



AFREC
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Commission



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Canada



COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORK

Methodological Guidelines on
the Integration of Gender into
SDG 7 Indicators in Africa

APRIL 2026

Intended audiences:

- National Compliance Focal Points (NCFP) — implementation & self-assessment
- AFREC Teams — validation, technical assistance & continental reporting
- Ministries of Energy & Gender — political engagement & resource allocation

The Gender–SDG7 Implementation Package: Overview and Use

The Gender–SDG7 Implementation Package developed by the African Energy Commission (AFREC) provides a comprehensive and integrated framework to support African Union Member States in systematically integrating gender into energy statistics, monitoring systems, and policy processes.

The package consists of four complementary components:

- Methodological Guidelines — define the conceptual framework, five-step methodology, and the 11 core gender–energy indicators;
- Training Module — builds institutional and technical capacity to apply the methodology and indicators in practice;
- Data Collection Module — provides tools and guidance for integrating gender into surveys and administrative systems;
- Compliance Framework — establishes a structured system to monitor implementation, assess progress, and ensure accountability.

How the package works in practice:

1. The Guidelines define what to do;
2. The Training Module explains how to apply it;
3. The Data Collection Module provides tools to generate data;
4. The Compliance Framework verifies whether it is being implemented.

These components are designed to be used both independently and in an integrated manner depending on institutional needs.

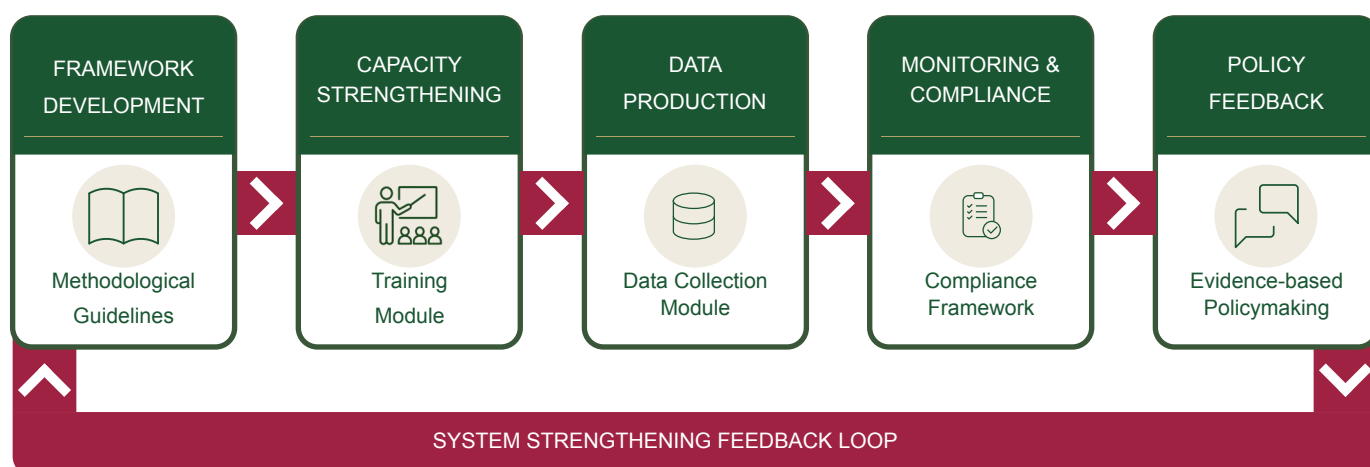


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EXECUTIVE CONTEXT

The integration of gender into energy statistics is essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable energy transitions across Africa. While progress has been made in expanding access to electricity and clean cooking solutions, gender disparities in energy access, use and decision-making remain insufficiently captured in national statistical systems.

The Methodological Guidelines on the Integration of Gender into SDG 7 Indicators in Africa provide the conceptual and methodological foundation for addressing this gap. The Compliance Framework presented in this document translates those methodological principles into a structured system for implementation, monitoring and accountability.

The Compliance Framework operationalises the Methodological Guidelines on the Integration of Gender into SDG 7 Indicators in Africa by translating methodological standards into a structured accountability and monitoring system. While the Guidelines define the conceptual framework, the five-step methodology and the 11 gender-energy indicators, this Framework establishes the institutional architecture required to support and track implementation across African Union Member States.



The Framework serves five complementary purposes:

- Establishing a continental governance architecture linking national institutions, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AFREC.
- Defining a set of 26 measurable compliance requirements aligned with the Guidelines.
- Introducing a transparent Overall Compliance Index (OCI) used to track implementation progress.
- Providing a corrective action mechanism and technical assistance pathway.
- Enabling continental benchmarking and peer learning across African countries

The system is designed to reward progress, recognise institutional diversity, and progressively strengthen national gender-responsive energy statistics systems.

Key Messages

The Gender–Energy Compliance Framework provides a structured system for integrating gender into SDG 7 monitoring in Africa.

The framework establishes five key principles:

- 1. Institutional responsibility is essential.** Countries designate National Compliance Focal Points and establish National Gender–Energy Working Groups to coordinate implementation.
- 2. Methodology must guide implementation.** The framework follows a five-step process—from diagnostic analysis to policy application—to ensure systematic integration of gender into energy statistics.
- 3. Comparable indicators enable continental monitoring.** A set of proposed gender–energy indicators complements SDG 7 indicators and supports harmonised monitoring across African countries.
- 4. Compliance is measured transparently.** The Overall Compliance Index (OCI) provides a clear, weighted assessment of progress across five domains of implementation.
- 5. Implementation is progressive and supported.** Countries advance through the framework at different speeds, supported by REC peer review, AFREC technical assistance and continental knowledge sharing.

Key Design Features of the Framework

- Institutional coordination across energy, gender and statistics systems,
- Progressive implementation adapted to country capacity levels,
- Explicit linkage between data production and policy use,
- Peer learning and regional accountability mechanisms,
- Respect for national statistical sovereignty,
- Standardisation of definitions, methodologies and metadata across countries.

Table 1 — Overview of the Gender–Energy Compliance Framework

Component	Objective	Key Elements	Data Sources	Policy Relevance
Governance Architecture	Establish institutional responsibility for gender–energy statistics	AFREC coordination, STATAFRIC statistical harmonisation, REC peer review, National Compliance Focal Points (NCFP), National Gender–Energy Working Groups (NGEWG)	Institutional mandates, national statistical systems	Ensures coordination between energy, gender and statistical institutions
Five-Step Methodology	Provide a structured pathway from diagnosis to policy use	Diagnostic → Disaggregation → Complementary indicators → Data system integration → Policy application	National energy statistics, household surveys, administrative data	Enables systematic integration of gender into energy policy
Proposed Gender–Energy Indicators	Capture gender dimensions of energy access and use	11 candidate indicators covering access, time burden, health impacts, economic participation and governance	DHS, MICS, LSMS, HBS, TUS, administrative energy data	Provides evidence for targeted energy interventions
Compliance Framework (26 Requirements)	Monitor national implementation of the Guidelines	Domains A–E: Institutional Foundations, Methodology, Indicators, Capacity, Monitoring	Compliance checklist completed by NCFPs	Tracks institutional progress and identifies implementation gaps

Table 1 — Continued

Component	Objective	Key Elements	Data Sources	Policy Relevance
Overall Compliance Index (OCI)	Provide a transparent measurement of implementation progress	Weighted scoring across five domains	National compliance reports validated by AFREC	Enables continental benchmarking and peer learning
Peer Review and Technical Support	Strengthen capacity through regional collaboration	REC peer review sessions, AFREC technical assistance, training programmes	National reports and peer feedback	Facilitates knowledge exchange and capacity development
Continental Monitoring System	Aggregate gender–energy statistics at continental level	Africa Energy Information System (AEIS) and AFREC compliance reports	National submissions and harmonised metadata	Supports monitoring of SDG 7 and Agenda 2063
Continuous Improvement Mechanism	Ensure progressive strengthening of gender–energy statistics	Corrective action plans, annual reviews, three-horizon roadmap	Compliance cycle outputs	Supports long-term institutionalisation

This table summarises the key components of the Gender–Energy Compliance Framework, highlighting the relationships between governance structures, methodological processes, statistical indicators, and policy outcomes.

Ultimately, this Compliance Framework is not only a monitoring instrument but a strategic tool for transforming how energy systems account for gender equality. By institutionalising gender–energy data systems, African Union Member States can move from fragmented and project-based evidence generation toward sustained, policy-relevant data ecosystems. This shift is essential for enabling inclusive energy transitions, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and supporting the achievement of both SDG 7 and Agenda 2063.



Positioning within the Gender–SDG7 Implementation Package

This Compliance Framework forms part of the Gender–SDG7 Implementation Package, a comprehensive framework developed by the African Energy Commission (AFREC) to support the systematic integration of gender into energy statistics and policy systems across African Union Member States. The package includes the Methodological Guidelines, the Training Module, the Data Collection Module, and this Compliance Framework.

While the Methodological Guidelines establish the conceptual framework and Gender–SDG7 indicators, and the associated modules support capacity development and data production, this Compliance Framework provides a structured mechanism to **monitor implementation, assess progress, and promote accountability** in the application of the Guidelines at the national level.

The Framework is designed to support countries in tracking their level of alignment with the Gender–SDG7 approach across key domains, while facilitating **comparability, peer learning, and progressive improvement** over time.

The Compliance Framework is advisory in nature, but is institutionally anchored within continental energy and statistical coordination mechanisms led by AFREC, and aligned with frameworks such as the African Energy Information System (AEIS) and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2). It is intended to support voluntary adoption by Member States, while contributing to strengthened reporting, coordination, and accountability within existing regional and continental processes.

Implementation of the Framework provides several strategic benefits for Member States, including: improved quality and consistency of SDG7 reporting; enhanced capacity to design gender-responsive energy policies; strengthened eligibility for international reporting and financing mechanisms; and improved coordination between national institutions responsible for energy, statistics, and gender equality.

As such, the Compliance Framework serves as a practical tool to support the institutionalization of gender-responsive energy statistics and governance within national systems.

HOW TO USE THIS FRAMEWORK

This section provides practical guidance for using the Compliance Framework. It explains the overall logic of the document, identifies the main audiences, and outlines the steps countries should follow to initiate implementation.

The Framework is designed to serve multiple stakeholders, including National Compliance Focal Points (NCFPs), National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Energy and Gender, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and AFREC technical teams. Each group plays a distinct role in the compliance cycle and may consult different parts of the document depending on their responsibilities.

The subsections below provide navigation guidance so that users can quickly identify the sections most relevant to their role.

Document Map

Section	Title	Primary Audience
0	 How to use this Framework	All users – start here
1	 Purpose and Scope	Ministries, AFREC – strategic context
2	 Governance Structure	All users – roles and cycle
3	 Compliance Domains and Requirements	NCFP, AFREC – the 26 requirements
4	 Compliance Rating System	AFREC, NCFP – scoring logic
5	 Risk Assessment	AFREC, Ministries – anticipating obstacles
6	 Self-Assessment Checklist	NCFP – annual reporting tool
7	 Corrective Action Mechanism	NCFP, AFREC – gap remediation
8	 Continuous Improvement	AFREC, Ministries – long-term strategy
9	 Country Profiles: Three Implementation Tiers	All users – where does my country start?
Annexes A–F	Technical Annexes & Quick Reference	All users – look-up

Reading Guide by Audience



For National Compliance Focal Points (NCFP)

You are responsible for coordinating your country's self-assessment and reporting to AFREC. Your reading path:

- **Step 1** — Understand your role: Section 2.2 (Roles & Responsibilities).
- **Step 2** — Identify your country's tier: Section 9 (Country Profiles). This tells you which requirements are priority for you.
- **Step 3** — Read the domain notes: Section 3, the explanatory note at the start of each Domain, to understand why each requirement exists.
- **Step 4** — Complete the checklist: Section 6. Use it once a year, before 31 March.
- **Step 5** — Build a corrective action plan if needed: Section 7.
- **Quick reference:** Annex B — the 26 requirements in one page.



For AFREC Teams

You are responsible for receiving national reports, validating scores, coordinating technical assistance and publishing the continental compliance scorecard. Your reading path:

- **Step 1** — Governance and calendar: Section 2 — the six-phase compliance cycle.
- **Step 2** — Rating logic: Section 4 — OCI calculation and status thresholds.
- **Step 3** — Risk map: Section 5 — anticipate where countries will struggle.
- **Step 4** — Validation process: Use the checklist in Section 6 as your validation grid when reviewing national submissions.
- **Step 5** — Technical assistance: Section 7.3 lists available support tools for non-compliant countries.
- **Step 6** — Long-term architecture: Section 8 — the three-horizon roadmap for the continental system.



