

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

INFRASTRUCTURES AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT

WORKSHOP ON

**STRATEGY FOR LARGE REGIONAL HYDROPOWER PROJECTS
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

(Addis Ababa, 3-4 November)

CONCEPT NOTE

I. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

Context

In 2009, at the African Union Summit of Heads of States and Governments, it has been launched the Hydropower 2020 Initiative, whose objective is to favour a positive dynamics for developing the large regional hydropower projects.

Within the Infrastructures Partnership, the European Union is financing a Technical Assistance to the African Union Commission/Infrastructures and Energy Department (AUC/DIE): “African Energy Policy (Hydropower 2020), Capacity Building and Development Strategy for the Hydropower Inga Site”.

To implement this project, the AUC use the services of the « Mercados-EMI/SOFRECO » Consortium.

One of the scheduled activities is the preparation of strategy for developing the large regional hydropower projects.

Presently, the AUC has already elaborated a draft version of the strategy, whose main elements are the analysis of existing obstacles to a quick development of the large regional hydropower projects and a proposal of a set of recommendations to eliminate or mitigate the problems.

Recommendations are structured according to the level of responsibility (Country, Regional organisation, African Union) and their importance.

The Strategy Paper is structured as follows:

- Objectives and methodology
- Vision et policies
- Definition a regional hydropower project
- Obstacles to the projects development;
- Solution or mitigation measures
- Development Strategy
- Road Map.

Justification

To give to the Strategy Paper the sufficient legitimacy to be submitted to the AU Authorities for possible adoption, it must be examined analysed and endorsed by the main African stakeholders during a workshop.

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The main objective of the workshop is to dispose of a continental strategy for the development of regional hydropower projects, legitimated by the African stakeholders.

In particular, Regional Economic Communities along with the relevant Power Pools should provide their comments and their vision of the tools to be adopted for a fast regional hydropower projects development.

In this regard, participants are request to participate with written papers, which could ease the consideration of comments and suggestions for the final version of the Strategy Paper. Participants, if they wish so, will be able to show posters.

Moreover, given the increasing role that private investors will play, the workshop will be an opportunity for gathering the views of some of them, of International Financial Institutions and of bilateral and multilateral partners, as well.

II. PARTICIPANTS

Institutions which will be represented in the workshop are:

- RECs
- PPs
- RBAs (River Basin Authorities) ;
- AU Specialised Institutions (AFREC, AFSEC, NEPAD) ;
- AUC's IED and NRED ;
- Countries potentially large exporters or large importers of hydroelectricity;
- IFIs (AfDB/Private Sector, WB/ IFC, EIB) ;
- European Union;
- UNECA;
- Bilateral partners more involved in the sector ;
- Private investors.

III. DATE AND VENU OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will be held on 3-4 November, 2011 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

IV. RESULTATS ATTENDUS

The expected result of the workshop is a revised and endorsed Strategy Paper, that will be later submitted to the evaluation of the AU political Authorities for possible approval.