

PRAIA DECLARATION ON UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO ENERGY IN WEST AFRICA

The meeting marking the 11th anniversary of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), was held from 6th to 8th of July 2021 in Praia, Cabo Verde with the participation of Mr. Alexandre Dias Monteiro, Minister of Industry, Trade and Energy of the Republic of Cabo Verde; Dr. Aissatou Sophie Gladima, Minister of Petroleum and Energy of the Republic of Senegal; Dr. Miryan Djamila Sena Vieira, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Cabo Verde; Mr. Sédiko DOUKA, ECOWAS Commissioner for Energy and Mining; Mr. Alfred Braimah, ECOWAS Auditor General; delegations from Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger comprising of representatives of the Ministers of Mali and Burkina Faso, General Secretaries, General Directors, experts, representatives of technical and financial partners, staff from ECREEE led by Mr. Bah F. M. Saho, Acting Executive Director and eminent personalities from the private sector and civil society in the region.

ECREEE's 11th anniversary was marked by a series of activities, including site visits and exchanges, culminating in a ceremonial dinner during which important messages were delivered on the role and achievements of ECREEE over the past decade and the prospects for 2030.

As part of the Support Project for Rural Electrification by Renewable Energy System in the Liptako-Gourma Region, a comprehensive knowledge-sharing session was organized on the Senegalese experience in terms of governance of the renewable energy sector. This was mainly in relation to multi-stakeholder platforms for consultation between state and non-state actors as a permanent vehicle for dialogue that has facilitated positive agreements for the sector. ECREEE and its partners, the Liptako-Gourma Authority (ALG), UNOPS and UNDP, as well as the other participants, warmly welcomed and appreciated the Senegalese authorities for their availability and the progress they have made in promoting renewable energy.

The Praia meeting also provided an opportunity to assess ECREEE's programs and projects over the past decade. All participants praised ECREEE's remarkable performance over the past eleven years.

Presentations by technical and financial partners including UNDP, UNOPS, ALG and Enda Energie highlighted ECREEE's enormous development potential as an agency for the development and implementation of ECOWAS' sustainable energy policies which aim to achieve universal access by 2030 in line with the directives of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government.

At the end of the activities commemorating this eleventh anniversary, the stakeholders formulated the recommendations that will serve as a basis for the Praia Declaration:

PREAMBLE

MINDFUL of the urgent need to address the multiple existing barriers to the exploitation of renewable energy and energy efficiency potentials in the ECOWAS region;

MINDFUL of the goals of the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All (SeforALL) initiative to achieve universal access to modern energy services by 2030, to double the global rate of energy efficiency improvement and to double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix;

MINDFUL of the objectives of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy (EREP), which aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the region's overall electricity mix to 48% by 2030;

MINDFUL of the EREP target to increase the share of the rural population served by off-grid renewable energy solutions (mini-grids and stand-alone systems) to 25% by 2030, with a target of 128,000 clean energy mini-grids by 2030;

MINDFUL of the objectives of the ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy (EEEP), which aims to implement measures that free 2000 MW of power generation capacity and in the long term, more than double the annual improvement in energy efficiency, so as to attain levels comparable to those of world leaders.;

AWARE of the target of the Bioenergy policy which aims to improve food and energy security through the deployment of sustainability criteria in the production, transformation and utilization of biomass resources to contribute to the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Initiative; and provide universal access to clean cooking solutions by 2030;

MINDFUL of the regional policy on gender mainstreaming in energy access with the objective to contribute towards increased access to modern, affordable, and reliable energy services, energy security and environmental sustainability by tailoring national and regional policies, projects and program to the energy needs of men and women.

MINDFUL that renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions can efficiently and simultaneously address the challenges of access to energy, energy security, food security and climate change;

CONVINCED that energy is a resource, a collective service, and at the same time, a production factor of multi-sectorial dimension that lies at the heart of any socio-economic development process and essential for meeting fundamental human needs (food, water, health, education, etc.);

CONVINCED that an adequate response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic requires the urgent building of resilient communities and health infrastructures.

CONVINCED that adequate consideration for the diverse energy needs of both men and women in the region can effectively accelerate the energy transition and reinforce the regions energy agenda.

ACKNOWLEDGING critical institutional role and the achievements of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), based in Praia, Cabo Verde, in the promotion of sustainable energy markets and investments in West Africa through public-private partnerships;

ACKNOWLEDGING the experience and expertise of ECREEE in mobilizing resources for the development and implementation of sustainable energy projects;

We, the participants of the study visit commemorating the 11th anniversary of ECREEE, recommend the following:

- The organization by the ECOWAS Commissioner for Energy and Mines, in collaboration with ECREEE, and in agreement with relevant stakeholders and decision-makers, of a meeting of the Ministers in charge of energy to assess the 11 years of ECREEE's operations and to define new strategies that take into account the new challenges and the context arising from the serious energy security and health crises that the ECOWAS region is currently experiencing;
- The Energy Ministers' Meeting should be preceded by a high-level technical meeting of Energy Directors and experts to assess where the region stands and how it can attain the regional energy access and sustainable energy targets by 2030;
- The ECOWAS Commission, ECREEE, ECOWAS Energy Agencies, and regional and international partners should support ECOWAS Member States to attain regional energy access and sustainable energy targets by 2030;
- The elaboration of a regional legislative and regulatory framework favoring the involvement of the private sector and the promotion of public-private partnerships in the development and deployment of clean energy technologies for on-grid, mini-grids and other off-grid energy solutions;
- The promotion of consultation frameworks at the level of member states where state and non-state actors, notably the local private sector, civil society, elected officials at the national level, and consumer associations participate in an inclusive manner in the promotion of sustainable energy development;
- The implementation of bold industrialization policies within the framework of partnerships between the international private sector and the local private sector to meet the needs of the renewable energy market in this context of great expansion of the sector and to boost local manufacturing and assembly plants for sustainable energy products;
- The promotion of off-grid electrification for productive uses, particularly in the agricultural sector for the development of a dynamic economy at the territorial level. In this respect, ECOWAS Member States are very interested in scaling up certain projects,

in particular the rural electrification project of the Liptako Gourma Authority in association with UNDP and UNOPS, as well as off-grid electrification projects promoting productive uses such as Enda Energy's PROGRES-Lait and ECREEE's DPERSE, implemented with the support of the European Union and the Government of Senegal.

- The development of training programs in renewable energy to create jobs and ensure the sustainability of infrastructure and the exploitation of the enormous employment potential that the sector holds for young people in the West Africa region.
- The commitment of ECOWAS Member States in the way of directives, for the promotion of investments in the strategic area of rural electrification;
- The consideration of access to clean cooking energy fuels and technologies as a priority in view of its socio-economic, environmental and health impacts.

Regarding the status of the Sustainable Energy Champion granted to Mr. Abdou Fall, Honorary President of the Employers' Council for Renewable Energy in Senegal (COPERES), the meeting welcomed this decision, clarified his mission and expressed the wish that a college of goodwill ambassadors be set up in the long term to support the institutions in charge of promoting policies that ensure universal energy access in the ECOWAS region.

In addition, projects promoting energy efficient lighting, the energy/water/food nexus and electric mobility were confirmed as priority projects to be closely implemented and monitored by ECREEE with the support of the Champion in all of the ECOWAS member states.

Signed:

The Participants

Done in Praia, Cabo Verde, this 9th Day of July 2021