# -

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Interviewer name** | XXXX |
| **Sub-contractor organisation** | XXXX |
| **Interview date** | 5th February, 2021 |
| **Duration of interview audio recording** | 58mins 42secs |
| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | Virtual interview |
| **Interview participant** | |
| * **Code** | N18 - GMT20210205 |
| * **Participant name** | XXXX |
| * **Organisation name** | XXXX |
| * **Gender** | Female |
| * **Stakeholder category** | Engineers and others responsible for putting those vision–led plans into action |
| * **Country** | Nigeria |

CF: How are you today? Good to have you here.

Participant: Thank you.

CF: Oh great. And then well, I think I'm fought for sure. I'm not I've never met you. It's must you must have joined XXXX way after I left.

Participant: O you were XXXX?

CF: Yes at some points. I will XXXX in 2010 to 2013. I worked very closely with Marcel Hoshea.

Participant: I heard about him, I heard he was a good MD, you know a very aggressive sort of like the foundation for the success of XXXX in Nigeria.

CF: Yeah. He did he do some good job. So and then I walk closely with him on the period I was there.

Participant: Okay. So what business Unit were you managing?

CF: I was in Industry. So I first joined us products engineer for Industrial Automation and then in no time was moved to sales, I had to develop business within some new market segment that we had no prior relationship at all with the customers in that segments. So beverage in particular so I had serious relationship from scratch with the Nigerian breweries SCB Miller , which is now AB & Def with Guinness with NBC, that's Coca-Cola with PepsiCo, but not just in Nigeria, but also in Ghana.

Participant: okay. Are you Ghanaian?

CF: No, I'm Nigerian. But it is my job now because of the kind of clients. I was dealing with and they make regional decisions at some Central points. So to be able to get the level of to get a good percentage of the Investments they are making that connects with our own kind of business, what I usually do is to go on to the higher level of decision making within organization. So at times I've had to for example connect with many of the guys in high decade in Amsterdam where they make some decisions big decisions on Africa and also with you guys in DRG in London that looks at the origin Africa particularly its able to get the big deals you need today on the budgets most of the time what they have guys on ground that because they considered a take charge of local implementation. Yeah. Great, I enjoyed myself.

Participant: I can imagine it is a very interesting job. Actually it is just so I joined XXXX in 2018, I think November 2018, so I have been in XXXX for two years plus, I practically came in to support the micro grid business yeah, I think this is a new business unit to probably when you're around, we didn't have that but I think that was the energy access it we probably you when you were.

CF: That was when he started developing Olumide did some job, Ann was supporting him, yeah,

Participant: He was he was a star, he did this great work and then you leave XXXX.

CF: And you know, it's amazing, we also need to give room to other people to continue from where we stop.

Participant: Yes you guys set the foundation has eliminated quite a good job of the access to energy but the portfolio grew after he left. So we wanted to really not only on the Standalone systems the from the land test. handling Systems, but now we have a larger system. So, you know about the solar the patterns and exactly micro grid more on energy storage now for big projects big capacities and also doing a lot with dignity energy in terms of control and remote monitoring platforms as well.

CF: Great work.

Participant: What kind of aggressive in the of great space in the micro grid space not just awkward. So we're talking see and I which is and Commercial industry and also run education and also gradients are connection as well. So my own part is to support XXXX's business and increase our market share and revenue from this Market settings.

CF: That's is a great in fact your great idea now getting into Business of the day. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I can't I can't talk. I can't talk about by jove and stylish trick from today till the next year. I mean because I work with a lot of passion and enthusiasm those that know me well know if you miss some people it's obvious to some point system that not only they do. I know that guy just leave it alone. I will he and that is really I ain't just I enjoyed my time coming doing what I was doing and then I met before for it from your voice and then myself somehow also had a lot of faith in me really. So there are some things that I will tell him no muscle need to do a b and c and I remember when I was leaving he told me there's some things he allowed me to do that without having any idea at all about I mean, what's the outcome but he saw that I was I was so convinced about it and he allowed me and somehow the day the results came and since then it just allowed me to do whatever I had to do because you know that I was actually true and somehow really is a very unique fellow. I mean for him to have that sort of and of course I've been I was also delivering the order in text reconvene with ceiling good deals with the kind of customers would like to seal those kind of deals with and things like that.

