# Top actions for policymakers, businesses and investors

## Strategic vision and planning

▶ Establish an integrated strategic vision that sets clear, time-bound targets for renewables, storage, flexibility, and grid infrastructure.

▶ Governments should develop whole-system planning frameworks to coordinate investments across generation, transmission, and flexibility. Planning should be based on a granular understanding of the specific balancing needs each country will face and should define the least-cost mix of flexibility options to address these.

▶ Clear institutional mandates and anticipatory investment strategies are essential to deliver infrastructure ahead of need and in line with electrification trajectories.

## Market design

▶ Reform electricity market structures to enable emerging flexibility technologies compete on equal terms with incumbent assets.

▶ This requires ensuring full access to all relevant markets (wholesale, ancillary, capacity) and reforming existing markets, where necessary, to value and remunerate new technologies based on their contribution to system adequacy and reliability, not on legacy operational profiles.

▶ Introduce de-risking mechanisms such as two-way CfDs, long-term PPAs, or cap-and-floor contracts to lower the cost of capital for capital-intensive assets.

▶ Close innovation gaps through targeted public support for earlier-stage technologies with high system value.

## Grid regulations

▶ Modernise regulatory frameworks to unlock timely investment in transmission and distribution infrastructure and accelerate project delivery.

▶ Streamline grid connection processes with transparent timelines and milestone-based queue management that prioritises viable projects.

▶ Reform grid fee structures to eliminate double-charging for storage and enable non-firm access models that reduce costs and connect assets faster.

▶ Regulations must support grid operators in deploying innovative grid technologies (e.g., dynamic line rating, smart transformers) that increase capacity utilisation and defer costly reinforcement.

## Data and AI modernisation

▶ Leverage AI and advanced digital tools to improve power system planning, optimise grid operations, and enhance system stability and safety.

▶ AI-driven forecasting and scenario modelling enable better anticipation of demand, generation, and congestion patterns–supporting more efficient investment decisions.

▶ Real-time data and automation improve fault detection, system resilience, and the safe integration of variable renewables and distributed assets. Smart meters and digital controls are critical enablers of responsive demand and grid flexibility.

## Supply chain and workforce

▶ Address critical bottlenecks by aligning national infrastructure plans with long-term demand signals to enable anticipatory investment in key technologies (e.g., transformers, HVDC systems, battery storage).

▶ Use public-private partnerships to expand manufacturing and installation capacity, and launch coordinated workforce strategies focused on grid engineering, digital operations, and flexibility deployment.

## Consumers

▶ Build consumer trust in demand-side flexibility by ensuring transparency, data privacy, and user control, alongside strong consumer education on the benefits of participation.

▶ Design intuitive, automated, and interoperable flexibility products that reduce friction and cater to diverse user needs, enabling large-scale adoption across residential, commercial, and industrial users.

▶ Scale DSF through coordinated national and local action, supported by targeted policy, investment, and governance, including digital infrastructure, local flexibility markets, and public sector procurement standards.