

# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA)

16-17 November 2015, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

## Outcomes Statement: Plenary Meeting

### Introduction

1. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) took place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, on 16 and 17 November 2015. The meeting was hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and was jointly-organised by the AfDB and the Government of Germany (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – BMZ), as Chair of the G7.
2. The Plenary Meeting took place on 17 November 2015 and was attended by over 150 participants, including senior officials from Germany, the Commissioner Infrastructure and Energy from the African Union and other AU officials, the Vice President of the African Development Bank and high level AfDB officials, representatives from the Regional Economic Communities, other senior African stakeholders, representatives from other international donors and key private sector players in the renewable energy sector.
3. The Plenary Meeting focussed on the challenge of *Implementing Renewable Energy Initiatives in Africa*. The overriding objective of the meeting was to bring together public and private sector stakeholders to discuss and agree how Africa could best move forward to achieve its target of 300GW of energy from renewable sources by 2030.

### Key outcomes of the Plenary Meeting

1. The ICA Annual Meeting was extremely well-timed in view of COP21 taking place in Paris in December 2015. There is a need to distil the outcomes of the ICA meeting to COP21.
2. Improving access remains the key challenge for energy development in Africa, including for renewable energy. At 600 million, there are more Africans without access to power than the population of the whole of Europe. Affordability is also a vital aspect, but broadening access must remain the top priority.
3. Renewable energy can be a 'game changer' for Africa, and should be a priority for all international and regional development institutions with developing power initiatives and programmes.
4. Political will and commitment at the highest level, across the continent, is vital if Africa is to achieve the target, endorsed by African heads of state and government, of 300GW of renewable energy by 2030, but this must also be supported by strong institutions and frameworks; these are needed to inspire

confidence. Issues such as bureaucracy, political uncertainty and corruption also need to be addressed if developers are to have the confidence to invest.

5. Pan-African organisations and regional institutions have an important role to play in helping to develop clear and transparent frameworks and regulatory processes to support the development and implementation of renewable energy projects.
6. There is believed to be no shortage of finance to invest in renewable energy, but there is a shortage of 'bankable' projects. Hesitancy to invest is also caused by a lack of confidence that there is a consistent enabling environment across Africa to support the implementation of projects and to absorb the capital. Greater emphasis must therefore be given to driving energy project preparation and to creating an enabling environment that successfully addresses challenges around issues such as loan guarantees, capacity building, regulations and local skills development.
7. There should be greater harmonisation of renewable energy initiatives, planning and programmes, at pan-African, regional and sub-regional levels, in order to avoid overlap and duplication. The sharing of best practice between countries and regions & sub-regions, and learning lessons from renewable energy projects that have been successfully implemented, is also extremely important.
8. There is no 'one size fits all' solution for Africa's energy challenges. Renewable energy is part of the solution but not the only solution. It can play a vital role in widening access to power, particularly as some renewable energy technologies can be introduced rapidly. So all technologies, and all sizes of projects, from mini-grid projects to major developments, both on-grid and off-grid, covering generation, transmission and distribution, should be welcomed and encouraged.
9. Currently, the majority of renewable energy developments are concentrated in a small number of countries. To benefit all the people of Africa, and to help drive consistent and sustainable economic growth, it is important that there are renewable energy projects and initiatives covering the whole continent.
10. The role and experience of the private sector will be vital if the target set by African governments of 300GW of renewable energy by 2030 is to be met.
11. The development of African regional energy markets and the strengthening of the capacity of the Regional Power Pools have also been recognised as key success factors.
12. While the importance of access to energy as a driver of economic growth is fully understood, recognition must also be given to the positive economic impact that will be derived from renewable energy development across Africa, in terms of local job creation, technical up-skilling and the establishment of facilities on the continent of Africa to develop renewable energy technologies and manufacture equipment.

