

# AEEP Dialogue Forum

## Exploiting Opportunities in Renewable Energy and Rural Electrification in Kenya

Nairobi, 28 November 2014



### Background

Sustained action has been taken by the Kenyan government towards developing a strong energy market tailored to the needs of the local population. To move forward, it was found necessary to push further the **involvement of non-state actors** and ensure concerted action between the private sector, civil society, donors, financiers and academia.

The EUEI PDF, in its function of secretariat to the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP), held, in conjunction with the Kenyan Ministry of Energy and Petroleum (MoEP), the Dialogue Forum “Exploiting Opportunities in Renewable Energy and Rural Electrification in Kenya – Joining forces for Sustainable Energy” in Nairobi on 28 November 2014. The Forum was uniquely structured to **contribute to the current UN Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL)**

process in Kenya. The dialogue built on previous EUEI PDF support to Kenya under the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Corporation Programme (RECP).

### Objectives of the Dialogue Forum

The Forum aimed to boost renewable energy, rural electrification and clean cooking in Kenya by:

- ▶ Increasing and attracting private sector, civil society and donor **investments** and operations;
- ▶ Enhancing **engagement** in policy-making and implementation towards energy access;
- ▶ Strengthening mutual understanding and **partnerships** between civil societies, the private sector and government.

## Key issues and points for action

The Forum, which brought together international, regional, and local non state stakeholders, discussed solar off-grid electricity, mini-grids (including the Mini-grid Policy Toolkit) as well as cooking technologies and appliances.

- ▶ With regards to **Small-scale off-grid electricity**, it was stated that promising business models should address policy, distribution, and cost of after-sales services. The importance of a conducive policy environment was highlighted, including the possibility for specific levy waivers for equipment, and a national rural electrification strategy.

Low quality products, counterfeits and lack of awareness by end users were also identified as often untold **market spoilages**, and the importance of reaching a market penetration of 20%, in order for the market to take off, was highlighted.

- ▶ The session on **national Mini-grid policies** focused on intervention mechanisms and roadmaps for policy development. There was a call for the need to develop an incentives' framework to help cushion private investment in the sector in light of the high upfront costs.

In terms of the **sustainability** of mini-grids, a need was identified to further integrate the generation of electricity to rural economic development. The need for specific tariffs for mini-grids, in lieu of a uniform tariff, was also called for.



- ▶ During the session on the potential for **cooking technologies and appliances**, partnerships came up as a key way forward for addressing issues of distribution of clean cook stoves and biomass products.

Bundling and cross-selling products that promote clean cooking technologies was also noted as key, together with the ever important issue of **awareness raising** in the general public to ensure clean cooking technologies become the norm.

The Forum closed with a commitment from the private sector, civil society and donors to boost renewable energy, rural electrification and clean cooking in Kenya.



### AEEP Steering Group



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