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Report on the Facilitation of the
Pan African Parliament Workshop and
Parliamentary Hearing on
Climate Change, Poverty and Energy- is renewable energy the solution for Africa?
15 – 16 August 2013, Midrand, South Africa

1. Background:

Climate change is a major threat to sustainable growth and development in Africa, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In Africa, climate change will impact on all sectors of the economy, particularly energy, agriculture and water, with the poorest and most vulnerable being impacted the most.

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. But at the same time, 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.

Reducing greenhouse gases emissions, particularly in the electricity generation, remains a key objective in reaching long- term climate goals. Many countries globally are now exploring the potential of renewable energy as an approach of tackling the global climate problem. 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.

There are several reasons why the vast potential of renewable energy has not yet resulted in sustainable energy provision for a significant portion of the world's population. One key reason is the lack of national policy frameworks to transform renewable resources into sustainable and affordable energy services. Another key reason is the very small percentage of most government and donor agency budgets devoted to renewables and to the new grids they require.

These are crucial challenges in order to promote a sustainable and climate-friendly development pathway in Africa, and to contribute to the mitigation of climate change and meet broader development and poverty reduction objectives.

2. Members of Parliament – "Leading the Way…"

In most developing countries, including many of those which are not fully democratic, the Parliament has a key role to play in both mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. Whether it is promoting poverty alleviation, job creation, food security, renewable energy, energy efficiency or forest conservation, new country-specific legislation is needed in most nations. Energy-related legislation and new budget priorities must be approved by Members of Parliament.

MPs also have many channels, both informal and formal, through which they can stimulate and influence the content of legislation and help to generate political will for government action. And they have a key role as public watchdogs to help ensure that policies are properly implemented. This will be of increasing importance as donor funds flow towards clean energy projects through the Energy+ Initiative, the Green Climate Fund and other channels.

Indeed, legislators have all the tools (taxation, legislation and oversight) which are needed to reduce carbon emissions while ensuring energy access for all. It is of crucial importance to build their capacity for dealing with renewable energy policy, so that they can make the best use of those tools.

3. Summary of the Parliamentary Hearing and Cooperation with the Climate Parliament the Heinrich Böll Stiftung and the World Future Council on Capacity Building of the PAP Committee on Agriculture, Rural Economy, Natural Resources and Environment.

The two-day Pan African Parliament (PAP) Hearing workshop was officially opened by Honourable Laurent Sedego - Chairperson of the Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. In his opening statement, Honourable Laurent Sedego underscored the need to strengthen capacities of the Parliamentary Committees on issues related to climate change and consequently also on the linkages to renewable energy and climate change. He underlined the need to ensure that the decisions taken by the Parliamentary Committees be based on scientific evidence of climate change. Agriculture and Energy were cited as the very important sectors for Africa, all be it with Africa contributing the least amounts to global emissions of greenhouse gases.

The PAP workshop also received a statement during the opening session from *Ms. Kulthoum Omari*- Sustainable Development Programme Manager, Heinrich Böll Stiftung (HBS) Southern Africa. In her welcoming statement and speaking on behalf of other HBS regional offices in Africa, she informed that in developing the cooperation between HBS and the Parliamentary Committee, HBS is informed by Africa's specific needs. She cited the key needs by raising the guiding questions: (a) How to address poverty within the Poverty-Renewable Energy-Climate Change nexus; (b) Whether Renewable Energy will contribute to the development in Africa? (c) How twill Africa finance the renewable energy transition? and (d) how to address equity?

The Parliamentary Hearing was informed that the Heinrich Böll Stiftung (HBS) continues to recognise PAP as a forum of the people's elected representatives, and the primary sites for deliberations and negotiation of citizens' collective interests and governance decisions. It is

for this reason, among other that the Heinrich Böll Stiftung (HBS) provides support to the capacity building initiative for Members of the Pan-African Parliament.

