



Communiqué to G7 Energy Ministerial

9th April 2017

Rome, Italy

We, the stakeholders of the G7 Energy Ministerial side event **“Africa 2030: Empowering the continent through innovation, green tech solutions and capacity building”**, organized by the Enel Foundation, RES4Africa and the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP), agree that accelerating access to sustainable energy in Africa is key to unlocking economic growth opportunities and to driving the continent’s sustainable development.

We are committed to the UN Agenda 2030, the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative and the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI).

We reaffirm the Leaders’ Declaration issued at the G7 Summit held on June 7-8, 2015 in Elmau to **“Improve sustainable energy access in Africa by 2030 by accelerating the deployment of renewable energy”** and the objective to reach up to 10 GW of additional installed capacity from renewables by 2020. Since then, important progress has been made setting the continent on track for the IEA “African Century Case” scenario, which estimates an additional installed capacity from renewable energy measuring between 25 and 27 GW by 2020, thereby pursuing the African Renewable Energy Initiative’s goal to achieve 300 GW of new and additional capacity from renewable energy by 2030.

We have identified ways for accelerating the deployment of innovative sustainable energy solutions in Africa. We therefore make the following recommendations to the G7 Energy Ministers:

1. Africa is characterized by **vast renewable energy resources, dynamic population growth, and falling technology costs**, which provide significant potential for investment and development opportunities.
2. Africa’s transition to sustainable energy requires both an appropriate **enabling policy and regulatory frameworks**, and **bottom-up innovation dynamics and business models**. The international community should aim to empower and activate both levels in order to advance sustainable energy access in Africa through sustainable energy solutions, innovation and capacity building.
3. Supporting the creation of a favorable business environment will help bring about innovative and sustainable, locally-grown solutions. **Strong financial de-risking mechanisms** for grid-connected and off-grid projects should be recognized as pivotal to promoting medium and long-term investments.
4. **Off-grid renewable energy solutions** can be deployed faster and cheaper compared to grid-extension, and they offer greater resilience, provide **leapfrogging opportunities** for energy access, and can significantly improve African livelihoods.
5. It is imperative to **showcase innovative African solutions**, business models, and players to help scale up investments in projects and initiatives that bring energy to hundreds of millions of Africans. The objective should be to strengthen **multi-stakeholder collaborations among private sector actors, African institutions, innovative local start-ups and civil society** to ensure the continuation of Africa’s innovative development.

6. Moving forward successfully requires **new approaches to capacity building and empowerment**, and a **different perspective on effective project planning and impact evaluation** analyses. Empowering human capacity must be considered among the key elements for responding to the needs, capabilities, and aspirations of people, and should be absorbed within the local culture. A more comprehensive approach that covers the whole supply chain of renewable energy project delivery is required.
7. We highlight the importance of **African-led initiatives and action**. To this end, coordination of international initiatives and activities and in-depth consultation with local stakeholders is crucial for the effective deployment of sustainable energy solutions. The role of civil society should be supported and strengthened.

In summary, we urge the G7 Energy Ministers to:

8. Recognize that the deployment of sustainable energy can help achieve **universal energy access**, strengthen **energy security**, consolidate resilient growth, trigger socio-economic benefits such as job creation and inclusive development, and improve prosperity, security and stability in Africa;
9. Advance sustainable energy access in Africa towards **sustainable clean tech solutions, innovation and capacity building**, which constitute determining factors for improving the continuous economic and social development for the African continent;
10. Continue and increase **engagement of stakeholders** from continental and regional organizations, governments, civil society, the private sector and academia on the African continent and beyond, in order to **drive effective progress on advancing sustainable energy in Africa**.