



The African continent sees great promise in working with IRENA, whose Assembly has given it a strong mandate regionally and globally to support member states in accelerating the adoption of renewable energy.

CONSIDERING THE ABOVE, WE HAVE AGREED THE FOLLOWING:

- i. We are launching a concerted effort among all participating governments, agencies, non-governmental bodies and the private sector to promote intensified utilization of Africa's vast renewable energy resources for accelerating Africa's development, considering the need to:
  - a. ensure that IRENA's policy for Africa responds to the priority concerns of the continent.
  - b. ensure a well-integrated IRENA programme for Africa, which will cooperate closely with the AUC, CEMA, RECs, national governments and all other partners,
  - c. develop a concrete and practical approach to supporting the knowledge, technology, capacity and policy needs of African countries.
- ii. A crucial first step will be to better understand the opportunities and constraints in our countries and regions by mapping "Renewable Energy Readiness", a collaborative process that will provide a rapid, objective assessment of the status of renewable energy opportunities, and identify pathways to address gaps. We urge governments and other stakeholders to participate in design and implementation of this initiative.
- iii. We will further engage with IRENA, as the key inter-governmental forum on renewable energy, in providing a platform for charting collaborative action strategies for accelerating implementation of African policies, and initiatives on renewable energy, focusing in particular on:
  - a. Improving policy frameworks to ensure investment grade public/private financing, while taking into account special measures needed to ensure social inclusion
  - b. Brokering services in capacity building including for entrepreneurs in renewable energy
  - c. Cooperation on technology and innovation to enhance endogenous human and physical capacity to accommodate expanded renewables deployment
  - d. Fostering regional and local level renewable energy technology production and service industries
  - e. Supporting communication campaigns to promote uptake of renewable energy.
- iv. Participants urged IRENA, in its messages to the international community at CoP-17, Rio+20 and other major events, to build on this communiqué and emphasize the following:

- a. Providing strategic support for renewable energy in the context of the Green Economy, including assessment of the impact of market distorting subsidies that inhibit the deployment of renewable energy; targeted studies on employment implications of expanded renewables deployment, policies for employment creation through renewable energy and related themes,
  - b. advocating increased international support to Africa on technical capacity building, policy advisory services, investment financing tools and industrial strategies for accelerating renewable energy up-take, while ensuring adequate provision of domestic resources
  - c. Using the 2012 International Year of Sustainable Energy for All to carry forward Africa's renewable energy strategies.
- v. We agree to work towards formalizing IRENA's strategic presence in Africa and concretizing institutional arrangements for cooperation with African regional bodies and strategic partners in the sector; furthermore, we urge all African states who have not done so to become full members of IRENA.
- vi. We shall extend full cooperation and support to IRENA to ensure it fulfils its critical mandate to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy globally, and to work together to make Africa a lead region in the transition to renewable energy.

*Abu Dhabi, UAE, 09 July 2011*