The meeting also received statements from the representatives of the Climate Parliament and also from the World Future Council. Ansgar Kiene, Director Africa Programme, World Future Council (WFC) emphasized on the fact that successful policies on climate change and renewable energy do exist and that the WFC since 2007 has engaged with Legislators across the African continent in adapting and implementing these policies. The WFC is looking forward to convene national renewable energy policy briefings with Parliamentarians in African countries.

4. Objective of the Workshop:

In many parts of the world, there is broad political and social consensus on the emission reduction and the transition to low carbon economy. However, for most developing countries, Africa in particular, this remains a goal far from being realized.

The Parliamentary Hearing of 15th and 16th August 2013 held at the Pan African Parliament Headquarters in Midrand, South Africa therefore convened a capacity building workshop for Members of the Pan African Parliament to strengthen their capacity in climate and energy policy so as to promote a socially just energy transition for Africa and in this way, strengthening parliamentary oversight role.

Some of the questions this workshop sought to answer included the following:

- What is the climate problem and how does that link to the energy and poverty problem?
- What does Africa need to do to make a socially just energy transition and what is the role of parliament?
- Will the energy transition unleash positive development for Africa? Will it address the major development challenges for the continent such as poverty and inequality?
- Can Africa promote socially owned renewable energy- which leads to more jobs and adds value to the production of green technologies?
- How can parliaments lead action on climate change and renewable energy?

The Parliamentary Hearing / Workshop was attended by 25 Honourable Members of Parliament representing 18 African States[1].

5. The Climate Change-Poverty-Renewable Energy nexus in the African context:

Although Africa has vast fossil and renewable energy sources, only twenty percent of its population has direct access to electricity and in some rural areas, four out of five people are completely without power. According to the UN, over 600 million Africans currently do not have access to electric power. A depressing 70 percent of Sub-Saharan Africa's population is living without access to clean and safe energy for their basic needs such as cooking, lighting and heating, making energy among the most urgent issues facing Africa

[1] Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda

Indeed, according to IEA data, 99.6% of the African population without electricity access is concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries, reflecting the great disparities in the different African regions caused also by the still unbalanced development of the energy production and transport infrastructures in the continent.

Renewable energy solutions for Africa: Renewable Energy in Africa is a huge opportunity to allow for a better standard of living for a large part of current and future population in Africa. If properly exploited, renewable energies are a big opportunity for improving the currently very poor access to energy for rural communities.

There is growing consensus among policy makers that efforts to disseminate Renewable Energy Technology (RET) in Africa have fallen short of expectations. While it is recognised that RETs cannot solve all of Africa's energy problems, RETs are still seen as having a significant unexploited potential to enable Africa countries to meet their growing energy requirements. Renewable energy is already the dominant source of energy for the household sub-sector (biomass energy). If properly harnessed, it could meet a significant proportion of energy demand from the industrial, agricultural, transport and commercial sub-sectors.

The success of RETs in the region has been limited by a combination of factors which include: poor institutional framework and infrastructure; inadequate RET planning policies; lack of co-ordination and linkage in RETs programmes; pricing distortions which have placed renewable energy at a disadvantage; high initial capital costs; weak dissemination strategies; lack of skilled manpower; poor baseline information; and, weak maintenance service and infrastructure.

Three major barriers to the adoption of renewables: Policy and legal barriers; technical barriers; and, financial barriers.

6. Summaries from the presentations by invited experts:

i) **Overview of the climate change problem and challenges in implementing the climate change solution: - Mr David Lesolle.** ***University of Botswana.***

The presentation provided an overview of the climate change challenge highlighting the global warming principle and the resultant climate change. The challenges to Africa in addressing climate change were also provided sighting droughts, floods and extreme events as key.

Renewable energy must play a major role in reducing or mitigating the greenhouse gas emissions. The presentation emphasised the need for both small and large scale renewable energy programmes. There are opportunities for Africa to invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency, green agriculture, carbon markets and that to address the poverty and climate resilience, these investments must also lead to jobs and economic growth.

ii) Climate change, poverty and energy nexus- South African Perspective- Ms. Peta Wolpe. ***Sustainable Energy Africa.***

The South African perspective provided highlights of the programmes, projects and initiatives in delivery of renewable energy to South African citizens and in

particular the urban populations. For example the Joe Slovo housing project has provided low-pressure solar water heaters and further that since democratic transition in 1994, National Electrification Programme has raised the level of electrification from 36% in 1994 to 84.7% by 2013.