For Ministries of Energy and Gender

Your role is to provide political leadership, inter-institutional coordination and resource allocation. You do not need to read the technical details — focus on:

- **What is expected of your ministry:** Section 2.2 (roles) and the 'Responsible Actor' column in Section 3 tables.
- **Why it matters politically:** The explanatory notes at the start of each Domain in Section 3.
- **What resources are needed:** Requirements D-3 (budget) and D-2 (inter-institutional coordination) in Domain D.
- **How your country is progressing:** Ask your NCFP for the annual OCI summary from Section 6.
- **Continental commitments:** Section 1.2 links this work to Agenda 2063, the AU Gender Strategy and SDG 7 VNR reporting.



For Regional Economic Community (REC) Coordinators

Your role is the critical bridge between national efforts and the continental system. You coordinate the peer review process, identify sub-regional capacity gaps, and facilitate cross-country learning. Your reading path:

- **Step 1** — Your institutional mandate: Section 2.4 (Role of RECs) — the full description of your functions in the compliance system.
- **Step 2** — The compliance cycle: Section 2.3 — Phase 3 (Peer Review) is where your work is most visible.
- **Step 3** — What you will review: Section 6 (Checklist) — the instrument your peer review is based on.
- **Step 4** — Sub-regional risks: Section 5 (Risk Assessment) — identify which risks are most prevalent in your sub-region.
- **Step 5** — Country profiles: Section 9 — understand where each member country starts from.

Step-by-Step Onboarding Guide for Countries

This guide walks a country through the first 12 months of implementation, from the moment the Guidelines are adopted to the submission of the first self-assessment to AFREC.

Step	Timing	Action	Key tool / Output
Step 1	Month 1	Designate the National Compliance Focal Point (NCFP). Formally notify AFREC with name, institution and contact details.	Designation letter → fulfils A-1
Step 2	Month 1 - 2	Identify your country's Tier (Section 9). Read the priority requirements for your tier. Brief your ministry counterparts (Energy + Gender).	Tier determination note
Step 3	Month 2 - 3	Convene the first meeting of the National Gender-Energy Working Group (NGEWG). Draft and adopt Terms of Reference.	NGEWG ToR + meeting minutes → fulfils A-2
Step 4	Month 3 - 4	Conduct the gender-energy diagnostic using the tools in Annex 1 of the Guidelines. Validate results with the NGEWG.	Diagnostic report → fulfils B-1
Step 5	Month 4 - 6	Based on diagnostic, select the 4 minimum core indicators to operationalise (Tier 1). Document data sources and calculation methods using AFGEM template (Annex 6 of Guidelines).	Indicator selection note + AFGEM metadata → fulfils B-3, C-1
Step 6	Month 6 - 8	Prepare sex-disaggregated data for SDG 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.1, 7.3.1. Apply QA checklist (Guidelines Section 4.5.6).	Sex-disaggregated tables → fulfils B-2, B-6
Step 7	Month 8 - 10	Draft national gender-energy monitoring plan with baselines and targets. Secure endorsement from NGEWG.	Monitoring plan → fulfils E-1
Step 8	Month 10 - 11	Complete the national self-assessment checklist (Section 6). Calculate Domain scores and OCI. Draft corrective action plan for any gaps (Section 7).	Completed checklist + CAP
Step 9	Month 12 (by 31 March)	Submit completed self-assessment to AFREC. Upload any available data to AEIS portal.	AFREC submission → fulfils E-5, C-3

Important: progressive implementation is expected

No country is expected to achieve Full Compliance in year one. The Framework is designed to reward progress, not just results.

A Tier 1 country that completes Steps 1–4 in year one and reaches Partial Compliance (OCI 40–64%) is on the right path.

AFREC will provide technical assistance at every step. Contact: <https://au-afrec.org>

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 Rationale

This Compliance Framework (CF) is the operational instrument that enables AFREC, Member States, National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Ministries of Energy, Ministries of Gender, and technical partners to verify, document and demonstrate conformity with the Methodological Guidelines on the Integration of Gender into SDG 7 Indicators in Africa (hereafter 'the Guidelines').

The Guidelines pursue four objectives: establishing a gender-energy conceptual framework, providing a five-step methodology, proposing a harmonised set of 11 core gender-sensitive indicators, and strengthening institutional and statistical capacities. This CF translates each of those objectives into verifiable compliance requirements, controls and responsibilities.

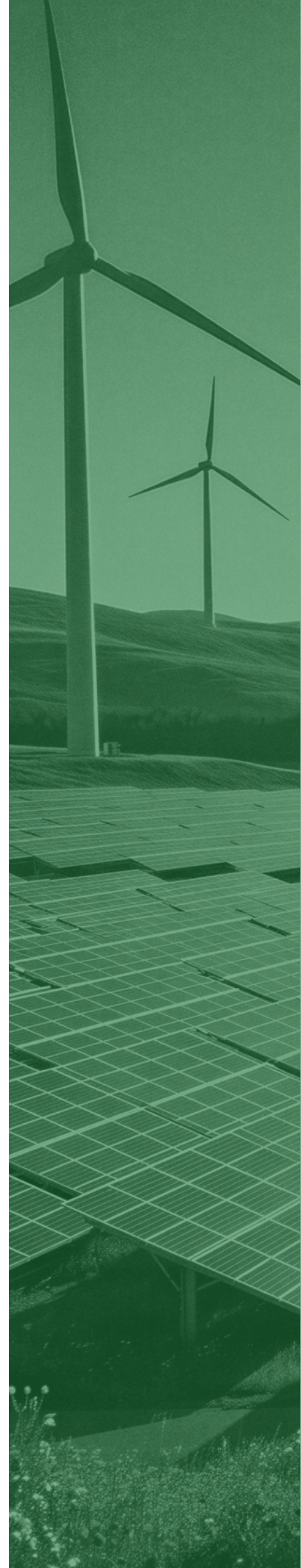
1.2 Objectives of the Framework

- Provide a structured and progressive system to monitor, assess and support the implementation of gender integration into SDG7 indicators across African Union Member States.
- Assign clear accountability for each compliance requirement to specific institutional actors.
- Establish a monitoring, reporting and corrective-action cycle to sustain progress over time.
- Generate comparable, auditable evidence of compliance that can be used in AFREC continental reports and partner accountability processes.
- Support progressive implementation, acknowledging varying institutional readiness across African countries.

The Framework also aims to strengthen coordination between statistical and energy institutions and to support the progressive institutionalisation of gender-responsive energy statistics systems across African Union Member States.

1.3 Scope of Application

- All 55 AU Member States that commit to implementing the Guidelines.
- AFREC and its technical divisions, in their continental coordination and oversight role.
- STATAFRIC, in its statistical harmonisation mandate.
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs) coordinating sub-regional reporting.
- Technical and financial partners supporting national implementation.



1.4 Relationship to the Guidelines

Guidelines	Compliance Incentives
 What to do and how	How to verify it has been done
 Methodological standards	Compliance requirements and controls
 Conceptual and technical content	Governance, monitoring and accountability
 Chapters 1–9 + Annexes	Sections 0–9 + Annexes A–F of this document

1.5 Institutional Status and Applicability

This Compliance Framework constitutes the operational mechanism through which the implementation of the Methodological Guidelines on the Integration of Gender into SDG 7 Indicators in Africa is monitored and assessed at national, regional and continental levels.

Upon endorsement of the Guidelines, Member States are expected to progressively participate in the compliance cycle established under this Framework.

Nature of the mandate

This Compliance Framework operates as a technical advisory instrument developed under AFREC's mandate to coordinate continental energy statistics and information systems (African Union Act, 2001; AFREC, 2022). It does not carry new binding legal obligations, but is grounded in commitments that AU Member States have already undertaken through Agenda 2063 (African Union, 2015), the SDG 7 voluntary reporting process, and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa 2 (SHaSA 2) (AUC–STATAFRIC, 2018). Its authority derives from these pre-existing normative frameworks and from the formal AU endorsement process through which it is being adopted.

In accordance with African Union procedures, the Methodological Guidelines and this Compliance Framework are being presented to the Specialized Technical Committee (Committee of Ministers) in charge of Energy for endorsement, and subsequently to the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) and the Executive Council for approval. This process confers the instruments with formal AU institutional standing, making participation in the compliance cycle consistent with AU Member States' obligations under AU governance frameworks (African Union, 2001; African Union, 2015).

The framework has been developed with financial support from IDRC and through a consultative process involving AU Member States, National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Energy, Ministries of Gender, Regional Economic Communities, and partners including UN Women, IDRC, UNSD, the World Bank, ENERGIA, and the African Development Bank. This consultative foundation provides a legitimate basis for its application ahead of formal endorsement proceedings.

Incentives for participation

The compliance design incorporates concrete incentives to encourage participation. Countries engaging with the compliance cycle benefit from: (i) AFREC technical assistance and capacity-building support; (ii) facilitated peer learning through Regional Economic Communities; (iii) recognition in the continental compliance scorecard and annual AFREC reporting; (iv) alignment of national reporting with SDG 7 and Agenda 2063 Voluntary National Review processes; and (v) enhanced positioning for development partner engagement in countries that can demonstrate institutionalised gender–energy data systems (see Section 8.3 on Compliance Incentives). These incentives are structured to reward measurable progress and to support countries at all tiers of readiness rather than impose uniform requirements.

Participation in the compliance process entails the following minimum procedural commitments:

- Designation of a National Compliance Focal Point (NCFP) responsible for coordinating implementation;
- Completion of the annual compliance self-assessment;
- Participation in REC-level peer review processes;
- Cooperation with AFREC validation procedures and reporting timelines.

The Framework operates under the principles of:

- Progressive implementation;
- Institutional strengthening;
- Transparency and comparability;
- Peer accountability among Member States;
- Respect for national statistical sovereignty.

2. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

2.1 Compliance Architecture

Level	Action	Primary Role
 Continental	AFREC / STATAFRIC / AUC	Standard-setting, harmonisation, continental reporting
 Regional	RECs (ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, AMU, ECCAS, IGAD, CEN-SAD, COMESA)	Sub-regional coordination, peer learning, gap analysis
 National	NSOs, Ministries of Energy, Ministries of Gender	Day-to-day implementation, data production, reporting

2.2 Roles and Responsibilities

AFREC — Lead Compliance Authority

- Maintain and update the Compliance Framework.
- Issue annual compliance guidance notes to Member States.
- Receive, validate and aggregate national compliance reports.
- Publish continental compliance scorecards.
- Coordinate technical assistance and capacity-building for non-compliant countries.

STATAFRIC — Statistical Compliance Body

- Verify alignment of gender-energy indicators with SHaSA 2 and AEIS standards.
- Certify metadata quality for the 11 core indicators.
- Issue statistical compliance certificates for national reporting systems.

National Compliance Focal Points (NCFP)

- Officially designated by government; housed preferably in the NSO or coordinating ministry.
- Coordinate the national self-assessment and compile the national compliance report.
- Liaise directly with AFREC and their regional REC contact point.
- Convene the National Gender-Energy Working Group (NGEWG) as the multi-stakeholder compliance body.

Technical and Financial Partners

- Align financial support with compliance requirements and reporting cycles.
- Report implementation progress to AFREC within agreed partnership frameworks.
- Participate in continental compliance reviews as technical observers.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

Civil society organisations play a complementary role in the compliance system by strengthening inclusiveness, transparency and accountability. Their contributions may include:

- Providing qualitative insights and community-level evidence to complement official statistics;
- Supporting participatory gender analysis processes;
- Advocating for the integration of gender-energy data into policy processes;
- Facilitating dissemination of findings to stakeholders and affected communities.

While CSOs are not responsible for formal compliance reporting, their engagement enhances the relevance and impact of gender-energy data systems.

AFREC retains final authority for the validation of national compliance scores and for the publication of the continental compliance report.

