



The Lebanon Grand Energy Event 2025

أسبوع بيروت للطاقة ٢٠٢٥

24 to 26 September 2025
Metropolitan Palace Hotel-Sin El Fil

Post-Event Report October 2025

The Flagship Event of the
Lebanon Committee of the World Energy Council

**WORLD
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COUNCIL** | **LEBANON**

“The Lebanon Grand Energy Event 2025, which I inaugurated and is organized by the Lebanon Committee of the World Energy Council, in support of the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC), serves as a national platform for dialogue, strategic planning, and coordinated action toward a sustainable energy future.”



The Lebanon Grand Energy Event 2025 (LGEE 2025) marked a milestone for Lebanon's energy transition, with the active participation of H.E. Mr. Joe Saddi, Minister of Energy and Water, underscoring the government's commitment to reform, regulation, and sustainable growth across the energy sector.

Minister Saddi played a central role throughout the three-day event. During the Official Opening Ceremony, he delivered a keynote address reaffirming Lebanon's determination to accelerate the clean energy transition while maintaining a balanced approach toward oil and gas development as a strategic national resource. His participation also coincided with two major milestones announced during LGEE 2025:

1. The appointment of the members of the **Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA)**, a long-awaited reform introducing regulatory independence, transparency, and private-sector engagement in Lebanon's power sector, and
2. The signing of three **Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)** with Merit Invest SAL, a subsidiary of the CMA CGM Group, totaling 45 megawatts of solar capacity, represents a renewed signal of investor confidence in Lebanon's renewable energy market.

In parallel, Minister Saddi held a closed-door meeting with the eleven solar PPA developers, dedicated to assessing project progress and addressing implementation challenges.

The event also witnessed the official launch of **Lebanon's National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) 2025–2030**, presented in partnership with the British Embassy and the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC).

Throughout the conference, Minister Saddi's interventions reflected a forward-looking vision built on cooperation, accountability, and pragmatic reform. His participation embodied the spirit of LGEE 2025's theme, "The Quandary of a Rising Sun: Working Today, Preparing Tomorrow", marking a pivotal step toward translating policy ambitions into actionable results for Lebanon's energy future.

Together Towards a Sustainable Energy Future: Reflections from Lebanon's Grand Energy Event 2025



On behalf of the Lebanon Committee of the World Energy Council, it is my honor to thank each and every one of you who contributed to making the Lebanon Grand Energy Event 2025 a resounding success.

The strength of this event lies in its diversity: more than 300 delegates from over 40 countries came together in Beirut to exchange knowledge, forge partnerships, and explore solutions to some of the most pressing challenges of our time. From high-level policy discussions to technical workshops, from showcasing success stories to unveiling new initiatives, LGEE2025 has reaffirmed Lebanon's place in the global conversation on energy, climate, and sustainability.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our partners at the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC), and all our sponsors and supporting organizations who stood by us in bringing this ambitious program to life. Special thanks are also due to our international collaborators, whose presence and expertise enriched the discussions and provided valuable perspectives on Lebanon's pathway forward.

The event's impact was not confined to the walls of the Metropolitan Palace Hotel. Through media coverage and active engagement on digital platforms, LGEE2025 reached thousands more across Lebanon and abroad, amplifying its messages and ensuring that the dialogue continues well beyond these three days.

As we reflect on the outcomes and look ahead to LGEE2026, I remain confident that the ideas, commitments, and partnerships forged here will translate into concrete progress on the ground.

Mr. Pierre El Khoury

Secretary of the Lebanon Committee of the World Energy Council



Together, we are not only “working today” but also “planning tomorrow.”
Thank you for your trust, your energy, and your commitment.

DAY ONE - 24 SEPTEMBER 2025

The opening day of LGEE 2025 set a high-level and forward-looking tone, combining the prestige of an official inauguration with the depth of technical dialogue and workshops. Delegates, experts, and policymakers gathered to shape the conversation on Lebanon's energy future under the theme "The Quandary of a Rising Sun: Working Today, Planning Tomorrow."

The ceremony framed Lebanon's position at a decisive crossroads, accelerating the renewable transition while managing the ongoing realities of oil and gas. National and international speakers highlighted the urgency of balancing sustainability, energy security, and economic resilience, reaffirming Lebanon's commitment to pragmatic reform and inclusive collaboration.

