

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Building Green Industries To Scale Green Economies: How Namibia Has Set The Pace For Africa's Green Industrial Revolution**

May 2025, Windhoek, Namibia – As global energy demand soars, driven increasingly by non-traditional sources including climate change and artificial intelligence (AI), energy security has never been more disrupted. Geopolitical tensions, trade barriers, and supply chain volatility have converged into an unprecedented intersection that pose a stark challenge to the energy transition.

For Africa, the tumult is both a challenge but also offers an exceptional opportunity to reimagine its industrial development pathway while creating millions of jobs, fostering innovation, and preserving its rich natural ecosystems.

Energy is at the heart of Africa's growth story and the cornerstone of Africa's economic transformation. The continent is on the brink of a major energy evolution, poised to supercharge the rising electricity demands of over 1.5 billion inhabitants, while propelling long-term socio-economic growth.

Africa is taking bold steps to build green industries that will scale green economies across the continent, marking a transformative shift toward climate-resilient development, inclusive growth, and long-term prosperity. With an emphasis on green energy, circular economies, and sustainable industrial practices, African governments, private sector actors, and international partners are collaborating to catalyse green industrialisation and unlock the continent's vast green economic potential.

At the heart of Africa's green transformation is the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), both of which provide a blueprint for sustainable industrialisation, intra-African trade, and value chain development. Building on these frameworks, African leaders are embedding green principles into national and regional industrial policies to ensure economic growth does not come at the cost of environmental degradation.

"African countries have a unique opportunity to leapfrog traditional, carbon-intensive industrial models by investing in green industries that are climate-smart, resource-efficient, and future-proof," states Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, "We are not just responding to the climate crisis – we are turning it into an engine of innovation, resilience, and inclusive development."

Renewable energy is at the heart of Africa's green industrialisation strategy. By harnessing its diverse natural resources through the increased adoption of renewable energy sources including solar, wind, geothermal and hydropower, Africa can sustainably bring an end to energy poverty whilst unleashing large-scale green industrialisation.

The continent has a tremendous opportunity to harness its diverse natural resource mix to establish energy security to its 1.5 billion inhabitants, provide energy access to over 900 million inhabitants, enable clean cooking to those 600 million without, and become a global leader in green energy generation.

Hydrogen is a key to fuelling Africa's green industrial revolution. From decarbonising oil & gas, mining operations and heavy industry including cement, steel and heavy haulage, to transforming power generation, clean cooking and transportation, hydrogen and its derivatives are unlocking a new era of sustainable growth across Africa.

Stimulating economic development through inclusive education and employment, and empowering societies to become more sustainable, equitable and resilient, hydrogen is more than energy; it is a catalyst to building green industries that can scale green economies.

Namibia remains a trailblazer in the hydrogen space with up to five Final Investment Decisions (FID) scheduled to be made in 2025 / 2026. Namibia has demonstrated African leadership on the global stage by pioneering a world first for green industrialisation.

At the recent Oshivela grand opening celebration, Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia, inaugurated the Hylron project which achieved the world's first zero-emission iron breakthrough. From ambition into action the Hylron team have fired up a game changer by showcasing how the Oshivela project can produce green hydrogen and use it to refine iron ore, setting a carbon-free standard for steel production.

In a world hungry for sustainable solutions, Namibia's Hylron is not only a first for Africa but a world first, where project off-take was key. "Actually, the biggest thing we can do is to become competitive to grey iron. So iron produced at emissions at the same prices. And that's where we work very hard towards. So we optimise the supply, we optimise power prices or the generation prices of our power. We do a lot of these things, a lot of this work now in preparation to reach this goal, because then off-take will not be a question, because if you can choose for the same price, a grey or a green product, the choice will be obvious." reflected Johannes Michels, Managing Director of Hylron on stimulating demand and end-use over the coming years for the project.

As the world falters on to net-zero targets, Africa's commitment to green industrialisation positions it not just as a beneficiary of the global energy transition, but as a key player in shaping the future of sustainable development. The movement toward green industries is not merely about technology or finance – it is about equity, just access, and creating a brighter future for all Africans. By building economies that are both green and inclusive, Africa is charting a bold path that could redefine industrialisation in the 21st century.

As a champion of fuelling Namibia and Africa's green industrial revolution, the sequel edition of the Global African Hydrogen Summit taking place from 9 – 11 September 2025, in Windhoek, Namibia, will aim to unlock the challenges and fast track the opportunities.

Held under the theme *Ambition in Action: Fuelling Africa's Green Industrial Revolution*, the Summit will provide a continuity of leadership and dialogue to drive partnerships for, and critical investments and financing into, bankable green energy projects of strategic and national importance across Africa.

Welcoming over 1,500 global attendees the Summit sits at the heart of Africa's green industrialisation conversation – a leading platform that has the power to convene global heads of government, policymakers, industry leaders, innovators, investors and end users annually in Africa.

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## **Contact Details**

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## **About The Global African Hydrogen Summit (GAH2S) 2025**

### **Convening The Global Hydrogen Industry In Namibia**

In its sequel edition, the pioneering three-day Global African Hydrogen Summit will once again convene heads of state, government agencies, industry business leaders, project developers, investors, thought leaders, technologists and end users from across Africa and around the globe to drive partnerships for and critical investments and financing into bankable green energy projects of strategic and national importance across Africa, spanning the hydrogen, renewables, agriculture, mining, power, infrastructure, transportation, mobility and hard to abate sectors.

As a pioneering and innovative investment platform, the Global African Hydrogen Summit will provide a variety of engagement opportunities including CPD accredited educative masterclasses, high level leadership dialogues, a world class strategic conference, project investment roundtables, and an international exhibition and innovation zone. Participation from across the global energy value chain will include and contribute to:

- **1 High-Level Ministerial Meeting**
- **2 Leadership Roundtables**
- **3 Heads of State**
- **7 Country Pavilions**
- **7 Global African Hydrogen Awards**
- **20 Deal & MoU Signings**
- **25 African & Global Ministers**
- **50 Bankable African Green Energy Projects**
- **45 Partners**
- **60 Countries Represented**
- **150 International Exhibitors**
- **100 Youth Participants**
- **125 Expert Industry Speakers**
- **700 Conference Delegates**
- **1,500 Attendees**

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**About The Namibia Investment Promotion And Development Board (NIPDB)**

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) is mandated to promote and facilitate investment by foreign and Namibian investors, and coordinate MSME activities across all levers of the economy, with the aim of contributing to economic development and job creation.

For more information on how to invest in Namibia, please visit the NIPDB website visit:

<https://nipdb.com/>