

: Programme

Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2013 Fostering Energy Access in Africa. Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Integration

Hotel Voltaire, Potsdam

26-27 April 2013

Conference language

German/English (Simultaneous interpretation)

Cooperating partners:

Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Eschborn/Bonn

Karl-Renner-Institut, Vienna

WeltTrends, Potsdam



BACKGROUND

Access to energy is one of the most important prerequisites for economic and social development. Energy is needed to manufacture essential every-day goods, create jobs and generate income, and safeguard vital infrastructure. Since autumn 2011, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative led by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has injected fresh impetus into the international debate. Linking in with this initiative, the members of the African Union, during All Africa Energy Week last November, pledged to put a stronger focus on energy issues in their development strategies. Their aim is to achieve more efficient, coherent and coordinated actions towards increasing energy access, and to accelerate progress through dialogue and partnership. This is an urgent necessity, for whereas the gap between energy demand and supply has steadily narrowed worldwide over the past four decades, Africa is on an opposite trajectory. Around 500 million people in Africa still have no access to electricity, and when it is available, it is often very expensive. Electricity prices in Africa are often much higher than in the industrialised countries.

To make energy accessible and affordable, the continent needs to pursue coherent, consistent and reliable development strategies, based on regional integration, over the long term. A start has already been made: regional economic communities such as ECOWAS, SADC and the EAC are already implementing transnational projects, and have been doing so for some years. Most of them are large-scale projects, such as construction of regional hydroelectric plants and transboundary transmission lines. As a complementary measure, however, decentralised projects must also be given more support in future. This is particularly important in rural regions, where even today, only around 12 per cent of the population has access to an electricity supply. Decentralised solutions offer a further advantage, namely local “ownership”, meaning that responsibility for a project is assumed by those who have the greatest interest in ensuring its success.

In these contexts, the potential afforded by clean, green – in other words, renewable – energies is especially high. Depending on the local geophysical conditions, wind, hydro and/or solar energy are available in abundance. And yet as much as 82 per cent of Africa’s electricity is still generated from fossil fuels, compared with only 16 per cent from renewables. If this ratio is to change, the right political and economic adjustments must be made, for example through taxation, subsidies and incentive schemes, as well as feed-in tariffs and legislation. After all, private investors will only commit to this type of project, alongside public sector donors, if the conditions are right.

With the Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2013, we want to help put the issue of energy access at the heart of the debate about African energy policy. In keeping with the longstanding tradition of this dialogue series, the role of regional integration in this context will be a particular focus of interest.

: Friday, 26 April 2013

09.30 hrs. Registration

WELCOME

10.00 hrs.

Ralf Christoffers

Minister for Economic and European Affairs of Brandenburg, Potsdam

Dr Gerd Harms

State Secretary (ret.), Deputy Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF)

SESSION I

ENERGISING AFRICA

Chair

Dr Gerd Harms

10.15 hrs.

Keynotes

Ambassador Jörg Ranau

Director for Globalization, Energy and Climate Policy
Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

Professor Abubakar S. Sambo

Special Energy Adviser to the Nigerian President
Federal Secretariat, Abuja

Jürgen Stotz

President
World Energy Council - Germany, Berlin

11.15 hrs.

Plenary discussion

12.30 hrs.

Lunch

SESSION II
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

The importance of energy for development is the subject of discussion worldwide, prompting the development and launch of a range of programmes and projects in this field. These are an urgent necessity in sub-Saharan Africa. This panel will focus primarily on the goals of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, launched by the UN as a follow-up to Rio+20, and its potential to foster energy access. The panel will also cast a glance at the Africa-EU Energy Partnership.

Chair

Professor Henning Melber

Senior Fellow and former Executive Director of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala
Member of the Advisory Board of the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF)

13.30 hrs.

Input

Franz Marré

Head of Division Water; Energy; Urban Development; Geoscience Sector
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Bonn

13.50 hrs.