2.3 Compliance Cycle (24 months, aligned with AEIS)

Phase	Timing	Activity
1. Baseline	Year 0	Countries conduct initial diagnostic; NCFP established; baseline OCI recorded.
2. Self-Assessment	Q1, Year 1	NCFP completes compliance checklist (Section 6); calculates OCI.
3. Peer Review	Q2	REC-level peer review; cross-country validation of self-assessments
4. AFREC Validation	Q3	AFREC reviews national reports; issues compliance ratings; flags gaps.
5. Corrective Action	Q3–Q4	Countries develop corrective action plans; AFREC deploys technical assistance.
6. Continental Report	Q4	AFREC publishes continental compliance report and gender-energy scorecard.

2.4 The Role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

The African Union recognises eight Regional Economic Communities as the building blocks of continental integration. In the context of this Compliance Framework, RECs occupy a strategic intermediate level between the 55 Member States and AFREC. They are not passive transmission belts — they are active coordination, peer learning and gap-bridging mechanisms that make the compliance system work at the sub-regional scale.

Why RECs are indispensable to this compliance system

Proximity:

RECs know their member countries' statistical systems, political economies and institutional landscapes far better than a continental body can.

Legitimacy:

Peer review by neighbouring countries carries political weight that top-down AFREC validation cannot replicate alone.

Accountability:

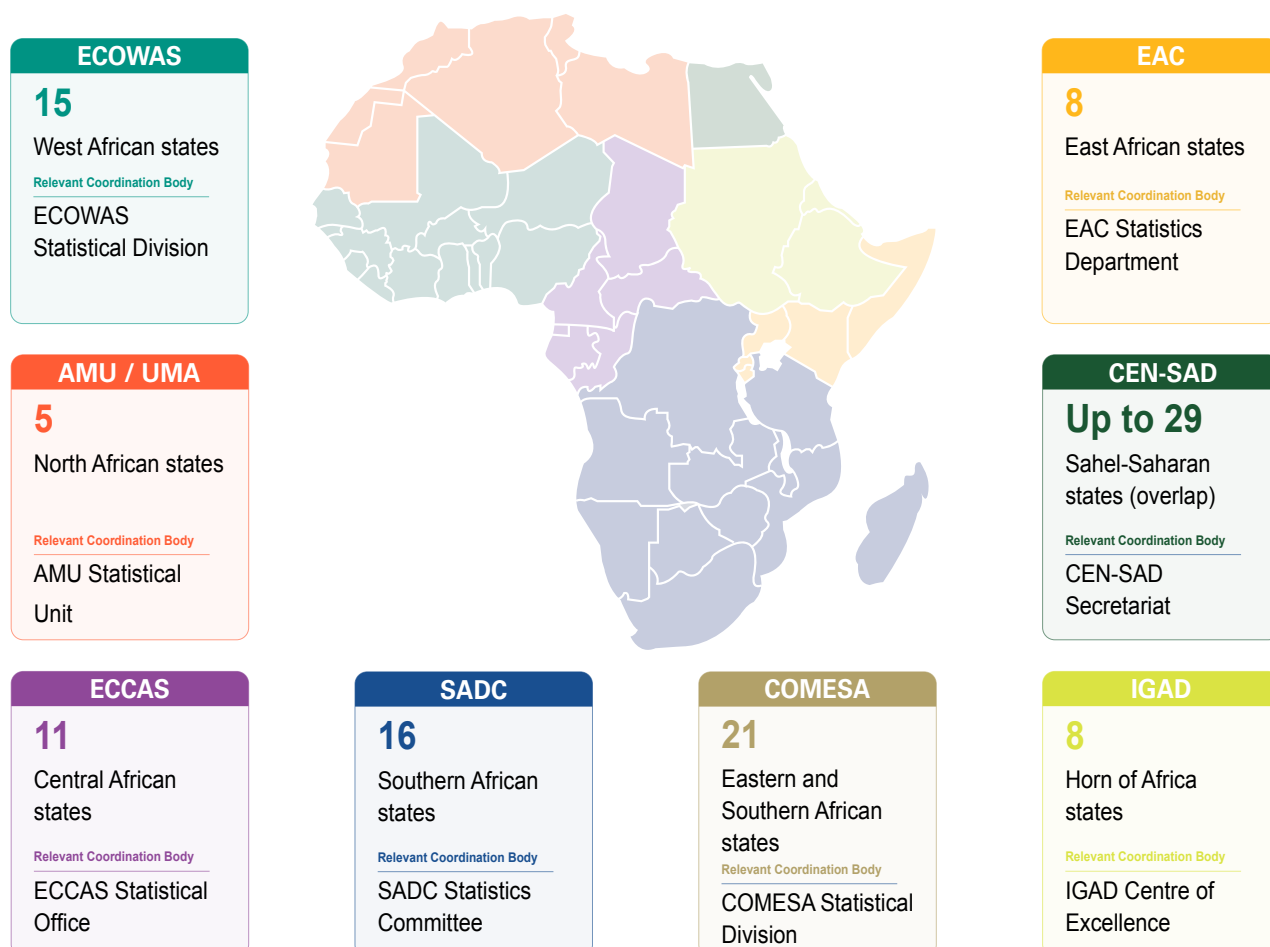
REC-level reporting creates an intermediate accountability layer that catches problems before they reach the continental level.

Efficiency:

Sub-regional harmonisation of gender-energy statistics reduces the burden on each country and creates shared data infrastructure.

2.4.1 Sub-Regional Coverage

The eight RECs engaged in this compliance system, their coverage and their primary statistical or energy coordination bodies are as follows:



Note on overlapping memberships

Several African countries are members of more than one REC (e.g., Tanzania is in both SADC and EAC). For the purposes of this compliance system, each country designates one primary REC peer review channel, in agreement with AFREC. AFREC will publish a country-to-REC assignment list at the start of each compliance cycle.

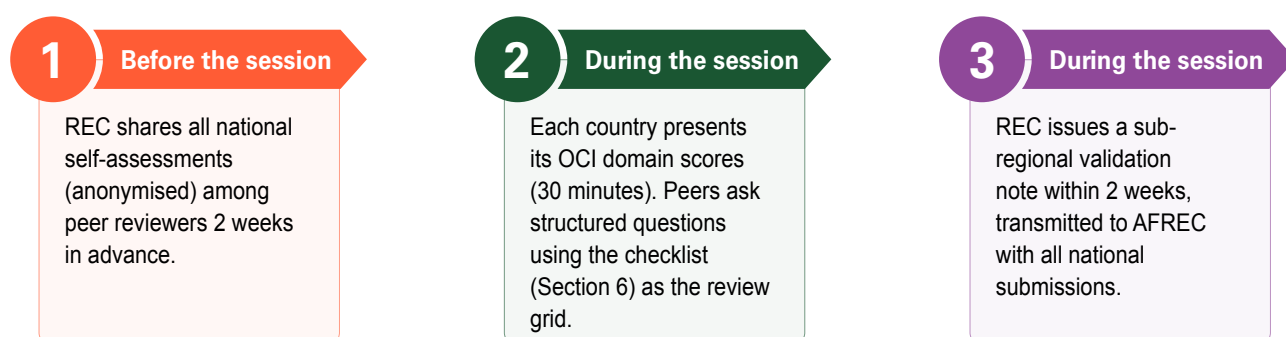
2.4.2 Core Functions of RECs in the Compliance System

Function 1 — Sub-Regional Peer Review (Phase 3 of the Compliance Cycle)

The peer review is the RECs' most critical contribution to the compliance system. In Q2 of each reporting year, RECs organise a sub-regional review session in which member countries present their self-assessments and receive structured feedback from peers.

- The REC facilitates the session but does not score countries — it validates the self-assessments against the evidence submitted.
- Each country's self-assessment is reviewed by at least two peer countries from the same REC.
- The peer review generates a sub-regional validation note that accompanies the national submission to AFREC.
- Countries that have not yet submitted a self-assessment receive a diagnostic visit from the REC coordinator before the session.

Peer review protocol



Function 2 — Sub-Regional Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

RECs coordinate training, tools sharing and technical assistance at the sub-regional level, complementing what AFREC provides continentally:

- Organise sub-regional workshops on gender-energy statistics methodology (at minimum one per year, ideally back-to-back with existing REC statistical committee meetings).
- Facilitate staff exchange between NSOs of member countries on gender-energy data collection methods.
- Identify shared capacity gaps and aggregate requests for AFREC/STATAFRIC technical assistance.
- Maintain a sub-regional repository of good practices, adapted tools and country experiences accessible to all member NSOs.

Function 3 — Sub-Regional Data Harmonisation

RECs have an existing mandate for statistical harmonisation among their members. For gender-energy statistics, this means:

- Promoting the adoption of common definitions and classifications (aligned with the 11 core indicators and AFGEM metadata standards) across member countries.
- Facilitating the creation of sub-regional comparable datasets that can be aggregated and shared with AFREC for AEIS.
- Coordinating with RECs' existing energy information systems (e.g., ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority, SADC Energy Monitoring System) to integrate gender disaggregation into sub-regional energy data platforms.
- Identifying opportunities for joint surveys or modules that can be administered across several member countries simultaneously, reducing cost.

Function 4 — Political Advocacy and High-Level Engagement

RECs can mobilise political support for gender-energy statistics at the sub-regional level in ways that national NCFPs cannot:

- Raise gender-energy data priorities in ministerial-level REC meetings (energy ministers, gender ministers, statistics commissioners).
- Include compliance progress as a standing agenda item in the REC statistical committee.
- Advocate for dedicated budget lines in member countries through sub-regional communiqués.
- Engage development partners operating at sub-regional level (AfDB regional offices, UN Regional Commissions) to align funding with compliance requirements.

Function 5 — Reporting to AFREC

Each REC submits an annual Sub-Regional Compliance Report to AFREC in Q3, summarising:

- Peer review findings and the validation status of national self-assessments.
- Aggregate OCI scores and trends for the sub-region.
- Common capacity gaps and recommended AFREC interventions.
- Emerging good practices for continental dissemination.

2.4.3 REC Responsibilities Matrix

The following matrix maps each REC function to the corresponding phase of the compliance cycle and the primary interface with national and continental actors:

REC Function	Compliance Cycle Phase	Interface with Countries	Interface with AFREC
Peer Review	Phase 3 — Q2	Validates national self-assessments; provides structured feedback to NCFPs	Transmits sub-regional validation note; flags inconsistencies for AFREC review
Capacity Building	Ongoing — Year-round	Delivers sub-regional training; facilitates staff exchange; shares tools	Reports training reach and outcomes; escalates gaps requiring continental support
Data Harmonisation	Phases 1 & 2 — Q4–Q1	Supports NSOs in adopting AFGEM metadata; coordinates joint survey modules	Submits harmonised sub-regional dataset to AEIS; flags comparability issues
Political Advocacy	Phase 6 — Q4, and ongoing	Raises compliance in ministerial meetings; advocates for budget allocations	Shares sub-regional political declarations supportive of gender-energy statistics
Reporting to AFREC	Phase 4 — Q3	Shares sub-regional report with member countries for comment before transmission	Submits Sub-Regional Compliance Report by end of Q3

2.4.4 REC-AFREC Coordination Protocol

To make the REC layer functional, AFREC and each REC will establish a formal coordination arrangement covering the following:

Element	Content
 Designated REC focal point	Each REC designates one gender-energy statistics focal person responsible for compliance coordination. Name and contact registered with AFREC.
 Annual coordination meeting	AFREC convenes all REC focal points annually (Q4) to review the continental compliance cycle, share lessons and plan the next year.
 Shared reporting calendar	AFREC publishes a master calendar for each compliance cycle by 1 October of the preceding year, with deadlines for national submissions (31 March), REC peer review sessions (Q2), and sub-regional reports (Q3).
 Data access	REC focal points have read access to all national self-assessments within their sub-region on the AFREC compliance portal.
 Escalation protocol	If a country does not submit a self-assessment or shows a significantly declining OCI, the REC focal point notifies AFREC within 2 weeks of the submission deadline. AFREC then initiates direct engagement with the national government.

