

Application of smart grid technologies and digitization in active distribution networks

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Increase in electricity demand



1

Increase in number of consumers

- Increase in access to electricity
- Increase in population

2

Electrification of energy use

- Increase in consumption per customer

3

Growth in industries, manufacturing, etc.

Current status



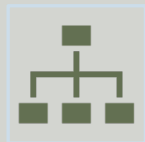
44% access rate



High losses



Aging infrastructure



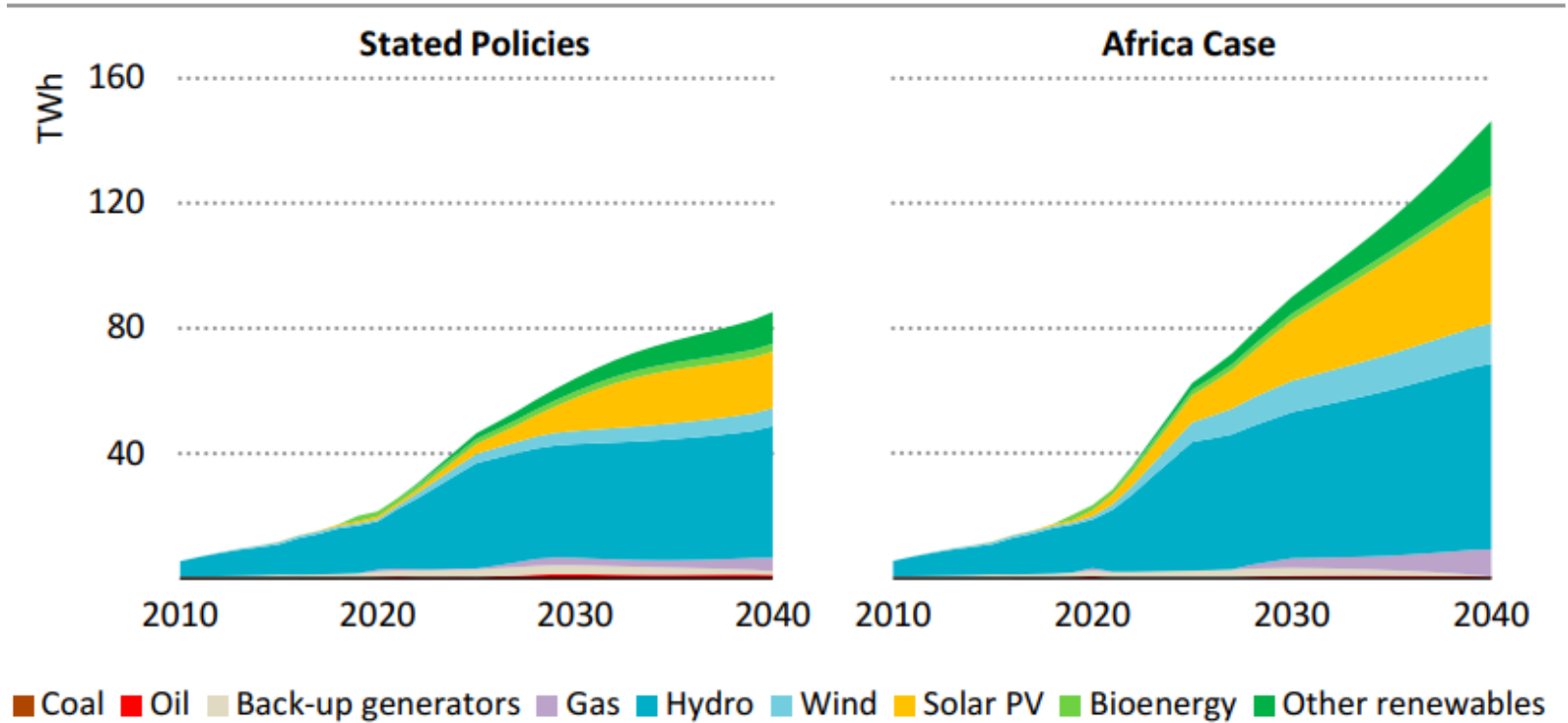
Low reliability

