



Green Hydrogen Dialogue Series – Webinar Report #1

Theme: Africa in the Global Hydrogen Race

Date: Wednesday, 15 October 2025

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (WAT)

AFRICA HYDROGEN HUB
DIALOGUE SERIES

Africa in the Global Hydrogen Race

A forum to discuss hydrogen progress and futures in Africa, in an open and deliberative atmosphere

Wed, Oct 15th, 2025

VENUE: ZOOM

12PM – 1PM GMT+1

Jerome Namaseb CEO, Daures Green Hydrogen Village	Jaqueline Pinto Hydrogen Regulation & Energy Lawyer	Bassey Obeten Technical Advisor Hydrogen, GIZ Nigeria	Dr Alina Uusiku Researcher in the Namibia Green Hydrogen Research Institute (NGHRI)	Dr Chigozie Nweke-Eze Moderator, MD, Africa Hydrogen Hub (AHH).

Register here:
luma.com/wqve4glg

OR SCAN THE BARCODE

Organized by: Africa Hydrogen Hub (AHH)

1. Overview

Africa Hydrogen Hub (AHH) successfully hosted the first session of its Green Hydrogen Dialogue Series, a monthly forum designed to stimulate open, informed discussion around the emerging green hydrogen economy in Africa.

The inaugural webinar brought together participants representing government, academia, industry, and civil society across multiple continents.

Moderator:

- Dr. Chigozie Nweke-Eze, Founder & Facilitator, Africa Hydrogen Hub

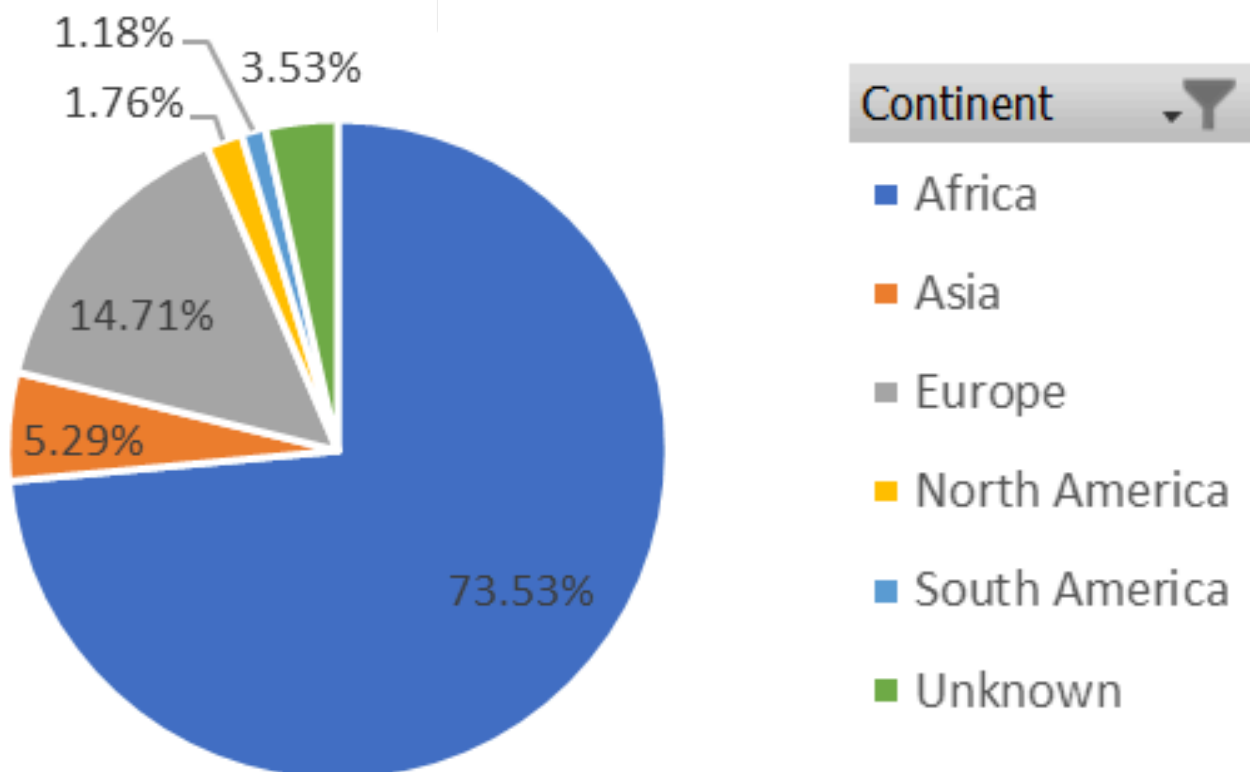
Panelists:

- Jerome Namaseb, CEO, The Daures Green Hydrogen Village (Namibia)
- Jaqueline Pinto, Doctoral Researcher, University of Eastern Finland
- Bassey Obeten, Technical Advisor (Hydrogen), GIZ Nigeria
- Dr. Alina Uusiku, Researcher, Namibia Green Hydrogen Research Institute

2. Participant Distribution

The webinar drew a diverse audience, with representation from all regions of the world.