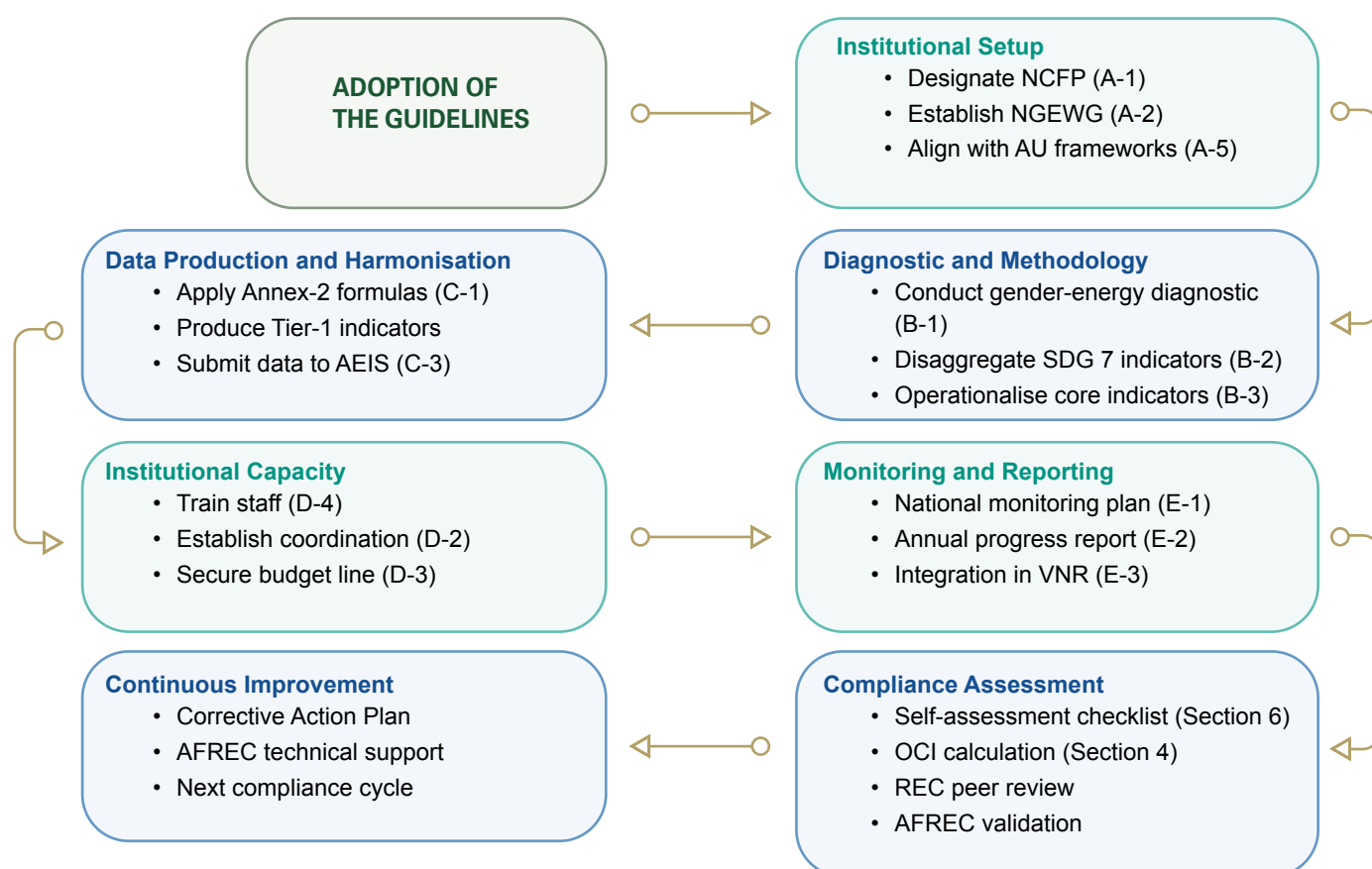
2.4.5 Minimum Operational Requirements for RECs

For the REC layer to be credible, each participating REC must meet the following minimum requirements:

Ref	Requirement	Verification	Timeline
R-1	REC gender-energy statistics focal point designated and registered with AFREC	Designation letter to AFREC	Year 0 — before first compliance cycle
R-2	Sub-regional peer review session organised annually in Q2	Session report with list of participating countries	Annual — Q2
R-3	Sub-Regional Compliance Report submitted to AFREC by end of Q3	Report receipt by AFREC	Annual — Q3
R-4	At least one sub-regional gender-energy capacity building event per year	Event report; attendance list	Annual
R-5	Gender-energy statistics on the agenda of at least one ministerial-level REC meeting per year	Meeting agenda and communiqué extract	Annual

2.5 Implementation Roadmap for the Gender-Energy Compliance Framework

Figure 1 — Implementation Roadmap of the Gender–Energy Compliance Framework



This roadmap summarises the sequential steps through which countries implement the Gender–SDG 7 Guidelines and participate in the compliance cycle, from institutional setup and diagnostic analysis to indicator production, compliance assessment and continuous improvement.

3. COMPLIANCE DOMAINS AND REQUIREMENTS

Methodological Note on the Structure of the Compliance Framework

The Compliance Framework is organised into five domains comprising twenty-six compliance requirements. This structure reflects the operational logic of the Methodological Guidelines and the institutional realities of national statistical systems in Africa.

The five-domain architecture was designed to capture the full lifecycle of gender-energy statistics, from institutional preparation to policy application. The framework therefore assesses implementation not only in terms of statistical outputs but also in terms of governance arrangements, methodological application, institutional capacity and accountability mechanisms. Each domain corresponds to a key dimension of sustainable gender-energy statistical systems:



Domain	Purpose
 Domain A — Conceptual and Institutional Foundations	Ensures the institutional environment required for gender-energy statistics, including focal points, coordination mechanisms and alignment with continental frameworks.
 Domain B — Five-Step Methodology	Verifies that countries apply the methodological process described in the Guidelines, from gender-energy diagnostics to policy integration.
 Domain C — Core Indicator Compliance	Ensures that gender-energy indicators are calculated using harmonised formulas and metadata standards allowing comparability across countries.
 Domain D — Institutional and Statistical Capacity	Assesses the sustainability of gender-energy statistics systems, including staffing, coordination structures and budget allocations.
 Domain E — Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability	Ensures that gender-energy evidence is integrated into national reporting systems and that the compliance mechanism functions effectively.

Rationale for the Number of Requirements

The Framework contains **26 compliance requirements** distributed across the five domains. The number of requirements was deliberately limited to maintain operational feasibility while still covering the essential institutional and statistical conditions required for effective implementation.

Each requirement corresponds to a **verifiable institutional or methodological condition** necessary for producing and using gender-responsive energy statistics. Collectively, these requirements ensure that countries:

- Establish appropriate institutional coordination mechanisms;
- Apply the methodological steps described in the Guidelines;
- Produce harmonised gender-energy indicators;
- Develop sustainable statistical capacity;
- Integrate gender-energy evidence into policy and reporting processes.

The requirements are therefore designed to be **measurable, verifiable and actionable**, enabling countries to assess progress and identify concrete areas for improvement.

Progressive Implementation Principle

The Framework is based on a progressive implementation approach. Countries are not expected to achieve full compliance in the initial stages. Instead, the system recognises different starting points and supports gradual improvement over time through a tiered compliance structure.

Countries are expected to begin by establishing the foundational institutional requirements and progressively advance toward full methodological implementation and policy integration.

In this way, the Compliance Framework functions not only as a monitoring instrument but also as a **capacity development tool** supporting the long-term institutionalisation of gender-responsive energy statistics across Africa. The compliance requirements are organized into five Domains, each corresponding to a core dimension of the Guidelines. Each Domain opens with an explanatory note that explains its strategic rationale. The requirements and controls then follow.

DOMAIN A — Conceptual and Institutional Foundations

Reference: Guidelines Chapters 1, 2 and 6.



Why does this Domain matter?

Gender-responsive energy statistics cannot be produced in isolation. They require a clear conceptual framework shared across institutions, and governance structures that give the work legitimacy and continuity. Without a designated focal point, a working group with real authority, and explicit alignment with continental frameworks (Agenda 2063, AU Gender Strategy, AEIS), implementation remains fragmented and dependent on individual champions rather than systems. This Domain ensures the enabling environment is in place before any data work begins.



Practical note for NCFPs

A-1 and A-2 are the two most foundational requirements. If only one thing can be done in Year 1, it is these two.

A-5 does not require a new document — a one-page mapping note showing how your work plan references Agenda 2063 and the AU Gender Strategy is sufficient

Ref	Requirement	Verification Control	Responsible Actor
A-1	A National Compliance Focal Point (NCFP) is officially designated and operational.	Official designation letter or decree; NCFP contact details registered with AFREC.	Government / NSO
A-2	A multi-stakeholder National Gender-Energy Working Group (NGEWG) is established.	Terms of Reference; membership list (NSO, Energy, Gender); minutes of ≥2 meetings/year.	NCFP / NSO
A-3	The six guiding principles of the Guidelines are formally adopted in the national work programme.	National work plan or policy document referencing the six principles.	NCFP
A-4	The Gender-Energy conceptual framework (Ch. 2) has been contextualised for national use.	National contextualisation note or adapted framework document.	NCFP / NGEWG
A-5	Alignment with Agenda 2063, AU Gender Strategy, SHaSA 2 and AEIS is documented.	Alignment matrix or policy mapping note referencing these frameworks.	NCFP

DOMAIN B — Five-Step Methodology

Reference: Guidelines Chapter 4, Steps 1–5.



Why does this Domain matter?

The five-step methodology is the operational heart of the Guidelines. It provides a structured, progressive pathway from diagnosis to data use — designed precisely because African countries start from very different points. Domain B verifies that this methodology is not only understood but actually applied: that a diagnostic has been done, that SDG 7 data are being disaggregated by sex, that complementary indicators are producing data, that a gender module is embedded in surveys, and that the data are actually influencing policy. Each step builds on the previous one, so this Domain is also a measure of implementation depth.



Practical note for NCFPs

B-3 requires at least 4 of the 11 core indicators — not all 11. Start with the ones for which data already exist or are closest to being available.

B-5 is often overlooked. Producing data is not enough — the data must visibly inform at least one policy document or budget brief. Keep a record of any such citation.

B-6 (quality assurance) does not require a new system — apply the QA checklist in Guidelines Section 4.5.6 and have the NSO chief statistician sign off.

B-3 example: A country with recent DHS data can immediately operationalise GEI-1 (sex-disaggregated electricity access) and GEI-2 (clean cooking access) by reprocessing the existing microdata. Two indicators requiring no new survey are already half the minimum threshold. — B-5 example: A one-page gender-energy brief appended to the national energy sector annual report, or a paragraph in the Ministry of Energy's budget justification citing sex-disaggregated access rates, fully satisfies this requirement. The key is a traceable written citation, not a standalone policy document.

Ref	Requirement	Verification Control	Responsible Actor
B-1	Step 1 — Diagnostic: A gender-energy diagnostic has been conducted using the tools in Annex 1 of the Guidelines.	Completed diagnostic report using AFREC Diagnostic Tool; validated by NGEWG.	NSO / NCFP
B-2	Step 2 — Disaggregation: Existing SDG 7 indicators are disaggregated by sex (minimum); location and income quintile where feasible.	National SDG 7 data tables showing sex-disaggregated figures for 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.1, 7.3.1.	NSO / Energy Ministry
B-3	Step 3 — Complementary Indicators: At least 4 of the 11 core indicators (Annex 2) are operationalised and producing data.	Data tables with metadata for each; indicator selection justified by country context.	NSO
B-4	Step 4 — Data Systems: Gender-energy modules are integrated into at least one major household survey (DHS, MICS, HBS or equivalent).	Survey questionnaire including gender-energy module; data available for analysis.	NSO
B-5	Step 5 — Analysis & Use: Gender-energy data are used in at least one policy document, budget brief or sectoral plan.	Policy document or plan citing gender-energy evidence with reference to source data.	Energy / Gender Ministry
B-6	Quality assurance procedures (Guidelines 4.5.6) are applied to all gender-energy data before publication.	QA checklist signed by NSO chief statistician; metadata includes quality rating.	NSO

DOMAIN C — Core Indicator Compliance

Reference: Guidelines Chapter 5, Annex 2 (Metadata), Annex 3 (Methodological Matrices), Annex 6 (AFGEM).



Why does this Domain matter?

Comparability across African countries is only possible if all countries measure the same things in the same way. Domain C ensures that the 11 core gender-energy indicators — particularly the 4 Tier-1 indicators — are calculated using the formulas defined in Annex 2, documented with AFGEM-compliant metadata, and submitted to the AEIS portal. Without this standardisation, AFREC cannot aggregate data across countries or produce credible continental energy gender statistics. This Domain is also the bridge between national efforts and global SDG reporting.



