The session on scaling grassroots solutions for sustainable development featured presentations from four projects: Daures Green Hydrogen Village in Namibia, Bees and Trees Uganda, Matter Cook Clean in Madagascar, and a loss and damage project in Kenya. Key points included the importance of scalability, community ownership, and the need for financial support. The Namibian project aims to produce green ammonia for local fertilizer, addressing food security and unemployment. Bees and Trees Uganda incentivizes farmers to restore land through sustainable agroforestry. Matter Cook Clean in Madagascar promotes efficient cookstoves and bio pellets for sustainable cooking. The Kenya project focuses on community-led solutions for loss and damage, emphasizing water infrastructure and peace committees.

## **Action Items**

* [ ] Explore opportunities for private sector investment and blended financing models to scale up the green hydrogen project in Namibia.
* [ ] Investigate potential for carbon credits or other impact-based financing mechanisms to support the biomass pellet project in Madagascar.
* [ ] Advocate for increased and more accessible funding for community-led loss and damage initiatives, and ensure community agency is central in the design of new global funding mechanisms.

The discussion focused on the energy transition and decarbonization, emphasizing the importance of renewable energy. Conny Czymoch highlighted the UN Secretary-General's praise for renewables, noting a 15% growth in renewable energy capacity in 2024. Izabella Teixeira stressed the need for a comprehensive energy transition agenda, including electrification and decarbonization. Stefan Kapferer discussed achieving 73% renewable energy in Eastern Germany by 2032, while Leonhard Birnbaum emphasized the importance of systemic thinking and affordability. The panel also addressed the challenges of energy security, the North-South divide, and the role of private sector investments in achieving a just transition.

**Action Items**

* [ ] Understand the new global context and the role of the private sector as a political player, as well as the limits that nature will impose on the energy transition through resource constraints.
* [ ] Develop a positive narrative around the energy transition that focuses on success stories and opportunities, rather than just apocalyptic scenarios.
* [ ] Ensure that the energy transition is approached as a systemic change, rather than just the addition of renewable assets, in order to balance security of supply, affordability, and sustainability.
* [ ] Stop micromanaging the energy transition through annual political ambitions and instead allow the different areas of the transition to work together.

The Global Solutions Summit 2025 discussed geopolitical challenges to industrial decarbonization. Katie Gallus highlighted the urgency of decarbonization amid fragmented geopolitical landscapes. Amar Bhattacharya emphasized the opportunity for emerging markets to lead in low-carbon infrastructure. Henry Wang noted China's progress in renewable energy and its role in global cooperation. Ingrid Hoven stressed the need for private sector investment and human capital development. Isabelle Durant underscored the importance of technology and intellectual property in decarbonization. The panel agreed on the necessity of political will, multilateral cooperation, and equitable policies to achieve global decarbonization goals.

**Action Items**

* [ ] Investigate how development finance institutions can step in to provide capital at reasonable costs in regions like Africa where private investment is lacking.
* [ ] Explore opportunities for China to share its green technology and manufacturing capabilities with the developing world.
* [ ] Facilitate greater coordination and cooperation between multilateral institutions, regional blocs, and major economies like China and the US to advance the global decarbonization agenda.
* [ ] Assess ways to ensure equitable access to low-carbon technologies for small and medium-sized industries in emerging markets.

The session on Africa's energy transition highlighted the need for increased investment in renewable energy, with only 1.5% of global investment currently going to Africa. Key issues discussed included the importance of local financing, political will, and leadership. The panel emphasized the need for innovative policy reforms, international cooperation, and the integration of traditional knowledge and local community involvement. They stressed the importance of addressing socioeconomic inequalities, ensuring access to finance for youth innovations, and the necessity of realistic and impact-driven solutions. The discussion also underscored the need for a balanced approach to decentralized energy systems and the critical role of functional institutions and risk management.

## **Action Items**

* [ ] Develop frameworks for quantifying the impact of sustainable investments and clean tech solutions to make the business case.
* [ ] Engage with local leaders and communities to understand their needs and priorities before designing and implementing energy transition initiatives.
* [ ] Advocate for policy reforms and innovative financing to support Africa's renewable energy transition.
* [ ] Explore opportunities for international cooperation and shared risk management in the context of the just energy transition.
* [ ] Sensitize local communities on the value of their traditional knowledge and innovations, and protect their intellectual property rights.