Participant: what prompt your move actually?

CF: So it was it was nice what I was about to leave it was it was heart-breaking for him really actually I had other plans. So what I'm doing now was part of the plans I had in mind I said some points I would like to switch to academia, but I need to also prepare myself for its because they are certain opportunities that will open up for me and some areas will be able to play more or less that's being in Industry, I may not be able to have that level of impact. So for example, there's some things I have done that before, taking lots of things keep unfolding. So I've been part of the team for example, the didn't redrafting of the night Jean at renewable electricity bill. So I was really part of that same was part of last year and then working with what we policy makers decision makers and different ways providing evidence to support decision-making but a different point of view of government and things like that. So these are things that if you are within the private sector people think okay, you have your own interest that you're trying to push.

Participant: Mmm.

CF: So put in this sort of within the sort of environment that mean you are seen was a neutral person. Yes, so among other things so and there and really I'm walking into that space because we cannot keep complain that things are not right. So we need to help and help support those involved in decision-making give them those necessary evidence to support decision making

Participant: Okay.

CF: So what is this mean? It's been it's been going on quite well, really so I left to do to in order to get a job as a bit more flexible so that I can start my PhD so which I finish four years ago. Yeah, so I left I joined Tetrapack, So I added one of their business depressed foot pressing business for West Africa for actually West and central Africa. I was there for only two years again because at some point in the PhD journey and it's also taking a break and then focus on it's very slowly. So somewhat they are lots of decision points like that. But if I look back, I mean I'm happy. I took those decisions. I mean they were both at some point because I needed to actually make those decisions and then somehow I'm happy, I made those decisions.

Participant: Okay, so you're currently now with Anglia Ruskin University?

CF: No, I'm currently now. We XXXX University here in Lagos. So Anglia Ruskin University was where I did my PhD and above we have this funded projects now, which I'm a part of some co-lead for the project and what we are doing is to try to understand gender related issues connected to energy access and how for example energy access issues and the way we address them impact on various gender men women and then of course what's ways with our policies are gender sensitive or whether we are actually addressing these things catering for the needs of the various gender and things like that. So these are part of I'm really doing this in four countries. So we got funding from the UK government and UK research and Innovation and then global challenges research fund and we are doing this for four countries. So Ghana Nigeria India and Pakistan so for global South context, so the main idea here is okay based on your experience and your knowledge of we ask you some questions essentially to try to get your own views around this subject. But so there are some there are four important sections or parts of this particular conversation. We shall be having so first is the broad introductory part that looks more at the that's an overview of your role and priorities of your organization. And then the second has to do with understanding the issues around this energy access and then the third we will be looking more at policies and interventions. And then lastly we shall be looking at some concluding thoughts. So if it's fine, there is one thing I would definitely need your help for particularly is the consent form because we can have this conversation. But if we don't concern that we send you start consent then we will not be able to use it. So if I don't send that to you, I will send it to you immediately after distance to that second. Okay, I will send it to you right away why we're having this conversation so that the end you can help me just sign it off great. So to begin I'll just how it is Broad introduction kindly start by briefly telling me a bit about your current role your position the organization you work for and department you work for essentially.

Participant: Okay great, so I work for XXXX China electric is an energy management company and we sort of proud of yourself to be the leading global company for energy management and Automation and what I do in XXXX is I currently am the micro grid business lead for West Africa where I sort of support the access to energy business for XXXX which includes Sunderland systems solar and then micro grid Solutions and then what I do basically is to support different stakeholders in the sector from government private sector and development Partners in adopting Advanced Technologies to address energy assess in the across this countries.

CF; interesting, so in brief, can you tell me a bit about your own background and how and why you got into this line of work?