Mr. Pierre El Khoury (WEC Lebanon) opened the session, using the "rising sun" metaphor to symbolize both opportunity and challenge in national transformation. **Mr. Ahmed Aldosari** (RCREEE/Kuwait) underscored regional cooperation and the value of shared expertise in strengthening Lebanon's reform trajectory.

In a recorded message, **Dr. Francesco La Camera** (IRENA) congratulated the Lebanese government for its efforts to expand renewable energy capacity, emphasizing that achieving a cleaner and greener future requires collective action and stronger global collaboration. He reaffirmed IRENA's support to Lebanon in advancing its 2030 renewable energy goals through policy, investment, and capacity building, stressing the urgency to turn commitments into concrete action. **MP Sajih Attiyeh** called for full implementation of Law 462/2002 and activation of the new Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) to ensure transparency and accountability.

Concluding the ceremony, **H.E. Mr. Joe Saddi**, Minister of Energy and Water, reaffirmed Lebanon's vision for diversification, reliable infrastructure, and strong public-private partnerships—a message of confidence and collective action that set the tone for the days ahead.



Dr. Francesco La Camera, Director General International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), addressing the audience through video during the LGEE2025 Opening Ceremony

Throughout the day, several parallel sessions and side events unfolded. A key focus was Lebanon's pioneering experience with **solar micro-grids**, notably the Bchaaleh model, which demonstrated how communities can secure affordable, 24/7 green electricity.



Complementing this, private sector leaders and financiers examined **pathways for energy financing**, with discussions on solar PPAs, carbon finance opportunities, and bankability challenges for large-scale projects.

In collaboration with RCREEE and the Cool Up programme, a thematic workshop engaged policymakers on a **Regional Methodology for MENA National Cooling Action Plans (NCAPs)**, highlighting lessons learned from **Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt**, while exploring synergies with the Cool Up Program.



The day also featured two engaging fireside chats with prominent energy leaders from across the region, including **Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, and Syria**. These dynamic discussions provided valuable insights into the regional ambitions and energy strategies shaping the energy landscape in the Middle East and North Africa.



A special highlight of Day One was the session hosted by the **RDCL**. This gathering brought together Lebanese business leaders to emphasize the role of the private sector in Lebanon's energy transition. The session underscored that the private sector is not just a stakeholder, but a driver of Lebanon's clean energy future.



The day concluded with the **National Stakeholders Workshop on Carbon Markets**, co-hosted in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, NGX, GCC, and LCEC. This landmark workshop assessed Lebanon's readiness for carbon markets, examined Article 6 opportunities, and introduced digital MRV frameworks, setting a concrete path for climate finance integration.



POWERING THE FUTURE RESPONSIBLY: OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

For nearly half a century, Jubaili Bros has been dedicated to powering progress across the Middle East, Africa, and beyond. Over the years, our journey has evolved from delivering dependable diesel power solutions to driving innovation in renewable and hybrid energy systems. At the Lebanon Grand Energy Event (LGEE2025), I had the privilege of witnessing how this evolution aligns perfectly with the urgent call for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient energy across our region.

Our presence at LGEE2025 was not just about showcasing technology; it was about reaffirming our responsibility as an energy leader to help shape the transition toward a cleaner and more sustainable future.



Leading the Conversation on Lebanon's Energy Transition

One of the highlights of our participation was Jubaili Bros' contribution to the opening high-level panel, which set the tone for Lebanon's energy dialogue, where we shared insights on how the private sector can play a transformative role in advancing renewable energy adoption.

Our message resonated deeply with our vision: that achieving a successful energy transition in Lebanon will require a strong alliance between public policy, private innovation, and community engagement. At Jubaili Bros, we see this partnership not as an option—but as an obligation to future generations.



From Reliable Power to Renewable Progress

Throughout the exhibition, our booth became a space for exchange, curiosity, and collaboration. We were proud to showcase our latest advancements in:

- Solar photovoltaic systems, designed for scalability and high performance;
- Hybrid energy solutions that blend renewables with conventional generation; and
- Energy storage technologies that improve reliability and grid stability.

Each of these technologies represents a step toward our long-term goal: to deliver energy that is both reliable and responsible. Our strategy combines decades of engineering excellence with a steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship, ensuring that every project we undertake supports sustainability, resilience, and local empowerment.

Building Partnerships for Sustainable Impact

LGEE2025 provided a unique platform to connect with policymakers, developers, engineers, and financiers who share our ambition for a greener future. The discussions we had throughout the event were inspiring, proof that Lebanon's energy transition is not a distant aspiration, but an active and accelerating reality.

