



*Session logical flow*

**ENERGY, CONNECTIVITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Affordable and sustainable energy supplies are the backbone of a functioning market and society. However, energy is not only a key for environmental sustainability, but also for **social and economic sustainability.**

Leverage existing natural resources to create wealth for all

Southern African countries have abundant renewable energy potential, as well as fossil fuels allowing clean transition towards a carbon free energy system. Recent Oil&gas discoveries are a boon not only for regional energy resilience, but also for social development and job creation: how to make sure that beneficiation of available resources creates **opportunities and wealth for all?**

Increase interconnectivity between SADC energy system to empower individuals

Increased interconnectivity does not come only through expansion of existing infrastructure, but also through adoption of latest digital technologies and managerial know how.

Increased interconnectivity also increases resilience against climate volatility, essential for relying on renewables.

*Planned interconnectors in the SAPP framework*



Create a regional and interconnected sustainable energy network

Revamp the SADC power pool

After 20 years since its creation, the Southern African Power Pool needs further push to create a unified energy network and – most of all – a coordinated market.

A single, affordable and resilient energy market is pivotal for social development and inclusion

**Currently, only 7% of electricity is traded cross-borderly in SADC**

Renewable **energy generation, storage technologies, microgrids**, and artificially intelligent system management are all available and cost effective technologies successfully adopted world-wide.

Their deployment could be particularly fruitful for rural communities and remotely located, energy intensive industries, such as mining, agroindustry, and construction of large infrastructure projects.

Deploy new technologies to local communities and remote industries

**Towards a Southern Africa – Europe partnership for a more sustainable society**

Europe and Southern Africa can become privileged partners to build a sustainable ecosystem in the region, leveraging European experience and technological know how in building and managing a low-carbon economy. However, if Southern Africa can import technology for the environment, it has to devise its specific and locally-rooted recipe for social and economic sustainability.