Participant: Okay, thank you. So I started my career about it has the goal in the petroleum industry. I have a master's in Engineering Management from energy management, sorry from the University of Coventry in in the UK and I said here in Midstream oil and gas company where we're doing oil and gas services and then from them I moved on to petroleum trading here in Nigeria but trading and across West Africa and then I moved on to a Consulting role where I consulted for the US government on conflicts that position operator station where I was meeting between oil and gas companies and host communities. I did that for two years and then I moved into renewable energy industry where I supported an international non-governmental Organization which is called power forum, So what we do is to create an enabling environment for the adoption of renewable energy as a main source of energy Supply and also increasing energy access through the use of renewable energy. I was the lead stakeholder engagement and I did that for about two years where we were working with what government at the federal and state level development partners and the private sector and to actually create quite a nibbling environment, One on policy side two on the business side and three on the market side to ensure that the adoption of renewable energy is driving in the country. So it's I did that for about two years and then I moved on to XXXX where I'm currently supporting the micro grid business.

CF: Great that’s such a nicely packed wealth of experience interesting. So, can you please tell me more about the specific energy access areas or issues that you walk on the electrification programs or policy or technology projects.

Participant: Okay, great. So I have been working mainly on micro grid and micro grid to Electrify for Rural electrification. So we're talking about areas that have no connection that have no connection to electricity or the National Grid sort of isolated areas and which can only be Electrified through stand alone my grades or through. SHS. So what I've been doing mainly is to work with micro grid developers and governments are on various education projects and programs and my job is to ensure that both from planning to commissioning stage of the project supporting with the Divine bill of material also sporting on the budget for a good cost and also building the technical capacity of the microgrid developers to be able to deploy this project and also sporting with commissioning and after sales point.

CF: Great! Great!! So in relation to policy context shipping your work at the occurrence issues or developments and policies at the national level that influence your work?

Participant: Yes, I would say that so we have from neck which is NERC and then we have NEMSA and then we have a mentioning some of the regulatory body would directly impact our work. We have NERC with a mini-grid regulation. And then we have NEMSA have the mini-grid guideline. So this has to do with technical specifications that are required for every micro grid has been deployed in the country. So there's a guideline that the micro grid developers are expected to abide by and this is to create standards across different installations across the country and then we have the rural Education Agency, which is the key leading Agency for Rural electrification and the tax with the responsibility of coming up with electrification projects and also, you know, they are technical specifications as well directly impact on my own business on my own work, yes, so and then the ministry of power we sort of coordinates what the relative relegation agencies doing in the country as well, so yes, I would say the mini-grid regulation which I think you know quite well while it's great to have it, It's been more beneficial to our work because it's actually you know sort of set the policy for mini-grids and I was giving clarity to more entry into the business, you know, and also the kind of projects define a kind of projects that are ongoing in the country and also in terms of NERC I'm sorry NEMSA with the mini-grid guidelines is been quite interesting because we've been struggling with standardization in the country not just on the product side, but also on the installation side, if you're an engineer, you can do quite well and there are different standards of installations that are ongoing and we realize that not all the micro grid developers have the right technical capacities, you know, and they you know, these are these are micro grids and your micro utilities and they need to be up to standard in it to be to be able to attest in time, you know. In terms of this infrastructure, so supporting name sir to come up with this guideline was great. So they are basic requirements that are needed like acting, you know, the electrical distribution, you know a specifying also from the generation side. So it's really great for us. And you know, it's it creates quite a good enabling environments as the developers are aware of the kind of installations are to make and it would kind of products that needs to be you know, procured to have those kind of standard installation. So yeah, it's great and for the ratification agency, so they have a lot of allocation projects in in collaboration with the World Bank. So that's has created quite a big market for mini grids here in Nigeria and also as an ancestral education, you know, so it's kept a lot of companies quite busy, you know, and also sort of set the bar for mini grid is deployment in a personal countries.

CF: Oh great. This is good. This is good.

Participant: I don't know if I'll speaking because I wasn't mentioning specifically the policy sir. I don't know.

CF: No, it's fine. It's fine. I mean, it's you really hits the early hit the new I mean, you've mentioned clearly some important regulations and some Regulators also, that's really shift the kind of work you do great. I'll go I move on to the second part which has to do with understanding some of the key issues now and what does Equitable energy access means to you? What would it look like?

Participant: Well Equitable energy assess so it would be so yeah I just thought I'd do a tutorial here.

