

Statement: AEEP's Call for Action

Read by: Mr. Paul Smith Lomas, CEO, Practical Action, AEEP Civil Society Focal Point

Second Stakeholder Forum of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership

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1. In recognition of the role played by various actors to boost the energy situation in Africa, I, **on behalf of stakeholders** of the Africa- EU Energy Partnership, would like to commend all contributors and sustainable energy sector stakeholders here today for their ambitious commitments to the AEEP's call for action
2. This "Call for Actions and Commitments" was meant to develop a comprehensive portfolio of activities in the energy sector cooperation that contribute to the 2020 Political Targets of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP). This forms the Action Programme for the Achievement of the AEEP 2020 Targets
3. The AEEP being a strategic dialogue platform to strengthen the joint energy cooperation between both continents has, over the past year, actively involved all relevant stakeholders under the AEEP directly (or indirectly) to contribute to the achievement of the AEEP 2020 Targets
4. This Call for Action contains a portfolio of activities in the energy sector cooperation between Africa and the European Union (EU) showcasing current and planned actions various stakeholders (government, international organizations, non-state actors) are undertaking in the energy sector across the continent
5. Since 2010, policy makers from both Africa and Europe committed to a series of political targets to be achieved by 2020 in order to set a common framework for the development of the energy sector in Africa:
 - To increase Energy Access by 100 million Africans;
 - To improve energy security through doubling the capacity of cross-border electricity; interconnections, use of natural gas and African gas exports to Europe;
 - To increase Renewable Energy capacities and Energy Efficiency.
6. Through the AEEP's monitoring of these targets, as we heard earlier this morning, many targets are set to be achieved, and even surpassed by the target year of 2020. Yet significant gaps remain. These targets as such cannot be reached through public sector efforts alone. Our role as stakeholders in the private sector, civil society and academia are critical to achieving the AEEP 2020 political targets. It is for this reason that we are proud to present the multitude of commitments and actions currently underway by energy sector stakeholders such as yourself, towards achieving these goals.

Key Messages:

7. Among the overwhelming number of commitments, the following main messages resonated across numerous actors, and signal the priority areas of implementation in the African energy sector from the development partners and the energy stakeholder community:

- ▶ **Recognition for the importance of regional cooperation and harmonization:** Commitments came from 6 regional organizations committing to establishing capacity development modules, and frameworks for regional cooperation in order to harmonize energy sector policy and regulatory frameworks in Africa, and promote cross-border development of renewable energy resources.

Example:

"The EIB states its commitment to the development of a large-scale coastal line project: a 925 km high voltage (225 kV) transmission network to interconnect the power grids of the four member countries of OMVG: Senegal, Guinea, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau." European Investment Bank, represented by Morag Baird

- ▶ **The understanding of energy's vital role in climate mitigation and adaptation, access to water and the food nexus:** With the increased focus on energy and its impact on the climate, and the focus on renewable energy in Africa at the Conference of the Parties last year in Paris, numerous commitments are emerging that embed promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in to climate mitigation and adaptation policies and programs.

Example:

"Jimma University commits to improving energy access and waste to energy recycling with domestic carbon sequestration" Jimma University, represented by Prof. Venkata Ramayya

- ▶ **The importance of promoting job creation in the renewable energy market in Africa, with a particular focus on the inclusion of youth and women:** With the vast renewable energy potential present in Africa, recognition of the potential accompanying job market has led many actors to focus on skills development to ensure that the resulting job opportunities remain in Africa. Moreover, many initiatives have taken a particular focus to include young entrepreneurs and women.

Example:

"Youth Development Foundation commits to promoting Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship and Jobs for Youth in West Africa, and Generate up to 500 MW of Renewable Energy" Youth Development Foundation, represented by Nelson Godfried Agyemang

- ▶ **Looking beyond the household or single enterprise, to addressing energy access needs at the community level;** after over a decade of energy access programs, stakeholders are shifting focus from households to integrating communal energy needs as a key priority. Programs aimed at electrifying villages, and bringing modern

energy access to markets, health centers, community centers and street-lighting are emerging as a new priority in energy access initiatives and programmes.

Example:

“SOLARKIOSK commits to providing community access to energy through Solar Village Hubs throughout Sub-Saharan Africa” SOLARKIOSK, represented by Lars Kruekeberg

8. On behalf of the stakeholders, I would like to personally commend all contributors for participating in this call for action. I also would like to highlight the good work being done by civil society stakeholders in the field of energy access and renewable energy in Africa, despite, as we heard this morning at the launch of the AEEP’s Mapping of Energy Initiatives report, being often overlooked as key stakeholders in the sector by major programmes and initiatives. Africa’s sustainable energy future cannot be achieved through public sector efforts alone, and many of your commitments, accumulated, represent a significant contribution to achieving the targets.
9. We call upon the policy makers and the development partners alike to support actions that are being implemented at ground level for the purposes of scaling up these efforts. As stakeholders of the AEEP, we commit to our pledges and working together with policy makers to achieve a sustainable energy future for Africa