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Renewable energy key for Africa's sustainable development: Commissioner Elham



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20 June 2012 – effective implementation of sustainable energy solution is crucial for Africa's successful long-term social and economic development, participants agreed on the high-level panel convened to ensure that Africa's renewable energy potential is kept high on the political agenda.

Organized by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), in the framework of Rio+20, the high level event was held today 20 June 2012, in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. It was attended by H.E Elham

Mahmoud Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy at the AU Commission; African Ministers; civil society organizations; International organizations; and development partners, among others.

Addressing participants the Commissioner highlighted the significant role of the African Union Commission on the infrastructure and energy sector. In February 2009 African Union Assembly of Heads of States and Government decided to: "develop renewable energy resources in order to provide clean, reliable, affordable and environmental friendly energy," (Assembly/ AU/Decl.9-XII), she recalled.

Underlining renewable energy as a key factor for Africa's sustainable development, and the fact that a huge gap has been registered using energy production, she called up on African countries, Governments and concerned organization to work together for the development of Africa's renewable energy resources.

Mrs. Elham further highlighted the following issues as a means of achieving Africa's renewable energy: giving priority for renewable energy projects, allocation of sufficient budget, technology transfer or manufacturing on the regional scale, capacity building and creating conducive environment for private sector who are investing on renewable energy.

Media contact:

Mr. Molalet Tsedeke, Directorate of Information and Communication, AU Commission Molalet24t@yahoo.com; molalett@africa-union.org; tel (+55 21) 8868 8072.