**RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AFRICA**  
**Hyatt Regency, Johannesburg 25 – 27 June 2018**

**Sustainable energy for all: Empowering Africa through clean energy**

**Scheduling**

**Date:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**Time:** 14:10 – 15:55 (1 hour 45 minutes)

**Venue:** Hyatt Regency, 191 Oxford Rd, Rosebank, Johannesburg, 2132, South Africa

**Room:** Nina I

**Speakers**

**Moderator: Matthew Cullinen**, Senior Director, Renewable Energy Program, Pact

**Charity Wanjiku**, Chief Operating Officer, Strauss Energy

**Christopher Clarke**, Managing Partner, Inspired Evolution Investment Management

**Simbarashe Mhuro**, Managing Director, Oxygen Africa

**Courtney Gehle**, Consultant, Global Cleantech Innovation Consultant, UNIDO

**Synopsis**

In a continent with a population of close to 1 billion, over 625 million people are without power<sup>1</sup>. Energy access is critical for poverty alleviation and economic growth. Industries like agriculture, health, education, and technology all require access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all to stimulate much-needed economic and social development.

Small scale solar is already providing energy to many off-grid rural communities. However, renewable energy solutions must be scaled up in order to meet the energy gap and realise Africa's renewable energy potential. Accelerating the progress towards universal energy access will require a concerted and integrated effort from all stakeholders, public, private and civil society.

This discussion will focus on how collaborative, multi-stakeholder approaches are helping to '**empower Africa through clean energy**'. It will focus on examples of innovation, youth and technology transforming the continent's development, and incorporate perspectives from a cross-section of stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.africa.com/10-renewable-energy-start-ups-africa/>



**Format (1 hour 45 minutes)**

*We kindly request that you do not prepare slides.*

1. **Welcome and introduction:** The moderator will briefly introduce themselves, provide a short overview to frame the discussion and invite each panellist to introduce themselves (**10 minutes**).
2. **Panel discussion:** The moderator will ask each panellist for their views and experiences on what they see as the biggest barriers preventing empowerment through clean energy. They will use examples drawn from practice and current initiatives, before opening up to a wider discussion (**30 minutes**).
3. **Audience Roundtable Discussions:** Delegates will discuss, share and finally agree on **three** priority recommendations on how organisations can better support innovation, youth and technology generation to drive development (**25 minutes**).

An example recommendation: "Private sector to provide innovation incubator programmes for youth to help develop business skills at the same time as creative solutions."

Panellists are welcomed to join in a roundtable to support the discussions. The moderator may wish to roam among tables as the point of contact for the recommendations.

4. **Feedback from Roundtables:** Each table will assign a rapporteur to stand and share their recommendations with the room (**20 minutes**).
5. **Wrap up:** Moderator and panellists will reflect on the recommendations shared and the moderator will close with a quick summary of the main discussion points. They will select three of these recommendations to report back in the plenary (**20 minutes**).

Thank you again for joining us, and we look forward to the discussion.

Kind regards,

**Ria Coburn**  
Senior Programme Manager  
Global Initiatives