



Power for All Launches Call to Action for Development Banks to End Energy Poverty *before 2030*

Washington, D.C., April 14, 2016 - At the World Bank Spring Meetings, a coalition of business and civil society leaders called for all multilateral development banks (MDBs), including the World Bank Group, to radically accelerate universal energy access for the 1.1 billion people living without access to power. Power for All, a global campaign dedicated to advancing renewable decentralized solutions, pushed the banks to speed up efforts to eradicate energy poverty by urging assessment of energy access opportunity costs, creating dedicated decentralized renewable energy access funds, and fast-tracking decentralized renewable projects in order to end energy poverty before 2030.

Power for All's Calls to Action are designed to prioritize solutions that address urgency and speed on the global effort to end energy poverty. The missing link between pace of funding and speed of access means that many of the projects MDBs invest in actually limit the ability to meet global goals for electrification. These calls to action include:

- Utilizing energy access opportunity cost assessments in funding decisions;
- Catalyzing a dedicated energy access superfund to accelerate the sector; and,
- Mobilizing national decentralized renewable energy accelerators (based on successful models like IDCOL) in key countries suffering from energy poverty.

"Energy access is central to nearly every major development challenge the world faces today, and with decentralized renewables, it doesn't have to wait," said Power for All's Kristina Skierka, director of the global campaign. "The disproportionate MDB financial support for slow, expensive centralized power projects over fast, cost-effective decentralized renewables is perhaps one of the greatest missed opportunities in development today."

Despite its prioritization as a global goal, little progress has been made in achieving universal energy access. The MDBs—such as the World Bank Group, the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank—were created to catalyze poverty alleviation. Although using decentralized renewable technology has demonstrated potential to achieve universal access in half the time than current approaches, some MDBs direct less than 1 percent of their energy access funds towards decentralized renewable energy.

An independent evaluation of the World Bank Group's support to electricity access between 2000-2014 noted that the median implementation time of World Bank investment projects was nine years—meaning that many of the projects MDBs invest in limit the ability to meet global



goals for electrification. If MDBs prioritized energy projects based on time to access—part of energy access opportunity costing—decentralized renewables would emerge as a key energy source for unelectrified countries, and help the banks achieve their stated goals for universal energy access by 2030.

About Power for All

Power for All is a global campaign to accelerate the deployment of market-based distributed renewable energy as the key to achieving universal energy access. The campaign serves as a collective voice for businesses and civil society focused on decentralized renewable solutions, including decentralized solar, hydro, biomass and wind designed for households and businesses. Power for All is funded by UKAID and the ClimateWorks Foundation.

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