Practical note for NCFPs

C-1 is met by completing the AFGEM metadata template (Annex 6 of the Guidelines) for each reported indicator — not just describing the indicator in prose.

C-3 (AEIS submission) requires access to the AFREC data portal. Contact AFREC to obtain credentials and the submission template.

C-5 (time series) can be built progressively: in Year 1, submit current data; in Year 2, add the previous survey year. Two data points is sufficient.

C-3 Example (AEIS Submission): A National Statistical Office submits four Tier-1 gender-energy indicators through the AEIS portal using the prescribed template. Even partial submission (e.g. four indicators) is acceptable in early stages, provided metadata are complete and compliant.

Box1 — Overview of the 11 Core Gender–Energy Indicators

The Compliance Framework monitors the implementation of eleven core gender–energy indicators defined in the Guidelines. These indicators capture key dimensions of the relationship between gender and energy, including:

- Access to energy services and energy poverty
- Time use and unpaid labour
- Health impacts related to energy use
- Economic participation in the energy sector
- Governance and decision-making in energy systems

While detailed definitions, formulas and metadata are provided in the Guidelines (Annex 2 and Annex 6), this Framework requires countries to operationalise at least four of these indicators during initial implementation (Requirement B-3), based on national data availability and priorities.

Ref	Requirement	Verification Control	Responsible Actor
C-1	All reported indicators conform to the calculation formulas and metadata standards in Annex 2.	Completed AFGEM metadata template for each reported indicator; cross-checked with Annex 2 formulas.	NSO / STATAFRIC
C-2	At least the 4 Tier-1 indicators are reported with data from the most recent survey (≤5 years old).	Data tables with source, year and sample size; STATAFRIC certification.	NSO
C-3	National indicator data are submitted to AFREC's AEIS in the prescribed format and timeline.	AEIS submission receipt; data visible in AEIS portal.	NSO / AFREC
C-4	Indicator reporting includes urban/rural breakdown as a minimum disaggregation.	Data tables showing urban and rural values for each reported indicator.	NSO
C-5	Time-series data (≥2 reference years) are available for at least the 4 Tier-1 indicators.	Time-series tables showing trend for each Tier-1 indicator.	NSO

DOMAIN D — Institutional and Statistical Capacity

Reference: Guidelines Chapters 6, 7 and 8.



Why does this Domain matter?

The sustainability of gender-energy statistics depends on institutionalised capacity — trained people, formalised coordination structures and dedicated budgets — not on individual champions or short-term project funding. Domain D verifies that this institutional infrastructure exists. It addresses one of the most frequently identified weaknesses in African statistical systems for gender-energy work: statistics are produced for specific reports but then discontinued because no one owns them institutionally, no resources are allocated, and no coordination exists between the NSO and sector ministries.



Practical note for NCFPs

D-2 (inter-institutional coordination) can be fulfilled by a simple Memorandum of Understanding or a formal inter-ministerial committee. The key evidence is meeting minutes showing the three institutions (NSO, Energy, Gender) actually meet and work together.

D-3 does not require a separate budget line for gender-energy in the national budget — a line in the NSO annual work plan and budget is sufficient.

D-5 is intentionally graduated ('in progress') — even a letter from the rural electrification agency committing to sex-disaggregate its data registry in the next 2 years is acceptable evidence.

Ref	Requirement	Verification Control	Responsible Actor
D-1	Dedicated gender-energy statistics capacity exists within the NSO (at least one trained focal person).	CV or training certificate of NSO gender-energy focal person; position description.	NSO
D-2	A formal inter-institutional coordination mechanism exists (NSO + Energy + Gender).	MoU or formal agreement; coordination meeting minutes.	NSO / Energy / Gender Ministries
D-3	Budget allocation for gender-energy data production is in the national statistics work plan.	NSO work plan or budget document with line for gender-energy activities.	NSO / Finance Ministry
D-4	Staff involved in gender-energy data production have received training on the Guidelines methodology.	Training attendance records; post-training assessment where available.	NSO / AFREC
D-5	Administrative data systems are being progressively sex-disaggregated.	Progress report on administrative data sex-disaggregation; timeline for full coverage.	Energy Ministry / NSO

DOMAIN E — Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability

Reference: Guidelines Sections 7.2.5 and 8.8.



Why does this Domain matter?

Producing gender-energy data is necessary but not sufficient. The data must enter official monitoring and accountability systems — national SDG reporting (VNRs), annual progress reports, and continental AFREC mechanisms — to have lasting policy impact. Domain E verifies that the accountability infrastructure exists: a national monitoring plan with targets, regular published reports, integration into VNRs, and compliance with data ethics standards. It also verifies the procedural compliance of the framework itself: that countries submit their self-assessments on time, making the continental compliance system credible.

Engagement with civil society organisations is encouraged to strengthen accountability mechanisms and ensure that gender-energy data reflects lived experiences and local realities.



Practical note for NCFPs

E-1 (monitoring plan): a 2–3 page document with a table of indicators, their baselines, 2030 targets and data sources is sufficient. It does not need to be a standalone report — it can be an annex to the national statistics work plan.

E-3 (VNR integration): if your country's next VNR is more than 2 years away, document the intention and process for inclusion in the next cycle. Provide a draft extract showing how you would present the gender-energy data.

E-4 (data ethics): the key requirement is that no individual-level data are published and that your NSO has a written data dissemination policy.

E-2 example: An NSO gender statistics unit that posts a two-page fact sheet on energy access by sex to its website fulfils this requirement — this does not need to be a formal annual report. E-3 example: A country whose VNR chapter on SDG 7 includes a table disaggregating electricity access rates by sex and urban/rural location, with a footnote citing the DHS source, fully satisfies this requirement even if the chapter is brief.

Ref	Requirement	Verification Control	Responsible Actor
E-1	A national gender-energy monitoring plan with indicators, baselines and targets is in place.	Written monitoring plan endorsed by NGEWG.	NCFP / NGEWG
E-2	Annual national gender-energy progress reports are produced and publicly available.	Published report (or AFREC portal upload); date of publication.	NCFP / NSO
E-3	Gender-energy indicators are embedded in national SDG Voluntary National Review (VNR) reporting.	VNR report extract citing gender-energy indicators.	National SDG Coordination Body
E-4	Data dissemination complies with ethics and privacy standards specified in Guidelines Section 4.8.	Data publication policy referencing ethical standards; no individual-level data published.	NSO
E-5	Compliance self-assessment is submitted to AFREC within the prescribed timeline.	AFREC receipt confirmation; submission date on or before 31 March.	NCFP

A hand holding a pen writing on a document, with a green overlay.

4. COMPLIANCE RATING SYSTEM AND OCI CALCULATION

4.1 Individual Requirement Rating Scale

The Framework is structured around multiple domains covering institutional setup, data systems, indicators, analysis, and reporting.

Every one of the 26 compliance requirements is assessed individually on the following four-level scale. The rating is assigned by the National Compliance Focal Point during the self-assessment (Section 6) and validated by AFREC in Q3.

Rating	Score	Definition and evidence standard
Full Compliance	3	All evidence is available, verified and meets the quality threshold. The requirement is fully met with no gaps. Evidence is current (within prescribed timeframes).
Substantial Compliance	2	Most evidence is available. Minor gaps exist that do not undermine the core requirement. A corrective action plan is in place to close the remaining gaps within 6 months.
Partial Compliance	1	Some evidence exists but significant gaps remain. Implementation has started but is materially incomplete. A corrective action plan is mandatory.
Non-Compliance	0	No evidence available. The requirement has not been addressed. Urgent AFREC support and corrective action required.



Important: rating consistency

The same rating must be applied consistently across countries by AFREC during validation. AFREC publishes annual rating guidance notes that clarify borderline cases and provide examples of acceptable evidence for each requirement.

When in doubt between two ratings, the lower rating is applied until the corrective action plan is executed and verified.

4.2 Step 1 — Calculate the Domain Score

The Domain Score is the simple sum of all individual requirement scores within that Domain. There is no weighting between requirements within a single Domain — each requirement contributes equally.



Formula — Domain Score

Domain Score = Σ (score of each requirement in the Domain)

Where each requirement score is:

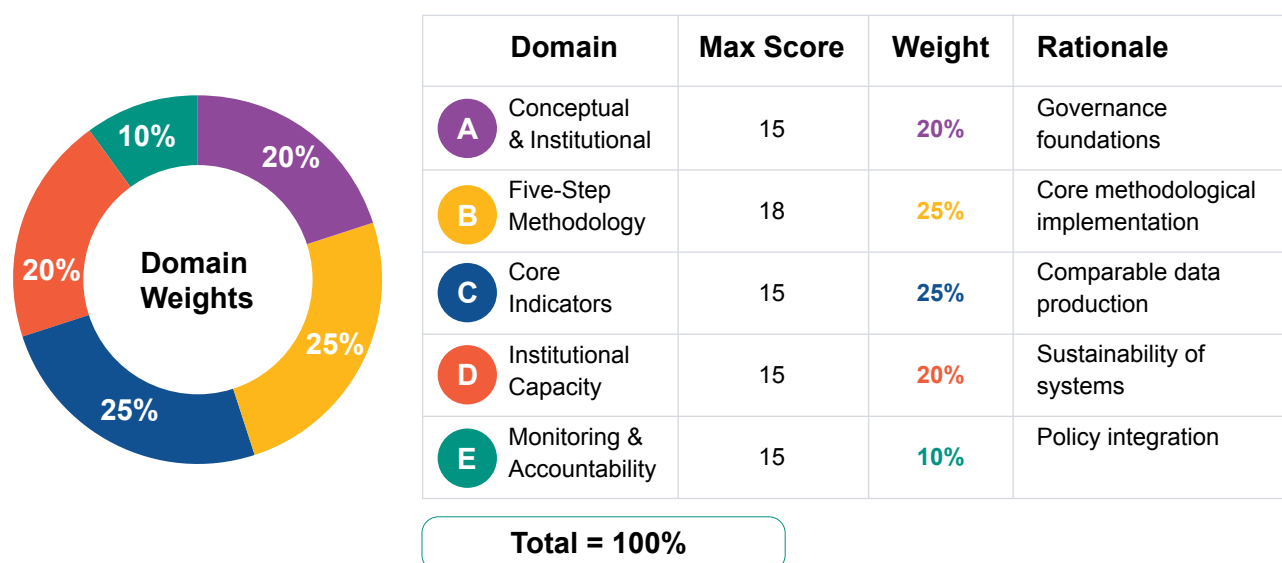
0 (Non-Compliant) | 1 (Partial) | 2 (Substantial) | 3 (Full)

Domain	No. of Requirements	Max Score per Req.	Maximum Domain Score	Calculation
A — Conceptual & Institutional	5	3	15	$5 \times 3 = 15$
B — Five-Step Methodology	6	3	18	$6 \times 3 = 18$
C — Core Indicators	5	3	15	$5 \times 3 = 15$
D — Institutional Capacity	5	3	15	$5 \times 3 = 15$
E — M&E & Accountability	5	3	15	$5 \times 3 = 15$
Total	26	3	78	$26 \times 3 = 78$

4.3 Step 2 — Calculate the Overall Compliance Index (OCI)

The Overall Compliance Index (OCI) is a weighted percentage that aggregates the five Domain scores into a single continental-comparable Indicator.

The weighting reflects the strategic importance of the different dimensions of implementation. Domains B and C carry the greatest weight (25% each) because they represent the core methodological and statistical outputs of the Guidelines, while Domains A and D each carry a weight of 20% because they represent the institutional foundations and capacity required for sustainable implementation.



This weighting reflects the importance of methodological implementation and statistical output while strengthening the role of institutional sustainability.

OCI Formula — The Overall Compliance Index (OCI) is calculated as:

$$OCI = (A \times 0.20) + (B \times 0.25) + (C \times 0.25) + (D \times 0.20) + (E \times 0.10)$$

Where:

A, B, C, D and E represent the percentage scores for each domain.

For transparency, the OCI is calculated using the weighted domain formula above. The weighted aggregation ensures that methodological implementation and statistical outputs receive appropriate emphasis while maintaining the importance of institutional sustainability.

4.4 Rounding Rules

To ensure consistency across countries:

- Domain percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.
- The final OCI value is rounded to **one decimal place**.

4.5 Safeguard Mechanisms

Two safeguards protect the integrity of the compliance system.