The presentation also highlighted the challenges to the South African scenario: for example that policiesare not aligned with the developmental agenda – this making service delivery difficult and a lack of focus on implementation. The role that the Parliamentarians can play is important in securing reliable energy service provision for the poor.

iii) Financing instruments for Energy Transition:
Ms. Chantal Naidoo. *Third Generation Environmentalism.*

To achieve the socio-economic and environment benefits of a clean energy programme, there needs to be sustainable financing partnerships leading to skills building, localization of technology, job creation and access to finance. It is important to have an enabling policy framework to build new renewable energy infrastructure and industrial sector – which can deliver commercially sustainable "cleaner energy", jobs, localisation of technology and improved service delivery

Enabling frameworks include financial regulation & sector practices that support sustainable investment (e.g. Nigeria, South Africa); capacity in Ministries of Finance, Planning, Energy and Environmental Affairs – to focus on resource strategy & mobilisation; engaging on-going and inclusive stakeholder dialogues on resource constraints and needs – especially financing institutions, public finance ministries, development agencies and other, to ensure demand driven resourcing strategy and undertaking an evaluation of the efficiency of existing mechanisms.

The presentation also provided a summary of renewable energy projects in five African countries as follows:

Morocco – *The Ouarzazate Concentrated Solar Power Plant*: installing a total capacity of 500 MW. The first phase of construction will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, avoiding the emission of 240,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year. The Ouarzazate project will generate about 800 jobs during construction and 50 during operation and maintenance.

Zambia: *Renewable Energy Based Electricity Generation for Isolated Mini-Grids*
This project is being executed by The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).This initiative looks to promote renewable energy based electricity generation for isolated mini-grids in Zambia by proving technical and economical viability in remote non-grid connected areas in the north of Zambia. The project includes the installation of 1MW biomass-gasification power plant for electricity generation at the Kaputa region; 1MW small hydropower station at Shimunenga linking with productive uses and local production and a solar energy mini-grid to introduce solar lighting to support fishing and other productive activities at night.

Tanzania: *Mapembasi Small Hydro Project*: This plant will provide electrical power to about 22,000 people (5000 households), 159 small and medium enterprises and 12 rural institutions in five (5) villages in Igominyi. The surplus electricity will be fed to the TANESCO national utility main grid under a Standardized Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA). In addition carbon credits generated by the project are estimated at 33,600 CERs annually.

South Africa: *Kouga Wind Farm*: With a potential of up to 300MW of installed capacity, the fist phase of the Kouga Wind Farm is on track to go operational in the final quarter of 2014 and will generate 80MW of clean and renewable power.

Senegal: *Sangomar Ice Fabrics and Fisheries*: Sangomar Ice Fabrics and Fisheries (SIFF) aims to address the ice supply problem that currently affront the ice manufacturing sector and fishing sector due to frequent power blackouts. SIFF is integrating the use of renewable energy into the ice manufacturing processes. Currently, the factory uses 25 KWc solar power system and a 10Kw wind turbine, along with twenty-four batteries and six hybrid inverter/chargers. The renewable energy power system is coupled with an 80KH diesel power generator. The SIFF factory does not use any electricity from the power grid, and is the first ice factory in Senegal to use renewable energy sources.

iv) **Powering Africa through Renewable Energy Feed-in-Tarrifs (REFiT): Mr. Ansgar Kiene, World Future Council and Mr Joseph Nganga, Renewable Energy Ventures, Kenya.**

REFiTs have potential to transform energy systems and societies in profound and tangible ways. REFiTs are tailored to local context and can increase overall energy production both on and off-grid; Boost economic development ; Improve access to clean energy for all ; Avoid green house gas emissions and other problems related to unsustainable development;

Decentralized approach of REFiTs allows for alternative ownership and governance models. They provide an opportunity to empower communities and to refresh local democracy and self-governance.