Comments

Professor Geoffrey R. John

Chairperson

Tanzania Renewable Energy Association (TAREA)

Dr. Linus Mofor

Analyst at Innovation & Technology Center (IITC)
International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Bonn

followed by plenary discussion

15.00 hrs.

coffee-break

SESSION III

THE ROLE OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN FOSTERING ENERGY ACCESS

A transparent and stable policy framework over the longer term is a prerequisite for sustainable and equitable growth and employment. Institutional reforms have an important role to play here. Clear targets must therefore be set by national governments and/or the regional economic communities, and must be accompanied by the introduction of appropriate instruments for their realisation. At All Africa Energy Week in November 2012, the members of the African Union announced their plan to achieve more efficient, coherent and coordinated actions towards increasing energy access, accelerating progress in this field through dialogue and partnership. Possible ways of achieving this progress will be discussed in Panel II. The ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), established in Cape Verde in 2010, will also be discussed as an example of regional integration in the energy sector.

Key questions

Which political, institutional and legal parameters are needed to foster energy access, also for poor communities? How can the regional economic communities contribute to the framing of appropriate policies? What can the new Conference of Energy Ministers of Africa (CEMA) be expected to achieve as a central coordinating body for energy policy?

Chair

Sebastian Schublach

Head of Department of International Politics
Karl-Renner-Institute, Vienna

15.30 hrs.

Input

Hyacinth Elayo

Policy Analyst
ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), Praia

15.50 hrs.

Comments

Rudolf Huepfl

Senior Adviser on Energy for Development
Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE), Vienna

Odala Matupa

Programme Officer Energy
SADC Secretariat, Gaborone

followed by plenary discussion (until 17.00 hrs)

CULTURAL PROGRAMME AND RECEPTION

18.30 hrs.

Sightseeing tour of Potsdam

20.00 hrs.

Reception hosted by the Minister-President of Land Brandenburg
Meierei Im Neuen Garten

: Saturday, 27 April 2013

SESSION IV

SUSTAINABLE AND DECENTRALISED SOLUTIONS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

More than 500 million people in Africa still have no access to electricity. Most of them live in rural regions where the lack of access to electricity is a major barrier to social and economic development. Development experts hope that smaller-scale renewable energy schemes will improve the situation. The panel will discuss specific projects and challenges.

Key questions

What are the most urgent challenges in improving energy access in Africa? Which projects can address these challenges particularly well? What are the potentials, but also the limits, of decentralised solutions?

Chair

Lucius Mayer-Tasch

Energy Adviser

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Eschborn

10.00 hrs.

Discussion round with

Christian Bachmann

Managing Director

Klima ohne Grenzen, Leipzig

John Kasagga Kuteesakwe

Project Manager

University of Flensburg

Tobias Zwirner

Managing Director

Phaesun GmbH, Memmingen

followed by plenary discussion

11.30 hrs.

coffee-break

SESSION V**PROMOTION OF INVESTMENT FOR RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION**

When it comes to accessing funding, the African energy sector faces major challenges. Compared with other regions of the world, local and international investments are very modest in scale. When funding is available, it is generally channelled into large-scale projects. Official development assistance (ODA) is therefore still very important in providing an energy supply for the poorest sectors of society. ODA funding mechanisms are diverse and highly context-specific. Donors hope that these funds will stimulate private investment as well, and are supporting this process with targeted programmes such as PPPs. This panel will demonstrate with concrete project examples how the Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (DEG) supports private-sector investments in developing countries. It is essential, in this context, to take account of the complementary interests of the private sector and development cooperation. Partner countries, for their part, must support private investment in the energy sector by creating the right conditions and establishing appropriate regulatory frameworks.

Key questions

Which frameworks and regulations can encourage investment in renewable energy projects? Which funding mechanisms are particularly promising? How can development cooperation work with the private sector to establish sustainable models for a renewable energy supply, taking due account of the complementary interests of the private sector and development? What form might other multi-stakeholder models take?

Chair

Dr Gerd Harms

State Secretary (ret.), Deputy Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF)

12.00 hrs.

Input

Dr Tobias Bidlingmaier

Senior Investmentmanager
DEG - Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft, Cologne

12.20 hrs.

Comments

Michael Franz

Project Manager
EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF), Brussels

Noara Kebir

Managing Director
Micro Energy International, Berlin

Amadu Mahama

Founder and Chairman
NewEnergy, Tamale

followed by plenary discussion

13.30 hrs.

Closing remarks by the organisers

Dr Michèle Roth

Executive Director
Development and Peace Foundation (SEF)