Foundational Integrity Override

If any of the following requirements are not fulfilled:

- A-1 National Compliance Focal Point designation
- A-2 NGEWG establishment
- B-1 Diagnostic completion
- C-1 Metadata conformity
- E-5 Timely submission of the self-assessment

The country **cannot be classified above “Partially Compliant”**, regardless of the OCI score.

Domain Floor Rule

No country may be classified as **Compliant** if any Domain score falls below **50 percent**.

This rule prevents strong performance in some domains from masking major weaknesses in others.

4.6 Worked Example — Step-by-Step OCI Calculation

The following example shows how a country with mixed performance across domains would calculate its OCI. The country has strong institutional foundations but has not yet achieved full methodology or data system compliance.

Step 1 — Assign individual requirement scores

DOMAIN A — Conceptual & Institutional

Ref	Requirement	Score	Max	Assessment / Evidence
A-1	NCFP officially designated	3	3	Full — letter sent to AFREC
A-2	NGEWG established	3	3	Full — ToR + 3 meeting minutes
A-3	Six principles adopted	2	3	Substantial — in work plan, not yet in policy
A-4	Conceptual framework contextualised	2	3	Substantial — draft note available
A-5	Alignment with Agenda 2063 documented	1	3	Partial — mentioned but no formal mapping
Domain A Score		11	15	= 3+3+2+2+1

DOMAIN B — Five-Step Methodology

Ref	Requirement	Score	Max	Assessment / Evidence
B-1	Diagnostic conducted	3	3	Full — validated report available
B-2	SDG 7 indicators sex-disaggregated	2	3	Substantial — 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 done, 7.2.1 pending
B-3	≥4 core indicators operationalised	1	3	Partial — only 2 indicators with data
B-4	Gender module in household survey	1	3	Partial — module drafted, not yet fielded
B-5	Data used in policy document	0	3	Non-Compliant — no policy citation yet
B-6	QA procedures applied	2	3	Substantial — checklist signed, minor gaps
Domain B Score		9	18	= 3+2+1+1+0+2

DOMAIN C — Core Indicators

Ref	Requirement	Score	Max	Assessment / Evidence
C-1	Indicators conform to Annex 2 + AFGEM	2	3	Substantial — 2 of 4 templates complete
C-2	Tier-1 data ≤5 years old	2	3	Substantial — data from 2022 survey
C-3	Data submitted to AEIS	0	3	Non-Compliant — not yet submitted
C-4	Urban/rural disaggregation available	2	3	Substantial — available for 3 of 4 indicators
C-5	Time series ≥2 years for Tier-1	1	3	Partial — only 1 indicator has 2 data points
Domain C Score		7	15	= 2+2+0+2+1

DOMAIN D — Institutional Capacity

Ref	Requirement	Score	Max	Assessment / Evidence
D-1	Trained NSO focal person	3	3	Full — trained and active
D-2	Formal inter-institutional coordination	2	3	Substantial — MoU under signature
D-3	Budget line in NSO work plan	1	3	Partial — mentioned, not yet allocated
D-4	Staff trained on Guidelines	2	3	Substantial — 4 of 6 staff trained
D-5	Admin data sex-disaggregation in progress	1	3	Partial — utility registry pilot started
Domain D Score		9	15	3+2+1+2+1

DOMAIN E — M&E & Accountability

Ref	Requirement	Score	Max	Assessment / Evidence
E-1	National M&E plan endorsed	2	3	Substantial — plan drafted, not yet endorsed
E-2	Annual progress report published	1	3	Partial — internal report only, not public
E-3	Indicators in VNR	0	3	Non-Compliant — VNR submitted without gender-energy data
E-4	Data ethics standards applied	2	3	Substantial — policy exists, minor gaps
E-5	Self-assessment submitted on time	3	3	Full — submitted 15 March
Domain E Score		8	15	= 2+1+0+2+3

Step 2 – Compile Domain scores

Domain	Score	Max	Domain %	Weighted contribution to OCI
A Conceptual & Institutional	11	15	73%	$73\% \times 20\% = 14.6\%$
B Five-Step Methodology	9	18	50%	$50\% \times 25\% = 12.5\%$
C Core Indicators	7	15	47%	$47\% \times 25\% = 11.75\%$
D Institutional Capacity	9	15	60%	$60\% \times 20\% = 12.0\%$
E M&E & Accountability	8	15	53%	$53\% \times 10\% = 5.3\%$

Total = 56.2%

$$\text{OCI} = (A \times 0.20) + (B \times 0.25) + (C \times 0.25) + (D \times 0.20) + (E \times 0.10)$$

Applying the domain scores in this example produces:

OCI = 56.2%

Status:

PARTIALLY COMPLIANT (40–64%) → Corrective Action Plan mandatory

In this example, the country's main weaknesses are in Domain C (no AEIS submission, incomplete time series) and Domain B (B-5 not yet achieved, only 2 indicators operational instead of 4). These two Domains together account for 50% of the OCI weight. Corrective action should prioritise submitting data to AEIS (C-3) and citing gender-energy data in at least one policy brief (B-5), as these would each move the score significantly

4.7 OCI Status Thresholds and Implications

4.8 Interpretation and Use of OCI Results

The Overall Compliance Index (OCI) is designed not only as a measurement tool but also as a practical instrument to guide national implementation of the Gender–SDG 7 Guidelines.

Countries should interpret their OCI results as an indication of **progress across the five domains of implementation**, rather than as a simple ranking.

Key principles for interpreting OCI scores

1. Focus on domain performance, not only the total score

While the OCI provides an overall indicator of compliance, the **domain scores** offer more detailed insights into where progress is strongest and where corrective action is required.

For example:

- Low scores in **Domain B** indicate weaknesses in the application of the five-step methodology.
- Low scores in **Domain C** indicate gaps in data production and indicator reporting.
- Low scores in **Domain D** suggest institutional capacity constraints.

Countries are encouraged to prioritise corrective actions in the domains with the lowest scores.

OCI Score	Status	Implications
85–100%	Compliant	Continental reference country. Eligible to host peer learning events and contribute data to the continental Gender-Energy Data Exchange.
65–84%	Substantial Compliance	On track. Minor corrective action plan required for remaining gaps. Annual review to monitor progress.
40–64%	Partial Compliance	Corrective Action Plan mandatory (Section 7). AFREC technical assistance offered. Priority: Domains B and C.
Below 40%	Non-Compliance	Urgent capacity support required. AFREC engages directly with government. Priority: Steps 1–3 of onboarding guide.

2. Prioritise foundational requirements

If foundational requirements (A-1, A-2, B-1, C-1, E-5) are not fulfilled, countries should prioritise addressing these gaps before expanding efforts in other areas.

These requirements represent the **minimum institutional and methodological conditions** for effective implementation of the Guidelines.

3. Use OCI results to guide corrective action planning

The OCI results should directly inform the development of the **Corrective Action Plan (Section 7)**.

Countries with:

- OCI between 40–64% should focus on strengthening methodological implementation and indicator production.
- OCI below 40% should prioritise institutional setup and diagnostic work.

4. Monitor progress over time

The OCI should be monitored annually to track progress across compliance cycles.

Improvements in domain scores over successive cycles indicate strengthening national systems for gender-responsive energy statistics.

Countries are encouraged to compare results across reporting years to identify trends and measure the impact of corrective actions.

5. Use OCI results for policy dialogue

OCI scores and domain results can be used to support dialogue between:

National Statistical Offices

Ministries of Energy and Gender

Development partners

Regional Economic Communities

This dialogue can help mobilise resources, strengthen coordination, and accelerate implementation of gender-responsive energy policies.

5. COMPLIANCE RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment is an integral component of the Compliance Framework. The purpose of this section is to anticipate institutional, methodological and operational risks that may affect the implementation of the Gender–SDG 7 Guidelines.

By identifying these risks early, AFREC, RECs and Member States can develop targeted mitigation strategies and mobilise technical assistance where necessary.

The risk register below summarises the most common implementation risks observed across African statistical and energy systems.

Drawing on the challenges identified in Chapter 7 of the Guidelines, the following risk register identifies the main threats to compliance and proposes mitigation measures.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
No dedicated budget for gender-energy data	High	High	D-3 mandates budget line. AFREC to mobilise pooled funding with AfDB / World Bank / IDRC.
NSO and Energy Ministry work in silos	High	High	A-2 and D-2 mandate coordination. REC peer review reinforces accountability.
Limited trained statisticians for gender-energy work	High	Medium	D-4 mandates training. AFREC / STATAFRIC provide regional training programme.
Incompatible national statistical systems	Medium	High	C-1 and C-3 mandate AFGEM metadata and AEIS submission standards.
Gender-energy not embedded in VNR reporting	Medium	High	E-3 mandates VNR integration. AFREC to advocate with UNDESA and AU SDG Coordination.
Energy sector resistance to gender mainstreaming	Medium	Medium	B-5 links data to policy use. Communication strategy targeting Energy Ministry leadership.
Individual-level data published inadvertently	Low	High	E-4 mandates data ethics compliance. NSO to adopt data publication policy.

6. NATIONAL COMPLIANCE SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

The National Compliance Self-Assessment Checklist is the primary operational tool used by countries to evaluate their level of implementation of the Guidelines and to report progress to AFREC

The National Compliance Focal Point completes this checklist annually and submits it to AFREC by 31 March. Each item corresponds to a specific Compliance Requirement. Evidence references should cite actual document names, dates and sources.



Instructions

1. Complete one checklist per annual reporting cycle.
2. For each requirement, enter the rating: 0 = Non-Compliant | 1 = Partial | 2 = Substantial | 3 = Full.
3. In 'Evidence Available': note the document name, date and location (file path or URL).
4. In 'Gaps / Actions': describe missing elements and planned remediation.
5. Submit to AFREC by 31 March of the reporting year with the NCFP and NSO Director signatures.

All supporting documents referenced in the checklist should be archived by the National Compliance Focal Point for a minimum period of five years.

Domain A — Conceptual and Institutional Foundations

Ref	Requirement Summary	Rating (0–3)	Evidence Available	Gaps / Actions
A-1	NCFP officially designated and registered with AFREC			
A-2	NGEWG established with ToR and meeting minutes			
A-3	Six guiding principles adopted in work programme			
A-4	Conceptual framework contextualised nationally			
A-5	Alignment with Agenda 2063 / AEIS documented			

Domain B — Five-Step Methodology

Ref	Requirement Summary	Rating (0–3)	Evidence Available	Gaps / Actions
B-1	Gender-energy diagnostic completed (Annex 1 tools)			
B-2	SDG 7 indicators sex-disaggregated (7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.1, 7.3.1)			
B-3	At least 4 core indicators operationalised			
B-4	Gender module in at least one household survey			
B-5	Gender-energy data used in a policy document			
B-6	Quality assurance procedures applied			

Domain C — Core Indicators

Ref	Requirement Summary	Rating (0–3)	Evidence Available	Gaps / Actions
C-1	Indicators conform to Annex 2 formulas + AFGEM metadata			
C-2	Tier-1 indicators reported with data ≤5 years			
C-3	Data submitted to AEIS			
C-4	Urban/rural disaggregation available			
C-5	Time series (≥2 years) for Tier-1 indicators			

Domain D — Institutional and Statistical Capacity

Ref	Requirement Summary	Rating (0–3)	Evidence Available	Gaps / Actions
D-1	Trained NSO gender-energy focal person			
D-2	Formal inter-institutional coordination mechanism			
D-3	Budget line for gender-energy data in NSO work plan			
D-4	Staff trained on Guidelines methodology			
D-5	Administrative data sex-disaggregation in progress			

Domain E — Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability

Ref	Requirement Summary	Rating (0–3)	Evidence Available	Gaps / Actions
E-1	National M&E plan endorsed by NGEWG			
E-2	Annual gender-energy progress report published			
E-3	Gender-energy indicators in VNR			
E-4	Data ethics and privacy standards applied			
E-5	Self-assessment submitted on time (by 31 March)			

Overall Compliance Index Summary

Domain	Max Score	Actual Score	% Score	Status
A Conceptual & Institutional		15		
B Five-Step Methodology		18		
C Core Indicators		15		
D Institutional Capacity		15		
E M&E & Accountability		15		
Total / OCI		78		

Country: _____ Reporting Year: _____

Submitted by (NCFP): _____ Date: _____

Countersigned by (NSO Director): _____ Date: _____

7. CORRECTIVE ACTION MECHANISM

7.1 Triggering Conditions

- Any Domain score falls below 50% of its maximum.
- The OCI falls below 65% (Partial or Non-Compliance status).
- Two consecutive years of declining scores in any Domain.

