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African CSOs Call on Afreximbank to Take a Lead on a Just and Future-Fit Energy Transition Ahead of the 33rd AGM

The groups call for Alignment of Energy Financing with Community Needs, Climate Goals, and Africa's Long-Term Development Priorities

(Kampala, May 7, 2026) – The Environment Governance Institute (EGI), together with over 62 civil society organizations across Africa, is calling on the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) to demonstrate bold leadership in advancing a just, inclusive, and future-fit energy transition ahead of its 33rd Annual General Meeting scheduled for June 21–24, 2026, in El Alamein, Egypt.

The call follows a joint continental civil society [letter](#) addressed to Dr. George Elombi, President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, with copies shared with the Board of Directors, Senior Management, Shareholders, and Member States.

In the letter, the organizations emphasized that while Afreximbank has played an important role in advancing trade, industrialization, and African financial sovereignty, the decisions it makes at this critical moment will shape the continent's development trajectory for decades to come. “*This is a defining moment for Afreximbank to demonstrate leadership in financing an energy future that is not only economically viable, but also socially just, environmentally sustainable, and responsive to the realities facing African communities,*” said Samuel Okulony, Chief Executive Officer of the Environment Governance Institute Uganda.

The call comes at a time when communities living near oil and gas developments across the continent continue to face displacement, loss of livelihoods, ecological degradation, and exclusion from decision-making processes and pointed to the violability of better alternatives.

“Across Africa, we are already seeing clear evidence that renewable and decentralized energy systems can deliver resilient, inclusive, and cost-effective development pathways that the continent should be investing in. Countries such as Ethiopia, Morocco, and Egypt are demonstrating what is possible through large-scale renewable energy expansion, while decentralized solar and mini-grid systems in Kenya and Rwanda are bringing electricity to rural and underserved communities without the social and environmental costs associated with large-scale extractive projects,” said Richard Senkondo, Organization for Community Engagement (OCE) Tanzania

The letter outlines five key priorities for Afreximbank, including adopting a clear leadership position on financing Africa’s just energy transition and progressively aligning its energy portfolio with climate resilience and long-term development goals; institutionalizing structured engagement with civil society, affected communities, and independent experts to strengthen accountability and legitimacy; strengthening safeguards, transparency, and accountability mechanisms for high-risk investments, reorienting financing towards decentralized, community-centered, and livelihood-supporting energy systems, and positioning Afreximbank as a continental standard-setter in shaping an African-led approach to a just energy transition.

The engagement targets Afreximbank due to its influential role in shaping Africa's development through large financing of energy projects. The banks ' financial investment decision can have a direct impact towards a just and sustainable energy transition or further lock Africa into fossil fuel dependency.

For more information

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