

THE NREIF COMMUNIQUÉ

Nigeria Renewable Energy Innovation Forum (NREIF), 2025
Implementing the Nigeria First Policy, Facilitating Local Content Development and
Manufacturing in the Renewable Energy Ecosystem
14–15 October 2025 | Transcorp Hilton, Abuja

Preamble

The Nigeria Renewable Energy Innovation Forum (NREIF) 2025 convened government leaders, private sector executives, investors, researchers, and development partners under the leadership of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA).

The Forum's purpose was to drive practical implementation of the Nigeria First Policy — a national commitment to develop local content, expand manufacturing, and strengthen the industrial base that underpins Nigeria's clean energy transition.

The event provided a multi-stakeholder platform for knowledge exchange, partnership building, and investment mobilization to accelerate renewable energy deployment through homegrown innovation, financing, and technology.

Global & National Context

Global investment in the low-carbon energy transition reached a record USD 2.1 trillion in 2024, illustrating the scale of capital flowing into clean technologies worldwide. Yet Africa continues to capture a small share of those flows — roughly 2% of global clean-energy investment — highlighting a major financing and industrial opportunity for the continent and for Nigeria.

Nigeria's resource and market fundamentals strengthen its case for local industrialization: officially reported reserves stand at ~37.28 billion barrels of oil and ~210.54 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas, while the country's solar and hydropower potential and emerging deposits of critical minerals create the feedstock for a domestic renewable manufacturing value chain.

At the same time, national policy milestones — including the Electricity Act 2023 and the Federal Executive Council approval of the National Integrated Electricity Policy & Strategic Implementation Plan (NIEP-SIP) — provide an enabling legal and strategic framework for decentralised markets, State participation, and industrial policy alignment.

Forum Highlights & Announcements

 **High-Level Endorsement:** The Forum was chaired by His Excellency Senator Kashim Shettima, Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who called for a rapid shift from import dependence to domestic manufacturing of renewable energy equipment and solutions to capitalise on the \$410Billion investment opportunity in the energy transition.

 **Policy Instruments Launched:** The Honourable Minister of Power launched two transformative tools: the Nigerian Green Manufacturing Investment Prospectus and; the REA Harmonized Technical Standards. These instruments clarify investor incentives, quality benchmarks and local content pathways — and were formally introduced at the Forum.

 **Investment Commitments & MoUs:** The Deal Room sessions concluded with USD 435 million in investment commitments and the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), six State Governments — Lagos, Ogun, Akwa Ibom, Kano, Bayelsa, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) — and leading private-sector partners.



These partnerships aim to deliver an initial 4,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy manufacturing capacity to catalyse value-chain development across participating states.

Manufacturing Pipeline & Localisation: Attendees received the manufacturing pipeline update: a joint venture to establish a 1 GW solar-panel manufacturing facility under REA, InfraCorp and foreign partner Solarge BV, with local content targeted at 50% within three years. Additional private-sector commitments included localisation of solar kits, smart meters and battery recycling. For example, SunKing and REA announced a Nigerian light manufacturing footprint for solar and efficient appliances.



Knowledge, Capacity & Inclusion: The Forum featured thematic sessions on manufacturing & industrialisation; battery storage & lithium value-chain; inclusive energy transitions (with a focus on women and youth); skills development and harmonised standards; and the nexus of energy, digital infrastructure and industrial competitiveness.



Regional & Global Learning: Comparative insight from Morocco's large-scale concentrated solar projects, South Africa's renewable procurement-linked manufacturing, and Egypt's multi-billion-dollar green-hydrogen/solar deals provided a working blueprint for Nigeria's localisation drive.



Programmatic Anchors for Scale: The Forum reaffirmed the role of national programmes such as the National Public Sector Solarization Initiative (NPSSI) and the DARES (Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up) project — both critical demand-anchor mechanisms to catalyse manufacturing and access.