At Jubaili Bros, we believe that progress in sustainability must be collective. By collaborating across sectors and borders, we can ensure that innovation serves people, communities, and the planet alike.



Our Vision Beyond the Grid

Sustainability is more than a business strategy for us; it is part of who we are. We continue to invest in renewable integration, hybrid system design, and capacity-building initiatives that extend the benefits of clean energy to underserved areas.

Our mission has always been clear: to empower lives through accessible, efficient, and sustainable energy solutions. As we expand our renewable portfolio, we remain equally committed to supporting national goals for decarbonization and energy security. In doing so, we aim to contribute meaningfully to both economic growth and environmental preservation.

Looking Ahead

LGEE2025 was a powerful reminder that the path to sustainability begins with shared purpose and persistent effort. As I reflect on our participation, I am proud of the role Jubaili Bros continues to play in shaping Lebanon's and the region's energy future.

We move forward with a renewed commitment to innovate responsibly, collaborate openly, and invest boldly in clean technologies that will power generations to come. Together, with our partners and communities, we are not only generating energy, we are generating the future.

Ms. Dalia Jubaili

Member of the Board of Directors at Jubaili Group Holding

LGEE2025 EXHIBITION SALON

Where innovation meets collaboration

The Exhibition Salon of LGEE 2025 served as a vibrant showcase of innovation, bringing together leading companies, startups, and institutions from Lebanon and abroad. Exhibitors presented cutting-edge solutions in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable technologies, reflecting the diversity and dynamism of the energy sector. Delegates and visitors explored advanced solar systems, smart-grid applications, and emerging green innovations, transforming the salon into a lively hub of dialogue and collaboration.



DAY TWO - 25 SEPTEMBER 2025

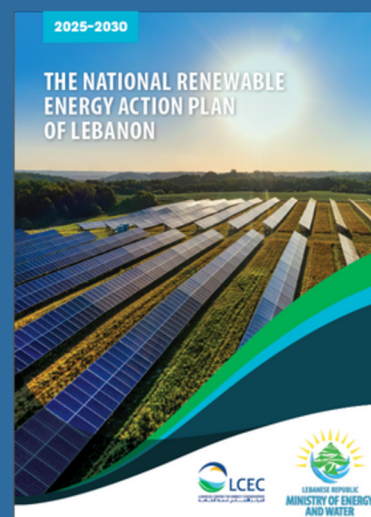
Day Two of LGEE2025 carried forward the momentum with a dynamic mix of plenary sessions, technical panels, and strategic side events that brought Lebanon's energy dialogue to life.



The morning sessions spotlighted Lebanon's **Oil and Gas** sector, where experts and stakeholders debated the opportunities and barriers to scaling up the sector. Mr. Wissam Chbat of LPA leading a comprehensive review of geological and technical progress, while panelists discussed the sector's vulnerability to geopolitical pressures.

One of the most significant milestones of LGEE2025 was the official launch of **Lebanon's National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP 2025-2030)**, endorsed by the Ministry of Energy and Water. This landmark achievement was presented by Dr. Joseph Al Assad, President and Director General of the LCEC, who outlined clear pathways to expand solar, wind, and hydro capacity while mobilizing climate finance to drive large-scale investments.

The launch was made possible thanks to the strong partnership and support of the **Embassy of the United Kingdom in Lebanon**, whose backing reflects the UK's ongoing commitment to Lebanon's clean energy transition.



This collaboration not only reinforced international confidence in Lebanon's renewable energy roadmap but also underlined the importance of bilateral cooperation in unlocking financing, fostering innovation, and ensuring Lebanon's integration into the global low-carbon economy.

In parallel, the LCEC unveiled the **Italian Energy-Efficient Home Appliances Program**, showcasing Italy and Lebanon's bilateral cooperation to reduce household energy consumption. Simultaneously, discussions on **E-mobility** explored infrastructure and investment needs for Lebanon's EV market, with Companies highlighting early initiatives. The day also hosted the high-profile session **"Cyprus and Lebanon: An Interconnection Trilogy of Hope"**, addressing electricity interconnections, oil and gas frameworks, and maritime connectivity between both countries.



At the same time, side events enriched the program with targeted outcomes:



The **Cool Up Thematic Working Group Meeting** convened national stakeholders and international experts to align Lebanon's cooling strategies with sustainable climate action, while also advancing knowledge exchange on efficiency and innovation in the cooling sector.

