



International Conference on Renewable Energy in Africa.

Making Renewable Energy Markets Work for Africa.

Policies, Industries and Finance for Scaling up.

16 to 18 April 2008, Dakar, Senegal.

Dakar Declaration On Scaling Up Renewable Energy In Africa.

The Dakar Declaration on Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Africa

Preamble

The International Conference on Renewable Energy in Africa jointly organised by the Government of Senegal, the African Union, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) was held in Dakar, Senegal from 16 to 18 April 2008 to discuss the potential to scale up renewable energy in Africa so as to increase access to modern energy services and energy security for economic and social development. The conference was structured to facilitate sharing of experiences and stimulate issue-oriented discussions in plenary, thematic parallel sessions and high-level panel dialogue.

Participants in this international conference included over 500 high-level representatives, experts in energy and industry of African countries, the African Union Commission, African Regional Economic Communities; the AU/NEPAD, the African Development Bank, the German Government, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, other international development partners including UN agencies, bilateral organisations, private sector, and regional and international NGOs.

Conference Objectives

The conference brought together high-level decision makers to provide leadership and commitment to a common plan of action for market-based scaling up of renewables that is informed by lessons learnt from concrete case studies and the energy situation that obtains in Africa. The conference had the following specific objectives:

- Assess the significance of the role renewable energy to Africa's energy challenges;
- Identify most promising policy and regulatory options and new policy actions required to stimulate broader and accelerated market-based dissemination of renewable energy;
- Assess renewable energy technologies related challenges and discuss how they can be addressed; and
- Identify capacity needs for renewable energy markets enablers/facilitators and players.

Declaration

The participants of the International Conference on Renewable Energy in Africa,

- Aware of the vast unexploited and readily available renewable energy resources on the continent,
- Acknowledging that traditional biomass continues to be the main sources of energy for the majority of people in Africa,

- Recognising the potential contribution of renewable energy to increasing access to modern energy services and ensuring energy security for poverty reduction and economic growth,
- Noting in particular the role that renewable energy can play to reduce the impact of the current high cost of oil and address the power crises experienced in most African countries,
- Mindful of the need to increase energy supply to sustain rising demand due to high levels of economic growth recently being experienced by most countries on the continent,
- Aware that the utilisation of renewable energy constitutes a key element in strategies for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and addressing climate related risk in the implementation of national adaptation programmes,
- Recognising significant ongoing efforts at national and regional levels for the development of renewable energy technologies such as the experience with geothermal, cogeneration, ethanol production , improved cookstoves, wind energy, large and small scale hydropower and innovative institutional arrangements,
- However, recognising that much effort remains to be done to overcome barriers related to policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks, technologies, capacity and skills, financing, and research and development to scaling up renewable energy utilisation on the continent.

Agreed on a vision to scale up renewable energy development in Africa so as to enhance wider access to modern energy, strengthen the continent's energy security as well as support its industrialization and socio-economic development. The vision is guided by the following principles:

- Encourage regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national institutions to focus on renewable energy resources/technologies with a clear comparative advantage and develop an Africa regional energy policy;
- Adhere to the subsidiarity principle i.e. preference to be given to undertaking renewable energy initiatives at the most appropriate level that is practical and viable;
- Encourage a level playing field vis-a-vis conventional energy options to ensure that any explicit and/or implicit subsidies and incentives enjoyed by conventional energy options are extended to renewables;
- Adhere to sound and widely accepted sustainability indicators;
- Ensure that renewable energy initiatives take into account the gender and equity dimensions of socio-economic development, and
- Ensure that adequate attention is paid to promotion of renewable energy for both electricity and non-electrical applications in line with prevailing demand conditions.

To achieve this vision, participants agreed to setting a common continental target for governments with the support of their development partners to scale up investment in renewable energy from the current level of less than US\$ 1 billion a year to US\$ 10 billion over the next 5 years (2009 – 2014).

Consequently, the conference adopted a plan of action with the following five key programme dimensions:

- Policy, regulatory and institutional framework;
- Capacity building and skills development;
- Development of financing options;
- Renewable energy for enterprise development and industrialization; and
- Cross-cutting action on renewable energy development.

The participants call upon African governments, international partners, NGOs and the private sector to support the implementation of this action plan with adequate resources. African governments are particularly urged to demonstrate their commitment to this plan of action by mobilizing additional funding dedicated to the operationalisation of the agreed Plan of Action.

To lead the implementation of this Plan of Action, participants at the conference recommended the African Union in partnership with UNIDO and other relevant partners to draw on existing mechanisms to establish a high-level policy advocacy group at ministerial level. This group would be supported by a coordination unit responsible for:

- Monitoring, evaluating and reporting on progress in the implementation of this Plan of Action.
- Reviewing and confirming proposed measurable performance indicators.
- Regularly publishing on the internet progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan.

Participants - International Conference on Renewable Energy in Africa, Dakar, Senegal.

Attachment: Plan of Action for Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Africa.