Collective Resolution

Forum participants agreed on the following actions and commitments to fast-track Nigeria's renewable energy industrialization:

1. Prioritise local content obligations in all federal and state renewable programmes; set clear, time-bound targets for solar, battery, balance-of-system components and other renewable energy technologies.
2. Strengthen an inter-agency implementation architecture — comprising the Federal Ministry of Power (MoP), the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI), the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), and the Budget Office of the Federation (BOF) — to ensure coordinated alignment of industrial policy, trade measures, fiscal incentives, and budgetary support with national renewable energy and local manufacturing objectives.
3. Scale blended finance instruments, green bonds and guarantee mechanisms to crowd in pension and institutional capital; leverage carbon markets to improve project bankability.
4. Operationalise the REA Harmonized Technical Standards, fast-track certification via SON/NEMSA and expand vocational/apprenticeship programmes linked to manufacturing clusters.
5. Institutionalise digital platforms and interoperable data-systems to enhance planning, procurement and investor transparency; under REA's Technology-First approach.
6. Pursue regional sourcing and export strategies; position Nigeria as a supplier of renewable-energy components within ECOWAS and beyond, supported by trade facilitation and export incentives.

Implementation, Governance & Next Steps

1. Technical Policy Advisory Working Group (TPAWG): A multi-stakeholder Technical Policy Advisory Working Group has been established to consolidate forum outcomes into concrete policy and implementation recommendations. The TPAWG will develop an actionable Renewable Manufacturing Roadmap (2025–2030) and present its findings and recommended measures to the Honourable Minister of Power in Q1 2026 for adoption and cabinet consideration. The composition of the working group is as follows:
 - A. Federal Ministry of Power (Chair) — providing overall policy direction, ensuring alignment with national electrification strategy, and coordinating Federal Executive Council interface.
 - B. Rural Electrification Agency (Secretariat) — coordinating workstreams, consolidating outputs from the Forum, and aligning with ongoing programmes such as DARES, NPSSI, and NESIP.
 - C. National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI) — leading on technology localization, component manufacturing, and applied R&D in renewable systems.
 - D. Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI) — aligning industrial policy, local content regulation, and fiscal incentives for renewable energy manufacturing.
 - E. Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) — facilitating investor engagement, policy advocacy, and investment pipeline tracking for renewable manufacturing ventures.
 - F. Solar Energy Manufacturers and Assemblers Association (SEMA) — representing private sector stakeholders, local manufacturers, EPCs, and developers across the renewable value chain.
 - G. Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI) — represented by Najim Animashaun, providing policy analysis, data-driven insights, and evidence-based recommendations on industrial and workforce development.
 - H. Hinckley Recycling Limited — representing the circular economy and e-waste management segment, ensuring integration of end-of-life processing, recycling, and materials recovery into Nigeria's renewable energy industrial policy.
 - I. Advisory Members: Erabor Okogun, KPMG and Anthony Feyitimi, Barton Heyman Limited offering fiscal, governance, and policy advisory support for investment frameworks..
2. NREIF 2.0 & Progress Tracking: NREIF 2.0 is scheduled provisionally for August 2026. An annual NREIF Progress Report, to be coordinated by REA, will track commitments against defined KPIs (investment mobilized, MW deployed, manufacturing jobs created, local content percentage, and REC issuance).
3. Developer & Investor Roundtables: REA will host a series of sectoral roundtables (manufacturing, storage, off-grid) in Q4 2025–Q2 2026 to convert MoUs into financed, shovel-ready projects and to refine demand aggregation for manufacturers.

Call to Action

Participants emphasized that the transition from pilot projects to industrial scale requires urgency, coordination, and measurable commitments. They called on all stakeholders — federal and state governments, development partners, financiers, OEMs, and local manufacturers — to convert the Forum's momentum into durable pipelines of projects, factories, skills, and exports.

Issued by: Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Federal Republic of Nigeria