Electricity generation by technology

Multiple folds increase in capacity

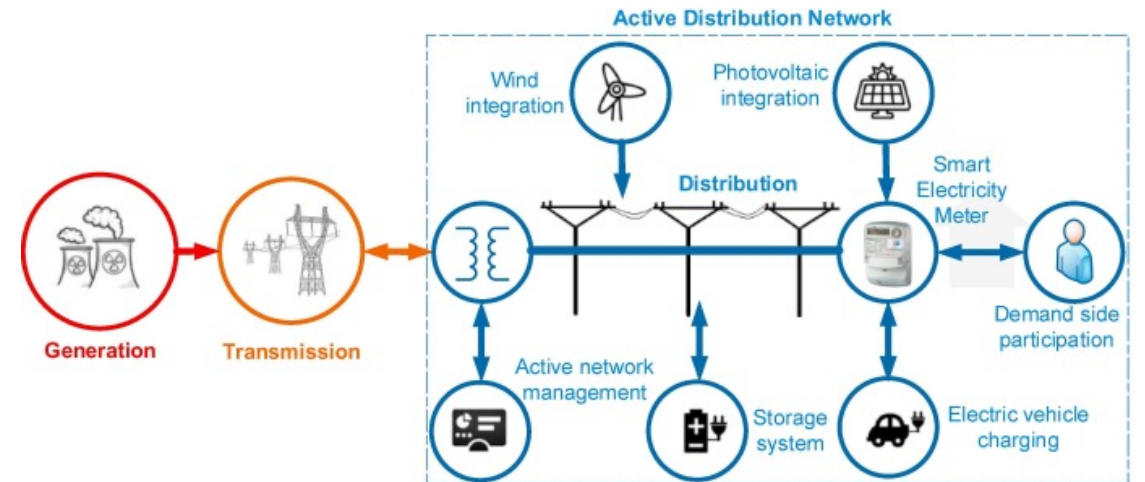
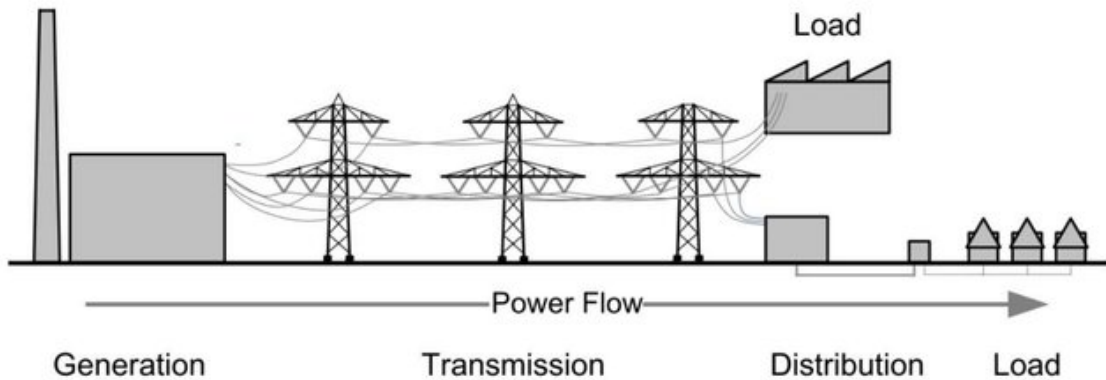
≈100% renewable

- Hydro power dominates
- Significant share of solar and geothermal followed by wind



IEA 2019, *Africa Energy Outlook*, International Energy Agency

Passive vs Active distribution networks



- Centralized bulk power generation
- Unidirectional power flow
- Limited to no control
- Passive consumers

- Distributed generation
- Reverse power flow
- Intelligent monitoring and control
- Active consumers and energy storage

