

Conclusions

First Stakeholder Forum of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP)

9/10 May 2012, Cape Town, South Africa

More than 250 participants from civil society, research institutions, the private sector (including financial institutions) and government gathered in Cape Town, South Africa for the First Stakeholder Forum of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) on 9–10 May 2012. Participants came from 13 different EU member states and 29 African countries. One third of participants represented the private sector on both continents. At the centre of lively, engaged discussions was the implementation of the AEEP 2020 targets adopted at the First High Level Meeting in Vienna in 2010. Nine thematic parallel sessions and several high level plenary panels tackled issues ranging from large-scale energy infrastructure and private sector finance for renewable energy in Africa to bioenergy for the 21st century.

The focus of the Forum was decidedly on private sector, civil society and research. In the spirit of:
“Three stakeholder groups, two continents, one joint responsibility.”

Government and the wider public sector were strongly represented and responded to suggestions and proposals.

The meeting was hosted by the Department of Energy of South Africa in collaboration with the AEEP Co-Chairs: the African Union (AU) Commission; the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany; the Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs, Austria; and the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, Mauritius. Furthermore, the European Commission played a major role in support of the Co-Chairs. The Forum was organized with the support of the AEEP Secretariat (EUEI PDF).

Key issues raised by participants

Private Sector

- Renewable energy is happening in Africa! Renewable energy is a unique and long-term opportunity for African industry
- If governments develop the right (long-term) policies, investors will come
- Innovative financing instruments for private sector energy projects in Africa need to be created; e.g. “special interest windows”, first-mover incentives, etc.

Research

- Build strong partnerships between industry and research institutions for applied research in energy – learn from good practices; e.g. at Stellenbosch University in South Africa
- Make better use of European research capacities for technology transfer and skills development in Africa
- Policy-making should be better supported by socio-economic research

Civil Society

- Advocate gender inclusiveness in energy related businesses at all levels (energy consumption, energy service provision, etc.)
- Large-scale energy projects need a stronger orientation on energy access and poverty eradication
- The AEEP needs to give more attention to bioenergy to achieve the energy access target. The AEEP should go beyond electricity.

What the AEEP can do (for you)

- Support stakeholder groups on country-level in advocating pro-access and policies favourable to renewable energy vis-à-vis their governments [*All Stakeholders*]
- Operationalize results-oriented and subject-specific (e.g. biomass, productive use...) stakeholder networks / platforms [*Civil Society, Private Sector*]
- Support ongoing work towards an assessment of regional and/or Pan-African research and skills development and develop of an integrated plan of action [*Research*]
- Make a contribution to bridging the bankability gap (e.g. support to project development in the framework of the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme – RECP) [*Private Sector*]
- Organize business roundtables where we can “pull up the sleeves and get concrete” [*Private Sector (and Government)*]

What you can do for the AEEP

- Strengthen capacities for financing of energy access / RE / EE projects in Africa; e.g. support training hubs for energy financing [*Private Sector*]
- Relevant business associations from Africa and Europe should establish effective links; e.g. support organizational development of African associations, provide market information to European associations [*Private Sector*]
- Develop an agenda for development-oriented energy research and innovation; for example:
 - for accelerated deployment of Renewable Energy
 - for the use of national oil and gas resources in Africa for the benefit of all [*Research*]
- Initiate a transparent Africa-European dialogue about the future of oil and gas trading between the continents [(*European*) *Private Sector*]
- Strengthen the capacity of African civil society organizations dealing with energy in order to enable them to play their advocacy role more effectively [(*European*) *Civil Society*]

The way forward

The following steps were identified as key milestones in the short- to medium-term future:

- Prioritization and start of activities mentioned above
- The AEEP Monitoring Working Group invites stakeholder representatives to participate in monitoring of the targets
- Meeting of the Conference of Energy Ministers of Africa (CEMA), in November 2012: AUC invites participation of representatives from stakeholder groups in the planned Investment Forum (side event)
- The AEEP e-consultation which was carried out prior to the 1st Stakeholder Forum will be continued and strengthened in the form of an AEEP online platform
- 2nd Stakeholder Forum of the AEEP: Stocktaking and way forward in 2014 (tbd)

Message to Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development and Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All)

- The AEEP will deliver on SE4All.
- **The AEEP will contribute substantially to the achievement of SE4All 2030 targets** through:
 - At least an additional 100 million Africans having access to modern and sustainable energy services by 2020
 - Additional 10,000 MW of hydropower, 5,000 MW of wind power and 500 MW of solar power and tripling other renewables significantly increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix of African countries by 2020
 - Substantially improving energy efficiency in Africa by 2020 in all sectors, starting with the electricity sector.
- **Renewable energy is happening in Africa!** This is the clear and universal message from business in Africa and the EU to decision-makers worldwide
- **Renewable energy is key to energy access!** By fully utilizing the potential for hydropower, solar, wind, biomass and geothermal the target of achieving universal access can be achieved in Africa.
- The private and public sectors, civil society and research in the European Union are **the key partners** for renewable energy in Africa.
- The AEEP can successfully facilitate stakeholder involvement in African SE4All countries.
- Under the framework of the AEEP, the two continents share a commitment to a significant expansion of renewable energy in the energy mix in order to increase access to energy, reduce dependency on fossil fuels, improve energy security, and form the backbone of a future low-carbon economy. In this context, the Rio process should consider the facilitation of funding for energy access projects in Africa through existing and future climate funds.

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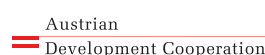
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