

Africa Clean Energy Corridor Ministerial Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates 17 January 2014

IRENA COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE AFRICA CLEAN ENERGY CORRIDOR

We, Ministers and heads of delegations of Angola, Botswana, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe gathered in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 17 January 2014, to discuss and endorse an action agenda for developing an Africa Clean Energy Corridor which can address the continent's rapidly expanding electricity needs with a larger share of clean, indigenous, practical, cost-effective, and sustainable renewable energy options.

We recall the Maputo Declaration adopted by the African Union Conference of Energy Ministers (CEMA) in 2010, the Abu Dhabi Communiqué on Renewable Energy for Accelerating Africa's Development agreed by Ministers and CEMA in 2011, and the Program for Infrastructure Development for Africa (PIDA) Energy Priority Action Plan agreed by CEMA in 2012, all of which aspire to accelerate the development of renewable energy options to serve Africa's growing energy needs.

We emphasize the recommendations of Energy Ministers of Africa, embodied in the report of their meeting of November 2012, to facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Energy For All (SE4ALL) initiative in Africa, to assist in the establishment of an adequate institutional and regulatory framework for the development of renewable energies, to address regulatory and institutional barriers to regional renewable energy infrastructure projects, to support capacity building for regional renewable energy resource development, and to promote green investment through public-private partnerships.

We recognise that Africa possesses vast potential resources of hydro, geothermal, biomass, wind and solar power that could be harnessed to help meet energy needs, in support of socio-economic development. Renewable energy can be integrated in the transmission network envisaged by the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. We also recognise the benefits of integrated resource planning to optimise the mix of generating options.

We note that the costs of renewable technologies, in particular those for wind and solar power, have experienced a marked decline in recent years which creates new opportunities for development.

We acknowledge also the obstacles to renewable power investment posed by the existing market and regulatory frameworks, as well as the high cost of capital for financing renewable power plants in Africa.



Therefore we commit, mindful of respective national policies and priorities, to work with IRENA on the following Action Agenda to promote and accelerate the development of the Africa Clean Energy Corridor:

- i. Zoning and Resource Assessment: Partner with expert institutions to identify zones for the development of renewable power plants in areas of high resource potential and routes for the efficient transmission of electricity to load centres. IRENA should expand its Global Atlas for Renewable Energy to help identify promising development zones.
- ii. Country and Regional Planning: Work with regulatory and planning bodies and expert institutions, including at the regional level, to promote and strengthen integrated resource planning that fully considers renewable power options to optimise investments in generation and transmission infrastructure. IRENA should also support the inclusion of more renewable power in country and regional plans, including by providing targeted information and data, especially on the declining costs of renewable energy technology.
- iii. Enabling Frameworks for Investment: Cooperate closely with international financial institutions to encourage innovative financing structures, such as loan and risk guarantees, that leverage government and donor resources. IRENA should support the development of government policies to enable investments in renewables, as well as to develop bankable project proposals through the Project Navigator.
- iv. Capacity Building: Work with regional bodies, countries, development partners, and research and training institutions to build the human and institutional capacity to plan, construct and operate power systems with a greater share of renewable generation. In this context, IRENA should facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt.
- v. Public Information: Raise awareness on the Africa Clean Energy Corridor at the global, regional and country levels to promote the benefits of the Corridor in providing secure, sustainable and affordable energy to meet rising energy demand.

We urge the Africa Union Commission, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development, as well as the African Energy Commission, the Eastern Africa Power Pool and its Independent Regulatory Board, the Southern African Power Pool, and the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa, with support from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other multilateral financial institutions, to cooperate with IRENA in bringing the Africa Clean Energy Corridor to fruition.

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17 January 2014