

# The Africa-EU Energy Partnership



The Africa-EU Energy Partnership is a long-term framework for a more structured political dialogue and cooperation on energy issues of strategic importance to Africa and Europe, in particular energy security and energy access. Through the Partnership, Africa and Europe will develop a shared vision and a common approach to address today's rapidly changing geopolitical, economic and ecological reality. Together, the EU and Africa will address the energy challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The timing is critical for boosting Africa's efforts to increase investment in the energy sector and increase access to energy services – a vital contribution for most countries in sub-Saharan Africa in their struggle to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

This Africa-EU Partnership is part of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy and complements existing EU structures and initiatives, such as the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure. It is also designed to supplement international initiatives such as the World Bank's Clean Energy for Development Investment Framework and the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa.

The Energy Partnership will address energy issues at all levels – local, national, regional, continental and global – and mobilise increased resources to support Africa's energy development. The priorities include:

- Strengthening the Africa-EU dialogue on access to energy services and energy security.
- Scaling up of investment in energy infrastructure, including interconnections, sustainable renewable energy and improved energy efficiency.
- Improved management of energy resources, including increased development-oriented use of oil and gas generated resources.
- Encouraging transparency.
- Promoting enabling frameworks and technical capacities.
- Mainstreaming climate change into energy development cooperation.

# renewable energy



## Strengthening the Africa-EU dialogue

Africa and the EU are committed to an ongoing energy dialogue with the overall objective of achieving access to energy services that are secure, reliable, affordable, diversified, climate-friendly and produced in a sustainable manner. The partners recognise that these objectives demand a country-based approach, complemented by a regional and continental coordination.

A first step in achieving these objectives will be to increase the capacity of the secretariat of the EU Energy Initiative (EUEI). In addition, a high-level Africa-EU meeting will be held every two years supported by regular meetings between African and European agencies, emerging donors, the private sector and civil society.

## Scaling up investment, promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency

A substantial increase of investment in energy infrastructure and in energy services is critical to sustain and accelerate economic growth and social progress, for example, cross-border interconnections to enhance energy trade and security. A huge energy potential exists in Africa in both fossil fuels and renewable energy sources. Higher energy efficiency is key – on both the supply and demand side – together with the use of all forms of renewable energy, including biomass, hydropower, geothermal, solar and wind.

Increased investment by the private sector is necessary. The Energy Partnership is designed to promote local enterprises – including through public-private partnerships – notably for small projects aimed at increasing access to energy using all types of efficient, clean and sustainable technologies. The availability of innovative financing and guarantee methods will be explored and promoted.

## Improved management of energy resources

Revenues from extracting natural resources – properly managed and accounted for – could accelerate development and foster “pro-poor” growth. Under the Energy Partnership, African partners will be encouraged and assisted to increase the flow of energy sector revenues into economic and social development. The African partners will also be supported in mobilising funds from new sources, including from energy users, oil solidarity funds, and African and international private investors.

dialogue



### **Promoting transparency**

Transparency is essential for the development-oriented management of revenues and for improving the business environment. Within the Energy Partnership, African governments and their institutions will be assisted to increase transparency in their decision-making processes and in their negotiations with foreign extractive industries.

Governments and businesses will be encouraged to conform to Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) standards. European and European-based financial institutions will be encouraged to adhere to the Equator Principles and to implement the standards of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) related to transparent payments and contracts in the extractive sector.

### **Strengthening enabling frameworks and capacities**

The Energy Partnership will support African efforts to create the necessary regulatory, fiscal and legal environment needed to attract private investments, as well as operations and risk capital. Technology transfer will be promoted with a focus on locally adapted and affordable technologies.

### **Mainstreaming climate change**

The Energy Partnership will support and build capacities of African partner countries to adapt to climate change in the energy sector and to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The EU development partners are committed to finding ways to climate-proof development efforts. They will also support Africa in its efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. This includes the efficient, sustainable use of biomass to reduce emissions from deforestation.

Another priority of the partnership is boosting the capacity of African countries to take advantage of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and to tackle the problem of routine gas venting and flaring in Africa.

# transparency



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