CF: Is it just about the SGD is Judas 7 because it's about okay.

Participant: Yeah, so we've been having full active participation in energy access books on the on the consumer side of things and also, you know on the production side of things as well. So for me, you know, this is an issue that is quite evident in Sub-Saharan Africa that we been greatly impacted by lack of access to energy especially in there in the rural areas particularly those remote areas where we were doing a lot of mini grid projects or like to find this communities. We are realized that some they have limited access to Modern energy. So we're talking about electricity here and LPG and if you look at the home front and kind of activities that goes on particularly in this community you will understand that women actually require more use of electricity, you know, instead of cooking or when they do their mini businesses, you know, or when they're actually been very productive like farming or even you know, when it comes to reproductive issues as well, you know, we'll find out that women are the ones that they are far end of the impact of lack of access to energy so equitable for me it would be you know women having you know, what's at the remotes at the local and also on the urban areas and when it comes to the professional side as well women having full active participation in your shaping the policies on the top on the high level and also when it comes to the business side of things women are, you know actively in front of it, you know, when it comes the business and also are the consumer side women are you know fully having access to clean energies.

CF: Interesting! Interesting!! now before we come back again to this issue, but I just want to ask this question. How is demand for energy determined and how the organization comes to understand consumer needs. Is it just based on what's going on government statistics or other ways you get to understand consumer needs.

Participant: So I think data has been quite a big issue of particularly on demanding consumer needs or demand for energy, but I think as of lately they've been some very good progress on this side and on the government side, the rural electrification Agency is done quite a number of good work to provide data across the country to show particularly, you know, the energy need or demand in her across the country and also coming down on the private sector side for the mini-grid companies or companies that are providing electrical in electrification both SHS and micro grid there's also that extra effort by this companies to actually go into these communities and do some sort of facility studies to actually determine the accurate need of energy, so yeah, I don't know if you want me to go into detail on how this has been done, you know.

CF: I think it's fine. It's fine. Great. Now how Equitable is energy access particularly as community and household levels in terms of gender equity?

Participant: You're a so I would just go with some popular reports is reports to say is that a lot of researchers to say is that it's not Equitable yet, you know order there's been a lot of proactive programs or projects to sort of address this particular issues. But yes, it's still very prevalent, especially in the semi open and throughout communities do you know you still see that women are still you know not having that access to energy clean energy, you know, so it's not quite equitable yet, what I would say is there are a lot of actions or you know, that could be taken to actually, you know this transformation but yeah, and even we find out that even when there is a when you when you're defining or developing electrification projects, especially for the rural communities, even if it's a micro Grid or such as you know, you need to address you have to be quite a gender inclusive and address a lot of the challenges that surround you know gender especially women, you know, so and micro grid what we try to do mostly also advice here is to look at a productive use in Iran on the women's side how they could efficiently benefits, you know how their own businesses or source of livelihood could benefit greatly from the electrification projects, you know, so it could be, you know, addressing grinding machines, you know, if none at all or looking at various other productive businesses that we can support or looking at the existing businesses you know and trying to see how we can ensure that they actually directly benefits are efficiently from the electrification project, So yes.

CF: This is very good now how does gender affects the way that energy is used in household chores?

Participant: Oh you know of all these things, you know enough, I believe Nigerian equivalent across sub-Saharan Africa, you know women are the major consumers of energy. So let's look at the basic household activities. So when it comes to cooking and a lot of the women are currently in the past and currently have been using kerosene like kerosene firewood, you know, and cooking is like one of the major activities every house it before you start talking about lighting, you know, maybe you could correct me but I think cooking and lighting are of the major.

CF: Yeah.

Participant: Yeah and women are always at the, you know, forefront of this activities, you know, so I think it's been recognized we can see that in a lot of research conversations, you know and policies that we activities on a women are major users and really the ones that are greatly impacted you know the use of energy basically allows with level. So we need to time with defining edification project. We need to put that at the forefront and you know.

CF: Interesting! A very good note which leads me to my next question really do different groups of women benefit from access to energy differently. So for example, those energy use among different from older versus younger different income groups, maybe communities where they are based religious ethnic or cultural orientation. Does he affect the way energy is used in different ways.

