

# Second High Level Meeting of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership

## Report



11-13 February 2014, Addis Ababa



Austrian  
Development Cooperation



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



This report has been elaborated by IISD Reporting Services on behalf of the Secretariat of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership.

**Supported by:**

European Union Energy Initiative  
Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF)

AEEP Secretariat  
P.O. Box 5180  
65726 Eschborn, Germany  
E [secretariat@aeep-conference.org](mailto:secretariat@aeep-conference.org)  
I [www.aeep-conference.org](http://www.aeep-conference.org)



**Photos:**

© IISD Reporting Services

**Date of Publication:**

26 February 2014

## **SUMMARY:**

The Second High-Level Meeting (HLM) of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) took place from 11-13 February 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the theme “Taking the Next Step: Africa and the EU are tackling energy challenges together.” The meeting was jointly hosted by the Ethiopian Government, the Co-Chairs of the AEEP (the Governments of Austria, Germany and Mauritius, as well as the African Union Commission), and the EU Commission. Organization of the meeting was under the responsibility of the EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF), which serves as the AEEP Secretariat.

More than 400 African and European political and business leaders, high-level experts and heads of international energy institutions, members of civil society, private sector and the research community reviewed progress in implementing the AEEP 2020 Targets and discussed how to shape future Africa-EU relations in the energy sector. Delegates met in interactive plenary sessions as well as parallel thematic discussions over the three days, which were organized in pre-meeting side events and an exhibition to showcase ongoing initiatives by diverse energy stakeholders, an “Expert Day” and a Ministerial Segment.

During the closing session of the Ministerial Segment participants approved the “Addis Ababa Communiqué” with slight adjustments, which defines the partnership’s priorities and vision for African-European collaboration on energy affairs. The Communiqué contains nine recommendations for accelerating access to sustainable energy on both continents and achieving the AEEP Targets, as well as three key messages to be forwarded to African and EU Heads of State and Government at the EU-Africa Summit in April 2014, in Brussels.

This summary reports provides an overview of discussions during the plenary sessions of the High-Level Segment, as well as selected parallel events over the three days.

## **CONTENT**

A BRIEF HISTORY OF AFRICA-EUROPE COOPERATION ON ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND SELECTED ACTIVITIES .....	5
REPORT OF THE MEETING.....	9
11 February - PRE-MEETING SIDE EVENTS.....	9
12 February - EXPERT DAY .....	20
13 February - HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL SEGMENT .....	31
UPCOMING MEETINGS .....	40
GLOSSARY.....	45

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF AFRICA-EUROPE COOPERATION ON ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND SELECTED ACTIVITIES**

Africa and Europe have a shared interest in accelerating access to sustainable, efficient and secure energy supplies. Although it is endowed with abundant renewable energy resources, Africa requires significant technical and financial investments as well as capacity building to reduce its fossil fuel dependence, power economic growth and promote social progress. Europe, in turn, seeks to enhance its energy security in cooperation with African partners.

The following is an overview of important initiatives and programmes in the framework of Africa-EU collaboration on energy issues, as well as some related international developments.

**EUEI:** Established at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in August-September 2002, the EU Energy Initiative (EUEI) for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development has put in place instruments such as the EU-ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) Energy Facility. The EU contributed initial funding of €420 million, for the Facility's aims to promote modern, affordable and sustainable energy services in rural and peri-urban areas.

**EUEI PDF:** The EU Energy Initiative – Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF) was founded in 2004 by several EU member states and the European Commission as a flexible instrument of the EU Energy Initiative (EUEI). Its two parts are the Project Management Unit and the Governing Board. An integral part of the mandate is the coordination of their activities with a variety of partners from the EU as well as regional and international organisations. The EUEI PDF works with partner countries and regions to develop policies and strategies that contribute to improved access to affordable and sustainable energy services. Main activities focus on Africa, but it also operates in other parts of the world, such as Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific. Furthermore, it also supports the strategic energy dialogue of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) as a Secretariat.

**AEEP:** Launched during the second EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon, Portugal, in December 2007, the AEEP is one of eight strategic partnerships that emerged from the Africa-EU Joint Strategy and Action Plan. The AEEP is a long-term framework for structured political dialogue and cooperation on energy issues of strategic importance, reflecting African and European needs. The AEEP's overall objective is to increase the effectiveness of efforts to secure reliable and sustainable energy services and extend their access on both continents, enhance access to modern energy services and expand renewable energy and energy efficiency in Africa.

**EU RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE:** Adopted in April 2009, the EU Renewable Energy Directive commits EU Member States to ensure that 20% of their energy comes from renewable sources by 2020, as part of efforts to improve energy security and competitiveness, and combat climate change. It aims to maintain the EU's global leadership in renewable energy technologies. However, it states that the EU will undoubtedly be required to import some of this capacity and, as a result, inter-regional renewable energy projects between Africa and the EU have begun to take shape.

**AGECC and SE4ALL:** In 2009, the UN Secretary-General established an Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change (AGECC) to provide recommendations on how to ensure universal access to modern energy services in the context of climate change, poverty eradication and sustainable development. In November 2011, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon formally launched the High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) and the related SE4ALL initiative to mobilize action by all stakeholders on energy access and energy poverty. The Secretary-General's "Vision Statement" for the initiative sets three broad goals for 2030: ensuring universal access to modern energy services; doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and doubling the share of renewables in the global energy mix. The UN also designated 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, and 2014-2023 as the Decade on Sustainable Energy, in order to bring attention to this issue.

**PIDA:** The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), developed by the AU Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariat and the African Development Bank (AfDB), came into existence in July 2010. PIDA aims to improve access to integrated regional and continental infrastructure networks, and has a programme to identify priority renewable energy projects for investment.

**FIRST AEEP HLM:** The First High Level Meeting (HLM) of the AEEP took place on 14-15 September 2010 in Vienna, Austria, and addressed a number of themes. The HLM agreed on a set of concrete targets to be attained by 2020, grouped under six priority areas: energy access; energy security; renewable energy and energy efficiency; institutional capacity building; scaling up investment; and dialogue. Until 2020, the AEEP has committed itself to: ensure access to modern and sustainable energy services for at least an additional 100 million Africans; substantially increase the use of hydropower (10,000MW), wind (5,000MW) and solar energy (500MW), as well as triple the capacity of other renewables, such as geothermal and modern biomass. AEEP also aims to enhance energy security by doubling the capacity of African cross-

border interconnections within the continent and to the EU, as well as doubling the use of natural gas in Africa and its export to the EU.

**LAUNCH OF THE RECP:** The Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) was launched at the first AEEP HLM with the aim of contributing to the achievement of the AEEP 2020 targets, by: enhancing industrial and business cooperation between the two continents; improving policy and regulatory frameworks for renewable energy in Africa; contributing to the development and financing of concrete renewable energy projects; and helping to develop the next generation of energy professionals on the continent. In addition, the programme makes a significant contribution to green growth by creating jobs, establishing markets and industries with local production and manufacturing capacities in the renewable energy sector. The RECP complements ongoing initiatives such as the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund and the ACP-EU Energy Facility, as well as bilateral EU member state and European Commission activities.

**FIRST AEEP STAKEHOLDER FORUM:** The First AEEP Stakeholder Forum took place from 9-10 May 2012 in Cape Town, South Africa. The aim of the Forum was to achieve progress on the AEEP 2020 targets in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency, energy access, and energy security, with a focus on renewable energy. The Forum brought together over 250 representatives from government, civil society, research institutions and the private sector, including financial institutions, to explore, among other issues, how to enhance synergies among different stakeholder groups and address barriers to increased investment and development assistance in the energy sector.

**NATIONAL ENERGY STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES:** In 2013, stakeholder consultations took place in Uganda, Djibouti, Zambia, Ghana and Cameroon to enhance the engagement of diverse interest groups in shaping the energy agenda and contributing to the AEEP 2020 targets on energy access, energy security, and renewable energy and energy efficiency at a national level.

**ADOPTION OF A REGIONAL RENEWABLES POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR WEST AFRICA:** On 31 October 2012, Energy Ministers from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy. The policy was subsequently endorsed by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in July 2013. The policy framework was developed by the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), with support from the RECP, following a consultation process within the region to raise awareness about the importance of an enabling policy environment to promote investments in renewable



energy markets. ECREEE is facilitating follow-up work in ECOWAS member states to develop policy frameworks at the national level.

**CONSULTATIVE PROCESS FOR A SOUTHERN AFRICA CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** In 2013 member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) approved a project document that will serve as the basis for the establishment of a dedicated renewables and energy efficiency institution for the sub-region, the Southern African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE). The conceptual framework was developed following a consultative process in the SADC region, with support from the RECP, the UN Industrial Development Organization and Austrian Development Cooperation.

**LAUNCH OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THE AFRICAN RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR:** The RECP and *Fundo de Energia* co-organized a regional workshop from 16-17 October 2013 in Maputo, Mozambique, to discuss strategies for strengthening vocational training structures and institutions on renewable energy to cater for the demand for technicians in the sector. More than 60 participants attended the meeting, including governmental decision-makers and vocational training institutions from 13 African countries, renewable energy and training private sector representatives, as well as international experts and cooperation partners.



## **REPORT OF THE MEETING**

The Second AEEP HLM convened in pre-meeting side events on 11 February, an “Expert Day” on 12 February and a Ministerial Segment on 13 February 2014. This report provides an overview of discussions during plenary sessions as well as selected parallel events across the three days.

