

Joint Declaration / Common Statement

'Renewable Energy Policies for Sustainable African Development'

TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

Powering Africa with Renewable Energy

Now is the time to set the course towards a massive uptake of renewable energy for all people in urban and rural Africa.

If we fail to immediately take decisions on Renewable Energy production and distribution in grid connected areas as well as in off grid regions, we undermine the right of millions of African citizens to develop a better life in the future. Renewable Energy means both, the production of electricity as well as thermal applications. The strategy workshop organised by the World Future Council and its partners from the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE) has therefore resulted in the foundation of the 'African Renewable Energy Alliance – AREA'. This Alliance envisages the sharing of information and networking among experts and stakeholders from the political field, the business sector and the civil society.

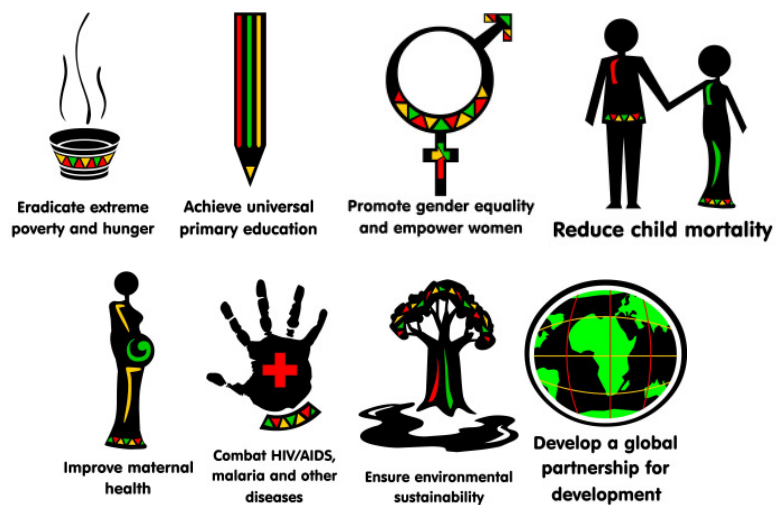
The following terms of reference have been agreed:

1. The accelerated implementation of Renewable Energy solutions is a mandatory condition for the protection of our natural environment, the halting of climate change and the improvement of human health
2. Access to sustainable energy (electricity and heat) is vital for the achievement of all 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDG)
3. African countries now have the opportunity of leap-frogging fossil fuel based energy production by immediately utilizing the advanced, available Renewable Energy technology
4. Good governance and transparency of the decision making process and the financial flow is the key for attracting local and foreign investors
5. Energy education and environmental information on challenges, solutions and available technology at all levels of society is a prerequisite for the success of implementing renewable energy strategies
6. Neither a pure bottom-up nor a simple top-down approach promises to work for the uptake of renewables. A truly mutual understanding and agreement among politicians, the civil society and the business community is crucial.
7. In order to foster local employment, Renewable Energy solutions should be linked with the development of local economies, based on a market driven approach. The Alliance will ensure sustainability in the adaptation of Renewable Energy technologies by supporting Pan-African, regional, national and local capacity-building.

8. Energy efficiency measures along with decentralized Renewable Energy production close to the demand side is the preferable option for remote areas.
9. Financing Renewable Energy in developing countries requires investment security. In order to ensure this the Alliance wants to explore an innovative international, national and local financing mechanism for Renewable Energy policies.
10. The participants agree upon the foundation of an African Renewable Energy Alliance in order to ensure a follow up process out of this workshop. The members of this alliance will be holding regular conference calls and further meetings. An ongoing exchange of knowledge and ideas will be facilitated by an interactive web platform. The World Future Council is committed to fund the first steps of the Alliance.

The participants of the World Future Council strategy workshop

October 10th, Addis Ababa –Ethiopia



The eight Millennium Development Goals [MDG's]

Source: UNDP Regional Service Centre South Africa