Participant: Yes, it does. It does so we can look at two women on different platforms that are levers to write from the Rock of Ages up to women in professional sector like myself we owe, you know, yeah, it's we are impacted but yes, we can on the way we address it could be, you know a bit differently. I think women on the rural areas is more about first of all you know educating them on the benefit of using clean energy I think education is forced, you know and then giving them us as you know to the platform to be able to assess this clean energy, you know, and also helping them to create an enabling environment for the a source of livelihood of business is to be able to be impacted directly by the clean energy and also and building a business out of it. So the two ways it could be, you know directly impacting their current businesses or creating a sort of Economic opportunity for them to you know, get into the business of clean lighting so it could be you know, becoming distributors or dry clear retailers of the SHS or the Standalone systems basically lightning or you know, or them having, you know, small scale businesses like Saloon and such shops and cold rooms and you know, so I think on that part is basically just creating an enabling environment analysis for them to be able to assess it and also creating like a very flexible and cost-effective business model for them as well, you know, so on that stage and then coming up to women in in the business. I think, you know the two-way on the professional side so that women weren't directly into the business of clean energy. So those are the ones that actually have stand-alone system companies, you know on a big scale or meat to be like and those that are doing micro grid as well, so there are few companies in Nigeria that I've been led by women, I think it should be creating favourable policies and also creating access to financing, you know, and also creating a platform for this for their businesses to be able to grow and skill, you know and recognizing also the challenges that women have, you know, especially in sub-Saharan Africa in doing businesses as well and then for women like myself, who are or in the professional side, you know, I think it's also creating the technical skills and Technical capacities, you know that we are all so, you know having equal opportunity to you know, building this capacities as well as long as our male counterparts and also mentorship, you know, it's really great mentorship, you know, and also creating that opportunity for us to also be in and leadership position to be able to shape how you know inclusive, you know, women can and created an equitable platform for women to participate accurately in the professional side.

CF: Interesting! This is good. Not. My next question was Key Energy infrastructure is your organization involved in providing?

Participant: Okay, so all the way energy assessor all the way from lighting so you can talk about the lamps and standalone systems, like small inverter systems for basic household facilities, like lighting, fans, TV and then all the way to micro grid system, so we're talking about Standalone inverters and for and PV inverters stand-alone inverters such as battery-based images and PV with photos and also battery energy storage system, which is an only Energy storage Solution that's quite a new advanced technology in addressing storage in micro grid systems. Also, you know all the way to the electrical distribution space where we deal on low voltage panels switch gears MVP switch gears Transformers. So we basically present have a lot of systems, a range of systems and solutions all the way from lighting to greet distribution now put it that way.

CF: Yeah

Participant: the way we see the energy access business and to end you can see that wait.

CF: Great! Great! Great!!! Now when you energy infrastructure and Technologies are provided what's in your view the differences between men and women in terms of full benefits.

Participant: Okay, so I'll ask you is this on the recipient side, you know on the consumption side all sides or not so I think we have to look first of all would of takers are at the end of the solution, you know and to see we would greatly benefit from it. Like I've mentioned before other time, you know, I think when the whole education Access Energy business started, you know, there wasn't much inclusion into the challenges faced by gender, you know, but now at the planning stage, I will tell you that with full facts, you know at the planning stage, we actually begin to include, you know, all these challenges and address them away from the planning stage, you know, which is which is quite impressive so that determines you know, you know how people greatly benefit from this so that's on the consumption side. So, you know, we're planning a micro grid systems with the developers and even in government now, they look at how you know productive use of this energy. You know, how when businesses can be imparted and how women can begin to build businesses, you know, when you go to a community, there's no light and you bring electrification the next thing you say businesses are springing up, you know, the small scale business. It's a silence code room Milling machines, you know and grinding machines, you know business is stuff coming up and sometimes you know, it's sometimes it comes on organically, you know, people realize as electricity and you know, they could get businesses out of it or advance their businesses and sometimes you have to be proactive about it, you know, so you have to provide some sort of financing or funding to be able to view those businesses and transfer it to you know to community people so it goes both ways. So all this is been on the planning stage at the time. We're in a feasibility studies has been done and demand is being then you look at other ways that you can impact the community as well and create an economic viable economy in that particular community, so going down to now on the business side of things, you know, it's very tricky because I think there's still a disparity, you know on women to men participation on the business side and on the private sector, you know people who are actually deployed this day. So there's been a call for increased or women engineers women being in a particularly involved in this so from a lot of trainings and you know and times we do, you know trying to build up the capacity of this micro grid Developers or EPC companies we find out that the dominion should there's always a high number of men to women in it. So there's not that balance yet it is so I would say, you know technically men are still in a greatly, you know beneficiaries of a lot of the advanced Technologies and solutions that are coming out in this space.