### ***11 February - PRE-MEETING SIDE EVENTS***



On Tuesday 11 February, participants convened in five parallel panel discussions and stakeholder consultations organized by different AEEP partner organizations. The sessions addressed the following topics: Accelerating inclusive energy access solutions and policy through partnerships with civil society; Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme - Presentation and stakeholder consultation; Mini-Grid Policy Toolkit consultation workshop; Making Sound Energy Decisions: The role of data collection in Africa to attract new investment develop energy policies and ensure energy access; and Rural electrification - financial models and commercial project examples.

This section highlights discussions during these sessions:

#### **1. ACCELERATING INCLUSIVE ENERGY ACCESS SOLUTION AND POLICY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY:**

This side event on Tuesday morning was co-organized by Practical Action, the Kumasi Institute of Technology, Energy and Environment (KITE) and Hivos. The objective of the session was to

enhance civil society engagement and incorporation of pro-poor perspectives in policy processes such as SE4ALL and national energy planning and budgeting.

In his introductory remarks, Moderator Simon Trace, CEO, Practical Action, called on participants to consider further inputs to a draft civil society statement for possible inclusion in the final outcome document of the HLM, the “Addis Ababa Communiqué”.

**Interactive Panel Discussion on Policy and Budgeting Engagement:** This session was moderated by Grace Mukasa, Regional Director of Practical Action - Eastern Africa, and considered the energy issues poor people want to see on the agenda, the challenges in getting these issues on the agenda, and how the civil society can contribute to enhancing energy access.

Sabina Anokye Mensah, CEO, Anomena Ventures, defined gender as socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. She said that poor people need to see the linkages between gender and energy, and called for financing for gender mainstreaming in the energy sector. She lamented the limited availability of energy-related disaggregated data, and called on the civil society to engage in the collection and dissemination of this information.

David Ebong, CEO, Clean Energy Partnership Africa Ltd, called for a coordination mechanism to facilitate dialogue and experience sharing between government, the private sector and the civil society. Highlighting the immense knowledge base of civil society organizations (CSOs), he called on CSOs to engage in drafting motions on energy access and security for parliamentarians, instead of only producing policy briefs, which largely go unread. He also underlined the need for audits to consider policy as well as financial compliance.

In response to the question: “what do the poor want on the agenda,” Kevin Kinusu Kinyangi, Climate and Energy Advocacy Officer, Hivos East Africa, said poor people expect to see the face of villages, not big industry, on the energy agenda; and clear ambition, targets and financing mechanisms for access within the planning process. He prioritized the affordability of energy products alongside enhancing energy access. Finally Kinyangi advised CSOs to take advantage of “low-hanging fruit,” such as the need to integrate the SE4ALL initiative into national planning efforts.

James Baanabe Isingoma, Commissioner for Energy Resources Department, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Uganda, highlighted some challenges related to energy access, including inadequate financing, unsustainable models of providing access, affordability to the end user, and weak enforcement of standards for energy products. He also highlighted

the need for awareness raising of energy products, a task that he said should be performed by the civil society. In the discussion, participants, *inter alia*, called for further national and continental networking of energy stakeholders; noted the dearth of civil society actors in the energy sector; supported gender mainstreaming in the promotion of energy access; and called for partnerships with parliamentarians in order to influence policy.

**Interactive Panel Discussion on Partnerships for Delivery:** Moderator Mukasa introduced the session. Aaron Leopold, Global Energy Advocate, Practical Action, outlined Practical Action's activities to promote energy access, including research and development, and testing and scaling up renewable energy technologies. He called on participants to use the AEEP as a platform to raise the voice of civil society in the energy discussion and listed some areas for civil society engagement with both government and the private sector, including providing policy, advocacy, finance, and administrative support.

Myra Mukulu, Executive Secretary of the Kenya Clean Cookstoves Association, said that civil society needs to mentor businesses and entrepreneurs in the clean energy arena, giving them business development skills among others. She called on participants to engage in monitoring and evaluation activities, identify committed entrepreneurs for funding and training opportunities, and package energy-related information in a "one-stop-shop model."

Agnes Kalekye Kithikii, Programme Officer, CAFOD, East Africa, outlined her organization's contribution to promoting sustainable energy access, including projects to provide solar lighting and refrigeration systems for schools and hospitals in Kenya.

Ishmael Edjekumhene, Director, KITE, spoke on the success of the multifunctional platform projects instituted in rural areas in Ghana to power multiple machines at once. He called for the CSO to promote cutting edge solutions to fill the gaps left by government, the private sector and the donor community. In the ensuing discussion, one participant noted the gap between international discussions on financing energy for industries and the need to finance communities.

Participants then highlighted a number of issues for inclusion in the draft civil society statement, including the need to incorporate gender equity, the role of civil society, access to affordable finance, and the need for a civil society network.

## **2. AFRICA-EU RENEWABLE ENERGY COOPERATION PROGRAMME – PRESENTATION AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION:**

This side event on Tuesday morning was co-organized by the EUEI PDF and AFD. Among others, the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) is one of the most tangible outcomes of the AEEP process, with the ultimate objective of fostering sustainable market development for meso-scale renewables in Africa. This session outlined the activities of the RECP to date and those planned for the future, with the aim of informing, engaging - and gaining feedback from - stakeholders from public institutions, the private sector and civil society.

### **3. MINI-GRID POLICY TOOLKIT CONSULTATION WORKSHOP:**

This side event on Tuesday morning was co-organized by the EUEI PDF, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) and the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE). The session aimed to discuss the rationale and content of the Mini-Grid Policy Toolkit, including its envisaged target group and outreach approach and to solicit practitioners' experiences and perceptions on the history and future of mini-grids. Welcoming participants, Moderator Michael Franz from the EUEI PDF, noted that while a lot has been written about mini-grids there is need for hands-on guidance for policy makers.

**Introduction of the Mini-Grid Policy Toolkit:** Introducing the toolkit, Rana Adib, REN21, pointed out that there are diverse mini-grid systems in use, with varying capacities, energy sources, regulatory frameworks and financing arrangements. She said that while mini-grids could help accelerate energy access in Africa there is a need to overcome the prevailing vision of electrification and power infrastructures, in which stand-alone energy sources are seen as an intermediary solution at best, "until the main grid arrives." She highlighted key challenges as, *inter alia*: the lack of clear and stable policy and regulatory frameworks; the relatively high investment costs for rural electrification in general; low awareness of cost reduction opportunities; and limited experience on the ground, which increases the risks for investors. Adib invited participants' input for the final draft and peer review of the toolkit before its launch.

In the ensuing discussions, several speakers stressed the need to sensitize policy makers about the potential of mini-grids, noting there are numerous proven operator models that could be scaled up if the regulatory environment is improved. A private sector investor said the toolkit is interesting for both operators and policymakers and could help bring the two groups of stakeholders together. Among challenges, several operators lamented that many countries have

not sufficiently liberalized the energy sector, which increases transaction costs for third parties to transact. One operator said a specific challenge is the lack of information from energy authorities about planned grid extension in the future, which makes it difficult to locate potential sites for mini-grids.

A representative of the UN Secretary-General's SE4ALL initiative underscored that micro-grid policy should be about supporting and fostering deployment of renewable energy resources and invited public and private stakeholders to provide input on what form and level of support might be needed.

In response to a question of how to access funding for “micro” grids at community level, several speakers stressed the need to aggregate smaller initiatives to make them more “bankable” while others called for more targeted funding initiatives. One participant pointed to the potential of tapping carbon finance to increase demand and attract investment for clean technologies. Another speaker stressed the need to support community-based operators as an essential component of a rights-based approach to energy access. Noting that it is not always feasible to use renewable energies, he called for a pragmatic approach that starts with whatever energy source is available before transitioning to more sustainable models. While noting that the “pay as you go” tariff adopted by many micro-grid operators works well, one participant stressed the issue is what happens “when the grid comes in” and called for energy decision makers to explore ways of building on existing local infrastructure in rural electrification projects.

**Interactive discussion on Operator Models:** Introducing the session, Moderator Franz stressed the importance of selecting the right operator model as this is a precondition in the design of a sound policy framework. He noted the toolkit does not advocate any one model but aims to provide guidance on how to develop commercially viable business models in different contexts.

David Lecoque from ARE provided an overview of the four operator models discussed in the Toolkit and highlighted some strengths and weaknesses of each. Comparing the utility-driven and commercial operator models he noted that while energy utilities have the advantage of a well-established infrastructure, private energy providers have the potential to achieve much higher levels of energy efficiency, if the right regulatory and policy framework is in place. He noted that while the hybrid model, where public utilities work with private operators, partly address constraints inherent to each model, its success is dependent on sufficient capacity

within the public utility to provide, or take off and distribute power, as well as a well-structured collaboration framework. With regard to the community operated model, he observed that while it is important for addressing access and supporting self governance, establishing ownership is difficult and local operators often suffer from inadequate technical and management capacities.

In the ensuing discussion, a representative of a private operator noted that irrespective of the model the key challenge is to enhance energy efficiency. He identified improvements in the procurement process as one of the single most important interventions that can be made in this regard and added that “energy efficiency precedes renewable energy.”

A representative of Kenya’s energy regulator said the country has opened up market access for all operators but there is a general lack of awareness among potential operators about this. He said that different stakeholders have approached the utility to help operationalize a framework for other business models and, in this regard, he welcomed the development of the policy toolkit saying it could help to level the playing field. Responding to these remarks, a representative of a mini-grid operator said that the national energy utility continues to dominate the market and is reluctant to take on power from mini-grids. He called for more robust policy measures to encourage investors to negotiate energy tariffs and connect the national energy infrastructure.

Presenting experience from Tanzania and Ghana, another speaker emphasized the need for smart grid systems that are flexible, quickly deployable, and that can independently generate data to minimize the need for on-site technicians.