Some key lessons and recommendations from the REFiT programmes include among other, the development of an enabling environment through simplified administrative process; resolving access to land and finance; raising awareness; building technical capacity

The presentation also gave an overview of the renewable energy sector, policies, strategies from Germany – in particular on the need to ensure community ownership of the implementation actions.

In financing REFiT it is useful to ensure that fossil fuel subsidies are redirected and a levy on fossil fuels is established to finance further development of renewable energy projects and programmes.

There are in existence a number of "Climate finances" in place and operational – for example for use in the development of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation

Actions (NAMAS's) and the "Green Climate Fund". There are many more financing options.

v) Africa perspectives on the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) Process and Energy Transition: Mr Xolisa Ngwadla. ***Africa Group of Negotiators' (AGN) Lead Coordinator on the Ad-hoc working group on the Durban Platform (ADP).***

Energy, economic development and wellbeing are correlated, and currently, the primary challenge for Africa is economic development and eradicating extreme poverty. The reality is that the continent trails the world in access to electricity with most countries having 50-75% of their citizens having no access. The challenge is then - How does Africa balance the carbon constraints and development??

The Africa Group within the climate change negotiations consider the following as a way forward to the nineteenth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (CoP 19): The global effort on climate change should equally encompass reduction in emissions and adverse impacts of climate change. This will ensure retention of the significant principle-based framework that takes into account historical emissions, capability and development needs.

The legislators should continue to support the African Group of Negotiators in pursuit of the protection of time (peaking frame for emissions) and space (amount of allowable emissions) for the development of African countries in the global dialogue, recognising development/energy needs. There will also be a need for finance and technology support for Africa's transition to a lower carbon and resilient development.

In light of challenges facing Africa therefore, the energy transition should also address socio-economic benefits; support the efforts for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) particularly those goals on hunger and poverty, universal primary education, gender equality, child mortality, communication, human health.

An enabling environment for the transition requires policies to support and in this respect the role of the Parliamentarian is very important. There is a need for policies that support a transition based on national priorities; development of functional energy utilities and infrastructure including through participation of the private sector.

vi) Carbon Tax experiences from South Africa: Setting Renewable Energy Targets for Africa and the Role of the Pan African Parliament: Manisha Gulati. ***Earthlife Africa.***

There are a number of African countries that have policies and some of these policies are not delivering the desired effect. This is largely a result of the following:

The scale of utilities that are into renewable energy are small and therefore do not feed into the grid. The balance between the cost of the utility and the emission dispatch do not encourage the development of renewable energy; further and in the case where renewable energy is from non-utilities for example at small scale, the regulatory framework including for example licensing is very cumbersome.

There are however opportunities for planned renewable energy – particularly in new buildings. There is a opportunities when the policy instruments may target specific sectors – for example agriculture, industry and other – in this case the priority must be on entrepreneurship and job creation.

vii) Overview of the Policy interventions and options for legislators: What parliamentarians can do? Mr James Corre:

There are a number of steps that may be undertaken by the legislators including for example – in the development of appropriate legislation and regulatory framework to encourage development and integration of energy grids. This integration should encourage the development of renewable energy loading of the grid.

There are opportunities in achieving and further promoting renewable energies. Such initiatives may include the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies, setting new targets and incentivising the private sector. There are sector-specific opportunities such as in the electrification of the transport and heating sectors.

7. Plenary Sessions: Parliamentary Hearing on the Policy options, challenges and opportunities:

During the two-day Parliamentary Hearing on ***Climate Change, Poverty and Energy- is renewable energy the solution for Africa?***- a number of issues emerged: In most cases the legislators posed questions such that the plenary discussed and identified the policy options to address the climate change – poverty and renewable energy within the African context. Most importantly – the plenary agreed that Renewable Energy MUST provide solutions to address Africa's poverty and that the challenges on energy poverty for Africa. This is especially important and urgent, considering the on-going international concerns on global warming and climate change. In this respect, Africa's developmental needs can also be addressed through an enhanced Africa-wide adoption of appropriate policies and regulatory framework to develop, promote and implement renewable energy projects and programmes.

