



Expanding Electricity Access in Zambia: The Role of Distributed Solar Solutions

14th October 2025, InterContinental Hotel, Lusaka.

Event Overview

The International Growth Centre (IGC) and the Ministry of Energy (MoE) will co-host a high-level roundtable on 14 October 2025 at the InterContinental Hotel, Lusaka. The event will convene government, private sector, and cooperating partners to examine how distributed solar solutions can expand electricity access in Zambia. Discussions will explore the residential adoption landscape alongside the financing and policy barriers facing commercial applications. Drawing on evidence from Zambia and international experience, the sessions will focus on practical policy actions to accelerate adoption, strengthen financing frameworks, and integrate distributed solar more effectively into national grid planning.

Opening Session

Arrival & Registration	IGC Zambia	08:30 - 09:00
Welcoming Remarks	Mr. Arnold Simwaba (PS Electricity, Ministry of Energy) Mr. Shah Rukh (Country Manager, IGC Zambia)	09:00 - 09:15
Today's Objectives	Mr. Stephen Jackson (Lab Economist, ZEL)	09:15 – 09:30

Session I: Residential Adoption of Distributed Solar

This session will examine the residential adoption of distributed solar in Zambia. After presenting the landscape, the discussion will open up to policy changes which can increase adoption.

Presentation	<i>'What is the landscape of residential solar adoption?'</i> Mr. Rory Hardie (Country Economist, IGC)	09:30 – 09:50
Panel Discussion	<i>Panellists</i> Mrs. Bupe Mubanga (Business Strategy Manager, Ignite Energy Access) Mr. Patrick Balla (Energy Lead, World Bank Zambia) Mr. Eugene Chandi (Senior Economist, REA) <i>Chair</i> Mr. Rory Hardie (Country Economist, IGC)	09:50 – 10:45

Tea break, 10:45 – 11:00

Session 2: Commercial Adoption of Distributed Solar

This session will examine the adoption of distributed solar across commercial enterprises. After presenting findings from Sierra Leone and Zambia, the discussion will open up to policy challenges in the context of loadshedding.

Presentation	<i>‘SME solar adoption in Sierra Leone’</i> Ms. Alice Mével (PhD Candidate, Paris School of Economics)	11:00 – 11:20
Presentation	<i>‘SME solar adoption in Lusaka’</i> Mr. Dario De Quarti (PhD Candidate, Geneva Graduate Institute)	11:20 – 11:35
Panel Discussion	<p><i>Panellists</i></p> <p>Mr. Matanda Mwewa (President, SIAZ) Mr. Alfred Mwila (Director Economic Regulations, ERB) Mr. Alister Kandyata (Head – Renewable Energy, ZESCO) Ms. Alice Mével (PhD Candidate, Paris School of Economics)</p> <p><i>Chair</i></p> <p>Mr. Dario De Quarti (PhD Candidate, Geneva Graduate Institute)</p>	11:35 – 12:20

Session 3: Policy Breakout Sessions

This session will involve policy focussed breakout sessions which deep-dive on the issues discussed during the previous presentations and panels.

Policy Breakout Sessions	<p>a) <i>Affordability & Financing Models</i></p> <p>b) <i>Information Dissemination & Consumer Protection</i></p> <p>c) <i>Grid Planning & Sector Integration</i></p> <p>d) <i>Data for Policy & Market Development</i></p>	12:20 – 13:25
Closing Remarks	Mrs. Vivian Bronsoler Nurko (International Programmes and Impact Director, IGC)	13:25 – 13:30

Lunch, 13:30