One speaker stated that while “pure” community models have been largely ineffective, each of the other models could incorporate a community engagement element. Concurring with this view other speakers noted that none of the four models discussed can operate in a vacuum, and that utility models also come in different forms, for instance decentralized utilities that are closer to end users.

#### **Interactive Discussion on a Policy & Regulatory Framework for Mini-Grid development:**

Introducing the session, Moderator Michael Franz noted that a regulatory framework helps to balance the interest of market participants with the broader public interest and to guide the market in the desired direction by defining clear rules of the game. He further noted that the toolkit aims to contribute towards this goal by: highlighting a range of regulatory principles, institutional landscape, essential policy and regulatory instruments that must be in place in

order to achieve scale; suggesting how to accelerate this through supportive measures such as incentives for clean technologies and financial mechanisms; and addressing bottlenecks such as grid connection and tariff issues.

During discussions, speakers highlighted the need for the toolkit to address, *inter alia*: how users, mini-grid operators and other stakeholders can hold energy regulators accountable; the diversity of local and national contexts, which makes it difficult to propose specific policy approaches; the need for empirical analyses and policy-relevant recommendations to guide decision makers; and the need for capacity building of operators.

Highlighting an experience from Tanzania, one speaker said that more than 50 registered mini-grid projects in the country lack financing to undertake feasibility studies and called on the AEEP to provide advice on different energy-mix options. Another contributor highlighted the role of Climate Innovation Centers, an initiative of the World Bank, in helping private sector players develop practical solutions. He noted that from an innovation perspective, the missing link is the lack of an enabling environment since the required technologies and business models are already widely available.

#### **4. MAKING SOUND ENERGY DECISIONS: THE ROLE OF DATA COLLECTION IN AFRICA TO ATTRACT NEW INVESTMENT, DEVELOP ENERGY POLICIES AND ENSURE ENERGY ACCESS:**

This side event, which took place on Tuesday afternoon, was co-organized by REN21, ECREEE, WorldWatch Institute and Bloomberg New Energy Finance. It was moderated by Rana Adib, REN21. The session aimed to demonstrate that good information is fundamental to sound energy decision-making by exploring “why we need data, what data means, who produces data, what it is used for, who uses it and how it is collected.” The discussions explored real world examples of how data has been used, through specific case studies, such as the Climatescope Index.

Adib presented on the need for data, noting that lack of data is a major barrier to advancing and deploying renewable energy technologies. She highlighted key issues regarding the importance of data, including that it: showcases the potential of a region to attract investment, demonstrates the current situation and opportunities, is the basis for decision making. She noted that although there is no exhaustive answer to the question ‘what is good data’, some criteria to consider are quality and reliability, accessibility, timeliness, involvement of various stakeholders to promote transparency, comprehensiveness of the data and the data collection



approach, and validity of the data. She highlighted some reasons for the challenges in the sector including its cross-cutting, politically-sensitive nature and the various tensions among and between stakeholders.

Helen Tarnoy, Managing Director, Aldwych International, outlined the investor perspectives on data, as well as the challenges of dealing with non-traditional energy sources. She said that the oil and gas sector has years of experience in data collection, and thus it is easy for new investors to draw from available sources; whereas there are hardly any data sources for renewable energy and investors have to “start from scratch” when looking at a potential project. She illustrated this with the case of a wind farm in Turkana, Kenya, where it has taken over 8 years to build investor confidence through data collection. On power and grid stability, she noted that it is not the usual due diligence that needs to be carried out, but major data collection. She described the work of US Agency for International Development on the Kenya wind farm project, in ensuring the 1300MW main grid’s capacity to handle the additional 300MW to be generated by the project. Participants then raised issues concerning sources of data that attract investor confidence, the political concerns regarding governments sharing data with private actors, the lack of funding for studies, the disaggregation of data that compounds the challenge of data collection, and the need for a one-stop-shop for information that can be used by potential investors.

In the ensuing discussion, participants dwelt on ways to build investor confidence. Some participants underscored the importance of government-driven baseline studies that provide a basis for further data collection by investors. Another participant described a “proof of concept” tool used by his organization to showcase a potential project to investors. Others noted that: in the absence of renewable energy data, models can be used to fill the gaps; quantitative and qualitative data must be balanced to reflect the demand-side of the energy equation; difficulties exist when validating informal data; and the public needs to be informed on the availability of government data.

Nico Tyabji, Bloomberg New Energy Finance, provided an overview of the Clean Energy Investment Attractiveness Index, Climatescope. He described it as a scorecard for countries’ clean energy investments and noted that data on Africa will be available in September 2014.

Lauren Williamson, REN21, outlined the work of her organization, including in data collection towards the Global Status Report on various renewable energy technologies. She noted that their data comes from various sources including the International Energy Agency (IEA),

governments, NGOs, data agencies like Bloomberg, and fieldwork. She drew attention to the ECOWAS Status Report, noting that the idea is to institutionalize data collection and reporting processes at national and regional levels. She lauded the political will in the West African sub-region, highlighting the upcoming National Renewable Energy Action Plans for all countries in the regional bloc.

Participants then shared experiences in data collection, reiterating the challenges of data dissemination and the lack of funding. Concluding the event, Williamson called for greater creativity and “out-of-the-box” thinking, in data collection and dissemination in order to enhance energy access on the continent.

## **5. RURAL ELECTRIFICATION - FINANCIAL MODELS AND COMMERCIAL PROJECT EXAMPLES:**

This side event on Tuesday afternoon was facilitated by ARE and aimed to provide a platform for rural electrification experts to discuss how to better link public and private sector objectives in their efforts to achieve universal energy access. The session explored promising market conditions as well as smart financing models for risk mitigation that can attract private investments in the short term while creating a basis for self-sustaining business solutions.

Welcoming the five private-sector panelists to discuss their experiences, Moderator Balthasar Klimbie, Vice-President, ARE, observed that the policy landscape is changing rapidly, partly driven by high-profile initiatives such as the SE4ALL initiative, and noted that a key issue is how to accelerate and scale up successful projects.

Robert Seguin, Reiner Lemoine Institut GmbH, discussed how energy system modeling and geo-information systems (GIS) analysis are being used to facilitate planning for economically-viable rural electrification schemes. He said the ARE is currently developing an online tool that will be made available to energy stakeholders to enable them identify potential sites for new projects.

Nestor Mwemena Kamabwe, Societe Africaine de Developpment Rural (SADER), the Democratic Republic of Congo, said Africa should emulate the US’ experience where only 10% of rural households had access to electricity in 1935, but managed to establish 900 energy cooperatives serving 47 states “within one generation.” He lamented the situation in Katanga province where despite abundant hydroelectric resources the national utility serves only 4% of rural households, and where rising demand from the mining sector in particular is set to triple to 1350 MW by 2016. Kamabwe explained that while a system serving 100,000 consumers in the

province would only require a 30 MW capacity there is currently no rural electrification programme in country. He said that SADER's goal is to establish long-term programme that will expand organically in viable areas of the province as a first step towards developing functional private rural utility models.

Klaus Maier, Mobisol, described his company's business model which, he said, aims to explore opportunities to leapfrog the grid by merging "mobile money and solar systems." He gave one example of this as the use of remote metering and prepaid mobile payments. Noting that access to energy also opens up new employment opportunities, which in turn boosts rural demand, Maier said his company offers a range of systems suitable for household as well as small-scale commercial applications such as multiple phone charging units, hair trimmers and refrigerators. He said that since its launch in 2011, the company has sold 3,000 solar systems in East Africa, with projected sales set to triple in 2014. In response to a question on whether such off-grid solutions are sustainable, Maier stressed that Mobisol undertakes regular monitoring and is confident that "we have come very close to matching what the grid can offer."

Claude Ruchet, Studer Innotec, discussed some innovative technical solutions for managing rural electrification challenges, including load management in micro-grid systems; dealing with conflicts arising from unequal access to energy; and individual energy demand management. He highlighted one such solution as the concept of the Energy Daily Allowance (EDA) for setting tariffs, noting that unlike conventional kWh-based pricing, EDA utilizes prepaid cards and is based on a flat fee to reduce transaction costs. Among other advantages he highlighted the ability to "virtually" store saved energy, which enables energy swapping between users, as well as remote invoice management.

Nico Peterschmidt, INENSUS GmbH, presented a comparative study of micro-utility projects in the Philippines, India and Senegal, characterizing micro-utilities as primarily small- and medium-sized enterprises with limited financial resources, but strong motivation to "electrify rural areas." He outlined the varying policy and capacity contexts in the three countries, which range from a highly regulated environment in the Philippines, a concession model with regulated tariff in Senegal, and a deregulated landscape in India. He said that with the most business-friendly environment, the Indian operator was able to expand very rapidly and currently reaches 200,000 users. Peterschmidt noted, however, that irrespective of their context, all micro-utilities face common challenges, including technical system instability due to high variability in loads, low revenues due to lack of diverse income sources among customers, and high transaction

costs. On how the three micro-utilities had resolved some of these issues, he said that in the Philippines the operator has well-trained local customer relations staff; India has adopted a franchise model operated by local entrepreneurs, but with maintenance by a professional company. On strategies to help diversify local incomes, he said that the Philippines' operator has developed a "community energizer platform" to explore ways to use electricity productively; Indian operators are producing incense sticks from ash and also purchasing husks from local farmers; while the Senegal project has initiated a partnership with a micro-finance institution to provide loans to local users.

Discussing how the three operators managed to overcome the financing gap he noted strategies ranged from equity finance in the Philippines; qualifying for a business plan award in India; and additional subsidies from German institutions in Senegal.