The Cool Up programme also hosted a **Financial Training** for Financial Institutions (FIs) gave banks and investors the tools to assess efficient cooling projects, strengthening Lebanon's financial ecosystem to better channel capital into sustainable cooling.



The Lebanese Management Association (LMA) Workshop on **AI for Leaders in Energy** demonstrated how digital tools and artificial intelligence can optimize energy management, reduce costs, and improve efficiency, showing how technology can empower both private companies and public actors in their sustainability journeys.

The **Board of Trustees Meeting of the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)**, held in Beirut on the sidelines of LGEE, reaffirmed Lebanon's central role in regional cooperation. It provided an opportunity for high-level leaders from across the **Arab world** to discuss strategy, governance, and collaborative projects.



LGEE2025 EXHIBITION SALON

A hub of energy, innovation, and opportunity

Throughout the three days, the Exhibition Salon stood as a cornerstone of LGEE 2025, a space where ideas met implementation, and partnerships for Lebanon's energy future were born.



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MEETING OF H.E. MINISTER JOE SADDI WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 11 SOLAR LICENSEES



A significant high-level meeting was convened between H.E. Mr. Joe Saddi, Minister of Energy and Water, and **11 solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)** companies. The objective of this crucial gathering was to closely review the progress of each developer and assess the status of their ongoing solar energy projects.

The discussions were deeply focused on identifying the primary challenges and constraints that developers are currently facing in the field, including hurdles, financing barriers, and technical limitations. This session provided a platform for a candid exchange of concerns, while emphasizing the need for a concerted effort between the government, and private sector to find viable solutions.



The meeting also served as a critical alignment exercise, ensuring that all parties are working in unison to remove obstacles and accelerate the deployment of these essential projects. This proactive and collaborative approach is a testament to Lebanon's commitment to not only building a sustainable and robust renewable energy market but also to taking meaningful, practical steps toward overcoming the real-world challenges that hinder the advancement of renewable energy projects in the country. By tackling these barriers head-on, Lebanon is positioning itself to achieve its ambitious energy goals while encouraging both local and international stakeholders to engage in the process.

DAY THREE - 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

Day Three opened with a forward-looking discussion on **Africa's economic momentum and renewable energy growth**. Speakers highlighted large-scale projects underway across the continent and the vision toward 2030. The chat underlined Africa as a promising frontier for sustainable energy investment.



Another session addressed how rooftop solar has plateaued in Lebanon and explored the potential of **community-level solar projects**. Drawing on lessons from the GIZ ACE project, experts such as Ms. Amani Al Saleh (GIZ) and Mr. Marc Khawaja (Cnergies) emphasized innovative financing tools, solar cooperatives, and the role of business clusters in scaling impact.



The panel on **climate change and the Ministry of Environment's role** shed new light on Lebanon's evolving environmental governance and its increasing importance in the face of global climate threats. A keynote address by Ms. Elise Noujeim, Advisor to the Minister of Environment, set the stage, followed by insightful case studies on water-energy interdependencies by Ms. Suzy Howayek, Advisor to the Minister of Energy and Water, on municipal leadership and local-level climate action by Mr. Wael Zmerly, President of the Union of Municipalities of Fayhaa (Tripoli), and on the opportunities of carbon market creation by Mr. Mohammad El Nahi, CEO and Founder of NGX.

Twenty-three years after its enactment, Lebanon's cornerstone energy legislation, Law 462/2002, was critically revisited in a dedicated panel discussion. Former ministers Dr. Walid Fayad and Mr. Nicolas Nahas engaged in a thought-provoking debate on the regulatory, financial, and structural reforms required to modernize the law and unlock much-needed growth across the generation, transmission, and distribution sectors, while also reflecting on the broader challenges facing Lebanon's evolving energy landscape.



As **rooftop solar installations** continue to multiply across Lebanon, oversight remains a pressing challenge. In this session, the spotlight turned to a newly suggested facilitation mechanism developed by the Order of Engineers and Architects. Rooted in the earlier framework designed by the LCEC and previously adopted by the Ministry of Energy and Water, the mechanism has now been restructured to be operated by OEA. Speakers guided participants through the proposed monitoring systems and outlined legal aspects, underscoring how stronger regulation can both safeguard quality and accelerate the sector's sustainable expansion.



