



Press Summary

Tuesday, 17 May 2016

Second Stakeholder Forum of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) “Business and Science: Leading the way to sustainable energy”

The aim of second day of the Second Stakeholder Forum of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) was to create a intercontinental framework for high-level discussions and implement actions. It started with panel focused on measures of success in Africa-EU energy cooperation, highlighting progress at country and regional levels, and linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The panel included Mohamed Shaker, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Egypt; Thomas Silberhorn, Parliamentary State Secretary, Germany; Kipyego Chelugot, Deputy Secretary General, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; and Irene Muloni, Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, Uganda, which acknowledge that “when you create a partnership you create synergies in which all parts are benefited from each other”. All the ponents agreed on the fact that good policy and regulatory frameworks are vital for increased renewable energy development in Africa.

Following that, a roundtable of senior policy and business leaders highlighted challenges and opportunities facing Africa and Europe in catalyzing energy investments. This session looked at options for improved cooperation and engagement of policy and business actors to promote investments and development. Michele Scandellari, CEO, Enerray, Italy, highlighted the scalability of the solar industry and the importance of partnerships, including from the private sector and banks, and support from government. Giles Dickson, CEO WindEurope, Brussels, noted a discrepancy between needs and investments, and called for bundling projects into groups to change the economic environment to one in which small-scale enterprises can play a role. According to him, “the private sector is not going into the right direction; the needs and investments are not balanced. Take the example of the cooking sector, we need to reinvent how to develop solutions to real problems”.

On engaging the private sector, Yofi Grant, CEO Data Bank, Ghana, “the private sector is not really engaged on the continent, noting that policies for the private sector were often done

without consulting that sector” “They think there is only one solution for the whole Africa, but you have to understand the nature of the disease in order to find a cure”, he said.

It was agreed that political environment was “the elephant in the room” and that stress partnership and create synergies will foster the energetic sector in the continent Paul Smith Lomas then presented a Joint Statement for Action comprising commitments from AEEP stakeholders for activities to achieve the 2020 Political Targets. The Call for Action highlighted the importance of: ensuring regional cooperation and harmonization of sustainable energy initiatives and programmes; addressing energy’s vital role in climate mitigation and adaptation, access to water and the food nexus; promoting job creation in the renewable energy market in Africa, with a particular focus on the inclusion of youth and women; and moving beyond household energy needs to address energy access at the community and enterprise levels.

In the afternoon, during the first-ever AEEP ‘Science and Business Slam,’ eleven young scientists and entrepreneurs presented their research and business ideas, with each receiving feedback from scientists and technology leaders from Africa and Europe. Two of them were awarded for their business ideas: Lois Gicheru, *Solarafrique*, Kenya, for her community mini-grid project and Paul Bertheau, from Reiner Lemoine Institut, Germany, who won in the best research project category for a project utilizing GIS technology to generate data in support of rural electrification in Nigeria.

This was followed by the impressions of nine young journalists from both Africa and Europe who attended the Forum, preparing media material, including press releases, videos, tweets, interviews and photographs to spread the word about the AEEP. In their report back to the closing plenary, they underscored the importance of partnerships with the media; called for the reality, opportunities and challenges of the African continent to be shown more prominently in the European media and for discussions to be translated into action; noted the importance of collaboration and training. The journalists produced a video with the highlights of the Forum that was showed in the panel.

After that, participants adopted the Milan Communiqué as the final outcome of the 2nd AEEP Stakeholder Forum. In the Communiqué, participants agreed on the role of sustainable energy in realizing a climate-friendly global energy transition; welcome the opportunity to discuss how business and other sectors can work together towards a sustainable energy future for Africa, with energy being

a precondition to social and equitable development; and acknowledge that such a future is not the sole responsibility of the public sector but also the private one. The Communiqué, as well, commends progress on the 2020 AEEP. Targets; Additionally, it calls for a multi- stakeholder approach in the energy sector in Africa, pledging to provide enabling frameworks for stakeholders to participate in political processes related to energy, and urges information exchange and collaboration.

About the AEEP: *The Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) constitutes one of the initial eight partnerships under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), a long-term framework for cooperation between the two continents. The African Union Commission, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat, Egypt, the European Commission, Germany and Italy are the Steering Group members providing political guidance to the Partnership. AEEP Secretariat is hosted by the Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF) which is an instrument of the EU Energy Initiative (EUEI).*

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