Corrective Action Plans should prioritise the compliance requirements with the lowest scores and identify realistic timelines, responsible institutions and required technical support.

7.2 Corrective Action Plan Template

Req.	Root Cause of Gap	Corrective Action	Target Date	Responsible + Support Needed

7.3 AFREC Technical Assistance Menu

- In-country advisory mission to support diagnostics and methodology implementation.
- Access to the AFREC Gender-Energy Training Programme for NSO and Ministry staff.
- Peer learning: pairing with a Compliant or Substantially Compliant country.
- Financing mobilisation support: AfDB, World Bank, IDRC, UN Women.
- Customised technical notes on specific Domains requiring improvement.

AFREC may monitor the implementation of corrective action plans through follow-up technical consultations and targeted support missions.

8. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND FRAMEWORK REVIEW

8.1 Annual Review

The Framework is reviewed annually by AFREC in consultation with STATAFRIC, RECs and a sample of Member States, considering: changes in the Guidelines, lessons from self-assessments, evolution of Agenda 2063 and AU Gender Strategy, and partner feedback.

8.2 Three-Horizon Pathway

The Compliance Framework is designed as a dynamic system that evolves as countries strengthen their gender-energy statistical systems. Continuous improvement is therefore essential to ensure that the framework remains relevant and effective over time.

The following three-horizon pathway illustrates the expected progression of the compliance system across successive implementation phases.

Horizon	Timeframe	Compliance System Objective
H1 Foundations	1–2 years	All countries have an NCFP; ≥30 countries submit a baseline self-assessment; AFREC publishes first continental compliance report.
H2 Consolidation	3–5 years	≥60% of countries reach Substantial Compliance; REC peer review fully operational; STATAFRIC issues statistical compliance certificates.
H3 Sovereignty	6–10 years	Compliance embedded in national legislation; gender-energy indicators mainstreamed in SDG reporting; AFREC compliance report cited in global SDG reviews.

8.3 Compliance Incentives

- Compliant countries receive continental recognition in AFREC publications and AU summits.
- High-performing countries host continental training and peer-learning events.
- Compliance scores considered by AFREC and partners in prioritising technical assistance.
- Substantially and Fully Compliant countries participate in the continental Gender-Energy Data Exchange as data providers.

9. COUNTRY PROFILES: THREE IMPLEMENTATION TIERS

Countries implementing the Compliance Framework start from different levels of institutional capacity and statistical readiness. The tier system helps countries identify realistic priorities and implementation pathways based on their current situation.

African countries start from very different points in terms of statistical capacity, institutional architecture, and availability of gender-disaggregated data. This Framework recognises three implementation tiers. Countries should self-identify their tier at the start of the onboarding process (Section 0, Step 2) and use it to prioritise their compliance efforts.



How to identify your tier

Tier 1 (Emerging): No designated NCFP yet. SDG 7 data not disaggregated by sex. No gender-energy working group. Little or no gender-energy budget.

Tier 2 (Developing): NCFP designated. Some sex-disaggregated energy data exist. NSO has a gender statistics unit. Budget partially available.

Tier 3 (Advanced): Multi-institutional coordination is functional. At least 4 core indicators operational. Data used in policy. AEIS submissions already made.

When in doubt, choose the lower tier — the Framework rewards progress, and realistic starting points lead to better corrective action planning.

TIER 1 — EMERGING CAPACITY

Countries at this tier are at the beginning of the implementation journey. The priority is to establish the basic governance infrastructure and produce the first diagnostic. In Year 1, reaching OCI 40–64% (Partial Compliance) is a realistic and ambitious target.

Priority Requirements in Year 1 (minimum viable compliance)

Req.	Action	Expected evidence
A-1	Designate and register the NCFP	Designation letter sent to AFREC
A-2	Establish the NGEWG with Terms of Reference	ToR document + first meeting minutes
B-1	Conduct the gender-energy diagnostic (Annex 1 tools)	Completed diagnostic report
B-2	Produce sex-disaggregated tables for SDG 7.1.1 and 7.1.2	Two sex-disaggregated data tables
E-5	Submit self-assessment checklist to AFREC	Completed checklist submitted by 31 March

What Tier 1 countries should NOT worry about in Year 1

- Full operationalisation of all 11 core indicators (B-3 asks for 4 — and even 2 in Year 1 is progress).
- AEIS data submission (C-3) — prepare the data first; submission can happen in Year 2.
- Time-series data (C-5) — begin building the series now; 2 years of data can be available by Year 3.
- Formal inter-institutional MoU (D-2) — a joint meeting with minutes showing coordination is sufficient in Year 1.



AFREC support available for Tier 1 countries

Dedicated onboarding mission: AFREC can provide a 3-day in-country mission to support Steps 1–4 of the onboarding guide.

Pre-filled diagnostic template: a partially completed template based on available AEIS and DHS data for your country.

Training: access to the AFREC online gender-energy statistics training module (self-paced, available in English and French).

TIER 2 — DEVELOPING CAPACITY

Countries at this tier have the basic governance structures in place and some gender-disaggregated energy data. The priority is to deepen the methodology, reach the minimum indicator threshold, and connect the data to policy processes. In Year 1, reaching OCI 65–84% (Substantial Compliance) is a realistic target.

Priority Requirements in Year 1 — building on existing foundations

Req.	Action	Expected evidence
B-3	Operationalise at least 4 of the 11 core indicators with AFGEM metadata	Data tables + completed AFGEM template for each
B-4	Integrate gender-energy module into next household survey (DHS/MICS/HBS)	Survey questionnaire extract showing gender-energy questions
B-5	Cite gender-energy data in at least one policy document or budget brief	Policy document extract with citation and data reference
C-1	Verify all reported indicators conform to Annex 2 formulas	AFGEM metadata template validated by STATAFRIC
D-2	Formalise inter-institutional coordination with MoU or agreement	Signed MoU or committee ToR; recent meeting minutes
E-1	Develop national gender-energy monitoring plan	Written plan endorsed by NGEWG

Stretch goals for Tier 2 (if capacity allows)

- Begin AEIS data submission (C-3) — even a partial submission of 4 indicators is valuable.
- Produce first annual gender-energy progress report (E-2).
- Start sex-disaggregation of administrative data with utility companies (D-5).



AFREC support available for Tier 2 countries

Peer learning: AFREC can connect Tier 2 countries with a Tier 3 or Compliant country for experience exchange.
 Metadata review: AFREC / STATAFRIC can review your AFGEM metadata templates before submission.
 Policy brief template: a model gender-energy policy brief that can be adapted to meet B-5.

TIER 3 — ADVANCED CAPACITY

Countries at this tier have functional multi-institutional coordination, operational indicators, and data already influencing policy. The priority is to achieve Full Compliance, strengthen sustainability, and begin contributing to the continental system as a reference country.

Priority Requirements for Tier 3 — completing and consolidating

Req.	Action	Expected evidence
C-3	Complete AEIS data submission for all reported indicators	AFREC AEIS submission receipt; data visible in portal
C-5	Build time series: ensure ≥ 2 reference years available for all 4 Tier-1 indicators	Time-series tables with at least 2 data points per indicator
D-3	Secure sustained budget line for gender-energy statistics in national work plan	Budget document with dedicated line; multi-year if possible
E-2	Publish annual gender-energy progress report publicly	URL of published report or upload confirmation on AFREC portal
E-3	Integrate gender-energy indicators into next VNR	VNR report extract with gender-energy section
A-5	Produce formal alignment matrix with Agenda 2063 and AU Gender Strategy	Mapping document referencing specific goals and targets

Strategic contributions expected from Tier 3 countries

- Participate in the REC-level peer review as a reviewer for Tier 1 and Tier 2 countries.
- Share methodological innovations and country experience in AFREC continental learning forums.
- Contribute to the validation and refinement of AFREC's AFGEM metadata standards.
- Consider hosting a sub-regional training event for neighbouring countries (AFREC can co-organise).



AFREC support available for Tier 3 countries

Named as a reference country in the AFREC continental gender-energy compliance report.
 Invited to present experience at the Africa Energy Week and AU statistical commission.
 First access to the continental Gender-Energy Data Exchange platform as a data provider.

CONCLUSION

The integration of gender into energy statistics is essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable energy transitions across Africa. While significant progress has been made in expanding access to electricity and clean cooking solutions, gender disparities in energy access, use and decision-making remain insufficiently captured in national statistical systems.

The Methodological Guidelines on the Integration of Gender into SDG 7 Indicators in Africa provide the conceptual and methodological foundation for addressing this gap. The Compliance Framework presented in this document translates those methodological principles into a structured system for implementation, monitoring and accountability.

By establishing clear institutional responsibilities, a harmonised set of compliance requirements and a transparent Overall Compliance Index (OCI), the framework enables African Union Member States to progressively strengthen their gender-responsive energy statistics systems. It also facilitates regional peer learning, promotes methodological harmonisation through the work of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and supports continental monitoring through the Africa Energy Information System (AEIS).

Importantly, the framework is designed to support progressive implementation. It recognises that countries begin from different levels of statistical capacity and institutional readiness. The objective is therefore not to impose uniform requirements immediately, but to guide countries along a gradual pathway toward stronger institutional coordination, improved data systems, and more systematic integration of gender considerations into energy policy and planning.

Through the combined efforts of AFREC, national institutions, Regional Economic Communities, and continental coordination bodies such as STATAFRIC, the Compliance Framework can contribute to building a more coherent and robust system for gender-responsive energy statistics in Africa. In doing so, it supports evidence-based policymaking, strengthens accountability, and ultimately contributes to achieving the goals of **SDG 7 and Agenda 2063**.



ANNEX A — ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Term
AEIS	Africa Energy Information System
AFGEM	African Framework for Gender-Energy Metadata
AFREC	African Energy Commission
AUC	African Union Commission
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
CF	Compliance Framework
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
HBS	Household Budget Survey
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
NCFP	National Compliance Focal Point
NGEWG	National Gender-Energy Working Group
NSO	National Statistical Office
OCI	Overall Compliance Index
QA	Quality Assurance
REC	Regional Economic Community
SDG 7	Sustainable Development Goal 7 — Affordable and Clean Energy
SHaSA 2	Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa 2
STATAFRIC	Institute for Statistics of the African Union
VNR	Voluntary National Review

ANNEX B — QUICK REFERENCE: 26 REQUIREMENTS

Ref	Requirement (short form)	Domain
A-1	NCFP officially designated	A — Conceptual and Institutional Foundations
A-2	NGEWG established with ToR	A — Conceptual and Institutional Foundations
A-3	Six guiding principles adopted	A — Conceptual and Institutional Foundations
A-4	Conceptual framework contextualised	A — Conceptual and Institutional Foundations
A-5	Alignment with Agenda 2063 / AEIS documented	A — Conceptual and Institutional Foundations
B-1	Gender-energy diagnostic completed	B — Five-Step Methodology
B-2	SDG 7 indicators sex-disaggregated	B — Five-Step Methodology
B-3	≥4 core indicators operationalised	B — Five-Step Methodology
B-4	Gender module in household survey	B — Five-Step Methodology
B-5	Data used in policy document	B — Five-Step Methodology
B-6	QA procedures applied	B — Five-Step Methodology
C-1	Indicators conform to Annex 2 + AFGEM metadata	C — Core Indicator Compliance
C-2	Tier-1 data ≤5 years old	C — Core Indicator Compliance
C-3	Data submitted to AEIS	C — Core Indicator Compliance
C-4	Urban/rural disaggregation	C — Core Indicator Compliance
C-5	Time series ≥2 years for Tier-1	C — Core Indicator Compliance
D-1	Trained NSO focal person	D — Institutional and Statistical Capacity
D-2	Formal inter-institutional coordination	D — Institutional and Statistical Capacity
D-3	Budget line in NSO work plan	D — Institutional and Statistical Capacity
D-4	Staff trained on Guidelines	D — Institutional and Statistical Capacity
D-5	Administrative data sex-disaggregation in progress	D — Institutional and Statistical Capacity
E-1	National M&E plan endorsed	E — Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability
E-2	Annual progress report published	E — Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability
E-3	Indicators in VNR	E — Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability
E-4	Data ethics standards applied	E — Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability
E-5	Self-assessment submitted on time	E — Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability

ANNEX C — CONTINENTAL COMPLIANCE DASHBOARD AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Purpose of the Dashboard

The Continental Compliance Dashboard is designed to translate annual compliance results into a visual and comparative monitoring tool that can support:

- AFREC continental oversight
- REC-level benchmarking
- National progress tracking
- Technical assistance prioritisation
- Policy dialogue with Member States and partners

The dashboard does not replace the Compliance Framework. It operationalises it by converting compliance results into a format that is easier to interpret and compare across countries and over time.