“Tripling RE and Doubling EE: Achievability of Global Targets”: In partnership with IRENA and MED-GEM, this session opened with a keynote address by H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nour Rahman Sheikh, Ambassador of India to Lebanon, who underlined India's bold strides in renewable energy and its commitment to global climate action. The discussions then broadened to assess how realistic international targets of tripling renewable energy and doubling energy efficiency truly are, and what role the Arab world can play in achieving them. Experts including Mr. Abdallah Abou Ali (IRENA), and Mr. Toufic Rizkallah (MED-GEM) explored the strategic importance of green hydrogen as a transformative energy vector, while Dr. Joseph Al Assad (LCEC) presented the first insights into Lebanon's own Green Hydrogen Strategy, marking a pivotal moment for the country's energy transition.

FELL-18 STRENGTHENS GLOBAL YOUTH COLLABORATION AT LGEE 2025

The Future Energy Leaders of Lebanon (FELL-18), an initiative under the World Energy Council (WEC) Lebanon Committee, stood out as one of the most dynamic forces at the Lebanon Grand Energy Event 2025 (LGEE 2025). Representing the new generation of energy professionals and innovators.

Throughout the three-day event, FELL-18 members played active roles across multiple sessions, contributing to discussions on renewable energy, e-mobility, and the future of green hydrogen in Lebanon and the region. Their interventions reflected both academic rigor and practical insight, emphasizing the importance of empowering young professionals in shaping Lebanon's sustainable energy vision. Members participated as moderators, rapporteurs, and discussants, ensuring that the youth perspective was well-integrated into high-level policy and technical dialogues.



FELLs deepened their international ties through a special online meeting with FELL Romania, held as part of the event's youth engagement initiatives. The exchange brought together young professionals from both chapters to share perspectives on renewable energy innovation, policy advocacy, and leadership development within the World Energy Council network.

The discussion, joined by Rareș Hurghiș, Ph.D., Board Advisor of FEL Romania, highlighted the value of cross-cultural collaboration and the role of young experts in accelerating the global energy transition. Participants explored opportunities for joint projects, mentorship, and knowledge-sharing platforms connecting Europe and the MENA region.

This meeting perfectly reflected the spirit of LGEE 2025, "Working Today, Preparing Tomorrow", emphasizing how empowered youth collaboration can drive a cleaner, smarter, and more resilient energy future.



As **LGEE2025** drew to a close, the spotlight fell on the most symbolic debate of the entire conference: the future of Lebanon's newly established **Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA)**. Widely regarded as a turning point for the country's energy sector, ERA's creation represents the long-awaited step toward regulatory independence and market transformation.

Moderated by Dr. Sorina Mortada, the session gathered prominent experts including Me. Souraya Machnouk, and Dr. Joseph Al Assad, who offered critical reflections on ERA's mandate. The discussion emphasized its role in unbundling Electricité du Liban (EDL), enabling independent power producers (IPPs), and establishing a transparent framework for investment and regulation.

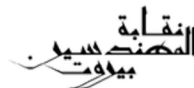
A highlight of the session came with Me. Souraya Machnouk's presentation of the 100-day start-up plan for ERA, outlining concrete milestones for its early implementation. This plan, covered in more depth in the exclusive article featured in page 12 of this report, gave participants a first glimpse of how ERA might move from paper to practice.

Panelists further underlined the opportunities ERA could unlock, while cautioning about governance challenges, institutional independence, and the need to build investor trust.



As the final debate of LGEE2025, this session carried symbolic weight, tying together the conference's theme *"The Quandary of a Rising Sun: Working Today, Preparing Tomorrow."* With the establishment of ERA, Lebanon stands at the dawn of a new chapter in its electricity sector, one where success will be measured by whether the rising sun can illuminate a path toward a sustainable, competitive, and reliable energy future.





أسبوع بيروت للطاقة ٢٠٢٥

The Lebanon Grand Energy Event 2025



THE ERA OF THE “ERA”

ABOU JAOUDE & ASSOCIATES
I A W F I R M

Twenty-three years ago, I was a law student when Parliament enacted Law no. 462 on the Organization of the Electricity Sector, deciding that Lebanon should have an Electricity Regulatory Authority, which has come to be known by its acronym “ERA”. Back in 2002, the only 3-letter word I knew that read e.r.a. was “era”, defined as a distinctive period of time in history. Twenty-three years later, the ERA has been established in 2025, and here I am, still a lifelong student co-heading the Energy practice at Abou Jaoude & Associates, writing about the beginning of a new era, the era of the ERA.