The legislators Members of Parliaments called for an Africa-wide implementation of REFiT, especially that it is strengthening the capacities of policy makers and Parliamentarians in developing appropriate legislative and regulatory framework for the implementation of renewable energy programmes. They also recognised that one key barrier to effective application of renewable energy in Africa is the lack of coordination and information on options, especially technology and financing options.

It was observed that there is need for Africa to unite on climate change related matters – particularly in the determination of the international policy on climate change. in this way Africa may get an agreement on an Africa-wide regional programme for financing renewable energy technology transfer.

Some of the critical questions include:

- What happened to the climate change finances pledged to support African countries implement climate change mitigation actions?
- Is technology transfer happening and if it is not happening what are the barriers to technology transfer into Africa?
- Africa's energy demand also contributes to deforestation – what options do the African citizen have to meeting their energy needs?
- Is it practical to achieve poverty eradication without access to appropriate technologies?
- Given Africa's developmental priorities and that such developmental agenda will require resources, why should Africa promote the use of expensive 'renewable energy' technologies – instead of opting to use the cheaper options for development?
- Africa must be cautious in the choice of renewables as some renewable energy options result in 'land grabbing'.

The Parliamentary Hearing also called for a positive paradigm toward Africa. It is therefore important that African should not regard themselves as 'poor' meanwhile they have access to abundant renewable energy resources.

The Parliamentary Hearing further recognised that some developed countries are not investing in renewable energy and that there is a need to engage and encourage some of these countries to adopt policies that permit technology transfer and resource flows for renewable energy. At the same time there was a call for more action on the part of the African Executive and Policy makers to strengthen the implementation of commitments nationally by ensuring good governance, self financing and strengthening the oversight role of the Parliaments.

8. Summary:

In summary, the Pan African Parliament (PAP) on ***Climate Change, Poverty and Energy- is renewable energy the solution for Africa?***- Capacity Building Workshop was well received and appraised as an important activity in the programme of work for the PAP.

The key messages that resulted from the Hearing included:

i) There is a need to strengthen the capacities of the PAP and its Members in developing appropriate legislative and regulatory framework to address deforestation and renewable energy policies. This is a first and necessary step for achieving rural development to address poverty in Africa.
ii) In building capacities of the PAP and its Members, it is also important to focus on the institutional and governance of renewable energy transition. In this way Africa will determine an appropriate and applicable structure for renewable energy transition.

iii) Financing technology transfer will be key in achieving meaningful implementation and wide-application of renewable energy technologies across the continent. Currently the cost of renewable energy technologies is prohibitive.
iv) In the development and implementation of the transition to renewable energy, the important drivers must remain job creation and poverty eradication and or alleviation.

On the basis on the plenary discussions an important outcome of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) on ***Climate Change, Poverty and Energy- is renewable energy the solution for Africa?-*** Capacity Building Workshop was the Statement of Recommendations as adopted by the Members of Parliament.

The Statement of Recommendations is attached as an annex to this report.

9. Conclusion and closing of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) on *Climate Change, Poverty and Energy- is renewable energy the solution for Africa?-* Capacity Building Workshop

In closing, the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment thanked – on behalf of the Committee and also on behalf of the Parliamentary Committees on Transport and that of Energy, for the support by the various institutions in making the workshop a success; urging that "*Tomorrow is more difficult than today"*.

He urged the Members of Parliaments to promote the national challenge and ensure that appropriate regulations and effected to allow renewable energy technology flows.

He also called for a follow-up workshop for PAP Members in the near future to also include members of the Executive (Cabinet Ministers) and in particular Ministers of Finance, Energy and Environment.

The HBS (Southern Africa office), the Climate Parliament and the World Future Council were commended for the initiative.