Dereje Walelign, Lyedeco PLC, described some of the stand-alone solar solutions implemented by the Ethiopian company, including solar lanterns, lighting and cooling appliances for schools and health facilities, and community water pumps. He noted that a key element in the company's business model is focusing on simple but efficient products. Among challenges he highlighted: difficulties in accessing remote sites and high turnover of technical staff due to the difficult work conditions. He noted that scaling up is often hampered by policy rather than financing gaps, citing the government's focus on numbers of people reached, has favored genset systems which contribute to high rates of non-functioning water schemes as they are more expensive to maintain than solar systems in the long run.

During discussions, one participant questioned the lack of discussion of gender or social impact dimensions of energy access, while another speaker stressed the need for a differentiated approach that caters for different end users – from simple household lighting to rural entrepreneurs.

**12 February - EXPERT DAY**

On Wednesday 12 February, following the welcome and official session, participants convened in four plenary sessions in the morning on the following topics: The Road from 2010 to 2014 – Developments of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership; Achieving the AEEP 2020 Targets: Presentation and Discussion of the AEEP Status Report; Synergies between PIDA and the AEEP; and "Chicken and Egg?" – Enabling Environment and Energy Investment Projects. In the afternoon, three parallel sessions convened to address energy access, energy security and regional integration, and financing renewable energy projects.

This section highlights discussions during the plenary sessions and the parallel discussions.

**OPENING SESSION:**

In his introductory remarks, Aboubakari Baba Moussa, Director of Infrastructure and Energy Department, AUC, lauded the AEEP as being the most active of the partnerships agreed in Lisbon in 2007. He underscored the singular importance of energy for economic development, and expressed hope that delegates would have fruitful discussions on the way forward for the Partnership, which would set the tone for the ministerial discussions. Franz Marré, Head of Division 313, Water, Energy, Urban Development, Geosciences Sector, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany, highlighted figures from an IEA study that revealed an increase in energy demand in Africa, while demand in Europe was set to decline over the next 30 years. He further noted that the study estimated Africa's energy savings

potential could be as much as 85%, compared to 20% for Europe. He asked delegates to discuss the work of the Partnership, and link it to global energy goals including SE4ALL.

Outlining the drivers of energy demand on the African continent as economic development and population growth, H.E. Gary Quince, Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to the African Union, drew attention to the Africa Economic Outlook's figures that project energy demand increasing at an average rate of 6% a year until 2050. This demand requires an investment of €40 billion per year, he said, which the Partnership is already addressing through various resource mobilization activities. Reiterating the EU's commitment to renewable energy and energy efficiency, he announced that above and beyond the AEEP, the EU has committed to partnering with 11 African countries that have prioritized energy in their national planning processes.

In her opening address, H.E. Elham Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, AUC, reiterated that economic growth and sustainable development cannot be achieved without reliable and affordable climate-smart energy sources. She lamented that Africa's energy access is below 35%, which has reduced the economic growth and competitiveness of the continent. She called on delegates to use this meeting to review the status of the Partnership, map the way forward to sustain momentum of the 2020 targets agreed in Lisbon in 2007, and harmonize the Partnership's path with related initiatives such as SE4ALL and PIDA.

**THE ROAD FROM 2010 TO 2014 – DEVELOPMENTS OF THE AFRICA-EU ENERGY PARTNERSHIP:** This review session on Wednesday morning was moderated by Wolfgang Moser, Head of Unit VII.5d Development, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria, and AEEP Co-Chair.

Ingmar Stelter, EUEI PDF, outlined key milestones in the history of the AEEP, including the First High Level Meeting in Vienna in 2010; the launch of the RECP in 2010; the first AEEP Stakeholder Forum in Cape Town in 2012; and subsequent National Energy Stakeholder Dialogues in Zambia, Cameroon, Ghana, Uganda and Djibouti that discussed key gaps and strategies in terms of regulatory framework, energy access, developing energy markets, etc.

His colleague, Philip Mann, EUEI PDF, highlighted progress under four key action areas outlined in the RECP Strategy 2020, which aims to provide: policy advisory services; active support for mobilizing private sector cooperation; facilitation for project development and financing; and technology, innovation and capacity development. Among significant

achievements, he noted support for policy and regulatory frameworks in six African countries, the development of regional renewable energy policy guidelines, and a policy toolkit for mini-grids, as well as the start of activities in the area of vocational training and higher education.

**Achieving the AEEP 2020 Targets: Status Report 2014:** Jon Marks, Chairman, Cross-border Information, consultant to EUEI PDF, presented the AEEP Status Report. He noted the report aims not only to highlight progress towards the AEEP's political targets but also identify areas where more action is needed to achieve common goals. Marks noted that the two-year study builds on a 2012 baseline report that developed an initial set of indicators and has resulted in a database with a unique tracker for more than 2,700 generation and transmission of projects to help understand how AEEP targets are being reached.

Discussing some of the findings in relation to the key AEEP 2020 Targets on energy access, energy security, and renewable energy and energy efficiency, Marks noted that progress has been made on several fronts but it is not necessarily evenly spread among Africa's diverse economies and societies. He highlighted the need for a continued focus on off-grid solutions as available data suggests Africa can rise above some of the targets such as solar, other renewables and even hydropower. On others, for example energy access, a concerted effort by all actors is needed in order to accelerate developments and reach the AEEP 2020 target of providing access to energy to an additional 100 million Africans.

He however noted that availability and reliability of centralized or independent datasets continues to present a formidable challenge for gathering overarching empirical data and is especially problematic when assessing indicators for energy access and energy efficiency. On next steps, Marks suggested developing more context-specific regional targets to take into account differences in the resource base and demographics across Africa.

During discussions, participants highlighted the links between energy access and economic opportunities, and the need for a greater focus on technical and financial support in order to reach the 2020 targets. Noting that every small step counts, several speakers highlighted the potential gains to be made from increased awareness raising on energy conservation and the role of civil society in this.

#### **SYNERGIES BETWEEN PIDA AND THE AEEP:**

This session aimed to discuss synergies and possible links between PIDA, an ambitious African programme aimed at delivering large-scale infrastructure projects across the continent – of



which almost one-third are in the energy sector – and the AEEP’s 2020 targets. The session was moderated by Franz Marré.

Bernard Barandereka, Energy Expert, Infrastructure and Energy, AUC, outlined the three phases of the AU initiative, noting that PIDA’s implementation requires an annual investment of US\$40 billion. He explained that PIDA’s goal is to provide energy access to 100 million people by 2020, and 800 million by 2040, which requires diversifying the energy mix and incorporating renewables as key elements. He highlighted proposals by African ministers of energy to harmonise regional and continent-wide energy policies, outlined a number of projects that are in progress, and called on the AEEP to help leverage funds to fill the financial shortfalls that currently exist. He also urged the AEEP to provide capacity building and training opportunities to enhance the achievement of PIDA’s goals.

In the ensuing discussion delegates discussed, *inter alia*, how to harmonize the efforts of regional parliamentary assemblies with the efforts of both the AEEP and the PIDA; the importance of the African Development Bank in leveraging financing for energy access in Africa; the need to involve the civil society in energy policy discussions; the use of the Energy Charter as a model for cooperation; the absence of adequate energy data on the continent; and the need for the AEEP to set up mechanisms that address cross border disputes surrounding energy projects.

#### **“CHICKEN AND EGG?” – ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INVESTMENT PROJECTS:**

The objective of the session was to explore how to best support public and private investments with a stable and conducive policy and regulatory framework. Introducing the panel, Moderator Mike Enskat, Senior Programme Manager of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*, GIZ, further noted the discussions would address ways to resolve the sometimes contradictory intersection between policy, private sector engagement and finance.

Robert Pavel Oimeke, Director, Renewable Energy, Energy Regulatory Commission, Kenya, gave his country’s experience in first creating an enabling regulatory environment (the chicken) to attract investment (the egg) in the renewable energy sector. He highlighted the process of unifying disparate energy strategies at the national level, to promote easier access to data as well as to encourage investor-confidence.

Responding to a question on the landscape of the energy investment environment, Jacob Waslander, Head of Climate Change and Energy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands, stated that in order to achieve energy access goals, committed people need to drive the process, projects have to be specific, simple and transparent, and challenges need to be approached one at a time to prevent prematurely giving up.

Wichard von Harrach, Neo Energies, compared the conditions on the two continents, noting that Europe's uptake of renewables was largely driven by the favorable regulatory and financial environment. He discussed a 5MW project in Tanzania, which he said demonstrates that grid parity is a viable strategy for many countries on the continent if an enabling financial framework is put in place.

Albert Butare, CEO, Africa Energy Services Group, spoke on the promotion of small-scale renewable energy technologies in Rwanda, noting that the regulatory landscape as well as the political commitment has improved significantly over the past 20 years. Describing the current investment situation for medium- and large-scale projects, he said financial institutions are concerned about risk mitigation and capacity on the ground, and these factors usually increase the cost to the end user. To mitigate this, he suggested the government focus on creating public-private partnerships and invest some funds to guarantee these kinds of projects. He also called for ideas to incentivize investors to finance small-scale projects in rural areas.

Klaus Rudischhauser, Deputy Director for Development and Regional Cooperation of the European Commission, said Africa's energy sector is riddled with contradictions, noting that the continent has the highest potential for renewable energy development in the world, but also has 600 million energy poor people. He stressed that addressing this gap requires the creation of instruments to attract investments in small-scale rural projects. He further suggested that to break the prevailing situation, all stakeholders should come together to tackle energy access, noting that the European Commission is concentrating its efforts on assisting governments create enabling regulatory and financial environments, and bringing more political certainty to the current arena. Delegates then discussed, *inter alia*, the need to assist fragile economies, an "ideas hub" to generate conversation on the creation of incentives for small-scale investment projects, and the need to change behaviour from conditionality-based proposals to action.