Towards Active Distribution Networks

Diversification of the energy mix



Mini-grids will be absorbed by the interconnected grid



Increased complexity

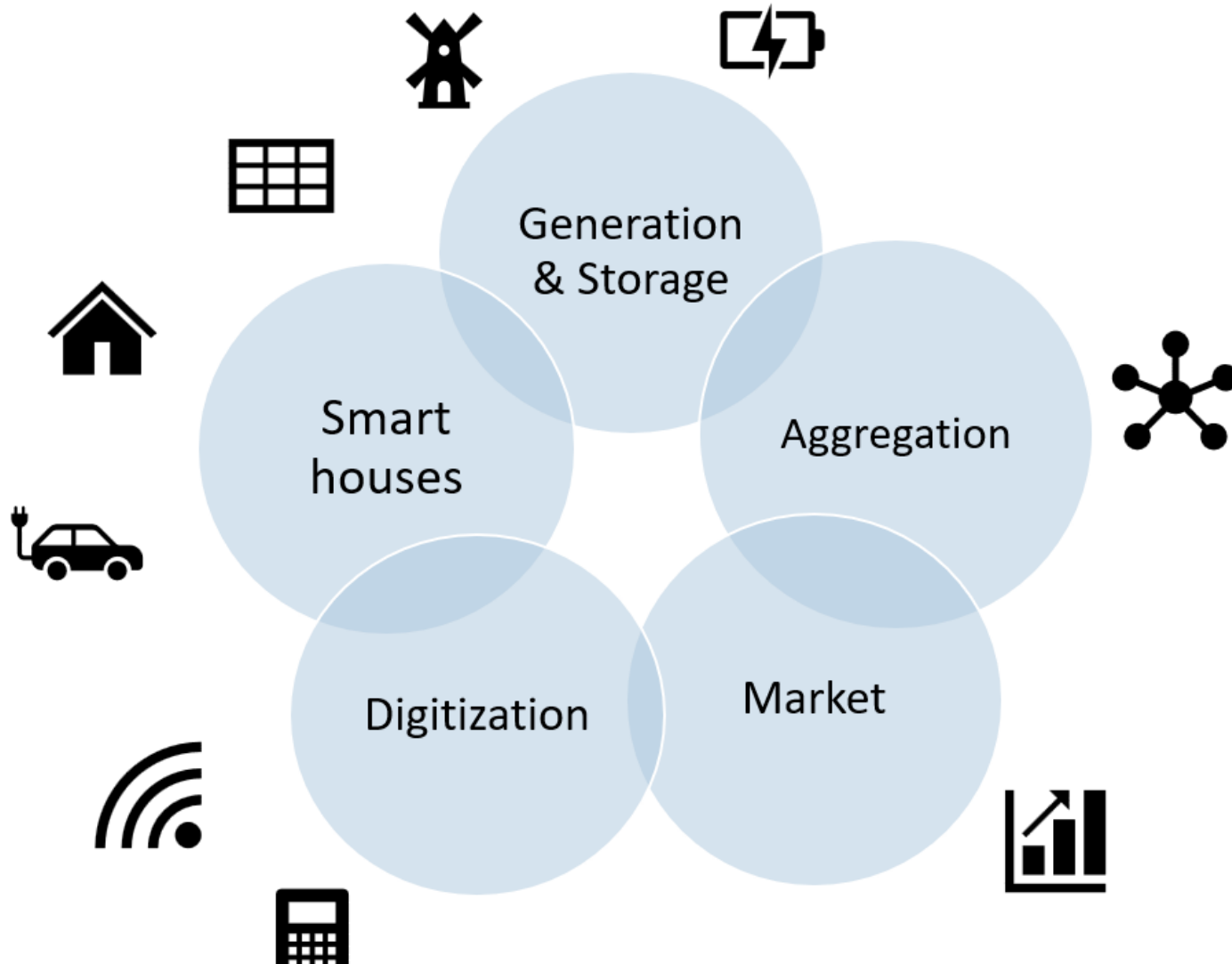
Efficient operation

Multiple stakeholders

New market design

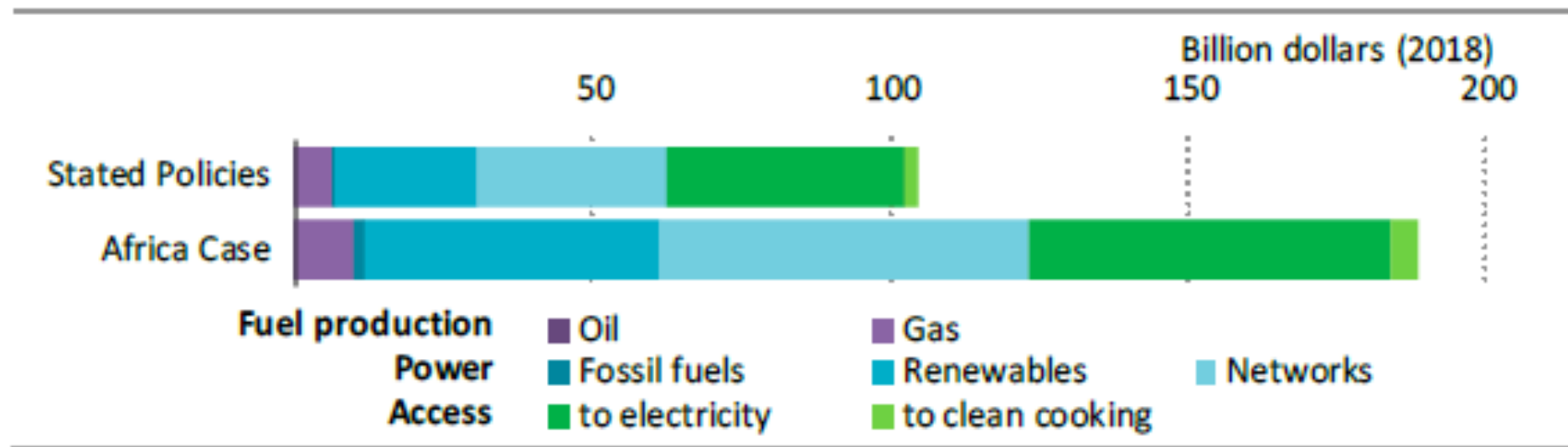
Flexibility

Cyber security



Huge investment needs

90 – 150 billion USD depending on the scenario



IEA 2019, *Africa Energy Outlook*, International Energy Agency

Other measures

Policy/Regulatory

- Set up local energy market
- Open (non-sensitive) data policy for research and innovation
- Knowledge and capacity development

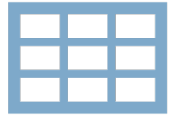
Planning

- Integration of variable generation
- Smart grid and digitization plan in parallel to universal access

Operation

- Active network management e.g. shifting from involuntary to incentivized load shading
- Coordinated voltage/reactive power control
- Network reconfiguration plan to minimize outage duration

Conclusion: Future distribution grid



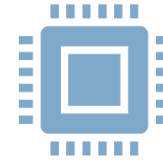
Generation

Weather dependent & variable
Power electronic interface
Digital control



Consumption

New load patterns
Prosumer
Power quality issues



Digitization

High bandwidth and high-speed communication
Real-time measurements
Digitized components
Cloud and artificial intelligence