This article covers four topics: (I) what the ERA is and the laws that shape its mandate; (II) who does what now between the ERA and the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW); (III) the ERA’s specific licensing powers; and, as a small token of welcome to the ERA’s new board, (IV) my take on a practical first 100-day plan for the ERA as the “startup” regulator of Lebanon’s energy market.

I. The ERA: Independence, Mandate Sources, and What Changes Today

An Independent Regulator

The Electricity Regulatory Authority (**ERA**) was established by Law no. 462/2002 (**Law 462**) as the regulator of the electricity market, with a legal personality and technical, administrative and financial independence. The ERA adopts its own internal bylaws and holds its funds in a dedicated account at the Central Bank. As an independence safeguard, Law 462 subjects the ERA to *ex post* financial oversight by the Court of Audit, rather than direct administrative supervision, and ensures its financial autonomy by allowing it to be funded from multiple sources, namely **(a)** license and permit application fees; **(b)** a percentage of the electricity consumption bill not exceeding 1%; **(c)** unconditional grants from sources with no direct or indirect interest in the sector, subject to approval by the Council of Ministers; and **(d)** transitional financing, for up to two years, from the general budget or special parliamentary appropriations.

Statutory Sources of Authority

Law 462 assigns the ERA’s key functions as a market regulator, as detailed in section II and III of this article. The ‘Distributed Renewable Energy Law’ no. 318/2023 (**DRE Law**), which recognizes net-metering as well as peer-to-peer and direct contractual models, also tasks the ERA with issuing the implementing framework, including: eligibility criteria for participating projects and consumers; connection and interconnection procedures and technical standards; standard contract templates (net-metering, PPA/lease, disclosures); methodologies and ceilings for grid-use and wheeling charges; measurement, billing and crediting rules; and data publication and reporting requirements.

What Changes Today?

The practical shift that market participants will experience will be felt on several levels, including licensing. For years, temporary amendments to Law 462 shifted licensing authority to the Council of Ministers “until the ERA is appointed.” With the ERA now in place, licensing will transition from unpublished, ad-hoc cabinet exceptions to ERA-set procedures based on the law, with published criteria and tariff methodologies, a registry of decisions, and clear procurement tracks for new power plants. In other words, the system is shifting from unpredictability and confusion toward regulatory predictability and clarity, enabling better planning and investment.

II. Split of Roles between MoEW and ERA

Who Does What?

The MoEW sets the electricity sector’s direction: it crafts the general policy and master plan, proposes the laws and Government decrees that give that policy legal effect, and handles cross-border interconnections and agreements. The ERA then turns that policy into practice. It designs and runs the licensing systems, sets the tariff methodology and price ceilings for power generation, approves transmission and distribution tariffs, and issues the technical and environmental codes that govern connections and operations.

The table below outlines the respective roles of the MoEW and the ERA.

Scope	MoEW	ERA
Policy and Master Plan	Sets sector policy and master plan for generation, transmission, and distribution; submits for Government approval.	Provides technical studies that feed the policy and master plan.
Laws and Decrees	Proposes draft laws and Government decrees and decisions and submits for Government approval; issues implementation decisions after decrees.	Prepares draft Government decrees and submits them to MoEW; consulted on draft laws and decrees.
Tariffs	-	Sets generation price ceilings; approves transmission and distribution tariffs; publishes methodologies.
Technical and Safety Standards	Proposes public safety and environmental guidelines (in coordination with the Ministry of Environment) to the Government.	Publishes safety, environmental, health standards and interconnection rules; enforces technical and environmental standards.
Grid Access	Manages international interconnections and agreements.	Ensures non-discriminatory transmission access.

Licensing for Electricity Generation	-	Issues, monitors and revokes licenses and authorizations. <i>Please see section III below for details.</i>
Tenders for Electricity Generation and Distribution	-	Organizes and runs the tenders. <i>Please see section III below for details.</i>
Dispute Resolution	-	Resolves licensee disputes.
Under the DRE Law	-	Sets eligibility rules, connection and interconnection procedures, standard contract templates and crediting formula, and ceilings for grid use fees to advance implementation of the DRE framework; approves peer-to-peer Power Purchase Agreements.

Unbundling Requisite?

One could argue that the ERA can only regulate a market that actually exists, which makes the implementation of the sector unbundling provisions under Law 462 a necessary prerequisite for the ERA to achieve its full regulatory potential.