#### **PARALLEL SESSION ON ENERGY ACCESS:**

The aim of the session was to present and discuss lessons learnt from successful roll-out and scale-up of energy access business models and programmes across various energy access sub-sectors to further accelerate energy access in Africa and contributing to the AEEP 2020 targets.

The session was chaired by Rajcoomar Bikoo, Ministry of Energy Mauritius, and moderated by Ishmael Edjekumhene, Kite Ghana.

Session Chair Bikoo opened the session by raising the issue that reaching the AEEP energy access target by 2020 will require cooperation of the different stakeholder. Moderator Edjekumhene called upon panellists to share their experiences and lessons-learnt on energy access and to provide some statements on critical topics that need to be tackled in order to be able to reach the 2020 targets.

Dr. Carsten Hellpap, Programme Manager of Energising Development (EnDev) emphasised a good balance between off-grid and on-grid solutions is needed. Innovative solutions are now available to provide access to energy even to poor people; it is therefore important to develop markets especially in the off-grid segment, including local manufacturing, sales and consumer education.

Mr. Jean Pierre Kedi, Director General of the Electricity Regulator (ARSEL) in Cameroon, stated that stakeholder cooperation is important among the following four actors: the state, the regulator, the civil society/consumers and the financiers. In addition, he sees it as very important to have an electrification masterplan, good coordination among the stakeholders, capacity building programmes for engineering and financial expertise. Best practice to adopt – involve beneficiaries in planning solutions, energy policies with incentives, transmission system operator to be state owned, focus on environment friendly generation and penalties for poor customer service.

Mr. Lennart Deridder, Head of Sector, Energy Policy, DG DEVCO, European Commission – explained that the European Commission currently focuses its support to energy access by providing technical assistance for creating an enabling environment for energy access using the private sector as a main driver. He informed about the different tools the European Commission is using to foster energy access – from the Technical Assistance Facility to the SE4ALL Initiative, blending instruments, and the country assistance via the European Development Funds. He stretched the important role of local SMEs that will be supported by these instruments. He also agreed that a balance between on-grid and off-grid solutions is essential.

Ms Gifty Tettey, Deputy Director, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Ghana, introduced the Ghana national electrification scheme which was launched in 1990, targeting universal access by 2020 from 15% in 1990. Options include increasing power generation large hydro, thermal and on-grid renewables (10%) – total 5000 MW, increasing energy efficiency, targeting productive uses and off-grid options. She explained that Ghana has successfully reached an electrification rate of 72% and the target for universal access now shall be achieved by 2016. As success factors she identified: strong political support for the programme, clear definition of grid and off-grid/mini-grid areas (e.g. island communities), promotion of IPPs, promoting community contributions.

Mr. Nico Peterschmidt, CEO, Inensus, Senegal, identified three reasons why mini-grids as solution to accelerated energy access is not yet rolled out in many countries:–the monopoly of national utility, mini-grid electricity is more expensive due to reduced economies of scale resulting in tariffs higher than national uniform tariffs, risk of grid reaching the villages. Profitability requires mini-grids to have a large customer base which is often not given. Front runners in removing barriers are Tanzania and Senegal. Appropriate financing instruments have now been developed but they are not well publicized.

Mr. Mahamadou Karamoko Diarra Energy Access Coordinator, Mali Folkecenter, Mali, explained that many countries are large and hence grid extension is not feasible for remote communities respectively. Technology availability and affordability are two key elements. Private sector companies with appetite for small systems are required and best practice is to focus on both grid and off-grid markets and to promote private sector development.

Following the panellist round, key issues were raised during a Question and Answer Session, such as, the question from the audience if PV can be used for heavy power use? Mr. Peterschmidt answered that it is possible – a 20 kW solar system can power a machine, critical is rather the load management e.g. use of machines only during off-peak hours. Another participant pointed out that the use of microfinance for supporting the demand side is well demonstrated in Senegal by the AREED program. A question was raised, what definition of access is used by the AEEP when talking about 100 million additional people provided with access to energy in Africa. Unfortunately this question could not be answered due to time constraints. In addition, the audience raised that political issues are important considerations – the role of central and local government in planning and prioritisation; subsidies might be necessary due to affordability constraints, for example targeting connection fees which are a

barrier; training of local operators to reduce costs – targeting who stay in the villages e.g. young grandmothers.

#### **PARALLEL SESSION ON ENERGY SECURITY AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION:**

The aim of this session was to discuss the relevance of energy infrastructure development and regional integration, in particular through cross-border transmission lines and power pools, for energy security, within Africa and, where appropriate for Europe. The session was chaired by Aboubakari Baba Moussa, Director of Infrastructure and Energy Department of the AUC and moderated by Winfried Zarges, GIZ Office to the AUC.

Session Chair Moussa opened the session by suggesting that regional integration in the energy sector in Africa was more a question of inter-sectoral coordination, than actual political integration. Moderator Zarges called on panelists to share their perspectives on whether regional integration drives energy security or vice versa. Roberto Ridolfi, Director, Sustainable Growth and Development, European Commission, drew attention to the EU's support of various energy pools in Africa, and called for more viable small-scale projects to support that are bankable. He stressed that it is “not a problem of money” but rather a problem of non-bankable projects.

Babatunde Adeyemo, Director, West African Power Pool, stressed that regional integration promotes energy security and described integration efforts in West Africa. He explained the process towards the acceptance and roll-out of a regional energy project, noting that there are nine active projects, including one involving Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea (the CSLG Project). He outlined the benefits of energy trading, stating that the region would soon have more regulated energy trade to reduce the cost to the end-user.

Daniel Schroth, SE4ALL Africa-Hub Coordinator, AfDB, described the Bank's involvement in a number of regionally integrated projects including the CLSG Project. He called for more work on regional policy harmonization, risk mitigation, utility reform, and highlighted the importance of also assisting fragile states. Elijah Sichone, Executive Secretary, Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa, supported the case for regional integration promoting energy security, noting the benefits of integration as, *inter alia*, resource optimization, market expansion, technological diversification, and cost savings. He called for the strengthening of regional institutions to enhance transboundary energy access, but noted the difficulties in harmonizing norms across regions.

Christoph Mayer, Regional Director for Africa, Andritz Hydro, Austria, listed factors that enhance regional integration including political stability, commercial and legal predictability and inter-agency communication to build trust. He gave the example of ECREEE as a successful model now being replicated in East and Southern Africa. He stressed that integration is key to upgrading energy systems in Africa, and urged a specific focus on a detail-oriented process of regional integration that will ensure energy security for future generations.

Pascal Mavoula, Central Africa Power Pool, lamented the low rate of energy access in central Africa, drawing attention to the lack of inter-linkages between various hydropower projects as well as inadequate data on these projects. He acknowledged the collaboration between stakeholders in the region and the AfDB, noting that this may enhance further regional cooperation.

In the discussion, participants discussed a number of issues including the need to: develop a harmonized legal framework for integration, consider nation sovereignty alongside regional integration, and move beyond the regional integration debate towards a focused energy finance discussion.

#### **PARALLEL SESSION ON FINANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS:**

The aim of this panel, which was co-organized by the AEEP Secretariat and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), was to discuss the implications of and for public and private financing and related instruments, including risk mitigation. The session was moderated by AEEP Co-Chair Wolfgang Moser, Austria, and Johan van den Berg, CEO, South African Wind Energy Association.

In a welcome statement, Frank Wouters, Deputy Director General, IRENA, stressed the business case has been made and the moment is now “right” to scale up African renewables. He noted that 65% of African countries have renewable energy policies and targets in place, but funding remains elusive. He attributed this to the perceived risk of renewables among investors, despite the lack of empirical evidence that fossil-based energy projects are less risky. He added that if just a fraction of funding from such instruments as green bonds could be accessed it could help mitigate liquidity, political, exit, and other risks, and called for mobilizing local capital markets in order to attract other institutional investors.

Van den Berg then introduced the panel and asked them to offer their experiences and views on some of the specific challenges facing the financing of renewable energy projects.

Rashid Abdallah, Regional Geothermal Programme Expert, AUC, said one of the greatest challenges facing energy entrepreneurs is the high cost of project development, including undertaking feasibility studies and other due diligence, political and “policy” risks; and insufficient know-how on scaling projects to foster investor confidence. He said that the AUC has established a catalyst fund to mitigate such risks, enabling developers to access available financial instruments.

Wichard von Harrach, Partner, Neo Energies, , said one of the limitations for operators is that the banking sector is not tailored to support meso-level projects and challenged financial institutions to seek ways to lower their transaction costs.

Admassu Tadesse, CEO and President, PTA Bank, Kenya, said that his institution is looking for bankable projects, irrespective of the size, and has wind and solar projects ranging from 5 to 25MW on its portfolio. He added that the real issue is not the absence of financial instruments but how to bring them together in the context of a particular project. He also challenged policy makers to tackle energy subsidies, saying they present a real barrier to investors in many countries.

Heike Rüttgers, Head of Division, ACP Policy and Portfolio, European Investment Bank (EIB), said the EIB has started to look at smaller projects, citing the successful Cape Verde Wind project, which she described as the Bank’s first “small” ticket. She also noted that the SE4ALL initiative has “forced institutions like ours” to look at ways of supporting meso-level projects.

Responding to issues raised by the panel, one participant highlighted the importance of carbon financing in providing some bridging funds to scale up small projects, but lamented that commercial banks decline to engage in such independent power producer projects, as they do not understand climate financing.