CF: Interesting! now do men and women but specifically when it comes to decision making about energy access,

Participant: I think you know the answer to do, so that was so we can look at it. Look at it from the top to bottom up approach. I think you know men still, you know, we still have a dominant male involvement in the sector and even at the decision-making side of things, you know, so I believe that it's there's a progressive the transformation, In terms of inclusion, so we find more women now, you know than it was before even down to company levels including myself now so, you know, so on the government side, we see a few women participation, but and now we see the men also, you know being considerate and also very tender towards in a gender inclusion, you know, and addressing needs for women But again, I would say that they're still need for more women are specialists in Need for more policies to create. I think we're calling more for inclusion, but not Equitable who would like to see more Equitable policies to be honest because believe it or not the men have a hedge in this sector and when you create such policies there was always one step ahead, you know, so we have to look at a way to make sure that what decisions were making more equitable and not just not just equal opportunities, but also trying to look at how we can make them equitable for books amazing. Just how good I would say men but there's that Progressive action to include more women in the sector. So I've seen a lot of development partners coming up with a lot of programs and we've been approached several times, you know on how they can increase women participation so companies are being called to have a call to action which they will be held on to you know to sort of increase women in leadership positions include the technical classes of women to be directly involved in not just the decision making but you know, so also the implementation of this energy programs there, I see that also happening at regulation side of things, you know policies as well. So it's great

CF: Great. Okay, it's gender equity in energy access difference between rural and urban context.

Participant: Yes, it's it is it is actually it is its different because one so I am looking for the best way to describe this. So can you just be a bit more specific because

CF: so for example, we've looked at a few things, look at issue of gender, is it more pronounced in rural context.

Participant: I think is more pronounced in the rural areas because in the urban context, women have more access to more access to having energy. So the question is, you know, more access to having energy and clean energy and then why in the rural areas they assess is quite limited I'll tell you that for sure, there's a lot of work that's been done to you know, have provide access to energy for all over this communities, but there is still a lot of communities a lot of rural communities that are still don't have access to energy. So yeah, it's really pronounced it is I would say because in the in the urban areas there is a lot of grid connections You know, so women already have the assets, you know, normally to electricity. So then the fact that is now begin to today understand electricity more they understand the use of electricity more and but now is to actually shape what source of electricity they use in you know at the time when there's no grid, you know now moving them from using inefficient lighting or inefficient renewable energy sources to now clean energy sources to the saying from generation and generator to now solar, you know, so it's quite easy not know it's quite easy, not that it quite easy but it's attainable more in the open area to be able to do that. But in the rural area, as you know, a lot of this women, I've never seen electricity before they're very engrossed in the way. They've been you know have using energy, you know, and It's really pronounced to just a lot of work that has to be done in the river outside to actually and I think there's more work to be done because you know, maybe people don't say this a lot but culture sort of impacts as well to how productive you know, you know efficient this intervention project would be you understand, so why got to educate the men actually and there's like different leadership cadre in the community. So there's a lot of engagement that goes on in trying to you know, give provide access to energy to this to this. So yes, you know and we always find our women are always at the bottom. So yeah, so you have to do a lot of work from the top, you know from the men to get to the women you understand, you know, so he has the intern that you create a level plain field for everybody, you know, everybody is now have some sort of education around it and sort of everyone is like a self sorry, I am looking for a best way to describe it. But everyone is really engaged now, you know, you know after me be aware and educated. Yes, sir. So it's really pronounced like the rural areas.

