



G7 Energy Side Event: Africa 2030: Empowering the continent through innovation, green tech solutions and capacity building

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**On the occasion of the G7 Energy Ministerial meeting, RES4Africa, Enel Foundation and the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) organized the “Africa 2030: Empowering the continent through innovation, green tech solutions and capacity building” side-event focused on Africa. The Conference, accessible only through direct invitation, took place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 at MAXXI National Museum of Arts of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in via Guido Reni, Rome.**

The panel discussion’s programme has been conceived in order to facilitate dialogue and to guarantee debating opportunities among stakeholders upon: policies, innovations, and regulatory improvements. The event intended to share experiences on possible ways of improving access to energy, strengthen energy supply, creating employment opportunities and foster the growth of local economies in African rural areas. Although Africa is rich in terms of natural resources it is still lagging behind in terms of access to energy. For this reason, all the involved actors in the G7 Energy Ministerial event, in compliance with the 2030 UN Agenda, share the aim of enabling universal access to sustainable energy, including through the use of renewable energies.

The event’s outcome was a Communiqué with 10 recommendations to the G7 Energy Ministers. Among the main recommendations to accelerate sustainable energy access on the African continent, the creation of clear policies and innovative bottom-up dynamics to foster new business and financial de-risking models were identified as crucial. The strengthening of relations among actors from the public and private sectors, African institutions, local innovative start-ups and civil society, plays a crucial role within the further development of the continent.

In his key note address, Sergio Mercuri, Co-Chair of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, highlighted how energy issues in Africa are gaining momentum and are at the forefront of the G7 discussions: “Africa matters in a global sustainability perspective, G7 countries have a special responsibility”, he said. In order to support growth and develop a real transformation in the African energy sector many factors should be taken into account, according to him, not only achieving energy access is important but also promoting local development.

In the same vein, Mr David Otieno, Head of Secretariat of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, highlighted the importance of looking at the different factors: “Let’s not focus only on government and private sector but also on civil society and academia”. In his remark, very much importance has been given to the youth and women.

Teresa Bellanova, Vice-Minister at the Ministry for Economic Development of Italy, stated the importance of technology and employment: “The access to clean energy is becoming an essential element to reduce poverty with adequate jobs and new technologies”.

The second session presented innovative solutions, business models and capable players for a secure and sustainable energy access, while the third session focused on education and multilevel capacity building in order to foster human capital and sustain local markets in Africa.

Carlo Calenda, Minister for the Economic Development of Italy, in his concluding remarks reaffirmed: “I am conscious of the importance of energy in the African continent. G7 countries are committed to work for energy access in Africa”.

On behalf of the organisers and all stakeholders, Mr David Otieno, Head of Secretariat of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, presented the main outcomes of the event to the G7 Ministers at the Opening of the G7 Energy Ministerial on Sunday evening.

The G7 Energy side-event also represented a relevant occasion for the opening of a photo-documentary exhibition about three African villages, free accessible from the 11th until the 15th of April in the D corner of MAXXI National Museum of Arts of the 21st Century in Via Guido Reni, Rome.

The exhibition brings tangible proof on how the production and use of renewable energy can consolidate local economic growth within African rural areas. The installations involve also Rome’s educational institutes with guided tours and a workshop organized by Liter of Light.

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[http://servizi.enel.com/en-GB/enel\\_foundation/](http://servizi.enel.com/en-GB/enel_foundation/)

**For more information on RES4Africa:**

<http://www.res4africa.org/>

**For more information on the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP):**

<http://www.euei-pdf.org/en/aEEP>

**For more information on the event:**

<http://www.euei-pdf.org/en/aEEP/partnership-processes-and-governance/africa-2030-empowering-the-continent-through-innovation>

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