In response to a question raised about how the EIB can reconcile its rigorous vetting procedures to accommodate smaller projects, Rüttgers said the Bank has built in some flexibility by delegating some of the responsibility for due diligence requirements to local banks. Bernard Osawa, Frontier Investment, remarked that, ultimately, it is better for smaller projects to comply with due diligence requirements right from the outset, with Dolleman adding that “you need to go even further and over-comply.”

Recalling the long and difficult process that his company has gone through to secure equity, despite a convincing business model, Dolleman opined that the reason for this could be the low level of information, combined with preconceived ideas about the risks of investing in Africa. He



noted that in the case of the Turkana project, it was very difficult to pin down what informed the funders' risk assessments, as "every time we addressed their concerns they came up with a new set of issues."

Admassu Tadesse observed that part of the problem may be the high expectations created at international meetings about the promise of "green finance" noting that in reality there is a lot more financing available today and that his Bank's disbursements have reached record levels, with risk capital being availed upstream. He said that this shows there is new willingness among equity funds to invest in renewables and the real challenge for many African countries is to build the necessary policy and regulatory environment.

Osawa emphasized the need to understand that governments and banks have very different perceptions of risk, noting that the risk assessments made by lenders are "real" because of the political and policy context in many countries is very unpredictable. Van den Berg added that one golden rule is not to assume that politicians understand project financing and emphasized the need for sensitizing policy makers about where the bottlenecks lie, from an investor's perspective, in order to help them understand why and where regulatory reform is needed.

Wrapping up the session, Moderator van den Berg asked the panel to reflect on how concessional financing might be blended with private capital in order to tap the liquidity in international money markets. Dolleman suggested that "tranching" is one promising approach as it attracts different investors at different stages. With regard to the role of public-private partnerships, Rüttgers commented that "if you want to go down the PPP road then every stakeholder has to do their homework," while Tadesse noted that sovereign support is always essential for the renewables sector, even in established markets such as Europe.

**13 February - HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL SEGMENT**



The ministerial segment of the Second AEEP HLM convened in plenary sessions throughout Thursday, with the participation of African energy ministers, EU ministers responsible for Africa-EU energy relations, representatives of the AUC and the European Commission, business leaders and heads of key international energy institutions. This section provides an overview of discussions during this final day of the HLM which was moderated by Tumi Makgabo from South Africa.

**OPENING SESSION:**

After opening remarks by Moderator Makgabo participants viewed a short video charting the evolution of the AEEP, from its launch at the Lisbon EU-Africa Summit in 2007 to the adoption of the 2020 targets and outlining some key achievements so far.

**Welcome statements:**

H.E. Alemayehu Tegen, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Ethiopia, highlighted some of Ethiopia's achievements in enhancing energy access and stressed that the paradox of continuing energy poverty in a resource-rich continent can no longer be allowed to "rule our lives."

AUC Commissioner H.E. Elham Ibrahim recalled that AEEP was specifically established to enhance improved access to energy with a special focus on achieving MDGs in Africa. Lamenting that Africa continues to have the lowest access rate to modern energy services she highlighted a number of AUC initiatives, notably the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility, which is providing support for public and private sector development of geothermal resources in Eastern Africa.

Speaking via video message, H.E. Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development Cooperation, reiterated the EU's commitment to providing energy access to 500 million people by 2030. He drew attention to the EU's engagement with the SE4ALL initiative, which he noted had complementary goals to those of the AEEP. He announced that the EU would make a further contribution of €5 million to the RECP.

#### **Messages from the Co-Chairs:**

H.E. Christian Schmidt, Deputy Minister, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany, and Co-Chair of the AEEP, highlighted Germany's transformation from conventional energy sources to renewable energy, and drew attention to the country's support for energy projects and programmes in Africa. He called on delegates to focus on meeting the SE4ALL and AEEP goals and targets, and emphasized private sector involvement and multi-stakeholder dialogue to realize increased energy access.

H.E. Andreas Melan, Austrian Ambassador to Ethiopia, pledged the full cooperation of his government to meeting the goals of the SE4ALL initiative, and, in this regard, noted that talks are underway to fund an East Africa Community Energy Center to enhance regional cooperation and energy security in the region.

#### **Keynote addresses and inspirational messages:**

Lauding the AEEP as a true translation of the SE4ALL vision, Kandeh Yumkella, UN Special Representative for SE4ALL, described the dreams of African citizens for a decent life and the commitment of African leaders to lead their countries to middle income status, underlining that this cannot be achieved without energy. He noted with regret that the current African position on the post-2015 agenda only mentions energy three times, and urged African governments to lobby for a stand-alone goal on access to sustainable energy. He dispelled the notion that energy access on the continent could be funded solely through development assistance and

stressed that consistent messaging at high-level meetings was crucial for attracting the large amounts of investment needed to achieve Africa's energy goals.

H.E. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson, AUC, reiterated that while the AEEP has been one of the most active EU-Africa partnerships, "we must not forget the issue is about eliminating extreme poverty." He noted that the financing gap for achieving the AEEP targets is about US\$40 billion and called for concerted efforts to mobilize the required resources, including through leveraging other initiatives.

**ACHIEVEMENTS OF AFRICA-EU COOPERATION IN THE ENERGY SECTOR AND "THE CHRYSTAL BALL" - ENERGY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING EUROPE AND AFRICA IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**CENTURY:** Alluding to the title of the session, H.E. Maria van der Hoeven, Executive Director, IEA, said the objective of this meeting does not require a chrystal ball, but rather a vision and commitment to use available resources more effectively. She emphasized that while fossil fuels are important, green innovation and technology deployment are critical for Africa's energy future, as well as that of the EU. She underscored the role of training and capacity building in seizing such opportunities, highlighting some of IEA's activities to build capacities for energy statistics in Africa.

H.E. Christian Schmidt, Germany, outlined his country's contribution to the RECP and noted Germany will continue to take energy as a priority area in its development support efforts, and to use its experience in developing green energy markets to help African countries offset the higher investment costs for renewables and strengthen their institutional and human capacities.

H.E. Fidel Marcos Mañe Ncogo Eyang, Delegated Minister of Energy, Equatorial Guinea, described his country's efforts to diversify its energy supplies by 2017, highlighting various solar and hydro-power projects and a power interconnectivity project, which will connect various towns to diversified energy products.

Omar Torbo Djerma, Secretary General, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Chad, lamented the underdevelopment of the energy sector in his country, which is characterized by a 10% rate of access to electricity and a high rate of charcoal consumption. In this regard, he reported that the creation of a renewable energy development agency will contribute to mobilizing the vast energy resources in the country, including through promoting rehabilitation and energy efficiency in power plants around the country.

Simon Trace, Practical Action, and Civil Society Focal Point for the AEEP, lamented the lack of data and a coherent strategy for delivering energy to the rural poor, calling for a commitment to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized communities who would not be reached outside of a business-as-usual scenario. He outlined the civil society's concerns for the work of the Partnership, including the inability to track investments made to enhance off-grid capacity; the shortage of available financing for small-scale entrepreneurs; and the dearth of funding to CSOs working in the energy sector.

Responding to participants' questions, H.E. Minister Eyang explained how Equatorial Guinea utilized its oil windfalls to expand electricity networks throughout the country, noting the country is on track to achieve its energy access targets by 2017.

Djerma, stressed the need for developing context-specific energy plans, noting that the needs of displaced populations are very different from those of settled agricultural communities.

H.E. van der Hoeven said that both country examples show the need to mobilizing adequate funding and stressed the need to focus efforts on developing a sound investment climate to attract private, as well as public-private investments.

In the ensuing general discussion, a delegate from France underscored the link between renewable energies and energy efficiency, with climate change mitigation, noting this will be a core issue as his country prepares to host the UN climate conference (COP21) in 2015.

A delegate from Mali lauded Equatorial Guinea for its achievements, saying his country has developed numerous plans, but the current implementation rate of is only 20% due to a lack of sustainable financing.

H.E. Deputy Minister Schmidt stressed that to cross the investment threshold, state support is vital and advised African governments to "just do it" by setting the agenda and utilizing any instruments that are available to them.

A delegate from Italy drew attention to the Italia-Africa initiative, which is focusing on diversification of energy sources to increase energy security, within the broader framework of EU-Africa cooperation. He said preparations are underway for the first conference to be held in Rome in 2015.

A private-sector participant drew attention to an exhibition showcasing the latest technological innovations taking place in parallel to the HLM, noting it demonstrates the commitment of private sector stakeholders, and decried the lack of matching enthusiasm from governments to facilitate private investors.

**“THE TOOLBOX”- TAKING ACTION, MOBILIZING COMMITMENT, AND COORDINATING EFFORTS TOWARDS THE AEEP AND SE4ALL TARGETS:**

Introducing the session, Moderator Tumi Makgabo, requested the panel to focus on how to meet the challenges to meeting AEEP and SE4ALL’s goals. H.E. Commissioner Ibrahim, AUC, stressed the harmonization of regulatory and policy frameworks in order to roll out large-scale regional and continental projects with the capacity to reach 100 million people. She called for governments to create an enabling environment to spur investor confidence, noting that this needs to be member-state driven. She drew attention to the AfDB’s Africa50 Infrastructure Fund, which has the capacity to fund projects at the preparatory phase.

Stressing the importance of planning in order to ensure investment, Kandeh Yumkella, SE4ALL, described five tools that his agency will package for interested stakeholders: the Global Tracking Framework, the Investment Readiness Ranking, IRENA’s RE-Map, the Energy Trilemma published by the World Energy Council based on the report on the utilities, and the World Economic Forum’s report on the Energy Architecture Performance Index. Acknowledging the need to transform the energy sector along the same lines as the mobile telephony sector, he drew attention to plans to engage commercial banks to raise the US\$600-800 billion in energy investments required each year.

