

The Paris-Nairobi Climate Initiative

Clean energy for all in Africa
and in countries most vulnerable to climate change

A Franco-Kenyan expert group has drafted from October 2010 to January 2011 a White Paper on a strategy for access to 100% of the people to clean energy in Africa and countries most vulnerable to climate change by 2030.

This White Paper has been shared with all delegations invited to the launching of the Paris-Nairobi Climate Initiative. Special thanks to Edgar Blaustein, Patrick Chabenda, Delphine Clerc-Touré, Michel Hamelin, Hiroyuki Hino, Isaac Kiva, Rima Lecoguic, Gwénéolé Le Roux, Guy Marboeuf, Vanessa Miler, Jura Omedi, Pierre Radanne, Hélène Sabathié-Akonor, Erastus Wahome.

The White Paper can be downloaded, both in French and English, on the website of the French Ministry of sustainable development:

www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/paris-nairobi



D.R. FREA



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Access to energy, sustainable development and climate change

The objective of achieving universal access to modern energy services by 2030 must be addressed as an utmost priority by the international community to fight, both against the extreme poverty and support the global effort to fight against climate change.

Today

- 2.7 billion people still rely on traditional biomass to meet their cooking needs. That figure could reach 2.8 billion in 2030.
- 1.4 billion people worldwide are lacking access to electricity, the vast majority in sub-Saharan Africa where the electrification rate does not exceed 30% on average and 12% in rural areas.
- Without the implementation of specific measures, the number of people without access to electricity is expected to remain around 1.2 billion by 2030.
- The poorest population of the world pays energy among the most expensive, least effective and least sustainable.



Economic and social development and climate change mitigation and adaptation are intrinsically linked to access to clean energies

The key to energy security, to powering development and to avoiding catastrophic climate change lies in addressing the three issues simultaneously. A piecemeal approach to these issues has hindered progress on all three. In particular, meeting the climate challenge cannot, and should not, be accomplished in isolation. Clean energy (renewable energy, energy efficiency, CO2 capture and storage, hybrid solutions) access holds the key for minimizing climate risks, reducing poverty, improving global health and meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The commitment to energy access is essential to achieving North-South agreement on the major issues we face in the climate negotiations.

Rapid progress towards universal access to energy can break the logjam in achieving a binding climate agreement, transforming the international discussions from opposition over climate to cooperation on achieving mutually shared goals, on energy, on development, as well as on climate.

Promote a value chain approach in order to provide energy services

→ Provide a safe, affordable and sustainable cooking

In Africa, most cooking is done with solid fuels (wood, charcoal and dung). Improved cook stoves considerably reduce the amount of fuel used, and reduce negative health impacts from smoke inhalation.

→ Energy services for rural development

Rural populations need access to energy for their vital needs but also for economic activities. Without modern energy services, poor populations cannot expand their productive activities. Conversely, without expanding productive activities, the poor cannot pay for energy.

→ Energy for productive activities and poles for economic growth

Providing energy services for productive activities in regional economic centres is a key to economic development, as well as to the success of energy programs.

→ Energy for sustainable cities

While more than half of Africans live in rural areas today, city dwellers are predicted to become the majority by 2025. Unplanned sprawling cities use as much as 10 times more energy per person than better planned cities.

→ National and regional power grids

Large scale use of grid connected renewable energy sources, notably through regional power pools will allow a better allocation of resources.

Financing access to clean energy for development

To ensure widespread access to electricity by 2030, 40 billion USD of additional investment per year would be needed. Faced with the overwhelming needs, it is essential to mobilize all available public and private funding, dedicated to the fight against climate change, development aid or the energy sector, and create new mechanisms for financing clean energy.

→ The Copenhagen and Cancun agreements expect an overall contribution of developed countries of approaching 30 billion USD over the 2010-2012 period and

100 billion per year by 2020, to fund balanced actions of adaptation and mitigation in developing countries, focusing on more specific needs of countries most vulnerable to climate change: the least developed countries, small islands and countries of Africa.

→ To catalyze private sector investment, it is necessary to develop innovative risk guarantees to facilitate financing of renewable energy project in developing countries: partial risk guarantees (PRGs), grants, or specific public funding such as facilities.

Key objectives

The international community should commit to three objectives.

- Achieve universal access to modern energy services for social services and productive activities by 2030.
- Aid all countries in building secure and reliable energy systems to power development and social progress.
- Massively increase the use of local and renewable energy, to support access to energy improving both energy sustainability and security.

Key actions

In order to achieve these objectives, the international community should mobilize resources, at all levels.

- Identify and establish optimal national energy frameworks, including renewables.
- Build human and institutional capacity.
- Favor regional energy integration.
- Achieve a steep change in investment in energy infrastructure creating guarantees, facilities, new and flexible mechanisms leveraging the private sector.
- Build up and link international partnerships.

