

AFRICAN UNION

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P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: (251-11) 5182406 Fax: (251-11) 5182450

**AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE
OF ENERGY MINISTERS OF AFRICA (CEMA)
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AU/CEMA/MIN/Res. (II)

**RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
FOR ALL INITIATIVE**

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Preamble

We, African Union Ministers in Charge of Energy, gathered at the Second ordinary Session of CEMA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the 16th of November 2012, recognizing that, despite the availability of enormous resources of energy in Africa the bulk of the African population lack access to modern energy resources and concerted efforts are needed to ensure that the challenges facing the utilization of Africa massive energy resources are solved, therefore:

Recognizing that no meaningful sustainable socioeconomic development can be achieved without the availability and accessibility of affordable modern energy resources

Guided by the African Union energy vision on access to reliable, affordable, modern energy resources for the African population.

Considering of the various energy initiatives and programmes developed by the African Union Commission, AUC, and NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, NPCA, the African Development Bank (AfDB), Regional Institutions and AU Member Countries in this regards

Given that 2012 has been declared the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) by the United Nations Secretary General with three main objectives to be achieved by the year 2030; namely, (i) universal access to modern forms of energy, (ii) doubling the share of renewable energy in the total energy mix and (iii) doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements.

Concerned by the low rate of energy access in Sub Saharan Africa to modern and reliable energy in spite of the continent' rich energy resources

Acknowledging the opportunities that the SE4ALL Initiative opens for Africa to advance its energy agenda at national, regional, and continental levels.

Recalling the support of the Conference of Energy Ministers for Africa to sustainable energy for all in its Maputo Meeting in 2010

Taking note of the NPCA's commitment statement issued at Rio+20 in support of SE4ALL objectives and the concrete commitment made by the AfDB at Rio+20.

Taking note of the plans and energy programmes that already exist in Africa at national, regional and continental levels which significantly contribute to the achievement of SE4ALL objectives. Recognize that additional programmes and

complementary policies may need to be developed in response to the opportunities opened by the SE4ALL Initiative.

Recalling that African Heads of State and Government (HSG) adopted a Declaration in January 2012, endorsing the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) as the continental high priority infrastructure programme.

Considering the Declaration of the First Ministerial Conference of the Africa-European Union Energy Partnership held in “Vienna, Austria”, on 14 September 2010, adopting the 2020 targets jointly proposed by African and European Experts in Cairo in February 2010 as contribution to increased access to modern energy, energy security, as well as promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency within the framework of the partnership;

Taking note of the recommendations that came out of the AUC/NPCA/UNDP workshop held in Nairobi in September 2012 that outlined Africa’s Response to SE4ALL initiative and Africa’ principles for action plan development

Underlining that country action plans should take into account the countries national goals and existing strategies, should be informed by the outcomes of the gap analyses and aspire towards the overall SE4All objectives.

Mindful that African countries should champion the cause of gender mainstreaming in the planning and implementation of the SE4ALL Initiative.

Therefore Resolve To:

TAKE advantage of the new avenues that the SE4ALL initiative opens to advance African national, regional and continental goals and aspirations and programmes regarding energy access, renewable energies, and energy efficiency, including PIDA.

CALL ON the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2014 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, in order to continue to build on the momentum created, to increase the awareness of the importance of the role that energy plays in achieving sustainable socioeconomic development, and to promote action at the national, regional, continental and international levels.

SUPPORT the proposal of the UN General Assembly to declare a decade of Sustainable Energy for All.

RECOGNIZE that a substantial number of African countries have decided to be part of the SE4All Initiative, and **ENCOURAGE** those African countries that have not yet done so to consider joining the Initiative.

REQUEST that Africa’s institutions (AUC/NPCA) are appropriately represented in the political and implementation structures of the SE4All Initiative at the global levels to ensure that SE4All responds to Africa’s needs.

REQUEST the AUC, NPCA and UNDP to continue facilitating the development of guidelines for the development of Action Plans required to implement African programmes towards achieving the objectives of SE4ALL.

DEVISE innovative means to finance energy projects and to create a conducive environment for investments from both the private sector and public-private partnerships in the energy sector;

CALL UPON international finance institutions to be responsive to Africa's needs.

CALL UPON the AfDB to support the African SE4All opt-in countries, through the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA).

ACKNOWLEDGE the role that capacity development plays as the corner stone in achieving the objectives of SE4ALL, as well as the importance of monitoring, evaluation, use of tracking systems, standards and regulations for the successful implementation of the SE4ALL initiative.

DECIDE to endorse the recommendations that came out of AUC/NPCA/UNDP Workshop held in Nairobi 19-21 September 2012 on Africa's Response to SE4ALL and to request AUC, NPCA and AfDB to coordinate the implementation of SE4ALL initiative in Africa guided by these recommendations. Furthermore, request the AUC to submit them to the AU Summit decision-making process for approval by the next summit of the Heads of States and Governments of the AU member states.

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16th November 2012