

AFRICAN UNION

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

**RESOLUTION ON AFRICA BIOENERGY POLICY
FRAMEWORK AND GUIDELINES**

RESOLUTION ON AFRICA BIOENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORK AND GUIDELINES

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 thedespite immense potential of bioenergy in Africa and the critical role that it plays in Africa's, most countries of Africa still face serious challenges to promote the sustainable development of bioenergy;

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;

Considering Launching Africa 2012 year for Sustainable Energy for All";

Conscious of the low level of energy production in the continent, especially in the sub-Saharan region;

Aware that the lack of access to modern energy services represents a state of economic, environmental and social deprivation and gender inequality;

Aware that the greatest energy need in Africa's rural and poor urban households is energy for cooking, and that it is mostly women and girls who bear the brunt of firewood collection for household use;

Reaffirming the commitments we have made to enhance energy access with a view to improving livelihoods of our people and promoting economic development;

Noting that access to affordable, reliable, clean and renewable energy, as well as related technologies is critically important in enhancing the productive capacity and energy access;

Further noting that sustainable bioenergy has the potential to significantly contribute to enabling each country to be its own energy producer and of the high potential of bioenergy resources in Africa;

Cautioning that if bioenergy is not managed cautiously and prudently, costs and risks cannot only readily erode the benefits but may also result in social problems;

Recognizing the technical improvements of bioenergy technologies for energy generation and their suitability for installation in Africa;

Commending steps taken by some African Member States to adopt and adapt bioenergy generating technologies for power supplies within their territories;

Supporting the international and regional initiatives for introducing advanced bioenergy technologies in Africa for energy generation;

Urging such initiatives to bring equity to the host countries, accelerate technology transfer and supporting locally developed technologies and manufacturing of equipment;

Realizing that a Pan-Africa bioenergy policy framework is needed to offer an overdue continental vision and guidance for promoting the sustainable development of bioenergy with a view to enhance equitable energy access.

THEREFORE RESOLVE TO:

CONDUCT wide consultations which will bring together all parties and energy stakeholders at regional and continental levels to provide consensus on the implementation of the Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines with a view to promote the sustainable development of bioenergy in Africa.

CALL for close cooperation with member states of the relevant regions for the development of bioenergy in general and the technologies for utility-scale energy generation in particular and promote fruitful partnerships for bioenergy implementation of projects.

REQUEST the AU Commission to support member countries in developing clean cooking mechanisms.

REQUEST the AU Commission and NPCA to prepare a plan to mobilise necessary financial and technical resources for the promotion of the implementation of the Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines at regional and national levels.

ENSURE the sovereign rights of all member states to establish sustainability criteria that will assure the sustainable development of bioenergy within their territories.

REAFFIRM our commitment to support the development, operation and expansion of economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally friendly bioenergy.

ENSURE alignment of implementation and monitoring of the bioenergy policy framework within the PIDA.

ENDORSE the Africa Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines and urge the AU Commission to launch it onto the AU Summit decision-making process for approval by the next summit of the Heads and Leaders of the AU member states.

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 16th November 2012