

Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) Second Stakeholder Forum calls for action to deliver post-COP21 results

Press release

The **Second Stakeholder Forum of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP)** presented a call for action from participants to ensure the delivery of sustainable energy for Africa post-COP21. The event, which was organised by Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP), the Italian Government, the African Union Commission (AUC), and the European Union Commission (EC), focused on the advancement of renewable energy innovation, capacity building and investment and Africa-EU energy cooperation under the theme of *Business and Science: Leading the Way to Sustainable Energy*.

The Forum, which took place from 16 to 17 May 2016 in Milan (Italy), welcomed African and European Ministers, AU and EU Commissioners, and more than 300 other high-level participants representing policy-makers, regional institutions, international organisations, the banking and finance industry, the private sector, academia, civil society and the media. Discussions at the event focused on facilitating partnerships for on-the-ground implementation, as well as influencing energy and climate policy to provide an enabling framework for stakeholders to accelerate the development of sustainable energy in Africa.

H.E. Dr. Elham Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission commented that, "Energy provision and access has never been more important for Africa. The AEEP Stakeholder Forum has provided an essential forum for us to discuss the ways in which business, academia and government can work together in the form of partnerships for concrete projects as well as carrying joint research studies to deliver a sustainable energy future for Africa."

Discussion topics ranged from energy access, energy security and catalysing energy investment to climate and energy post-COP21. Progress towards the AEEP's 2020 Targets was presented in the Status Report 2016. Attendees discussed progress achieved and further action needed to increase access to energy in Africa, enhance the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency and infrastructure investment in energy for raising the level of energy security.

The targets are grouped in three categories: energy access, energy security as well as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- **Providing 100 million Africans with energy access:** The aim is to provide access to sustainable energy to at least an additional 100 million people in Africa until 2020. This target will likely be achieved for electricity access; however more action is required in terms of cooking energy.

- **Energy security:** Progress for doubling electricity interconnection between African countries and doubling gas consumption and exports in order to enhance energy security has been slow due to political and economic challenges - gas exports from Africa to Europe fell from 84.9bcm in 2006 to 46bcm in 2014.
- **Unlocking opportunities for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Africa:** Africa has witnessed a large increase in the installation of solar PV, with 600 MW of new capacity, over achieving the target set by 2020. The targets for hydropower are defined at 10000 MW new installed capacities and for wind at 5000 MW. For wind and hydropower capacity more efforts are needed to boost investments. Targets will only be met if most projects currently in pipeline are actually realized.

Leaders from Africa and Europe presented a **Joint Statement for Action** comprising commitments from stakeholders of *the Africa- EU Energy Partnership* for activities to achieve the 2020 Political Targets. Focus of the call for action is:

- Recognition for the importance of regional cooperation and harmonization of initiatives and programmes
- Understanding of energy's vital role in climate mitigation and adaptation, access to water and the food nexus
- Importance of promoting job creation in the renewable energy market in Africa, with a particular focus on the inclusion of youth and women
- Addressing energy access needs at the community level including household and single enterprise

The **Milan Communiqué** summarizes discussions and commitments from African and European leaders during the Second Stakeholder Forum with a focus on capacity development, the need for coordination among and harmonization of efforts among actors, the prioritization of the role of energy in climate change mitigation and adaptation and the importance of meeting the particular needs of women and youth.

A full statement of outcomes from the event is available online at www.aeep-forum.org/.