

AEEP Consultative Coordination Series

Harmonization and Coordination of pan-African and International Energy Initiatives

Background

Recent years have witnessed a prioritizing of energy on the political agenda for African governments, international organisations, and development partners working in Africa. As a result, numerous initiatives have originated with the common goal of bolstering and supporting the continent's efforts towards achieving a sustainable energy future. However, coordination between initiatives has been limited. A high-impact opportunity therefore existed to fill this gap by coordinating high-level stakeholders to collectively discuss potential synergies and opportunities to work together to achieve energy goals in Africa and beyond.

Coordination Series

Key actors in Europe, Africa, and beyond have continually called upon the AEEP (playing an "honest broker" role) to support the realization of a coordination effort, as AEEP has proved a model of bringing strategic actors together. In all respects, the engagement of regional and national platforms remains key and needs to continually be built upon through the SE4All Africa Hub.

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP), in close cooperation with coordination fora such as SE4All Africa Hub, invited high-level stakeholders to discuss goals, challenges, and gaps in coordinating energy initiatives in Africa in New York in May 2015. Born out of this first meeting was a coordination series comprising of (so far) three consultative sessions:

- ▶ **New York – SE4All Forum (May 2015)**
- ▶ **Vienna – Vienna Energy Forum (June 2015)**
- ▶ **Addis Ababa – 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development (July 2015)**

All the meetings reaffirmed the need to strive at ensuring coherence in energy activities in Africa and to feed concrete outcomes into international efforts such as G7 and COP21. In this case, the 'African Hub' mechanism was suggested as a model for engaging development partners.

New York – SE4All Forum (May 2015)



"Inviting the US Power Africa and other multilateral players to this meeting is a clear signal that the EU is keen on coordination"
Roberto Ridolfi, European Commission.

High-level stakeholders were invited to this first meeting with the aim of exploring the need and drive for coordination and harmonization of energy initiatives in Africa. Key conclusions included:



- ▶ Horizontal and vertical coordination of the numerous and increasing energy initiatives on the African continent should be improved both among donors as well as between donors and partner institutions;
- ▶ Leadership efforts for coordination should be initiated by the host countries themselves making sure coordination takes place also at regional and continental level to avoid scattered individual state strategies with different partners;
- ▶ Capacities of partner countries and institutions for coordination at donor level needs to be improved, as well as as the importance of establishing common rules of engagement.



Vienna – Vienna Energy Forum (June 2015)

The occasion in the sidelines of the Vienna Energy Forum hosted an exploratory meeting with approx. 30 senior renewable energy experts including key stakeholders from UNEP, WB, IRENA, and REN21. The following was the meeting outcome:



- ▶ Conduct a general mapping exercise of existing frameworks and initiatives to determine the extent of the coordination gap as a first step;
- ▶ Establish a strong political leadership from the main African institutions and possibly a high level champion to drive processes forward;
- ▶ Provide capacity support to African countries to establish Action Agendas and Investment Plans under the SE4All Framework.

Addis Ababa – 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development (July 2015)



*“To ensure effective coordination of energy initiatives in Africa, principles of discipline, trust, and honesty have to be taken on board”,
Aoubakari Baba Moussa, Africa Union
Commission.*

Hosted by the AUC, discussions delved deeper into actors, elements, values, and institutional setups which need to be considered in order to strengthen coordination. The session had strong representation from the civil society and academia. Final outcome:



- ▶ Design of a concrete outcome to be presented in a follow-up meeting in Cape Town during SAIREC, and

then finalized in time for COP21 in Paris in December 2015 was agreed as a next step;

- ▶ AUC announced the need to elaborate further on a Pan-African view on coordination to push for coherent investment in energy on the African continent;
- ▶ The final agreed framework aims to be adopted by a wide range of major actors to facilitate coordination with the goal to achieve a global sustainable energy future.

Results

- ▶ Call for coordination of energy initiatives and coherence of interventions is now at the heart of international discussions, for instance the G7 conclusions (Elmau, June 2015), G20, and Africa Union Summit;
- ▶ As an entry point for the energy community in climate discussions, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) has now co-opted AEEP in its own coordination efforts on the road to COP21;
- ▶ As a result of the above, the Conference of Energy Ministers of Africa (CEMA) is now actively incorporated into the ongoing AMCEN-G7 renewable energy process.



New York

AEEP Steering Group



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



Published by: European Union Energy Initiative – Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF), c/o Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1–5, 65760 Eschborn, Germany

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