

Concept Note



"The Path to Energy Transition:
Integrating Efficiency and Innovation into demand-side
Management"

5 - 6 February 2026

CITY OF PRAIA
CABO VERDE

Context

As part of its national strategy to accelerate the energy transition, Cabo Verde will host the **first International Energy Conference (IEC) on February 5-6, 2026**. Organized by the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Energy with support the support of the Energy Transition Program funded by the Luxembourg Cooperation, this annual event will be held under the theme: ***"The Path to Energy Transition: Integrating Efficiency and Innovation in Demand-side Management."***

Each IEC edition will focus on a key theme driving sustainable energy transition. The 2026 edition will spotlight Energy Efficiency, showcasing best practices and innovative solutions across four priority areas outlined in the National Program for Energy Sustainability (PNSE acronym in Portuguese): buildings, industry, mobility, and appliances.

The conference will convene government leaders, experts, private sector actors, cleantech start-ups, academia, and civil society to explore strategies for optimizing energy use, overcoming sectoral challenges, and scaling up innovative technologies that promote sustainability and economic growth.

Held in a **hybrid format**, with simultaneous translation and fully digital content, the event reflects a commitment to environmental responsibility—minimizing paper use, eliminating plastics, and promoting sustainable practices. It will also feature a business exhibition area and startup & innovation pavilion, fostering networking and knowledge exchange among the expected participants.

Objectives



Promote Energy Efficiency as a Driver of Sustainable Development and Economic Competitiveness

- Increase awareness and build capacity among stakeholders on how energy efficiency, when integrated with digital technologies, can drive cost reductions, improve operational performance, and support low-carbon economic development;
- Promote the adoption of sustainable technologies and practices across public and private sectors, encouraging behavioral change and smarter energy use.



Catalyze Innovation, and Collaboration in the Energy Ecosystem

- Provide a dynamic space where startups can pitch innovative ideas, and companies—whether emerging or established—can showcase cutting-edge or in-development solutions;
- Create opportunities for meaningful dialogue and exchange of ideas among entrepreneurs, industry experts, government representatives, and academia to accelerate innovation and strengthen partnerships for sustainable energy development.



Promote social inclusion, diversity and innovation in access to clean energy

- Elevate the participation of women and youth in the energy sector by supporting their leadership in innovation, entrepreneurship, and policy development;
- Champion universal access to clean energy and organize a low-carbon, inclusive event that values environmental responsibility and digital innovation

Target Audience

Businesses and Startups

Operating in renewable energy, technology, energy efficiency, mobility and construction.

International Organizations

Multilateral Agencies, and Development Partners engaged in energy transition and sustainable development.

Scholars and Researchers

Specialists in science, technology, construction and energy engineering.

Young Professionals and Students

Eager to advance their careers and gain access to relevant technical presentations and networking opportunities.

Political Decision-makers

Representatives of governments institutions and regulatory bodies involved in the energy, mobility and construction sectors

Value Proposition

This conference offers a space for innovation and strategic connection, enabling participants to strengthen their presence in the energy sector, expand their business networks and explore new growth opportunities, actively contributing to a more sustainable and efficient future.



For Businesses and Startups: Showcase innovative solutions, explore strategic partnerships, and connect with key stakeholders across cleantech sectors—including energy, mobility, and construction. Gain first-hand insight into upcoming investment opportunities through the government’s project pipeline aligned with the 2030 renewable energy targets.



For International Organizations and Development Partners: Engage with regional actors, share global best practices, and identify synergies to support national and regional energy transition efforts. Learn about new government-led initiatives and areas where technical and financial cooperation can make a difference.



For Scholars and Researchers: Present relevant research, exchange knowledge with practitioners, and contribute to the design of practical, scalable solutions. The event offers access to up-to-date government priorities and project needs that can inform applied research and innovation.



For Young Professionals and Students: Access technical presentations, mentorship opportunities, and career-building connections in the energy, mobility, and construction sectors. Learn directly from key actors shaping the energy transition—including the national presentation of future projects—to align your skills with market demand.



For Political Decision-Makers: Gain insights on innovative policies and regulatory frameworks and engage directly with the energy ecosystem’s diverse stakeholders.