Unbundling refers to the separation of electricity generation and supply activities from the operation of transmission and distribution networks. In Lebanon, these three core function, generation, transmission, and distribution, have historically been, and remain today, concentrated within a single public entity: Électricité du Liban (EDL). Law 462 sets out a clear roadmap for the unbundling of the electricity sector: audit EDL, corporatize it, then bring in a strategic partner.

The unbundling process as set in Law 462 would begin with a comprehensive audit of EDL's assets by an international firm through the High Council for Public-Private Partnerships (HCPP), followed by the issuance of the corporatization decree to create at least three public companies, respectively for the generation, transmission, and distribution activities. Strategic partners would then be introduced by selling up to 40% in the generation and distribution companies within two years via HCPP-run international tenders, while the transmission network would remain fully public.

III. ERA's Licensing Authorities

The ERA's licensing role across the electricity sector, covering new power plants for both public-service and private-use generation, as well as distribution and transmission activities, is summarized in the table below.

Activity		Process	ERA Role	License Term
1. Public-service generation	> 25MW (grid-connected) (areas with > 50,000 consumers)	Public tender	Runs transparent licensing procedure with published criteria; Issues licenses.	Up to 50 years
	≤ 25MW (grid-connected) (areas with ≤ 50,000 consumers)	Solicitation/invitation to tender	Sets streamlined documents, timelines, and standardized terms; Issues licenses.	Up to 50 years
2. Private-use generation	< 1.5MW	Exempt if ERA-set standards are met	Publishes safety, environment and interconnection standards.	Per license
	1.5–10 MW	-	Issues permits/authorizations under published conditions.	Per license
	> 10 MW	-	Issues licenses.	Up to 50 years
3. Distribution		Licensing post-corporatization of EDL as per Law 462; up to 40% of the unbundled entities may be sold through HCPP tenders.	Sets licensing conditions, service quality and consumer protection standards; approves/oversees tariffs; Issues licenses.	Per license
4. Transmission		Remains publicly owned; Government may award private O&M or other types of contracts.	Regulates access conditions and transmission tariffs; ensures equal, non-discriminatory treatment for licensees.	

Interplay with the PPP Framework

As indicated in the table above, Law 462 explicitly empowers the ERA to conduct tenders as part of its licensing power for public-service generation plants exceeding 25 MW.

Under Public-Private Partnership Law no. 48/2017 (PPP Law), a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) is a long-term contract between a public entity and a private partner in which the private partner:

- Finances, designs, builds, operates, and/or maintains an infrastructure or service of public interest;
- Assumes a material share of operational and financial risk; and
- Is remunerated through tariffs, availability payments, or a mix of both.

The PPP definition is broad and captures energy projects of different sizes and structures, including, for example, a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for a grid-connected renewable energy project above 25 MW. That is the example I will consider for the analysis here.

The tender process for a PPP energy project under the PPP Law, in brief, includes: launch of the tender by the HCPP; formation of a project committee (comprised of the HCPP Secretary-General, a representative of the Minister of Energy, a representative of the Ministry of Finance, and the chair of the ERA); Cabinet approval of the project; preparation of the tender documents by the project committee; publication of the tender; submission of bids by qualified bidders; evaluation by the project committee; a recommendation to the HCPP; approval and award of the PPP-model contract by the HCPP; and signature of the contract by the relevant public authority.

The question, then, is when an energy project qualifies as a PPP, who runs the tender: the ERA under Law 462 or the HCPP under the PPP Law? On the face of it, there is a problematic overlap and conflict between the PPP Law and Law 462. However, the latest draft law dated 12 September 2025 amending the PPP Law (the 2025 Amendment), which is expected to be tabled for enactment at the next parliamentary session, addresses this apparent overlap by providing in its article 2 that “projects that qualify as PPPs and are governed by Law 462 shall be subject to the PPP Law to the extent it does not conflict with Law 462.” This statutory provision gives effect to *lex specialis* over *lex generalis*. Law 462 is the sector-specific statute and the PPP Law is the general statute. Where they clash, Law 462 prevails.

Law 462 is clear: once the ERA is appointed, it sets the licensing conditions, organizes and conducts public tenders for projects exceeding 25 MW, and issues the corresponding licenses. Therefore, if the 2025 Amendment is enacted by Parliament in its current wording, a faithful application of Article 2 of the PPP Law means that the ERA will be the authority responsible for organizing tenders for electricity projects of 25 MW or more.

