

High-Level Event

“Renewing Africa’s Energy Future”

20 June 2012, 11:00 – 12:30

Rio Centro, T-2

Africa is currently facing a strong economic growth, and shows positive trends in human development indicators. Access to modern energy critical will be critical to maintain those positive signals. The continent possesses abundant renewable resources that could spur continued economic growth, accelerate social development and help the transition to an energy system based on Africa’s vast renewable energy resources, for achieving universal energy access.

The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government decided in February 2009 to develop renewable energy resources in order to provide clean, reliable, affordable and environmentally-friendly energy. The political will to promote renewable energy was reaffirmed in the 2010 African Union Maputo Declaration, which established the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Energy (CEMA).

Subsequently, the 2011 Abu Dhabi Communiqué on Renewable Energy for Accelerating Africa’s Development, endorsed by 46 African Countries and 25 African Energy Ministers, called for promoting the increased utilization of the continent’s vast renewable energy resources in order to accelerate Africa’s development. In the communiqué, the African Energy Ministers also agreed to further engage with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) as the key intergovernmental forum on renewable energy; and urged IRENA to provide strategic support for renewable energy in its message to the international community at Rio+20 (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development).

IRENA is convening this high-level event to ensure that Africa’s renewable energy mandate is kept high on the political agenda as the Conference opens.

The high-level event will address three inter-related questions:

- Implementing sustainable energy solutions is imperative for Africa’s successful long-term social and economic development. What is the experience of the countries in the deployment of renewables?
- African countries can make a critical contribution to the adoption of renewable energy. What are the financing and technology requirements that can catalyse this transformation?
- How can the international community in general and IRENA in particular, help accelerate the deployment of renewable energy in Africa, in the context of post Rio implementation?

High-level panel discussion and interaction with high-level participants will be moderated by Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General, IRENA. Each question will be followed by a short intervention from each of the panellists, and a discussion with the audience. (Countries are listed by alphabetical order.)

Ministerial Panel discussion: Renewing Africa's Energy Future	
11:00- 11:10	Welcome by H.E. Salvadore Namburete, Minister of Energy of Mozambique, Chair of the Conference of Energy Ministers of Africa (CEMA) and President of IRENA Assembly
11:10 - 11:15	Opening remarks and introduction of panellists by Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General, IRENA
11:10 - 12:20	<p>Panellists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Elham Ibrahim, Commissioner of Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission* 2. H. E. Maria de Fátima Monteiro Jardim, Minister of Environment, Angola* 3. H.E. Antero Veiga, Minister of Environment, Cape Verde 4. H.E. Pascal Canfin, Delegate Minister in charge of Sustainable Development, France* 5. H. E. Chirau Ali Mwakwere, Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources, Kenya 6. H. E. Fouad Douiri, Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, Morocco 7. H.E. Salvadore Namburete, Minister of Energy, Mozambique 8. H. E. Elizabeth Dipuo Peters, Minister of Energy, South Africa 9. H. E. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Special Envoy for Energy & Climate Change, UAE
12:20 – 12:30	Summary and way forward, Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General, IRENA

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