EU DG Development Deputy Director-General Klaus Rudischhauser listed some elements within the European Commission’s toolbox to assist in meeting energy access targets, including, *inter alia*, energy programming in bilateral relations, a technical assistance facility, the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund, provision of equity funds for small scale renewable energy development, and an energy facility for civil society rural electrification activities. Noting that more still needs to be done, he urged African governments to buy in to the energy sector by working on governance issues and creating favorable investment climates.

Stating that every loan is a signal to the investment community of a viable business, Tamsyn Barton, Director-General for Operations Outside the EU and Candidate Countries, EIB, outlined three elements that the Bank can contribute to in assisting countries to meet their energy access goals: sharing of experiences from the EU, leveraging investment funds from the private sector, and assisting countries to scale up projects and programmes already in existence.

Juraj Chmiel, Special Envoy for the External Dimension of the EU, Czech Republic, called for more attention to be paid to the overlapping needs of ensuring food security, and investing in renewable energy sources. He highlighted the immense pressures on land in both cases, but

outlined some benefits of a food security-renewable energy generation mix, including additional income and savings for farmers who dedicate sections of their land to generating renewable energy.

In the discussion, delegates acknowledged the need for capacity building, as well as data collection for planning processes. Others spoke on energy-sector subsidies, with one suggesting subsidies are better placed in renewable energy investments. Another delegate stressed the need to include national, regional and continental parliaments in the discussion, noting that they are responsible for implementation.

#### **BUSINESS AND POLICY LEADERS ROUNDTABLE:**

The objective of the roundtable was to discuss options for better and closer cooperation between the policy and the business sector, in order to attract further private investments towards the AEEP 2020 Targets.

In his keynote address, Frank Wouters, Deputy Director, IRENA, described the formidable challenge facing the African continent as building a new energy infrastructure for one billion Africans, in just one generation. He said this will require mobilizing substantial resources in a risk-averse environment, but said the encouraging growth of the renewables sector, which grew by 230% between 2011 and 2012, shows there is a unique opportunity to accelerate investments. Another advantage for the continent, he noted, is its vast stock of cost-effective renewable resources, which means the continent can meet its own energy needs. He highlighted a number of IRENA initiatives to help kick-start innovative projects, including the African Clean Energy Corridor that aims to galvanize investment and optimize the renewable energy mix through a regional approach.

H.E. John Abdulai Jinapor, Deputy Minister for Energy and Petroleum, Ghana, said Africa's booming economies are further compounding the challenge of providing reliable, efficient and sustainable energy, but stressed that with the technological innovations currently available, it is "incomprehensible" that millions of people continue to suffer in energy poverty. He said that his country's focused approach to energy development has enabled Ghana to increase access from just one third to nearly 80% of the population in one decade. In order to reach universal coverage, he said that his government has launched decentralized renewable energy bases and mini-grids targeting communities in remote areas. Highlighting some of the lessons learned, he underscored the need to take complementary demand-side measures to enhance energy



efficiency, and ensure a favourable policy environment, such as attractive feed-in tariffs, in order to attract private sector investments in renewables.

Ompi Aphane, Deputy Director-General for Policy, Planning and Clean Energy, Department of Energy, South Africa, outlined the policy landscape in South Africa, noting that expanding energy access is no longer a pressing issue, but rather related issues such as creating employment and ensuring affordability for poor populations, tackling wastage, and ensuring diversification and energy security within a regional context. He noted that in the process of establishing the renewable energy framework REIPPP, the country had been exploring all alternatives to traditional feed-in tariffs with a view to encouraging competitiveness and addressing the needs of all stakeholders. This way, an auction-based system had been put in place that has to date proven hugely successful also in terms of the creation of local value addition.

Ernesto Marcias, President of ARE, said expanding renewable energy is increasingly becoming a financial, rather than a technological issue, as decentralized and off-grid solutions have become more viable. He called for a focus on users needs when choosing from among the many models available and stressed the need for improved coordination among different stakeholders to scale up off-grid solutions.

Helen Tarnoy, Founder and Managing Director, Aldwych International, UK, charted the development of the Lake Turkana Wind Power project, which is co-developed by her organization. She said that despite its strong project fundamentals that include “world class wind energy,” a very cost-effective tariff, and strong support from the Kenyan government, the 310 MW wind farm was 10 years in development before it was “discovered,” and putting together the funding package, amounting to €620 million has been an extremely onerous process. She concluded that undertaking innovative projects “is not for the faint-hearted,” but it is the job of the independent power provider to manage such risk.

In the ensuing discussion, delegates, *inter alia*, noted the importance of decentralizing the energy sector; called for greater focus on countries that are investment-ready; the need for government buy-in in the renewable energy sector; the importance of flexible feed in tariffs; and the advantages of an international legal instrument to protect investors from political and regulatory risks.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE ADDIS ABABA COMMUNIQUÉ:**

Franz Marré introduced the draft Communiqué, explaining the process that was used to develop the draft text and noting that the objective is to bring strong messages to African and European policy makers and other energy stakeholders. Moderator Moussa then took delegates through the recommendations and key messages, which the meeting adopted with some amendments.

In the Addis Ababa Communiqué, African Energy Ministers, EU Ministers responsible for Africa-EU energy relations, and representatives of the AUC and the European Commission agree, *inter alia*, that: addressing the energy challenges facing both continents requires a holistic perspective; enhancing energy efficiency offers potential for increased energy security and cost-effectiveness that has not been fully explored and exploited, thereby constituting an important gap in the landscape of instruments towards the AEEP and SE4ALL targets; the AEEP targets can only be achieved by putting in place sound policy and regulatory environments and mobilizing public and private resources and capacities at all levels to promote energy market development; and substantial synergies and resource efficiencies can be tapped by exploring the potential of the nexus approach for integrating energy into other sectors.

The Communiqué acknowledges the contribution of various national, regional, bi- and multilateral initiatives, programmes and projects implemented in the context of Africa-EU energy cooperation, including by non-state actors, in contributing to the AEEP's 2020 targets, the SE4ALL objectives and post-2015 process. It also takes note of the first AEEP Status Report 2014 and commitments contained in the AEEP Action Programme for the post-2013 period to contribute to the achievement of the AEEP targets.

Among its recommendations, the HLM calls for:

- A substantial increase in efforts by both continents to achieve the AEEP 2020 Targets;
- Efforts to realize the full potential of the RECP as the AEEP's delivery mechanism to mobilize meso-scale renewable energy investments;
- Continued implementation of policy and regulatory reforms in Africa to create an enabling environment for increased private sector investments;
- Reinforcement of the coordinated dialogue between policy makers and stakeholders from the private sector, civil society and academia in the context of the AEEP targets;
- Continued reporting and monitoring of progress towards achieving the AEEP targets as well as the SE4ALL goals;

The Communiqué concludes with a call to Heads of State at the EU-Africa Summit in April 2014 to continue to provide political leadership on energy, take ambitious decisions that build upon the progress made under the AEEP, and ensure an integrated approach to addressing access to energy, water and food.

**CLOSING OF THE SECOND AEEP HLM:** In a brief wrap up session Wolfgang Moser, Austria, provided some highlights of the Second HLM and lauded delegates for sending a strong message to the upcoming EU-Africa Summit through the Communiqué. Franz Marré then presented Wolfgang Moser with a token of appreciation for his work as Co-Chair of the Partnership, at the conclusion of his term. Delegates then watched a video prepared by the young journalists in attendance of the conference.

In his concluding remarks, H.E. Minister Tegenu noted that the meeting was successful in taking stock of the Partnership, and urged members to work towards tangible successes to be shared at the third AEEP-HLM. Rudischhauser called on delegates to work together to bridge the gap between the challenges to achieving energy access, and the opportunities present to end energy poverty in Africa.

H.E. Fidel Marcos Mañe Ncogo Eyang, Equatorial Guinea, then gave a vote of thanks and the second AEEP-HLM concluded its deliberations at 7.28 pm.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Thematic Debate of the General Assembly “Water, Sanitation and Sustainable Energy in the Post-2015 Development Agenda:”** Disproportionate dependence on imported fossil fuels exposes many developing countries to volatile and rising oil prices, limits economic development, degrades local natural resources, and fails to establish a precedent for global action to mitigate the long-term consequences of climate change. Sustainable energy is thus a key enabler of sustainable development for all countries and all people. Ongoing discussions have revealed a broad support for a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) addressing energy. The post 2015 development agenda will have to respond to these challenges faced in these sectors in a manner that allows both developed and developing countries to forge endogenous pathways that build resilience, contribute to the eradication of poverty and lead to sustainable development. Dates: 18-19 February, 2014 venue: UN Headquarters location: New York City, US, www: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/settingthestage/1wsse.shtml>

**Open Working Group Negotiations on SDGs - First Meeting:** At the close of the Sixth Session of the UN General Assembly's (UNGA) Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Co-Chairs outlined initial thoughts on the next steps in the process, including a further set of formal OWG meetings following OWG 8 in February. The dates were revised at the conclusion of OWG 7. The next round of meetings will take place on: 3-5 March, 31 March - 4 April, 5-9 May, 16-20 June and 14-18 July 2014. Dates: 3-5 March 2014, venue: UN Headquarters location: New York City, US, www: <http://energy-l.iisd.org/events/>