Distribution of people by continent



3. Key Discussion Highlights

A. Current Landscape of Green Hydrogen Development in Africa

Africa's hydrogen sector is transitioning from hype to tangible progress, with early pilot projects showing local relevance and real investment potential. The optimism is measured but grounded in evidence from initiatives like Namibia's Daures Hydrogen Village.

"Although the hype has probably slowed down, it's now opened up this new stage where we are actually looking at projects which are not necessarily speculation but more so reality... for Africa and Africa's intentions to participate in this space, it definitely does bode well." - **Jerome Namaseb**

Jerome added that hydrogen in Africa is "slightly delayed but not denied indefinitely," emphasizing cautious optimism and practical momentum.

Similarly, Bassey Obeten highlighted Africa's ability to enter the sector "at the same starting point as the rest of the world," giving the continent a rare chance to "compete at the very early stage with global players."

B. Legal and Regulatory Challenges

Africa's greatest hydrogen bottleneck lies in the absence of comprehensive legal and institutional frameworks that go beyond mere legislation.

"When I say regulation, it's not just legislation — I mean the entire ecosystem: policy, standards, institutional frameworks, governance mechanisms. We need all of those in order to actually have a hydrogen ecosystem in Africa." - **Jacqueline Pinto**

Pinto warned that despite Africa's renewable potential, there are *"questions around land and water use and how to regulate that," as well as "questions around funding... and local content."* She stressed that only countries with "clear government support, like Namibia, South Africa, and Morocco" are currently leading the race, implying that regulatory clarity and political will are key success factors.

C. Institutional Readiness and Reform Needs

Existing institutional structures are evolving but remain uneven across the continent. Countries like Nigeria and Namibia are taking proactive steps to embed hydrogen into national planning and research systems.

*“Nigeria has about 200–210 trillion cubic feet of gas, and so the questions around hydrogen also have to factor in ‘do we do blue, do we do green, and which should be our priority?’.” - **Bassey Obeten***

He added that Nigeria’s policy process is “people-driven, bottom-up, not top-down,” reflecting the growing importance of inclusive governance. Meanwhile, Dr. Alina Uusiku described how Namibia’s Green Hydrogen Research Institute was established... to support the industrial side of the projects and to ensure that “local people understand the technology and production outcomes.” Together, these examples demonstrate a shift toward more grounded, nationally aligned institutional models.

D. Africa's Unique Opportunities and Comparative Advantages

Africa's unparalleled renewable energy resources, mineral wealth, and timing advantage place it in a strong position to lead the global hydrogen transition.

"Africa is uniquely positioned to become a global hydrogen powerhouse. We have renewable energy, and reports have come out that are extremely positive about the estimates that it could add to the GDP of countries on the continent." - **Jacqueline Pinto**

From a development perspective, **Bassey Obeten** emphasized that *"hydrogen gives us one unique opportunity to be able to compete globally. It is not a technology we are being introduced to when the rest of the world has gone into standardization and proper adoption."*

Supporting this, **Dr. Alina Usiku** underscored Africa's potential for value addition:

“Africa has the potential to be able to finance or at least take care of its own green hydrogen work. We also try to add value to the natural resources we have in the country, such as copper.”

E. Role of International Partners and Sustainable Financing

While international partners remain vital for financing and technical expertise, Africa must ensure that these collaborations preserve local equity and long-term sustainability.

“Our project is built on government land, under the custodianship of a traditional authority. As a result, we’ve provided about 10% ownership in the project SPV for local community

*groups. This is not a regulatory requirement but we wanted our communities to prosper as much as possible.” - **Jerome Namaseb***

He cautioned that as projects scale, “you start to see local ownership models experience significant strain. Local developers may be squeezed out.” To counter

this, he called for “innovative ways to ensure significant participation long-term.”

Echoing this, **Dr. Alina Usiku** warned that *“most of our funding is coming from outside, and those funding will require giving back to where the funding is coming from.”*

F. Priority Actions and Policy Recommendations

The speakers converged on the need for coherent national strategies, regional collaboration, and a focus on local value creation rather than export dependency.

*“You need to have a hydrogen strategy. That’s your guideline, your blueprint for how you see your hydrogen economy.” — **Jacqueline Pinto***

She urged African policymakers to avoid “reinforcing extractive patterns” and instead “reposition Africa within global value chains.”

Bassey Obeten added:

“African countries must learn to look at where they

have the best use case for hydrogen. If green fertilizer is what works best, then invest in that. The model of building the entire industry on the export oriented end is not sustainable.”

And **Dr. Alina Usiku** concluded that *“government support is crucial. It has to be based on the country’s guiding documents like our NDP6.”*

Together, these perspectives underscore a unified call for strategic, homegrown, and inclusive hydrogen policies that reflect Africa’s unique strengths and development priorities.

4. Emerging Consensus

Across the discussions, one message stood out clearly:

Africa's green hydrogen future must be home-grown, inclusive, and anchored in policy coherence.

5. Next Steps

The insights from this session will contribute to a policy brief under development by AHH, synthesizing key findings from each monthly webinar.

6. Acknowledgement

AHH extends heartfelt appreciation to all speakers, participants, and partners for their valuable contributions toward shaping Africa's sustainable hydrogen future.



*Thank you for
joining us*

Watch the full replay of the first
AHH dialogue series here

bit.ly/africahydrogen