

IEA Ministerial High-Level Dialogue, hosted by the Netherlands

Renewable energy for sustainable economic development in Africa: Turning a vision into reality

The African continent is endowed with excellent renewable energy resources and vast areas of land suitable and available for renewables development. At the same time, low rates of energy access and high energy poverty put socio-economic development ambitions at risk. The development of large-scale renewable projects in Africa, including the production of renewable hydrogen and its derived fuels, could create an opportunity for African governments to address access issues while also generating broader economic, environmental and social benefits.

Despite this vast potential, the development of renewables has been slow due mainly to difficulties in attracting investments. Several factors create barriers to financing projects, including the high cost of capital and investment risk premiums, small and fragmented markets and lack of an enabling policy environment. Recently announced renewable hydrogen and derived fuels projects in Africa can also help to overcome challenges in attracting investment due to their large size and opportunities for foreign offtake. If designed and managed well, these projects can simultaneously offer multiple complementary benefits for sustainable socio-economic development.

Objective

This high-level roundtable seeks to draw on the participants' experiences and addresses the question of how accelerated renewable energy investments can help to enable increased sustainable development in Africa. The aim is to identify relevant policy approaches, innovative business models, and coordinated actions needed to turn the vision of a continent running on renewables for its industrial development into a reality. Participants are asked to address the following set of questions:

- What national policies and measures have been taken to attract and facilitate private and international investments in renewable energy and hydrogen projects, including those for export?
- How are African governments integrating these projects into broader national development plans and strategies to bring environmental and socio-economic benefits to their people?
- What is the role of finance, whether it is private, public, or concessional? What is the role of the private developers?
- What have been the greatest areas of progress in renewable energy (including hydrogen) projects and which challenges have been hindering that progress? How can lessons learned and best practices from these experiences be continuously shared?
- What efforts are being made to encourage national, regional and international public-public and public-private collaboration for a more environmentally and socially sustainable approach? How can the IEA support these efforts?

IEA Secretariat support

The IEA Secretariat is ready and glad to assist. Please contact Martina Lyons at HLD.Africa@iea.org or via WhatsApp/mobile +33 6 67 44 76 57 for more information.

Agenda

13:00 – 13:05	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michel Heijdra – Vice Minister for Climate and Energy Policy, the Netherlands Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Cozzi - Director of Sustainability, Technology & Outlooks, IEA
13:05 – 13:10	Keynote speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Amani Abou-Zeid – Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union
13:10 – 14:10	High-level moderated roundtable discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Moderator:</i> Michel Heijdra – Vice Minister for Climate and Energy Policy, the Netherlands
13:10 – 13:30	Part I: A bold vision: Harnessing renewable energy for Africa's structural development (energy access, food and water security, industrialisation, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Tarek El Molla - Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Egypt H.E. Davis Chirchir – Minister of Energy and Petroleum, Kenya H.E. Antoine Félix Abdoulaye Diome, Minister of Petroleum & Energy, Senegal
13:30 – 14:00	Part II: How to turn vision into tangible results: the need for de-risking investment and infrastructure. Partnering along the sustainable value chain (off-takers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Kadri Simson – European Commissioner for Energy, European Union Kiyoto Tsuji – State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan International institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damilola Ogunbiyi – Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy Franz R. Drees-Gross – Regional Director, West Africa Infrastructure, World Bank Group (virtually) Private sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siegfried Huegemann – Secretary General and Co-Founder, African Hydrogen Partnership Boudewijn Siemons – CEO & COO a.i., Port of Rotterdam Authority Tobias Bischof-Niemz – CEO, ENERTRAG and Advisor, Hyphen Hydrogen Energy Rentia Van Tonder – Head of Power, Standard Bank Group and Standard Bank of South Africa
14:00 – 14:10	Part III: Open discussion
14:10 – 14:15	Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michel Heijdra – Vice Minister for Climate and Energy Policy, the Netherlands