CF: Interesting! Okay, I'll move on to the third part is now which has to do with policies and interventions now Thinking Beyond your specific work. Do you think energy access policies in our country's gender sensitive?

Participant: I would say yes, very true. I would say no, I would say no, we have a lot of policy to be honest. We've had quite a lot of policy shaping this the energy industry, but I would say it's not really been gender-inclusive taking into consideration or in a lot of the granular challenges being faced by gender is trying to assess energy. So I would say no. I hope you will not try to digest each of the policies and trying to see how you know. Yeah. Yeah, but what I will say, no, I think there's still a lot of work to be done, you know in trying to build policies that gender inclusive and creating and Equitable platform or you know, no, good men and women to benefits efficiently from this. Oh, yes, because we've not look at clean cooking and look at LPG, you know, and you know, even you know, Soul has been mainstream, you know, but they're older, you know sources of energy that women can benefit from you know, and I don't think we've done quite a number of quite a good work, you know enough policy to sort of shape, you know, just this particular you know, why was this so I think there's still a lot of work to be done in building very gender the critical policy to support the sector and women.

CF: So essentially there are some policy gaps around women access to energy.

Participant: Yes, there are

CF: Are there ways you think we can actually close this Gap?

Participant: I think so I think yeah, I think I think so. So maybe you know not we don't have full subsidy anymore right in Nigeria, but I think Sorry, so, let me just give it a little bit of thought.

CF: No, no worries specifically, you know mention now, but I think we need to look at LPG, how do we create policies that you know LPG would become quite accessible and you know affordable I would say because if you look at a lot of the small scale business this is that women are doing some large ratio still don't use LPG. Hmm. It's crazy go around especially semi or burn to rural areas, you know, you're still using firewood, you know, you know, yeah see them using firewood, you know, and you know, it's still why because the still see LPG to be expensive and not accessible, you know and government need to in there, you know and do quite a lot of work. I know legal status sort of championing some policies around that area, you know to try and make LPG quite accessible to all you know, and I think of many to look into that area as well, you know and support and I think also in terms of clean cooking stoves. We cannot efficient ways to cook, you know Community supporters especially the regulatory bodies that are currently in charge of you know, this areas. They need they need to provide a lot of support maybe, you know, see a way we can sort of sort of I don't want it to be too direct but sort of see a way we can pull out, you know, someone once said in a conference, you know, stop the production of kerosene, you know, it's a look at other areas, you know, they could order alternatives, you know this because you know, you know and see how we can support, you know, because the kerosene business is quite huge in Nigeria an you know we don’t want to go there can government coming, you know, create policies or regulations. I would you know, sort of lessen the use of this inefficient resources and sort of amplify, you know, clean alternatives would be great in it because it's always a top down approach by the time such policies and actions are being taken, you know those at the bottom would feel the impact as well.

CF: Interesting! Now if they're interesting so interesting. Yeah a very interesting question that I want to bring forward now, okay for a moment. Just imagine for a moment there are no that's there are no policy of financial constraints what's in your view will be the best practice for achieving gender equity and energy access and what are those are factors which should be looking out for?

Participant: What would be the best can you say the question again?

CF: So what would be the best practices for achieving gender equity and energy access particularly for our country?

Participant: Okay, so it's I think it's very obvious, you know, you know the use of renewable energy sources, you know cooking lighting, you know, you know cooling, you know, basically for I'll education needs it would be the best practice, you know government, you know, prioritizing the use of clean energy from the different renewable energy sources so you could be solar by and you could be you know, it could be I don't want to go into the other one so I could be small hydro system. So, you know just oh that's you know, so government I was there with just amplifying prioritizing the use of clean renewable energy sources.

CF: So what's might you in your current position or role play what sort of role can you play in achieving this?