Structure of the Dashboard

The dashboard should be organised around **five layers of information**:

1. Overall Compliance Index (OCI)

The dashboard displays:

- The national OCI score
- The compliance status
- The change from the previous cycle

This provides a quick summary of a country's overall performance.

2. Domain-Level Scores

The dashboard presents scores for the five compliance domains:

- Domain A — Conceptual and Institutional Foundations
- Domain B — Five-Step Methodology
- Domain C — Core Indicator Compliance
- Domain D — Institutional and Statistical Capacity
- Domain E — Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability

This allows countries and AFREC to identify areas of strength and weakness.

3. Foundational Requirement Status

The dashboard should show whether the following foundational requirements are fulfilled:

- A-1 — National Compliance Focal Point designated
- A-2 — National Gender–Energy Working Group established
- B-1 — Gender–Energy Diagnostic completed
- C-1 — Metadata conformity achieved
- E-5 — Self-assessment submitted on time

These can be displayed using a simple traffic-light logic:

- Green = fulfilled
- Yellow = partially fulfilled
- Red = not fulfilled

4. Country Progress over Time

The dashboard should include trend information across compliance cycles, including:

- OCI evolution over time
- Domain score progression
- Improvement or decline in key requirements

This enables longitudinal monitoring of progress.

5. Comparative and Regional Analysis

At continental and REC levels, the dashboard may display:

- Average OCI by REC
- Proportion of countries in each compliance status category
- Proportion of countries fulfilling foundational requirements
- Proportion of countries reporting at least four proposed indicators
- Proportion of countries submitting data to AEIS

This supports peer learning and regional comparison.

Indicator	Description
OCI Score	Overall compliance score (%)
Compliance Status	Compliant / Substantially Compliant / Partially Compliant / Non-Compliant
Domain A Score	Conceptual and Institutional Foundations
Domain B Score	Five-Step Methodology
Domain C Score	Core Indicator Compliance
Domain D Score	Institutional and Statistical Capacity
Domain E Score	Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability
Foundational Requirement Status	Fulfilment of A-1, A-2, B-1, C-1, E-5
AEIS Submission Status	Whether data have been submitted to AEIS
Indicator Operationalisation	Number of proposed indicators operationalised
Trend Indicator	Change in OCI compared to previous cycle

Use of the Dashboard

The dashboard may be used for:

- AFREC continental compliance reports
- REC peer review discussions
- national policy dialogue
- training and technical assistance missions
- communication with development partners

The dashboard should always be interpreted alongside the full compliance report, not in isolation.

Data Governance for the Dashboard

The dashboard should use only validated national compliance data.

Countries remain owners of their underlying data. AFREC may publish dashboard results only after validation and in accordance with the principles of transparency, comparability and national statistical sovereignty.

ANNEX D – TECHNICAL NOTE ON THE CALCULATION OF THE OVERALL COMPLIANCE INDEX (OCI)

This annex complements Section 4 by providing the formal technical and mathematical underpinning of the compliance rating system. While Section 4 presents the operational approach to calculating the Overall Compliance Index (OCI), this annex ensures full methodological transparency and reproducibility. It should therefore be read as a technical reference rather than a repetition of the main text.

D.1 Purpose of this Annex

This annex provides technical clarification on the methodology used to calculate the Overall Compliance Index (OCI) presented in Section 4 of this Framework.

While Section 4.6 provides a worked example illustrating the calculation process, this annex explains the underlying mathematical logic, the weighting structure of the compliance domains, and the safeguard mechanisms applied when interpreting OCI results.

The objective is to ensure full methodological transparency and reproducibility of the compliance rating system across all Member States.

D.2 Structure of the Compliance Rating System

The compliance rating system evaluates implementation of the Guidelines across five domains, comprising a total of 26 compliance requirements.

Each requirement is rated on a four-level scale:

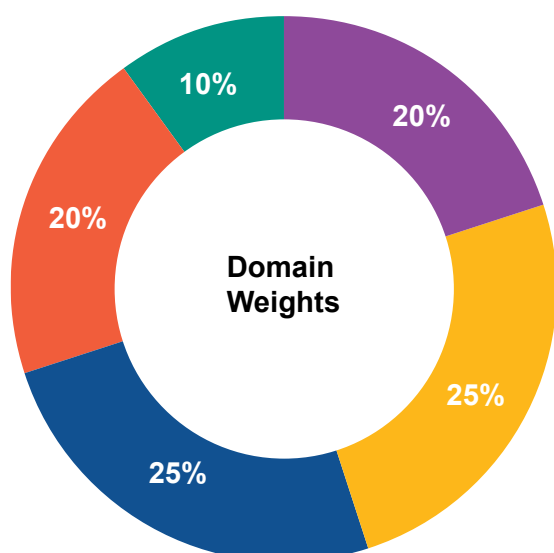
Rating	Score
Full Compliance	3
Substantial Compliance	2
Partial Compliance	1
Non-Compliance	0

The total possible score across all requirements is therefore: $26 \times 3 = 78$

However, the OCI is not calculated using a simple total score, because the domains carry different weights reflecting their relative importance.

D.3 Domain Structure and Weights

The compliance domains correspond to the five core dimensions of the Gender–SDG7 implementation framework.



Domain	Max Score	Weight
A Conceptual & Institutional	15	20%
B Five-Step Methodology	18	25%
C Core Indicators	15	25%
D Institutional Capacity	15	20%
E Monitoring & Accountability	15	10%

Total = 100%

Rationale for Domain Weights

The weighting structure reflects the operational priorities of the Guidelines:

- Domains B and C (50% combined) receive the highest weight because they represent the core methodological implementation and the production of comparable gender-energy data.
- Domains A and D (40% combined) capture the institutional environment and the sustainability of gender-energy statistical systems.
- Domain E (10%) reflects the integration of gender-energy statistics into monitoring and accountability processes.

This structure ensures that the compliance system prioritises methodological implementation and data production while recognising the importance of institutional sustainability.

D.4 Mathematical Formula for OCI

The Overall Compliance Index is calculated as the weighted sum of the domain scores.

$$OCI = (A \times 0.20) + (B \times 0.25) + (C \times 0.25) + (D \times 0.20) + (E \times 0.10)$$

Where:

- A = Domain A score (%)
- B = Domain B score (%)
- C = Domain C score (%)
- D = Domain D score (%)
- E = Domain E score (%)

Each domain score is first converted into a percentage of the maximum possible score for that domain.

D.5 Domain Score Calculation

The domain score is calculated as:

$$\text{Domain Score}(\%) = (\text{Sum of requirement scores} / \text{Maximum domain score}) \times 100$$

Example:

If a country scores 11 out of 15 in Domain A:

$$\text{Domain A} = (11/15) \times 100 = 73\%$$

This percentage is then multiplied by the domain weight when computing the OCI.

D.6 Rounding Protocol

To ensure consistency across countries and compliance cycles:

- domain percentage scores are rounded to the nearest whole number
- the final OCI score is rounded to one decimal place

This standardisation avoids artificial differences caused by rounding variations.

D.7 Safeguard Mechanisms

Two safeguard mechanisms are applied to ensure that the compliance system maintains its methodological integrity.

D.7.1 Foundational Integrity Override

Certain requirements are considered foundational conditions for the operation of the compliance system.

These include:

- A-1 — National Compliance Focal Point designation
- A-2 — National Gender–Energy Working Group establishment
- B-1 — Completion of the gender-energy diagnostic
- C-1 — Metadata conformity with Annex standards
- E-5 — Timely submission of the self-assessment

If any of these requirements are not fulfilled, the country cannot be classified above “Partially Compliant”, regardless of the OCI score.

This rule ensures that countries establish the minimum institutional and methodological conditions required for the framework to function.

D.7.2 Domain Floor Rule

A country cannot be classified as Compliant if any domain score falls below 50 percent.

This rule prevents situations where strong performance in some domains compensates for critical weaknesses in others.

For example, a country producing indicator data but lacking institutional governance structures would not be considered fully compliant.

D.8 Use of OCI Results

The OCI is designed as both:

- A monitoring indicator, and
- A diagnostic tool.

Countries should therefore analyse not only the overall OCI score but also the domain-level scores, which identify specific areas requiring improvement.

The OCI should inform the development of Corrective Action Plans (Section 7) and guide the prioritisation of technical assistance provided by AFREC and RECs.

ANNEX E — THE 11 CORE GENDER-ENERGY INDICATORS

This annex lists the 11 core gender-energy indicators defined in Chapter 5 and Annex 2 of the Methodological Guidelines. All Compliance Framework requirements referencing “core indicators” refer to this list. Countries select a minimum of 4 indicators to operationalise in Year 1 (Requirement B-3), prioritising High-feasibility indicators. Full definitions, calculation formulas, disaggregation requirements, data sources and metadata standards are in Annex 2 (AFGEM) of the Guidelines.

Ref	Indicator Name	Analytical Domain	Feasibility	Primary Data Source(s) / Data Status
1	Gender Parity Index (GPI) for Electricity Access	Domain 1 — Access & Energy Poverty	High	DHS (household lighting module); MICS; National HBS/LSMS. Standard variables exist — minimal adaptation required.
2	Weekly Time Spent Collecting Fuel	Domain 1 — Access & Energy Poverty	High	Time-Use Survey (TUS); DHS supplemental fuel module; LSMS. TUS module must be added to HBS where absent.
5	Prevalence of Female Respiratory Illnesses Linked to Cooking	Domain 1 — Access & Energy Poverty	Medium	Health Management Information System (HMIS); DHS health module. Requires linking cooking fuel data to health outcomes — adapted module needed.
11	Connection Refusal Due to Property Documentation	Domain 1 — Access & Energy Poverty	Medium	Utility administrative records (refused connection logs). No standard instrument; new data collection required.
8	Female Control over Household Energy Use	Domain 2 — Agency & Decision-Making	High	DHS women’s empowerment module; MICS. Standard question variants exist — minor adaptation required.
3	Women’s Representation in Community Energy Committees	Domain 2 — Agency & Decision-Making	Medium	Ministry of Energy / local government administrative registers. Requires adaptation of energy committee reporting formats.
6	Energy Projects with Differentiated Female/Male Consultations	Domain 2 — Agency & Decision-Making	Medium	Project monitoring records; ESIA documentation from utilities/ministries. New administrative data collection required.

Ref	Indicator Name	Analytical Domain	Feasibility	Primary Data Source(s) / Data Status
7	Women's Employment in the Energy Sector	Domain 3 — Economic Participation	Medium	National Labour Force Survey (LFS); ILO ILOSTAT (ISIC Rev. 4 energy sector). Standard variables exist — sector disaggregation needed.
9	Women's Access to Financing for Clean Technologies	Domain 3 — Economic Participation	Medium	FinScope / FinAccess financial inclusion surveys. Requires addition of clean-energy-specific module.
4	Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in the Energy Sector	Domain 4 — Enabling Environment & Governance	Medium	Public expenditure reviews; national budget documentation (Ministry of Finance/Energy). Requires institutional budget analysis — new data collection.
10	Composite Women's Energy Empowerment Index (EEI)	Domain 4 — Enabling Environment & Governance	Advanced	Composite of Indicators 1–10. Calculated from existing indicator values once all components are collected.

Feasibility levels (High / Medium / Advanced) are as defined in Section 5.3 and Annex 2 of the Methodological Guidelines.

High feasibility = producible from existing survey instruments with minimal adaptation.

Medium = requires some institutional strengthening or new survey modules.

Advanced = requires composite methodology and significant data system reform.

Indicators are numbered as in Chapter 5 of the Guidelines and grouped by analytical domain. The Compliance Framework requirement B-3 requires operationalisation of a minimum of 4 indicators, prioritising High-feasibility indicators. Full metadata, calculation formulas and AFGEM templates are in Annex 2 of the Guidelines.

ANNEX F — REFERENCES

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