



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

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African ministerial meeting on energy
Nairobi, 8 May 2004

Statement on Renewables in Africa

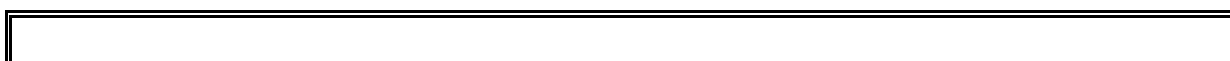
Adopted by

**The 8 May 2004, Africa Ministerial Preparatory Meeting for the
International Conference on Renewables to be held in Bonn,
Germany from 1 to 4 June 2004**

Africa is endowed with substantial renewable energy resources which can make a significant contribution to meeting the continent's energy needs for sustainable development. The importance of energy issues in the continent have been recognised by the African Union and have now been well imbedded its main framework for sustainable Development, the NEPAD programme. The challenge for NEPADs Energy Infrastructure Initiative is to develop fully the energy resources of the continent in order to deliver affordable energy services to economic and social sectors. Under the Initiative, the continent's rich energy resources will be developed through regional cooperation. The Initiative underlines that guaranteeing a sustainable supply of affordable energy will contribute to significant reduction in poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation.

Within the context of the NEPAD Energy Infrastructure Initiative and on the basis of the different deliberations held at the technical level (5 to 7 May 2004), we the participants of the Africa Preparatory Meeting agree to:

1. Support the principal objectives of the International Conference on Renewable Energy 2004 which are to:
 - a. Forge ahead the process launched in Johannesburg for the global development of renewables; and,
 - b. Engender worldwide consensus on the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition.
2. Promote sustainable production of biomass and its efficient utilization in all sectors, given its current and foreseeable future predominance in the overall energy supply of most African countries.
3. Promote research to assess and analyse renewable energy resources, as well as appropriate benchmarks to evaluate progress on renewable energy development.



4. Promote the incorporation of renewables in existing and planned energy master plans (inclusive of power/electricity master plans), and associated investment programmes.
5. Ensure the establishment and the strengthening of enabling institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks for the renewable energy sector, and especially in the area of public-private sector partnerships.
6. Urge donors and financial institutions of all types to provide appropriately structured financing and support to regional funding and technical facilities for the development and implementation of renewable energy projects
7. Request donors and financial institutions to support technology development, transfer, adaptation and capacity building for renewables at all levels aimed at lowering the cost, encouraging local manufacture and wider use of renewables.
8. Promote increased community public and private sector participation in renewable energy development and dissemination for poverty alleviation, empowering women, income generation and enterprise creation.
9. Promote the development of renewables as a measure of enhancing energy security.
10. Document for wider dissemination, renewable energy initiatives and case studies that demonstrate options for overcoming barriers to renewable energy development in Africa.
11. Incorporate renewable energy education and public awareness in educational curricula at all levels but with specific attention to the African context.
12. Enhance the development of renewables as a way to enable successful implementation of the UNCCD and contribute to achieving sustainable development in Africa.
13. Incorporate renewable energies in the agenda of the consultative processes between African countries and their major cooperating partners.
14. Develop the necessary infrastructure for renewable energy service supply equipment.
15. Support Africa-based renewable energy programmes of global initiatives such as Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD), European Union Energy Initiative for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development (EUEI), Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MEDREP), Thematic Programme Network on renewable energies and environmentally sound eco-technologies to combat desertification (UNCCD/TPN5) and the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP).
16. Increase cooperation across countries in the Africa region and also with other developing countries, for removing barriers, sharing lessons and increasing the uptake of renewable energy technologies.
17. Request our development partners to work with our respective governments in designing guidelines for the development of large hydropower projects in a sustainable manner and also to invest in these projects.
18. Request all nations to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and use CDM as tools to access additional support for renewable energies.

19. Request the United Nations system agencies in accordance with their respective mandates to mobilize resources for supporting countries of the region in the follow-up and implementation of agreements reached at the International Conference for Renewable Energies.
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