

**The First Energy Forum
Cape Town, South Africa
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**STATEMENT BY DR ELHAM M.A. IBRAHIM,
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION
COMMISSIONER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY**



African Union



European
Commission



Department of Energy

Austrian
Development Cooperation



Ministry of Energy and
Public Utilities



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

- **Honorable, Mrs. Elizabeth Dipuo Peters, Minister of Energy of the Republic of South Africa;**
- **Honorable Mr. Salvador Namburete, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Mozambique and Chairperson of the Bureau of CEMA;**
- **Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegation;**
- **Distinguished Representatives of Regional and International Organizations;**
- **Distinguished Representatives of Private Sector;**
- **Distinguished Representatives of the Civil Society;**
- **Distinguished Representatives of Academia and Research Institutions;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I have the honor and the pleasure to express on behalf of the African Union Commission our gratitude to the Government and People of the Republic of South Africa for all arrangements made for the excellent organization and the warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful City of Cape Town. My thanks also go to all the organizers and distinguished participants in this event.

Excellency Minister Peters

By hosting the First Energy Forum of the Africa EU Energy Partnership, your country shows again its resolute commitment to play a crucial role in developing energy sector within our Continent, in particular by contributing to address our challenges with regard to energy access and energy security.

**Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to stress the significant progress of the Energy Partnership which is considered as the most dynamic one within the Joint Africa EU Strategy and to thank again our European Union partners and to congratulate all stakeholders in particular, the African and the European Implementation Teams as well as the secretariat of the Energy Partnership for the results achieved so far.

**Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This gathering is the second important event after the successful Ministerial High Level Meeting held on 14 September 2010 in Vienna, Austria which allowed the high African and European policy makers to establish energy political targets to be achieved by 2020, related to energy access, energy security, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

We are all convinced that the achievement of these objectives requires full involvement of all stakeholders including private sector, civil society and research institutions. This is why I welcome the participation of representatives of the above-mentioned sectors in this Forum. I would like to ensure that this Forum is dedicated to these partners which valuable contribution in addition to public authorities in increasing investments and scaling-up energy activities in Africa will be highly appreciated.

My appeal is based on the necessity to develop innovative approaches for resource mobilization in win-win partnerships. Indeed, Africa presents nowadays a favorable profile for investors, led by its abundance of energy resources in particular in renewables, its average economic growth rate higher than 5%, its population growth and the huge needs of infrastructure.

In order to achieving our targets in a coherent manner, the African Union High Authorities set up a continental strategic framework namely the Programme for Infrastructure Development for Africa (PIDA) and the adequate Institutional Architecture for its implementation.

PIDA will develop efficient, reliable, cost-effective and environmentally friendly infrastructure for the physical integration of the continent and enhance access to modern energy services for the majority of the African population by:

- Developing regional and continental clean power generation and transmission projects
- Implementing high-capacity oil refineries and oil and gas pipeline projects
- Developing renewable energy resources.

Therefore, within PIDA Priority Action Plan, 15 structuring energy projects mainly generation and transmission projects with a total cost amounting US \$ 40 billion (out of 68 billion for all PIDA Sectors) have been selected to be achieved by 2020. It is important to emphasize that all generation projects are all related to renewable energy and mainly hydropower. Achieving these PIDA projects will significantly contribute to the success of the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All Initiative and for the promotion of renewable energy.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the strategic framework is established, time is now for action.

The scale of actions to be undertaken in terms of financial mobilization and time to achieve projects urges us to implement innovative schemes in addition to the methods so far used. Indeed, financing of major infrastructure was mostly provided by bilateral or multilateral public funds

which, as all of us are aware, have never been sufficient with regard to the needs.

Before closing my remarks, I have the pleasure to welcome the endorsement of the AEEP Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme Strategy 2020 and urge the Joint Experts Group to use this tool for accelerating the transition from strategic dialogue to the development of a framework for concrete cooperation on the ground as well as making Africa a prime destination for renewable energy investments.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, I wish that this Forum will provide a good opportunity for contributions and synergies of all stakeholders of the Energy Partnership in view of achieving the agreed political targets and build consensus on the way forward up 2020.

Looking forward for a fruitful Forum,

I thank you for your kind attention.