Even with article 2 of the 2025 amendment, a residual grey area remains where both frameworks may apply simultaneously, creating a hybrid regulatory and contractual process that demands coordination between the ERA and HCPP essential. A concrete example which illustrates this point is a distribution license to be awarded following EDL’s corporatization. The granting of such a license to a private operator falls explicitly within the ERA’s licensing authority under Law 462, yet it also activates the procedures of the PPP Law for the related contractual arrangement, such as a Design-Build-Finance-Operate (DBFO) agreement for the rehabilitation and operation of the distribution network. While the procedural sequencing and coordination mechanisms between the ERA and the HCPP are beyond the scope of this article, effective collaboration between the two institutions will be indispensable to ensure that their respective mandates are upheld and practically resolve the misalignment between Law 462 and the PPP Law regarding which process governs and who leads.

IV.A 100-day startup plan for the ERA

The tentative yet ambitious 100-day plan is divided in three phases, aiming at quick wins for the ERA to garner credibility, and setting the foundations for long-term goals.

Goals	Key Actions and Deliverables
Days 1–30: Setup and stakeholder engagement	
Make the ERA visible and credible: set up the basics, and engage with stakeholders.	1) Publish the ERA internal bylaws and organizational chart. 2) Launch a public online registry for ERA licenses, permits and decisions; post a monthly decision calendar and agenda. 3) Open three 14-day consultations with key stakeholders: licensing and permit procedures, tariff-methodology, and grid and interconnection codes, including queue management and transparency. 4) Announce one-stop-shop for market participants with service standards and response times, including a fast-track for ≤25 MW solicitations. 5) DRE Law deliverables (start in Days 1–30 and deliver within 100 days): · Publish technical standards for behind-the-meter systems and one-stop online notification for the ≤1.5 MW exemption. · Publish a model net-metering agreement and transparent crediting formula with a public data dashboard; · Open consultations on wheeling and aggregation, including a grid-use fee ceiling logic.
Days 31–60: Alignment and pipeline	
Align with other authorities, and organize existing pipeline.	1) Co-draft the sector master-plan with the MoEW and propose it to Government. 2) Publish a procurement playbook showing who licenses what by capacity and service area, and when ERA rules apply. 3) Publish a status bulletin on the existing pipeline, identifying which pending projects will continue as approved, which will be placed on hold, and which will be relaunched under the ERA's updated rules.
Days 61–100: Market rollout and tangible outputs	
From planning to implementation: putting the framework to work.	1) Release a standard license pack for ≤25 MW solicitations: templates, timelines, evaluation criteria, and model PPA where relevant. 2) Issue an interim tariff methodology and a dated roadmap to the full method in 6–9 months, including service-quality KPIs. 3) Publish the open-access rulebook for equal treatment on the transmission system: connection charges, queue rules and transparency obligations.

The Risk of “doing nothing”

At the closing session of the 2025 Lebanon Grand Energy Event, Dr. Sorina Mortada, the moderator and newly appointed ERA board member, asked me what I believed was the biggest risk that could cause the ERA to fail. My answer was simple: to do nothing.

Doing nothing would mean allowing the old system of temporary exceptions and regulatory opacity to linger by inertia. It would mean postponing the essential changes that the establishment of the ERA was meant to deliver: clear procedures, published criteria, and predictable licensing and tariffs frameworks. Today, the momentum is on the ERA's side. There is broad consensus that Lebanon needs a rules-based energy sector, and internationally, development partners consider the effective formation of the ERA a key structural reform expected from the Lebanese Government.

The challenge now is to seize that momentum and overcome the hurdles that have delayed reform for more than two decades. The ERA must move to action fast: consult, publish, decide, and enforce; on the record, to a timetable, and transparently. After a 23-year delayed start, the era of the ERA has begun. Only concrete results will make it worth the wait.

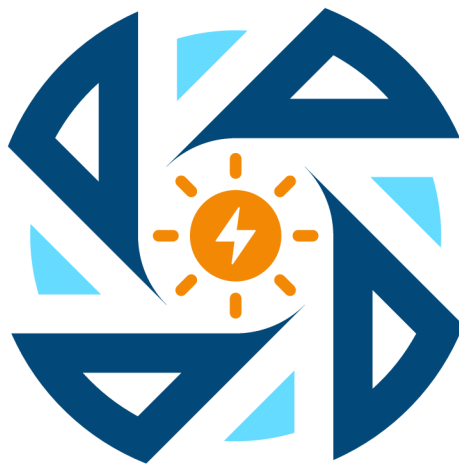
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With thanks to my colleague Lina Diab for her valuable contribution.



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