**Solar & Off-grid Renewables Africa:** This new international and high-level conference and networking event aims to support and accelerate the deployment of solar and off-grid renewable energy in Africa, and break down the barriers to development - financial, political, technological - by bringing together key stakeholders, including investors, policy makers, developers, energy companies, financiers, NGOs, manufacturers and suppliers. Dates: 4-5 March 2014, venue: Sarova Panafric Hotel location: Nairobi, Kenya, www: <http://africa.solarenergyevents.com>

**Workshop on International Standards in Support of Policies for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:** Organized jointly by the International Energy Agency (IEA), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), this workshop is being convened to discuss how to boost stakeholder engagement in

international standardization and to ensure that international standards support the transition towards more sustainable energy systems. In this light, the workshop will hold sessions on: setting the global scene and trends for renewable energy and energy efficiency policies and association with international standards; the state of play within IEC and ISO; systemic approaches to policy setting and related standards development; standards development and policy setting; and the way forward. Participation is by invitation only. Date: 13 March 2014 location: Paris, Ile-De-France, France, www: [http://www.iea-4e.org/files/otherfiles/0000/0300/Flyer\\_Workshop\\_on\\_IS\\_for\\_energy\\_efficiency\\_Mar\\_2014.pdf](http://www.iea-4e.org/files/otherfiles/0000/0300/Flyer_Workshop_on_IS_for_energy_efficiency_Mar_2014.pdf)

**5th World Summit for Small Wind (WSSW2014):** The World Wind Energy Association (WWEA) and New Energy Husum are hosting this event, which will address the theme 'Small Wind - Success Stories from all over the World'. It aims to present an overview of benefits and impacts of the small wind industry globally, as well as the framework and conditions that have led to small wind successes, including not only legal and financial frameworks but also technology application, project development and stakeholder participation. Participants will include energy experts, policy makers, interested individuals, energy providers, manufacturers and supply industries. Dates: 20-22 March 2014 location: Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, contact: Jean-Daniel Pitteloud **phone:** +49 228 36940-81 **e-mail:** [jdp@wwindea.org](mailto:jdp@wwindea.org) **www:**

[http://www.wwindea.org/home/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=403&Itemid=40](http://www.wwindea.org/home/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=403&Itemid=40)

**Africa Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition:** Africa Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition (AfricaPVSEC) is a new initiative partnering the European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition (EU PVSEC) and the Shanghai New International Expo Center (SNEC) International Photovoltaic Power Generation Conference and Exhibition to promote and exchange ideas on photovoltaic solar energy in Africa. AfricaPVSEC will bring together researchers, public authorities, international organizations, donors, NGOs to discuss, among others: increased potential for exploitation and use of solar in Africa; transfer of appropriate technologies to the African context; promotion of investment; development of trade and business linkages between African professionals and their counterparts in the world; establishing business partnership agreements; and technical, financial or commercial extension programs. **Dates:** 27-29 March 2014 **Venue:** Durban International Convention Centre, Durban,

Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa **phone:** +39-055/500 21 74 ext. 204 or +49-(0)89/720 12 735 **e-mail:** [info@aficapvsec.com](mailto:info@aficapvsec.com) **www:** <http://www.aficapvsec.info>

**The Future of Energy Summit 2014:** This invitation-only summit will gather decision-makers from the private and public sectors to discuss the future of energy markets, industry, finance and policy. The 2014 theme will be 'Driving System Change' and topics to be discussed include the development of new grid systems, cyber-security, clean energy integration and the addition of electric vehicles to the grid. On 9 April, Bloomberg's new platform to facilitate climate and green growth investments, Finance for Resilience (FiRe), will present proposals for clean energy based on scale and ease of implementation, focusing on: developing world distributed energy; developing world projects; energy policy; financial regulation and disclosure; leveraging public finance; new investors and financial projects; and cities and municipalities. **Dates:** 7-9 April 2014 **location:** New York City, US **dates:** 7-9 April 2014 **location:** New York City, US **www:** <http://about.bnef.com/summit/>

**Fourth EU-Africa Summit:** The 4th EU-Africa Summit will bring together African and EU leaders, as well as the leaders of EU and African Union institutions. Under the theme "Investing in People, Prosperity and Peace," participants will discuss topics including peace, security, investment, climate change and migration. EU-Africa relations are based on the Joint Africa-Europe Strategy, adopted in 2007. Alongside this strategy, a 2011-2013 action plan, agreed at the last EU-Africa summit in 2010, sets out concrete targets within specific areas of cooperation, such as peace and security, democratic governance and human rights, and the MDGs. The 2014 summit will be an opportunity to take a fresh look at the EU-Africa partnership, to highlight some of the results that have been achieved, and to explore areas for future cooperation. **Dates:** 2-3 April 2014 **venue:** Council - Justus Lipsius Building, 175 rue de la Loi **location:** Brussels, Belgium **phone:** + 32 (0)22819000 **www:** <http://www.european-council.europa.eu/eu-africa-2014>

**International Conference on Sustainability in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus:** This conference will address linkages between water, energy and food security, seeking to assess available information, identify knowledge and gaps, share lessons, facilitate networks, and contribute to consensus on priorities, in order to consider joint improvement in efficiency as a win-win strategy for human development and environmental sustainability. Sessions will address themes, including: tools for the sustainable implementation of the nexus approach; governance and management of the nexus; considering the environment and wellbeing; and implementing

the nexus at various scales. The conference is jointly sponsored and organized by the Global Water System Project (GWSP), German Development Institute (GDI), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), University of Bonn, Center for Development Research, and the CGIAR Research Programme on Water, Land and Ecosystems. **Dates:** 19-20 May 2014 **venue:** MARITIM Hotel, Godesberger Allee **location:** Bonn, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany **www:** <http://wef-conference.gwsp.org/>

**Local Renewables 2014 Conference:** Themed 'Shaping your solar city and region-practical solutions from planning to implementation,' this conference will offer an international forum for policy-makers, energy experts, energy services providers, researchers and business representatives to gather to discuss the future of local renewable energy. **Dates:** 23-24 October 2014 **location:** Freiburg, Saxony, Germany **www:** <http://www.local-renewables-conference.org/>

**South Africa International Renewable Energy Conference 2015 (SAIREC):** The Government of South Africa together with the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) and REN21 are hosting the South Africa International Renewable Energy Conference (SAIREC), to gather ministers, decision-makers, civil society, academia and the private sector to discuss experiences and strategies for accelerating the global deployment of renewable energy. The event is aimed particularly at giving the African renewable energy industry opportunities to showcase its work and gain insights from other participants. This event will build upon previous "IREC" conferences held in Abu Dhabi (2013), Delhi (2010), Washington D.C (2008), Beijing (2005) and Bonn (2004). **Dates:** 4-7 October 2015 **location:** South Africa **e-mail:** [secretariat@ren21.net](mailto:secretariat@ren21.net) **www:** [http://ren21.net/Portals/0/documents/activities/IRECs/IREC%202015%20announcement\\_final.pdf](http://ren21.net/Portals/0/documents/activities/IRECs/IREC%202015%20announcement_final.pdf)

**Second AEEP Stakeholder Forum:** The next AEEP Stakeholder Forum is scheduled to take place in 2015. Building on the First Stakeholder Forum in 2012 and subsequent National Stakeholder Forums held in six countries in 2013 and 2014, the meeting aims to contribute to further strengthening of the involvement of academia, NGOs and private sector in achieving sustainable energy markets. **Dates:** TBC **location:** TBC **www:** <http://www.aEEP-forum.org/>

**AEEP Stakeholder Dialogue Events:** A number of upcoming AEEP Stakeholder Dialogue Events are scheduled to take place in 2014. Following five AEEP Stakeholder Dialogue events throughout last year, the events aim to sharing knowledge, best-practices and innovation in



order to strengthen cooperation between experts and key decision-makers at the national, regional and international level. **Dates:** TBC **location:** TBC **www:** <http://euei-pdf.org/country-studies>

**Africa Energy Forum:** Managing expectations of the investor, the stakeholder and the public is increasingly important in Africa's booming power sector. Looking at countries across the continent, to the average trader on the street there may seem to be billions of dollars being poured in to the coffers of utilities and ministries with very little change on the ground giving cause for concern, however, the reality is vastly different and most of the dollars have yet to hit the ground.

Dates: 18 - 20 June 2014, venue: Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center Istanbul, Turkey, [www.africa-energy-forum.com](http://www.africa-energy-forum.com)

**Workshop on Clean Energy Hybrid Mini-grids in Remote Areas – an Investment Opportunity:** The more international character of the conference broadens the topics discussed, bringing together all international experts acting in this field to discuss and present cost efficient and reliable solutions. The “7th International Conference on PV-Hybrid and Mini-Grid” is one of the rare opportunities for end-users, industry, experts and academia to meet and discuss the latest developments, experiences and results, present the performance of the state of the art of the technology or business models and to share the insights gained by worldwide installations. In recent years, hybrid mini-grid technology has matured.

**Dates:** April 9, 2014, **Venue:** Stadthalle Bad Hersfeld, Germany, **www:** [http://www.otti.eu/pdf/Mini\\_grids\\_in\\_Remote\\_Areas\\_ceh4632.pdf](http://www.otti.eu/pdf/Mini_grids_in_Remote_Areas_ceh4632.pdf)

## **GLOSSARY**

AEEP	Africa-EU Energy Partnership
AfDB	African Development Bank
ARE	Alliance for Rural Electrification
AUC	African Union Commission
CSO	Community Based Organization
ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
ECREEE	ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency
EUEI PDF	European Union Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility
EIB	European Investment Bank
IEA	International Energy Agency
HLM	High-Level Meeting
KITE	Kumasi Institute of Technology Energy and Environment
PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
RECP	Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme
REN21	Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century
SE4ALL	Sustainable Energy for All