Participant: Well, I think I do that every day. You do not every day I am government in the private sector and in the private sector. I'm also as a lawyer, original equipment manufacturer, you know, we are beneficial. We actually, you know manufacturers of these Technologies and solutions, you know, so we play a very key role in shaping, you know, how you know, this projects are shipping. The kind of education projects have been done in the country. So I would say, you know in my role first of all is ensuring that government and the private sector are quite aware of the Advanced Technologies that are available, you know to deploy electrification projects, you know so more and more the Technologies are becoming more simplified less complex more effective, you know, so it's my job to ensure that government and the private sector are very aware of this option in the sector and also adopt in this particular technology and solutions.

CF: Interesting! Now we move on to the last Parts. Is there anything we have not discussed on this topic that you would like to add for example things around financing energy access and things like that,

Participant: Yes. I think we haven't discussed financing, I think financing is key and everything that we say, you know in defining policies and divine and projects, you know, and even intervention programs financing is key because it’s the finance that kick-starts everything again. So yeah, I think you know, you can't discuss gender inclusion or equity in the sector without discussed in financing even down all the way granola down the way to the to the bottom of the pyramid, finance is very key because the people doing the business, you know, the micro grid need financing, they need project financing and even not just micro grid I keep saying like will be for please, there's also the SHS companies as well. Exactly yesterday all need financing because there's something called consumer financing, you know, so they need to be able to assess that and then transfer it to the consumers. You know, let's remember that if this these Technologies are not free electron access to energy not free. So we need to always have that on bottom of our head and also look for ways, you know that we can actually we want people to adopt this clean energy sources. We need to make sure that it's cheap and accessible to this party's here. So there comes financing, you know, and I know a lot of the there's been a lot of conversation around how micro grid would become the moment its cost reflective tariff that's been charged you know how we'd become quite affordable in her for these people in a community in a nuclear deal source of livelihood and I think governments and financial sectors coming maybe single digit interest rates, you know, or maybe long-term loans, you know, and also government looking at reducing tariffs, you know, or taken away, you know taxes and tires and just creating more enabling environment so that this particular business could you know become more affordable, you know, you know the cost on the production side is cheap and the cost on the consumption side is cheap, you know, so yeah, even if for SHS as well, you know looking at various flexible financing measures to transfer to the consumers. Yeah - you know,

CF: Do you think all these renewable energy access finance processes at the other religion that way like we've talked about the green bond, for example the green climate fund and all of these different phones a different gender aware?

Participant: I would say it's very tricky one because I would say they are you know, they are so they always look for gender companies in in in every electrocution projects, you know, so there's that huge coal for gender inclusion, you know, so your project has to address the gender challenges, you know, and how you know it has to recognize the gender challenges and be able to address it. So I was I would say a good number of them are you know, so even animal Education Agency and recent a litigation projects that you are doing their stats gender component need to know so gender inclusion in so I think they're becoming more aware. So I would say yes, I would say yes.

CF: Interesting! Well, thank you very much. I hope you will be available for follow up questions in case any should arise?

Participant: Yes, I would be I would be you can you could come anytime XXXX, I'm very happy to gender energy Isis is what I've been doing for the past several years soon and as a woman and gender, I'm very passionate about gender inclusion and I just inclusion gender Equity at all levels in the business in the in the sector. Sorry. So yes, and I'm also part of the renewable energy Association of Nigeria, part of the ESCO, committee was newly elected, so you guys and I'm head of programs and Partnerships in schools, we're creating a lot of programs and actions to support gender quite well in the industry. So I'm really happy to be very open to collaborate on anything. Just call all me.

CF: Interesting. Thank you very much. I'm really happy to have this conversation with you. And yes, we'll keep in touch. I also share the outcome of some of these things. In fact from next week will start doing the analysis of all of these things for the four countries that we cover in and then we'll share some of the some of the summarize the results and outcomes,

Participant: Okay.

CF: Great. I have sent you an email now that has the consent form. I'll be glad if you can just sign it off and then send it back to me.

Participant: Okay, I'll do it right away.

CF: Great now I do thanks.

Participant: I hope I was able to answer your questions.

CF: Yea you really did justice to them, thank you so much for it.

Participant: My pleasure. XXXX.

CF: Great. Enjoy your day and enjoy your weekend.

Participant: Okay and you too all right.

CF: Thank you.

Participant: Okay, bye-bye.