## **Agenda**

The Plenary Meeting was organised into the following sessions:

Session 1: Welcome and Opening Remarks

Session 2: Renewable energy initiatives and issues on implementation

Session 3: The institutional landscape of regional renewable energy initiatives in Africa

Session 4: Private sector: Lessons learned in promoting clean energy development in Africa

Session 5: Way forward and closing remarks

## **Overviews of the sessions**

### **Session 1: Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Plenary was opened by remarks from Mr Solomon Asamoah (Vice President, AfDB), Mr Christoph Rauh (Head of Division, BMZ, Government of Germany), Dr Elham M.A. Ibrahim (Commissioner, Infrastructure and Energy, African Union), Professor Elmissiry Mosad (Senior Energy Advisor, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency) and Mr Cisse Sabati, (Director General of Energy, Cote d'Ivoire).

Mr Solomon Asamoah stressed the need for all African nations to act in cohesion towards actualising a more effective framework amongst African nations, pan-African institutions and initiatives, regional institutions and other African stakeholders to promote increased investment in African renewable energy.

He set out that by 2030, African energy consumption would increase by at least 77% from current levels, and this needed investment in the power sector. He also explained that the challenge in realising this was not in finding the capital, but was in creating an enabling environment to help absorb this across all the nations of Africa, and in making investments attractive to investors by reducing the extrinsic risks. He concluded by re-iterating that lighting and powering Africa is on top of the five strategic priorities as announced by AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina (see AfDB's "New Deal on Energy").

### **Session 2: Renewable energy initiatives and issues on implementation**

The opening panel was followed by a presentation by Vivek Mittal (Managing Director, Millennium Resources Strategies Limited (UK)) on the main conclusions of the background paper, together with the conclusions of the ICA survey, which had been completed shortly before the ICA Plenary. In particular:

- Five "enablers" for promoting energy investment, including a focus on maximising the potential for renewable energy, energy access for all, cost to consumer, jobs and skills, and shared learning;

- There is a strong linkage between GDP growth and energy consumption, and that investment in the power sector leads to further GDP growth. By 2030, up to 350 GW of additional power generation capacity (from all sources) is deemed feasible, provided that timely institutional reform is implemented and rapid economic growth is maintained. Especially in cross-border projects and power pooling, the harmonisation of fiscal and tax policies eases successful project implementation and coordination;
- There is also evidence that African nations together have 120 – 150 GW of temporary fossil fuel backed power, which runs permanently to shore-up grid backed power. This is equal to the 140 -160 GW of grid connected power capacity;
- The presentation explored the relationship and co-dependence between energy affordability, energy access for all and utility credit, noting that the levelised costs of most renewable energy technologies are within the tariffs applied across most African countries – requiring very little subsidy;
- In this regard, Nigeria, DRC, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Madagascar, which together represent 280 million of the 600 million African citizens without access to modern energy, also had the highest tariffs. A focus on addressing the challenges of these six countries alone would help to accelerate achievement of 300GW of energy from renewable sources by 2030;
- 90% of the current investment flows, the majority of 84 initiatives reviewed, and the results of the survey conducted, confirmed that there were large overlaps and large gaps amongst initiatives promoting the adoption of clean energy in Africa, in terms of geography, service type, scale of projects and stage of project development;
- The presentation analysed the considerations of private sector investors – distinguishing between “intrinsic risks” (e.g. capital and technology) which the private sector was happy to assume and manage, and “extrinsic risks” (e.g. government frameworks and commodities), which they need to have mitigated by the public sector.

### Session 3: The institutional landscape of regional renewable energy initiatives in Africa

The Third session was chaired by Mr Jamal Saghir (Senior Regional Adviser Africa, World Bank) and included Mr Seyni Nafo (Africa Renewable Energy Initiative), Mr. Daniel Schroth (AfDB and regional representative for Sustainable Energy for All - SE4All), Mr Mahama Kappiah (ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - ECREEE, Mr Jan Martin Witte (KfW), Ms Katherine Steel (Power Africa), and Ms Elmarie Oosthuizen (South Africa, IPP Office).

