

Second Stakeholder Forum of the AEEP

Milan, 16-17 May 2016

Background and Objective

The High Level Stakeholder Forum (held every 3 years) is one of the key strategic dialogue events organized by the Africa EU Energy Partnership (AEEP). As a multi-stakeholder platform, the AEEP forum brings together high level policy makers, senior private sector, academia and civil society representatives for a cross-sectoral exchange and dialogue.

European Union's Commissioner Neven Mimica has placed energy on top of the EC agenda, namely energy access, renewable energy and in particular private sector as cornerstones of EU engagement. The African Union Commission has energy as a main focus for economic development boost in the continent. Increased stakeholder engagement and private sector involvement are recognized as fundamental for the achievement of the SE4All and SDG targets for 2030.

Coming at a time of **increased international attention on energy in Africa** (including post-COP21 and announcement of SDG7), the main objectives of the second AEEP Stakeholder Forum are to:

1. **Sharpen the role and contributions of a wide range of stakeholders** with a special focus to increase (private sector) investment in energy infrastructure;
2. **Enhance the engagement of non-state actors** in sustainable energy sector development in Africa with emphasis on human capital for innovation, skills and capacity development in renewable energy; and
3. **Provide a framework for dialogue** at an important gathering of African and European leaders and actors across key thematic areas for energy security and development.

The Forum is therefore a key milestone in **delivering results post COP21**, as well as an opportunity for the respective Commissions to feed into it the meeting results of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and the **AU-EU College-to-College**. This is the first stakeholder event with high level representation that seeks to forge new strategic linkages between the private sector, the scientific community and state actors, and thus further bolster energy relations between Europe and Africa.

Priority topics and modalities

The forum will run under the label, **"Business and Science: Leading the way to sustainable energy"**. The most important singled out issues to be discussed will include:

- Increasing investment and innovation in energy infrastructure (private sector cooperation)
- Showcasing EU instruments and programs for development cooperation in the energy sector
- Capacity building and skills development in renewable energy sector
- Furthering the discourse on climate and energy in Africa following COP21 in Paris.
- Tracking and monitoring of political Targets, including the role of scientific community

The two day Forum will be split into **day one, 16 May** being a technical thematic stakeholder day deepening on **Energy Access, Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Energy Security**, whereas **day two, 17 May** will be dedicated to high level delegates and stakeholders. Delivery modalities will include a mix of plenary and specially structured panel discussions, targeted **networking and Business match-making events** as well as **media relation campaigns** with high-level stakeholders (state and non-state) from Europe and Africa. **An exhibition and fair** will be an integral part of the programme running through the forum days and the entire week.

Strategic linkages

Since the AEEP has played a central role as **an agenda setter** in the global energy scene, the Forum is seen as an occasion to further contribute to discussions around the role of energy within Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) (post COP21), Agenda 2030, possible linkages between AEEP and the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), as well as how AEEP actions feed into the SDG7.

Expected outcomes

The following are expected to be the highlight outcomes of the Forum. These deliverables will be endorsed by the high level segment of the conference:

- Africa-EU Energy Stakeholder Forum
- Release of an “Intermediate AEEP Status Report”
- Launch of “Mapping of Initiatives and Programmes in Africa Report”
- Stakeholders’ call-for-action (actors’ ground actions)

Expected high level participants

We expect the following participants (tbc):

- EC Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development
- CEOs of African Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- AUC Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy
- Secretary General of UNECA
- Egypt Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy
- Special Representative and CEO of SE4All
- COMESA Secretary General
- Heads of Agencies in Africa and internationally
- President of the African Development Bank
- Senior representatives from private sector, civil society and academia
- Italy Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Media (Europe and Africa)
- German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

Date and Venue

The government of **Italy** has kindly offered to host the Second Stakeholder Forum to be held on **16-17 May 2016, at the Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI) University in Milan.**

Milan city offers a perfect venue and a compelling story for the forum having hosted the widely publicised Milan EXPO as well as it is a city with a huge presence of major companies and organisations from the private sector and civil society and with a vibrant academia in the energy sector in Italy and Europe.

Language

English (with simultaneous French interpretation in main plenary only)