PRESS RELEASE

AFREC Hands Over The Gambia's National Decarbonisation Roadmap to 2063



Banjul, The Gambia, 19 November 2026 – The African Energy Commission (AFREC) of the African Union (AU) has handed over The Gambia's National Deep Decarbonisation Pathway (NDDP) to the Government, providing a long-term roadmap to strengthen energy security, expand access to affordable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2063.

Launched by The Gambia's Minister of Petroleum, Energy and Mines, Hon. Nani Juwara, at a ceremony at the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Centre in Banjul, the pathway identifies practical measures for transforming the Gambia's energy sector. Its analysis shows that the transition could save approximately **US$8.4 billion by 2063** while reducing energy-related emissions by 90 per cent. It also projects that solar power could account for around 70 per cent of electricity generation by 2030. *"Launching the decarbonisation pathways today is only the beginning,"* said Minister Juwara. *"The real work starts tomorrow, in how we allocate capital, how we measure our progress, and how we hold ourselves accountable to the milestones we have set."*

The Minister described the NDDP as "not another study" but a governance instrument, adding that it provides a practical, science-based roadmap for turning long-term climate commitments into measurable action. He said the pathway supports The Gambia's Nationally Determined Contributions and its National Development Plan, YIRIWA 2023–2027.

The roadmap covers seven sectors: electricity, clean cooking, buildings, industry, transport, agriculture, and oil and gas, setting out priority interventions to expand renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, reduce electricity losses, promote clean cooking and strengthen national energy security. *"This pathway was built in The Gambia, with Gambian data, by Gambian institutions. Today we hand it over. From this morning, it is yours,"* said Mr. Rashid Ali Abdallah, Executive Director of AFREC. *"A continental strategy only matters when it becomes national action."*

The handover builds on a series of national consultations and technical engagements undertaken in 2025, when AFREC supported The Gambia, Madagascar, and Botswana in developing their NDDPs under the African Energy Transition Programme (AFRETRAP), in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB). The process brought together national institutions and stakeholders to identify country specific priorities and assess pathways towards long-term energy transformation.

For Gambia, the pathway was developed by the Ministry of Petroleum, Energy and Mines, with technical support from AFREC and co-financing from AfDB through its Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) programme. A Technical Working Group comprising 17 national institutions guided the process. The analysis draws on the country's 2022 energy balance and four rounds of stakeholder consultations.

The handover ceremony brought together government officials, development partners, members of the technical working group, private-sector representatives, civil society and the media. Implementation will focus on nine priority actions to 2030, supported by a National Energy Transition Steering Committee responsible for reviewing progress annually. The pathway will be updated every five years.

AFREC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting The Gambia through technical assistance, monitoring, energy efficiency initiatives, electricity network loss reduction, and efforts to mobilise financing with development partners.

Notes to Editors

*The **African Energy Commission (AFREC)** is a specialised energy agency of the African Union mandated to coordinate, harmonise and promote the development of Africa's energy sector. AFREC works with AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities to support energy policy development, strengthen energy data and information systems, promote the rational exploitation and development of energy resources, and advance regional and continental energy cooperation.*

The National Deep Decarbonisation Pathway is among the first national pathways developed under ETSAP, the African Union's framework for a just and inclusive transition towards a sustainable, low-carbon energy system by 2063. Prepared by AFREC under the African Energy Transition Programme (AFRETRAP), the continental strategy was validated by stakeholders from across Africa in April 2025. It builds on the African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Transition, endorsed by African Union Heads of State and Government in 2022.

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