



## ***Africa 2030: Empowering the continent through innovation, green tech solutions and capacity building***

### ***Under the Auspices of the Italian G7 Presidency*** **Side Event to G7 Rome Energy Ministerial 2017**

**Date:** 9 April 2017, 14:00 – 18:00.

Showcases displayed to public from 11 to 15 April 2017.

**Location:** Rome - MAXXI, the National Museum of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Arts.

**Number of participants:** up to 250, by invitation only.

**Featured countries:** Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Angola, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania.

**Language:** English, French, Italian (simultaneous interpretation).

#### **1. Concept**

In the framework of the G7 Energy Ministerial Meeting and under the auspices of the Italian G7 Presidency, Enel Foundation, RES4Africa and the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) will host a side event dedicated to Africa, with the main purpose to analyse the current status of the power market and facilitate the dialogue on how to accelerate sustainable energy access in the continent. Africa's transition to sustainable energy relies on the appropriate enabling policy and regulatory frameworks on the one hand, and on bottom-up innovation dynamics and business models on the other hand. The empowerment of both will advance energy access in Africa and consequently unlock vast investment and development of opportunities on the continent.

The event will rely on an interactive exchange between relevant stakeholders from both African and G7 countries belonging to national governments, multilateral development organizations, businesses, academia, civil society, and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). The programme will be designed to provide a wide range of stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss ideas, policies, regulatory improvements and share experiences on how to **improve access to energy, strengthen energy supply, improve energy efficiency, create job opportunities** and **consolidate** the growth of local economies in rural and urban African contexts. The focus will be on Africa-led input to the G7 Energy Ministerial as well as a contribution to and synergies with the German led G20 on energy in Africa later in the year.

#### **2. Agenda**

Each session will feature a dialogue between participants of African and G7 countries to share experiences and define priorities and actions.

### **Sunday, 9 April 2017 - 14:00 – 14:30 - Welcome, opening remarks**

- Francesco Venturini, President, RES4Africa;
- Teresa Bellanova, Vice-Minister, Ministry for the Economic Development of Italy;
- Amb. Sergio Mercuri, Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, co-chair AEEP;
- David Otieno, Secretary General, Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP).

### **14:30 - 15:30 – Session 1 – “An African transition towards sustainable clean tech solutions”**

The deployment of sustainable energy across the African continent can generate far-reaching benefits in terms of lowering costs and strengthening sustainability and resilience of energy systems. Sustainable energy solutions go beyond energy provision and encompass efficiency, sustainability and resilience of infrastructure. Additionally, the wide deployment of renewable energy also plays a remarkable role in strengthening the security of energy supply to both the continent and the neighbouring regions. While significant progress over the last 15 years has been made in deploying renewables in Africa, significant gaps remain. In order to achieve the renewable energy goals set out by the Africa-led Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) of at least 300 GW of renewables by 2030, favorable conditions for private investment to integrate sustainable energy solutions in African power systems must be improved.

The UN Agenda 2030, as well as the Programme for Infrastructure and Development (PIDA), highlight the critical importance of clarifying the international community’s role in the promotion of improved infrastructure through renewable energy solutions in Africa. The private sector and the main financing institutions play an important role in supporting this process.

Grid integration is one of the main barriers for development of the renewable energy sector, both from the Transmission System Optimiser (TSO) and the investor’s perspective. That is why renewable energy deployment and grid enhancement should be developed in parallel. A close cooperation between European utilities, African institutional authorities and industries can help share best practices and lessons learned for the integration of sustainable energy into existing energy systems. On the generation side, stable regulatory frameworks and strong de-risking mechanisms must be recognized as turnkeys to promote private long-term investments. To illustrate, the “Scaling Solar Program” developed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) represents a best practice that could be replicated to support the development of renewable energy in African countries.

#### **Structure of the session:**

**Special address:** Mr. Motome Takisawa, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan *(TBC)*

**Keynote speaker:** Laura Cozzi, Head, Energy Demand Outlook Division, IEA – *“Energy and development in Africa: insights from the World Energy Outlook”*

#### **Roundtable:**

- **Moderator:** Paolo Frankl, Head of Renewable Energy Division, IEA
- **Discussants:**
  - Isaac Kiva, Director of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum of Kenya;
  - Ahmed Baroudi, Director, Société d’investissements énergétiques;
  - Christine Lins, Executive Secretary, REN21;
  - Felice Zaccheo, Head of Unit Energy & Climate, DG DEVCO European Commission;

Rohit Khanna, Program Manager, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP-WB);  
Cheikh Bedda, Director Infrastructure & Energy, African Union Commission.

**Input documents:** 8 position papers: [“Deploying renewable energy in Africa: What does it take?”](#) and [“Mapping of Energy Initiatives and Programs in Africa: Final Report”](#)

### **15:30 - 16:30 – Session 2 – “Innovative solutions for a secure and sustainable energy access”**

This session will focus on **innovative solutions** and in particular on the **productive uses of energy** as a driver to achieve social and economic development in Africa. Sustainable energy is a key-factor to reach universal energy access (Sustainable Development Goal 7<sup>1</sup>), promote sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth, and accompany the ongoing industrial transformation to improve prosperity, security and stability in Africa. This potentially has far-reaching impacts on mobility, displacement and migration.