- The panel members debated the merits of large projects and small projects with varying views, summarised by Mr Saghir that it was not about on-grid vs. off-grid but about the utility of power and energy access for all. He stressed that most renewable energy technologies offered better economics than prevailing power tariffs in most African countries;

- Ms Oosthuizen elaborated the reasons for the success of the South African REIPPP programme, which included the establishment of an independent and strong institution in the IPP Office. They allocated risk sharing fairly with the private sector (the South African Treasury stood behind the contract, but left the private sector to determine the capital make-up), and executed transparent procurement processes, which required frequent communication with the private sector. These factors all served to increase confidence and deliver ever-reducing costs to the consumer. All agreed that the lessons from the South African REIPPP were relevant to all African nations;
- The importance of increasing “Political Will” at a national level and translating it into policies for fostering renewable energy frameworks, which increased investor confidence, was stressed repeatedly, and emphasised as a key success factor for the REIPPP programme in South Africa;
- Panel members recognised that the debt capacity of sovereign states across Africa was a constraining factor to investment, though the experience of African utility credit was better than the perception of high risk associated. There was recognition that utility credit did need support, and supporting nations in implementing viable tariffs, and in moving away from “dollarized” PPAs were key enablers.
- Mr Witte demonstrated the pioneering work of the Ugandan Get Fit Programme (promoted by KfW), which offered both feasibility assistance and revenue support to enable projects. He explained that there were large volumes of capital available for Africa as evidenced by the significant contribution of private capital. Amongst the ideas shared by members of the panel included the opportunity to deploy innovative donor support in the form of partial risk guarantees and revenue support, which could help in moving away from “dollarized” PPAs;
- Ms Steel highlighted the AfDB sponsored African Legal Support Facility, where Power Africa is also a donor;
- All panel members endorsed the need for harmonisation and shared learning at all levels, of frameworks, of initiatives and even amongst DFIs. Panel members stressed the need for:
  - Regional grid integration both for grid investment and extension;
  - Standardised project documentation; and
  - Competitive tendering to foster price discovery.

*Session 4: Private sector: Lessons learnt in promoting clean energy development in Africa*

Mr Michael Franz (Africa-EU Energy Partnership / GIZ) chaired the fourth panel discussion. The panellists were senior executives from leading developers who have initiated and completed multiple projects across Africa: Ms Helen Tarnoy (Founder and MD – Aldwych International); Dr Kevin Kariuki (Head of Infrastructure, Industrial Promotion Services (AKFED), Kenya); Mr Mohamed Sahri (Masen,

Morocco); Mr Chaim Motzen (Founder and Managing Director, Gigawatt Global); and Mr Leo Schiefermueller (Managing Director, Terra Projects).

- Each developer presented selected projects ranging from mini off-grid renewable energy solutions (Jumeme, Tanzania) to large scale grid connected projects (wind - Lake Turkana, Kenya; PV – Gigawatt Global, Rwanda; Concentrated Solar Thermal – Quarzazte Morocco) as well as regional hydro projects (Ruzizi III);
- Each developer explained the challenges they faced in implementing projects. Common themes were:
  - the long delays experienced by developers (10 years in the case of Lake Turkana) which can have a major adverse impact on return on capital for investors, increased project costs and overall results in keeping large-scale, low-cost capital away from the opportunity;
  - The lack of capacity within national agencies to deliver the needs of project development and project finance (not least the needs of DFIs). Mr Motzen demonstrated that it is possible to achieve speed, as with the Gigawatt Global PV project in Rwanda, which achieved financial close within six months from contract award and was operational within two years of contract award;
  - Delays and cost increases arising from multiple financing sources - mainly from DFIs - which impose independent due-diligence requirements, and requirements of support from governments. This comment underscored the need, highlighted during the previous panel, for harmonisation of policies amongst DFIs;
  - Transmission access was another re-current source of delays and cost increases.
- All panellists agreed that towards realising Africa's ambitious target of 300GW of renewable energy by 2030, there is a need for:
  - Clear framework and documentation, and transparent procurement processes;
  - Shared learning of best practices – through direct assistance, and publication of best practices and successful case studies;
  - Capacity building assistance in the areas of IPP frameworks and taxation;
  - Private sector to be left only with risks that they can best manage;
  - The promotion of local or domestic financing capability for smaller projects, to reduce transaction costs;
  - The encouragement of local jobs and skills development.

