



Conclusions

Making coordination of energy in Africa a reality – key actors meet *Summary conclusions from the EC-AUC-NEPAD organized coordination meeting*

ADDIS ABABA, 15 July 2015 – A high-level group of African and European energy policy makers, international development partners, multilateral energy initiatives and senior academia/civil society representatives met in Addis Ababa in the context of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to discuss modalities for coordination of the plethora of energy initiatives operating in Africa. This was a result of very positive, invite-only coordination meeting at the SE4ALL Forum in New York in May 2015 and a follow-up meeting at the Vienna Energy Forum in June 2015. The Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) Secretariat, in liaison with SE4ALL-Africa Hub, AUC Department of Infrastructure and Energy, the European Commission and NEPAD-PCA, coordinated the preparations.

The goal of this third series of consultative process was to gather high level actors in order to get discussions on coordination closer to actionable conclusions with ideas for follow-up to foster coherence among the energy initiatives in Africa and reveal possible synergies for cooperation.

Participants were drawn from the following institutions: African Union Commission, European Commission, NEPAD-PCA, African Development Bank (AfDB), Germany (also representing G7), SE4ALL, US Power Africa, Italy, G20 presidency (Turkey), the Energising Development (EnDev) Programme, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), World Bank (WB), Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP), UNDP, private sector and academia representatives, among others.

Some key messages from the discussions included:

1. The session once again confirmed the need to strive at ensuring coherence in energy activities in Africa with a call to see the rising initiatives in Africa as a reflection of growth in the sector. The participation of a number of high level key stakeholders in the meeting underscored the need for an exchange and coordination about on-going and future initiatives in the run-up to the COP21 in Paris and beyond;
2. Participants welcomed the efforts of the Africa-EU-Energy Partnership, initiated by the African Union Commission and the European Commission, to provide a platform for discussing the harmonization of international initiatives in the energy sector in Africa. The strong ownership and leadership of the coordination process on the African side was echoed. The involvement of partners like Sustainable



Energy for All (both the Africa-Hub and the Global Facilitation Team), the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NEPAD-PCA) and US Power Africa is helpful in broadening discussions;

3. The issue of coordination of energy initiatives is particularly crucial to ongoing and upcoming debates leading to and in the context of COP21 in Paris and beyond. The link between energy in Africa and climate discussions provides a key opportunity to profile coordination of energy initiatives as a forerunner in climate action talks. International efforts, in particular the G7 conclusions, provide a concrete opportunity for further climate action talks and coordination efforts;
4. Leadership of the mentioned coordination efforts should come from the African side, starting at the national level. This coherent setting has to be embedded from the start of initiatives. AUC (with the political mandate), NEPAD-PCA (as an implementing agency), AfDB (as one of the main financing institutions) and SE4ALL Africa Hub (with technical capacities) are ideally placed to frame this effort. Specifically, participants recognized that the optimal framework for coordination needs in Africa has to be within and take cognizance of the existing coordination mechanisms with the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the Africa Power Vision (APV), and the SE4ALL initiative providing the long-term vision. Participants called upon AEEP to continue to support this 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, with the SE4ALL Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus processes at country-level providing a particularly suitable framework;
5. Participants agreed that, in order to drive the coordination and coherence of energy initiatives, key principles and values are important. These include aspects of: bottom up process, subsidiarity, complementarity, accountability, alignment, mutual respect, and cultural dimensions. There is therefore a need to align with priorities of the recipients, which includes the Africa Union coordination framework;
6. Participants agreed that issues of capacities, dissemination of information and regular interaction remain critical in ensuring that coordination of initiatives happens. Specifically, participants highlighted the importance of strengthening of capacities at national level (e.g. SE4ALL focal points) for being able to effectively lead the coordination efforts. Moreover, the private sector's, civil society's and academia's involvement and inclusion was referred to as key to ensure success of coordination of energy initiatives;
7. Although specific on different thematic focuses, participants acknowledged the various efforts presented in coordination in the energy sector in Africa as successful examples that exist and the critical success factors, which were shared. Participants emphasized the need to document these examples in order to inform the next steps, with a concrete one being the agreement of intent to coordinate efforts between the EU and the US Power Africa, which highlights concrete deliverables, for instance ElectriFI. Other



concrete examples included: GRMF, PIDA-IAIDA, WB-USA, USA-SIDA, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Energising Development and the Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP);

8. Participants acknowledged and highly welcomed the announcement by the AUC of a Pan-African view on coordination which could provide an ideal set up for increasing coordination efforts and push for coherent investment in energy on the African continent. AUC will provide further details on the mechanism's concept in due course, latest during SAIREC in Cape Town;
9. G20 presented the priorities on sub-Saharan Africa and in particular to energy access and investment in the energy sector. A G20 Energy Ministerial meeting is planned in October 2015;
10. Italy's Deputy Director General for Global Issues, and Principal Director for Energy and Climate, officially closed the meeting by calling upon actors to bring the conclusions of the day's discussions to reality in South Africa during SAIREC, and strongly echoed participants' wishes to see AEEP's role in the process as a strategic platform for dialogue on energy cooperation not only between the two continents, but also beyond.

In conclusion, the suggested way forward included:

1. Participants called upon the African Union Commission, the European Commission, SE4ALL Africa-Hub secretariat and NEPAD-PCA, with support from the Secretariat of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership to convene another forum of exchange in the margins of the South African International Renewable Energy Conference (SAIREC) in October this year to review and report on the progress made. SAIREC could be the first forum in which a concrete proposal for action could be analysed in this context;
2. The actors called upon the Africa-EU Energy Partnership Secretariat, in close liaison with SE4ALL, to support (where realistically possible) the coordination of efforts in the run up to COP21 and feed into the major timelines of the energy events;
3. The African Union Commission (with institutions and programmes working within, ie AfDB, NEPAD-PCA, AFREC, RECs, etc) will develop more details on concretising a Pan-African coordination effort, and share with key actors prior to SAIREC. Prior to that AUC and AEEP Secretariat should carry out a mapping exercise on existing major energy initiatives;
4. It was further suggested that prior to the subsequent events including the NY General Assembly, SAIREC, and the COP21, AEEP in consultation with AUC should internally work on the preparation of



concrete agenda building on these conclusions in order to ensure that the meeting to be held alongside the COP21 generates concrete action oriented guidelines for strong framework that will provide coherent coordination platform for all energy initiatives in Africa. This platform should reflect clear commitment built on the consensus amongst the parties.

The conclusions of this meeting will feed into the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Summit in New York 25-27 September 2015, the South Africa International Renewable Energy Conference (SAIREC) in Cape Town, South Africa 04-07 October 2015, and eventually into COP 21 in Paris in December 2015. Moreover, it is hoped that the framework devised for coordination in Africa can be then adopted by a wide range of major actors to facilitate stakeholders and coordinate efforts with the goal to achieve a global sustainable energy future.

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