



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Research Fellow: Energy Governance and Policy

African Institute for Sustainable Energy and Systems Analysis (AISESA)

About AISESA

The African Institute for Sustainable Energy and Systems Analysis (AISESA) is a pan-African platform that convenes researchers, policymakers, civil society, private sector actors, and financiers to co-create context-specific knowledge, tools, and capacity to advance Africa's energy, climate, and development agendas. AISESA is grounded in the conviction that Africa's energy transformations must be designed and aligned with the continent's development priorities. The Institute works to bridge persistent gaps between research, policy, finance, and implementation by generating actionable knowledge, strengthening institutional capacity, and supporting decision-making processes across national and regional contexts.

AISESA operates through five interconnected clusters covering clean energy pathways, implementation, policy and governance, finance and technology, and institutional capacity. These clusters work both independently and collaboratively, contributing to integrated analysis and real-world engagement through thematic areas such as powering livelihoods, inclusive industrialisation, and urban transformation.

About Cluster 3: Policy and Governance

The Policy and Governance Cluster is founded on the recognition that governance capacity is a critical determinant of whether energy and climate interventions translate into meaningful and sustainable development outcomes. The cluster seeks to understand how institutional arrangements, incentives, capacities, and political dynamics influence policy design, implementation, and learning. Particular attention is given to the ways in which evidence is produced, interpreted, legitimised, and used within policymaking systems.

The cluster aims to strengthen the interface between research, policy, and practice by generating evidence on governance systems, supporting more context-responsive policymaking, and advancing approaches that place African institutions, expertise, and development priorities at the centre of energy and climate decision-making. Its work includes research on governance for energy transformations, science-policy interfaces, institutional capability, political economy, regulatory systems, and people-centred energy policy.

About the Fellowship

AISESA is seeking an Energy Governance and Policy Fellow to contribute to the research, analytical, and engagement activities of the Policy and Governance Cluster.

The Fellow will investigate how evidence, institutions, governance arrangements, and political dynamics shape energy and climate decision-making across African contexts. The position is intended for a researcher who can engage critically with both technical and policy dimensions of energy systems and who is interested in understanding how decisions are made, implemented, contested, and adapted in practice.

A key function of the role is to bridge technical and governance perspectives. The successful candidate will work closely with AISESA's existing Policy and Governance Research Fellow, contributing complementary expertise and perspectives as part of a collaborative research effort. The two positions bring together different but complementary capabilities, combining technical, analytical, and contextual perspectives to advance AISESA's work.

Key Responsibilities

Research and Analysis

- Conduct original research on energy governance, policymaking processes, institutional arrangements, and evidence use in African energy and climate systems.
- Analyse how technical evidence interacts with governance structures, political priorities, regulatory systems, and implementation processes.
- Examine the institutional and procedural factors that enable or constrain effective energy and climate decision-making.
- Contribute to comparative and country-level analyses of governance systems and policy processes.
- Support the development of conceptual and analytical frameworks related to governance, evidence use, and institutional capability.

Cross-Cluster Collaboration

- Work collaboratively across AISESA's clusters to strengthen integration between technical, financial, implementation, and governance perspectives.
- Support the incorporation of governance and policy considerations into analytical and modelling activities.
- Identify policy and governance questions emerging from technical and implementation workstreams.
- Contribute to cross-cluster thematic initiatives and integrated research outputs.

Country Engagement and Knowledge Translation

- Support country-level engagement processes with governments, regulators, research institutions, development partners, civil society organisations, and private sector actors.
- Contribute to policy clinics, stakeholder dialogues, workshops, and collaborative learning processes.
- Translate research findings into actionable insights for policymakers and practitioners.
- Support the development of reform roadmaps, policy recommendations, and governance-related advisory products.

Publications and Outputs

- Produce high-quality academic and policy-oriented outputs.
- Contribute to peer-reviewed journal articles, working papers, policy briefs, reports, and other knowledge products.
- Present research findings through conferences, policy forums, and practitioner-oriented platforms. Support the preparation of AISESA publications.

Qualifications and Experience

- PhD completed within the last five years in political science, public policy, political economy, development studies, energy policy, economics, environmental governance, engineering, geography, or a related field.
- Demonstrated expertise in energy policy, governance, institutions, regulation, political economy, or related areas.
- Strong understanding of energy systems and energy-sector decision-making processes.
- Experience conducting high-quality research and producing publishable outputs.
- Familiarity with energy and climate challenges in African contexts.

- Experience engaging with policymakers, practitioners, or other non-academic stakeholders is desirable.

Skills and Competencies

- Excellent analytical and critical thinking skills and strong academic and policy writing abilities.
- Strong communication and stakeholder engagement skills and ability to work across disciplinary boundaries and engage with technical concepts.
- Ability to synthesize complex issues for diverse audiences.
- Ability to work independently while contributing effectively to collaborative research programmes.

Terms of Appointment

- Full-time consultancy contract.
- Fellowship for two years.
- Remote working arrangement.
- Opportunities for travel may arise through country engagement activities, collaborative research, policy dialogues, conferences, and convenings

The Fellow will become part of AISESA's growing pan-African research community organised through thematic clusters and supported by a Secretariat and Cluster Leads who are recognised experts in their respective fields.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit the following documents as a single PDF:

- A cover letter (maximum two pages) outlining their interest in the fellowship and how their experience aligns with AISESA's work.
- A curriculum vitae (maximum four pages).
- A list of relevant publications, policy outputs, or analytical work.

Applications should be sent to: recruitment_aisesa@akademiya2063.org

Subject line: Energy Policy and Governance – Cluster 3

Application deadline: July 12, 2026.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.