MISSION REPORT

First Committee Meeting

National stakeholders meeting on electricity sub-sector- Central African Republic

Bangui, 12th March 2019
1. **Introduction**

On Tuesday 12th March 28, 2019, the National Actors in the Electricity sub-sector held their first meeting of Consultation Framework in the conference room of the Barthelemy Boganda stadium in Bangui, RCA. The Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project (ROGEP) is supporting this national stakeholders’ committee by allowing them to **Facilitate Stakeholder Exchange**. ROGEP will support initiatives and activities that would foster industry collaboration with key stakeholders and promote meaningful dialogue for scaling up electrification through off-grid solutions.

2. **Opening Ceremony**

This meeting was co-chaired by:
- **Mrs. Edith Pulchérie ASSANI DAMIAN**, Program Manager Environment & Sustainable Development of UNDP;
- **Mr. Ousman MOUSSA**, General Manager of Energy Development.

The secretariat was provided by Thierry BEFIO NAMDENGANANA- Director General of the Autonomous Rural Electrification Agency of Central Africa (ACER), ROGEP Focal Point.

Representatives present were:
- Development partners
- Agencies of the United Nations System
- Local communities
- Civil society
- Private sector
- Administration

**The agenda are as follows:**

1. Welcome address from the Director General of Energy;
2. Presentation of the Terms of Reference of National stakeholder’s committee in the sub-sector of electricity in the Central African Republic
3. Presentation on electricity sector reforms in CAR;
4. Presentation of the ROGEP Project;

As the presidium of the meeting was already defined by the Decree establishing the National stakeholder’s committee in the sub-sector of electricity in the CAR. The session started with the welcoming address of the Director General of Energy Development, who in his speech apologized to the participants about the slight delay caused by the last minute change of the meeting room. In speech he stressing the importance of this Framework which represents a platform of exchange and coordination of the activities of the actors of the sector. Finally, he recalled the expectations of the department in charge of energy vis-à-vis of this Committee.
The welcome address of the Director General of Energy Development was followed by the introduction of each of the participants before going into the presentations of the various topics selected.

3. **Presentation of the consultation framework**

The presentation by **Mr. Vinci de Dieu BOKOYO BARANDJA**, Technical Director of ACER, is a summary of the terms of reference of the Framework of Consultation of the National Actors of the electricity sub-sector in CAR.

The main objective of this National stakeholder’s committee in the sub-sector of electricity is to facilitate the exchange of regular information on the sub-sector and support elements for the implementation of project activities.

It is composed of representatives of the administration, state institutions, development partners, the private sector and civil society.

The meeting was chaired by UNDP and co-chaired by the Directorate General for Energy Development, while technical coordination is provided by ACER.

The meetings of the National stakeholder’s committee in the sub-sector of electricity are held once a quarter with the support of ROGEP over the lifetime of the project, arrangements must be made to seek additional support for its sustainability.

The debate that followed this presentation raised the following concerns:
- The strength of this National stakeholder’s committee in the sub-sector of electricity and its sustainability after ROGEP;
- Participation of bilateral partners in this committee;
- The absence of some important players such as the Ministry of Planning and the RCPCA;

The experts' contributions to the concerns indicated that:
- Awareness-raising work should be done with development partners to take over the meeting after ROGEP;
- The integration of the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation in the framework will solve the problem of the participation of bilateral partners in the activities of the consultation framework.

4. **Presentation on the electrical sector reforms in CAR**

The purpose of this second presentation presented by **Mr. Max MAMADOU PANDI**, Executive at ACER, is to inform the assistance on the institutional framework of the post-reform electricity sector.
Indeed, the speaker recalled that the electricity sector in the Central African Republic was governed by the provisions of Decree No. 68/048 of 12 January 1968, which granted the monopoly of the public service of electricity throughout the whole area. from the national territory to ENERCA, which unfortunately for economic reasons has abandoned the provincial cities to focus only on the capital Bangui.

However, in order to respond to national concerns about public electricity service and the fight against poverty, the Central African Government has initiated the reform of the sector through the adoption of Ordinance No. 05.001 of 1 January 2005, which liberalizes the sector and creates the Autonomous Regulatory Agency of the Electricity Sector of Central Africa (ARSEC) and the Central African Autonomous Agency for Rural Electrification (ACER).

This liberalization gives partners the opportunity to invest in the sector as a self-producer, independent producer or independent operator and through a public-private partnership. All forms of delegation contracts for the electricity or other public service are provided for, in particular, the concession, the leasing, the management concerned, the management, etc.

The presenter then listed the different texts governing the electricity sub-sector before concluding on the weaknesses of the institutional and regulatory framework of the sector such as:
- The lack of the implementing texts of the electricity code that has been adopted since 2005;
- The application of a tariff administered KWH that does not reflect the truth of price;

This presentation raised questions about the methodology used to assess the weaknesses of the institutional framework and the steps taken to correct these weaknesses.

In response, it is said that these weaknesses were updated following the various exchanges with partners. The World Bank and UNDP are supporting the government in building institutional capacity in the electricity sector.

5. **Presentation of the Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project (ROGEP)**

This was presented by Mr. Seini NOUHOU AMADOU, Coordinator of Zone 3 of the project.

The Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency of ECOWAS (ECREEE) has designed a regional program with a budget of 200 million dollars, to promote the market of autonomous renewable energy systems to provide electricity services sustainable and affordable to households, SMEs and health and education institutions.

The main objective of this project is to promote off-grid electrification in the project countries through capacity building of institutions, knowledge sharing to increase access to electricity for households, enterprises and enterprises. communities using modern technologies.
The project will benefit 19 countries in total, including all 15 ECOWAS member states and 4 other countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad and Mauritania). These countries are grouped into 4 zones:
- Zone 1: Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal;
- Zone 2: Ivory Coast, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone;
- Zone 3: Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Benin and Togo;
- Zone 4: Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau.

The ROGEP Project consists of two main components and their subcomponents:
Component 1 - Support the acceleration of the regional market
- Subcomponent 1 A: Enabling environment
- Subcomponent 1 B: Support to Entrepreneurship
- Sub-component 1 C: Risk Mitigation Device
Component 2 - Access to Financing

Finally, he mentioned the activities of the project in progress, namely:
- The solar market studies outstanding in the 19 countries;
- Development of partnerships with development partners to support this initiative, including regional development banks to facilitate its implementation.

From the debate that followed this last presentation, the speaker made some points in response to the following concerns:
- The selection criteria of the beneficiary countries of the project;
- The integration of women in the project;
- Concerns about the participation of microfinance structures in access to financing, relating to their weak deployment in the national territory;
- Quotas by country.

6. **Conclusion**

As the agenda was exhausted, the presidium asked participants who have ongoing projects to consider related presentations for the next meeting.

Before closing, the Director General of Energy Development pronounced an end word. In his closing remarks, he thanked the audience for their active participation in the exchanges, and taking advantage of the opportunity, he informed the participants about the various projects under way at the level of the Ministry in charge of electricity, particularly in regarding renewable energy laws and energy efficiency.

Finally, he expressed his satisfaction with the operationalization of the Consultation Framework which will finally allow the department to have a global vision on the interventions of the partners for a good coordination.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.30 pm

**Bangui, 12th March 2019**