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**The Climate Parliament & the United Nations Development Programme
with the Pan African Parliament (PAP) 2014 Workshop:**

“Mainstreaming Sustainable Energy Access in Africa”

Midrand, South Africa, 4 August 2014

RECOMMENDATION

We, the Members of the Parliament Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment; the Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Industry, Communication, Energy, Science and Technology; and the Parliamentary Committee on Gender, Family, Youths and People with Disabilities

Having attended a Capacity Building Workshop on Climate Change, Gender and Energy for Members of the Pan- African Parliament on 4th August in Midrand, South Africa;

Conscious that Energy plays a vital role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals through its ability to stimulate economic growth, generate employment, improve educational opportunities, and improve general health and wellbeing;

Recognising that evidence of global warming and climate change already exists in Africa and that the impacts of climate change are already profound, particularly in Africa;

Further recognising that the energy sector is one of the major emitters of greenhouse gases and a major contributor to climate change. It is estimated that approximately 60 per cent of total current greenhouse gases emissions are from the energy sector globally;

Also recognising that reducing greenhouse gases emissions, particularly in the electricity generation, remains a key objective in reaching long- term climate goals;

Recalling existing energy initiatives focusing on Africa, among others the UN “Sustainable Energy for All”, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Lighting Africa, the Paris- Nairobi Climate Initiative and the Africa-EU Energy Partnership - AEEP/ Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme – RECP, the Norwegian energy+;

Also recalling AEEP's agenda targets renewable energy to be reached by 2020 include 10,000 megawatts of hydropower facilities, 5,000 megawatts of wind power capacity, 500 megawatts of

solar energy capacity and tripling the capacity of other renewables, such as geothermal, and modern biomass;

Conscious that Africa, endowed with its abundant natural resources, has the opportunity and challenge of developing and growing the renewable energy sector not only to meet its development imperatives, but also to be responsive to the climate change problem;

Reaffirming that climate and energy issues have profound implications especially for women. Risks associated with climate change threaten to reinforce gender inequalities and even erode progress that has been made towards gender equality in many developing countries;

Emphasizing that Africa requires meaningful finance, technology and capacity-building for adaptation and risk management in relation with climate change;

Recognizing that Africa's priorities are to implement climate change programs in order to achieve sustainable development, and especially the alleviation of poverty and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals which are succeeded by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) from 2015;

Further recognising that Parliaments have a key role to play in both mitigation of and adaptation to climate change by promoting poverty alleviation, renewable energy, energy efficiency and forest conservation/ re-forestation. New country-specific legislation reflecting the changing conditions is needed;

Also recognizing that energy-related legislation and new budget priorities should be proposed and must be approved by Members of Parliament;

Determined to strength continental solidarity, cohesion, cooperation and development for the benefit of our people;

Aware of the Pan African Parliament Strategic Objectives for 2014 to 2018

We hereby recommend to:

1. Mainstream renewable energy in short and long-term national developments plans and strategies;
2. Identify barriers to the participation of women and girls in designing, formulating, training and capacity development on RE.
3. To build gender sensitive policy frameworks that can deliver on the particular energy needs of women and girls.
4. Put in place policies that regulate the renewable energy industry and promote its further development, so that Africa is better positioned to transition to sustainable energy and meet the continent's growing energy needs;
5. Adopt renewable energy as a strategic choice and develop comprehensive programs for renewable energy industries and markets.
6. Encourage the Members of Parliament to urge their respective governments to commit a minimum of 1% of the national budget to the promotion of renewable energy.