Estimated audience **300 participants**

Venue and Organisation

The International Energy Conference venue is designed to support a dynamic and engaging event experience. Multiple parallel sessions will take place in well-equipped meeting rooms, allowing focused discussions on diverse thematic areas. This setup fosters active participation and facilitates knowledge exchange in a professional and comfortable environment.

Interaction among participants, companies, and institutions will be encouraged through an exhibition area showcasing innovative and sustainable solutions, alongside dedicated meeting rooms for B2B and B2G discussions. Additionally, an exclusive zone will host technology demonstrations, pitch sessions, and interactive activities to promote networking and strategic collaboration throughout the event.

Event Format

The International Energy Conference will be held over two days, featuring a dynamic and interactive format that blends high-level discussions with hands-on engagement. The program is structured to foster learning, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas among a diverse range of stakeholders.

The event will include:

- **Parallel thematic Panels** – Breakout discussions on key focus areas such as energy efficiency, digitalization, mobility, sustainable construction, and clean technology. These sessions will encourage deeper dives into specific topics and allow for greater audience interaction.
- **Innovation and Solution Showcases** – An exhibition space where companies and institutions will present cutting-edge technologies, projects, and sustainable solutions, offering participants the opportunity to explore new tools and ideas.
- **Networking Opportunities** – Informal networking breaks, side events, and interactive installations designed to encourage spontaneous conversations and lasting connections among participants.
- **B2B / B2G Meetings Rooms** – Private meeting areas set up to facilitate structured dialogue between businesses, government agencies, and other stakeholders, fostering partnerships and technical cooperation.
- **Demonstrations and Pitches Area** – A dedicated space for startups and entrepreneurs to present their solutions and pilot concepts to an audience of professionals and technical experts.

This multifaceted format ensures that all participants—whether from government, the private sector, academia, or civil society—can find valuable opportunities for learning, engagement, and collaboration.

The conference will take place across two levels—the Ground Floor and First Floor—offering a dynamic and functional layout. The Ground Floor will feature the main auditorium, an exhibition area, and dedicated rooms for B2B and B2G meetings. The First Floor will host an additional conference room as well as an open courtyard, designed to accommodate presentations, pitch sessions, and interactive activities, providing ample space for networking and engagement.

Ground Floor

AUDITORIUM MAX 400 PEOPLE

- Exclusively dedicated to the event's opening and closing ceremonies.

ROOMS B2B/B2G 4 AND 10 PEOPLE

- Fully equipped rooms for (B2B and B2G meetings).

First Floor

MEETING ROOM 1 200 PEOPLE

- Thematic panels.

MEETING ROOM 2 50 PEOPLE

- Workshops;
- Case Study Sessions.

COURTYARD 70 PEOPLE

- Pilot concepts ;
- Technology demonstrations;
- Pitch sessions;
- "Changemakers" session.

Exhibition Area

The exhibition area at the Conference will be a vibrant and engaging space featuring 20 stands dedicated to showcasing cutting-edge technologies, sustainable projects, and energy solutions. It will provide companies with a unique platform to present their products, services, and innovations to a targeted audience—fostering strategic partnerships and potential new business opportunities.

Thoughtfully integrated amenities, such as food service zones with high tables and coffee stations, will enhance the networking experience.



Key Discussion Topics

Promote Energy Efficiency as a Driver of Sustainable Development and Economic Competitiveness

- Strategies to reduce energy dependence and improve demand-side management.
- Energy performance in buildings: the role of sustainable urban planning and certification.
- Optimizing energy consumption in public buildings, transport and industry to reduce costs and enhance sustainability.

Catalyze Innovation, and Collaboration in the Energy Ecosystem

- Innovative financing models to support startups and energy-sector innovation.
- Public-private partnerships as a catalyst for clean energy investment and job creation.
- Showcase regional success stories that highlight the potential to drive economic development and prosperity, while integrating environmental sustainability, social empowerment, and the aspirations of emerging economies.

Advance Social Inclusion and Diversity in Clean Energy Innovation

- The role of women and young professionals in advancing the energy transition.
- Embracing diversity to enrich decision-making processes with broader perspectives and community-driven solutions.
- Expanding access to sustainable energy as a tool for social justice and inclusive development.



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