### Session 5: Way Forward

Please see *Key outcomes of the Plenary Meeting* section above.

In the final session, chaired by Mr. Alex Rugamba (Director, Energy - AfDB), the ICA Plenary heard from Mr Aboubakari Baba-Moussa (Director AUC), Dr Lawrence

Musaba (Coordination Centre Manager, Southern Africa Power Pool - SAPP), Prof Mosad Elmissiry (NEPAD-NPCA), Ms Ana Hajduka (Founder and CEO - Africa GreenCo), Ms Safiatou Alzouma (Director, Africa - IRENA), and Mr Phillippe Niyongabo (former Manager of Energy - AUC).

The Major points discussed included:

- Ms Alzouma clarified the conclusion of the IRENA Africa Remap 2030, which proposes the potential for the addition of 300 GW of renewable energy in Africa by 2030. She stressed that the potential for this investment was predicated on the delivery of fourteen factors, which distilled into three groups:
  - Implementation of enabling policies and frameworks
  - Promotion of both domestic and foreign investment
  - An integrated approach to utility sector development;
- Panel members agreed that the commitment of Governments was key to realising investments, and that this should be backed by credible targets and long term, predictable frameworks. Frameworks which included an element of price discovery were key to achieving value for money;
- The need for transparent procurement procedures, and centres for excellence were described as key enablers for investment in African renewable energy;
- Creditworthiness of off-takers and utilities was discussed and commented on by a number of panellists:
  - It was important to keep African utilities solvent and transparent in accounting – as they are going to underpin investment
  - Moving away from dollarized PPA will help affordability
  - A simple increase in taxation across the continent by 1% would be sufficient to recapitalise all utilities;
- The need for harmonisation of the multiple and overlapping initiatives, and adoption of successful innovation was stressed:
  - The good work of the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF), which is sponsored by DFID, EU Infrastructure Trust Fund and the German Government (via KfW), was mentioned as a great example of an initiative that should be scaled-up and replicated. The Facility provides grants to co-finance surface studies and exploration drilling programmes for public and private developers. The support reduces the high upfront risks related to the development of geothermal resources and thus geothermal power;
  - The role of RECs in harmonising national frameworks for promoting renewable energy was also stressed;
- Mr Phillippe Niyongabo pointed out that promotion of on-shoring of manufacturing and jobs were also key enablers, and not enough time had been spent at the panel in this regard.

In conclusion Mr Rugamba, as Chair of this panel, summed up the day's proceedings:

- A focus on energy access for all in Africa by 2025 was key, and renewable energy is a game changer in helping to achieve this target;
- A focus on energy affordability and least cost is critical in this mission – and building manufacturing capability and job creation within Africa was important to achieve this;
- It was vital to create strong political will and to use African leadership to generate momentum amongst all African nations to boost initiatives such as AREI;
- Creating strong institutions and clear frameworks which inspire investor confidence was a top priority;
- There was a need for all sources of clean energy and all sizes of clean energy to be promoted; there was no single solution for Africa.

### **Closing Remarks**

The ICA Plenary wrapped up with closing comments from Mr Rauh (BMZ) reiterating support for the above conclusions adding that this sector is not about one size fits all, and political will was key to addressing issues of high bureaucracy, political uncertainty, and in addressing issues that inhibit investor confidence.

Mr Asamoha (AfDB) added that achieving 300 GW of clean energy investment was “do-able” and that “connectivity leads to GDP”.



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