Off-grid renewable energy solutions allows for faster and cheaper deployment compared to grid-extension, providing an immediate opportunity for African populations to achieve socio-economic benefits from energy access. The session aims to present African innovative solutions, business models, and capable players to scale up investments into projects and initiatives that can bring electricity to hundreds of millions of Africans. The session will highlight innovation-friendly policies and regulations, business models and success stories to speed up the deployment of innovative sustainable energy solutions, and it will end with a **Call for Action** to strengthen collaboration among private sector actors, African institutions, local innovative start-ups and civil society.

#### **Structure of the session:**

**Keynote speaker:** Francesco Catucci, Head of Minigrid, Enel Green Power;

**Roundtable:** Testimonials of innovative solutions and success stories by local actors and partner organizations;

- **Discussants:**

Alisée de Tonnac, CEO & Co-founder, Seedstars World;

Aaron Leopold, Global Energy Representative, Practical Action;

Pierre Eyoung, Associazione Ingegneri Africani;

Virginia Taborda, Director of Business Development, Solar Kiosk;

AEEP Young Leaders in Energy Access Award winner (TBD).

**Announcement:** RES4Africa – KPLC agreement for the implementation of the “Off-grid academy” initiative in Kenya.

### **16:30 - 17:15 – Session 3 – “Education and multi-level capacity building”**

Over the past decade, the debate on sustainable energy access has tended to lean mostly on technology, finance, and policy as key drivers. Thanks to this approach progress has been made, however significant gaps remain. Scaling-up requires a different perspective and an innovative approach to education and capacity building in order to foster human capital and sustain local markets in Africa.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7 : « Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all »  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7>

Indeed, in line with the imperative of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of “no one left behind” its focus on people, the cross-cutting role of human capital (individually and collectively, as communities and institutions) becomes crucial both as a catalyst and a booster.

The discussion will highlight potential opportunities to enforce a mutual learning relationship between G7/EU and Africa, starting from the evidence given by the Italian experience connecting academia, NGOs and private players, including through the Africa-EU Energy Partnership. The discussion will range from vocational training to academic curricula, long life learning and institutional capacity building as requested by the complexity and the diversity of the supply chain for sustainable energy in Africa.

**Structure of the session:**

**Keynote speaker:** Prof. Romain Murenzi, Director for Science Policy and Capacity Building at UNESCO

**Rountable:**

- **Moderator:** Prof. Colombo, Rector’s delegate to Cooperation and Development, Politecnico di Milano, Multi-stakeholder Platform for “Energy in development”
- **Discussants:**
  - Prof. Catherine Wolfram, Director of the Energy Institute at Haas, UC Berkeley;
  - Prof. Romano Borchiellini, Vice Rector for Infrastructure and President of the Energy Center, Politecnico di Torino;
  - Prof. Fabio Inzoli, Head of Department of Energy, Politecnico di Milano;
  - Prof. Da Silva, Vice Chancellor, Strathmore University;
  - Prof. Muthia Jackson M., Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Nairobi (TBC);
  - Laura Frigenti, Director, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).
  - Jespers Hornberg, Founder and CEO, Givewatts;

**17:15 - 17:30 – Conclusions**

Roberto Ridolfi, Director Sustainable Growth and Development, DG DEVCO, European Commission;  
Roberto Vigotti, Secretary General, RES4Africa.

**17:30 – 17:45 – Concluding remarks:**

Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General, IRENA (TBC);  
Carlo Calenda, Minister for the Economic Development of Italy (TBC).

**17:45 - 18:15 – Light cocktail & opening of showcases and photography exhibition:**

- Opening to the public of photo-reportage of 3 African villages (Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia/Tanzania) powered by off-grid solutions;
- Opening to the public of innovative sustainable rural electrification solutions;

### **3. Showcases (public access from April 9th to 15th):**

The side event will also showcase selected innovative sustainable energy business models to illustrate concrete solutions that provide affordable, secure and sustainable energy to rural communities in Africa. The showcases will be made visible for public display from 9 – 15 April.

### **4. Partners:**

In shaping the side event, **strategic partners of long-standing cooperation with AEEP** will play a key role together with strong Italian leadership. Enel Foundation, RES4Africa and the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Partnership (AEEP) will provide innovative ideas and cover the business angle, while AEEP's Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme as well as the AEEP's Energy Access and Efficiency Work Streams will contribute renewable energy off-grid expertise to the discussion. The event will take place with the support of REN21, IEA, Alliance for Rural Electrification, and SolarPower Europe.

### **5. Media:**

Laban Cliff, a senior business news anchor in a main news house in Kenya (NTV), will provide overall event moderation. As a G7 effort to support the youth, young journalists from Africa and Europe will be invited to join the event to provide additional news coverage.