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**THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE**

**AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,**

**TRANSCONTINENTAL AND INTERREGIONAL**

**INFRASTRUCTURES, ENERGY AND TOURISM (STC-TTIET)**

**14 – 18 April 2019**

**Cairo, Egypt**

**AFRICA BIOENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORK AND GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTATION**

**TECHNICAL PAPER**

**Technical Paper:**

**Africa Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines Implementation**

1. **Background Information**

Bioenergy constitutes an important source of energy in Africa. Over 80% of the population in Africa depends on bioenergy for their energy needs, especially biomass for cooking and heating. However, its current exploitation is largely though unsustainable methods that have negative impacts on livelihoods in health, environment and other social impacts.

It is against this background that in, 2011, the African Union Commission (AUC) in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) initiated a programme to modernize the bioenergy sector in Africa. Through a consultative process the African Bioenergy Framework and Policy Guidelines were developed and adopted by the AU Assembly in 2013.

Following the adoption of the Framework, several studies have been undertaken with the aim of supporting AU Member States to implement policy and regulatory framework for modernizing the bioenergy sector. The studies conducted under this programme include:

* Africa Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines;
* A Case Study on Regulatory Reforms for Adoption of Biofuels Programmes in Ethiopia;
* A Case Study on Regulatory Reforms for Adoption of Biofuels Programmes in Mauritius;
* A Case Study on Regulatory Reforms for Adoption of Biofuels Programmes in Rwanda; and
* Mainstreaming Gender in Bioenergy Development & Localization of Clean and Renewable Energy Technologies in Africa.

1. **Implementation Status of 2017-2019 Action Plan**

Lomé STC directed AUC, NPCA and UNECA to: develop Regional Bioenergy Policy Framework, Guidelines and Action Plan for the Regional Economic Communities; and create Finance and Projects Preparation Facility to assist private and public sector project developers in Bioenergy development. So far, Regional Bioenergy Policy Framework have been accomplished in two regions - Eastern and Central Africa, and will be presented for adoption by this STC.

1. **Activities under 2019-2021 Action Plan**

The main activity under 2019/21 action plan will be to develop bioenergy Strategy and Investment Plans for the Southern, Western, and Northern Africa regions. AUC has developed draft ToR for this assignment and is currently seeking input from other partners (NPCA and UNECA) as well as from the three Regional Economic Communities.

Budget for this activity is available and will be completed in 2019.

1. **Expected STC Decision (14 – 18 April 2019)**

To consider and adopt the experts’ report on Bioenergy Development Strategy and Investment Plan for the Eastern and Central Africa Regions, and also take note of the planned work for the Southern, Western, and Northern Africa regions