



Outcome Document

4th Annual Sustainable Energy for All Africa Workshop

African Development Bank, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
29 – 30 March 2017

The 4th Annual Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) African Workshop was hosted by the SEforALL Africa Hub in partnership with the Africa Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and UNDP, and in collaboration with the SEforALL Global Team at the premises of the African Development Bank in Abidjan from 29 - 30 March 2017 as part of the [Abidjan Energy Week](#). The theme for the workshop was: ***Joining forces for universal energy access in Africa***. The meeting brought together over 100 participants, including SEforALL focal points from African countries, development partners, regional institutions, civil society organizations and private sector representatives (the list of participants is included in Annex 1).

Background

With the considerable progress made by African countries in defining their objectives and priorities under the SEforALL initiative, the workshop provided a platform for partners to sharpen their tools of coordination and also to define with more clarity, the institutional arrangements and structures required for a coherent and efficient implementation of actions, programmes and projects defined in the SEforALL Action Agendas (AAs) and Investment Prospectuses (IPs).

Specifically, participants sought to:

- a) Take stock of the progress made in Africa towards the objectives of SEforALL/Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 and discuss how implementation of the priorities identified in the Action Agendas can be accelerated with a special focus on access to clean cooking solutions, off-grid electricity services and energy efficiency;
- b) Share best practices and innovative solutions on the implementation structures and processes at the country level required to ensure implementation of the priorities identified and to attract the required investments;
- c) Discuss how, in practical terms, the coordination of the various energy sector initiatives in Africa can be improved to ensure increased efficiency, efficacy and complementarity, and better accessibility to financing instruments for countries, private sector and civil society.

Summary of the discussions

In his opening remarks, the Vice President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Mr. Charles Boamah, highlighted the importance of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services as a critical development enabler for Africa, and noted its centrality for ensuring the achievement of the SDGs as a whole. While acknowledging improvements made since the launch of the SEforALL initiative, Mr. Boamah stressed that the speed on energy access is not fast enough and current efforts will fall far short of achieving universal energy access for Africa by 2030. He underscored that this is the rationale for the Bank's New Deal on Energy for Africa and provided an update of progress made on the New Deal.

Ms. Rachel Kyte, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and CEO of Sustainable Energy for All gave a keynote address. She pointed to the slow pace of progress, particularly in relation



to access to clean cooking solutions as demonstrated in the latest edition of the Global Tracking Framework that will be released during the Global SEforALL Forum in New York. She stressed the need to accelerate and scale progress under the SEforALL initiative to achieve faster results. She noted the importance of strong political leadership to do this. Ms. Kyte further highlighted the new energy paradigm of *decentralized, decarbonized, digitalized and democratized* energy services that will enable us to reach universal energy access by 2030. She praised the close partnership with the Africa Hub and SEforALL country focal points and the desire to continue this strong collaboration for the benefit of the African continent.

1. State of advancement of SEforALL in Africa

Dr. Daniel-Alexander Schroth, SEforALL Africa Hub Coordinator, provided an update of the state of play of SEforALL in Africa. He highlighted the positive response of the majority of African countries to the SEforALL initiative: with 19 countries having completed their SEforALL Action Agenda while 9 are under development and 4 Investment Prospectuses are finalized with 21 still under development. He summarized the priority action themes in the completed AAs and IPs, highlighted challenges identified in the process and provided several key recommendations for the way forward, including the recognition of the Action Agendas as a suitable national implementation framework for SDG7, the need for the set-up/designation of country level implementation/delivery structures and the importance of ensuring that the IPs do not become a one-off exercise but rather “rolling IPs”.

2. Moderated panel discussion on joining forces for universal energy access (moderated by Prof. Mosad Elmissiry, Head of Energy NEPAD Agency)

Panel members discussed the progress made to date towards the objectives of SEforALL/SDG7 and how implementation of the priorities identified can be accelerated. Faruk Yusuf Yabo, SEforALL focal point for Nigeria highlighted the state of play of SEforALL in Nigeria, what is required to take it to implementation and the need to harmonize the work of the various energy initiatives, highlighting the role that development finance could play to accelerate the implementation of energy projects. Mahama Kappiah from the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) presented the regional approach in the ECOWAS countries on the SEforALL AAs and the ongoing process on the IPs. Jane Ebinger, from SEforALL, highlighted the new global SEforALL Strategic Framework for Results (2016-21) dedicated to accelerating progress towards the SEforALL objectives, and stressed how the global team can support countries. Felice Zaccheo, from the European Commission (EC), reaffirmed the European Union (EU)’s strong commitment and strategic support for the African energy sector, including with dedicated instruments such as Electrifi and new approaches under the proposed EU External Investment Plan.

3. Parallel working groups – Day 1

On day 1 of the workshop, participants broke into three parallel working groups to discuss specific topics. The detailed recommendations from the various working groups on day 1 are provided under Annex 2.

3.1 Working Group (1) on Country level implementation was facilitated by Aaron Leopold of Practical Action. After brief presentations on the SEforALL processes in Kenya and Tanzania by John Maina and Emilian Nyanda from the Ministries in charge of energy, respectively, the group discussed best practices in terms of effectiveness, ownerships and results of the national SEforALL process and came up with the following recommendations:



- To ensure follow-up and implementation of priorities identified, there is a need for a dedicated delivery unit/Secretariat for SEforALL at the national level that would need to be adequately resourced including commitments through the national budget.
- The AAs and IPs should be seen as living documents that require regularly review and update. Donors should consider these documents as guiding tools for their assistance and ideally pledge contributions up-front for follow-through/implementation if they agree to the soundness of the AA / IP process.
- Stakeholder engagements and communication campaigns were essential in reaching realistic goals, workable policies and building political will. “Sensitization” efforts on the part of partners should be ongoing during implementation to deliver results and ensure a coordinated implementation of the AAs and IPs.

3.2 Working Group (2) on Mapping and Coordination was facilitated by Christine Eibs Singer of SEforALL, with brief interventions from Crispin Zana, Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP); Niclas Hallstroem, Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI); and Karin Reiss, SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE). The group discussed best practices for the mapping of energy initiatives in Africa to improve information and coordination for efficiency gains and advanced the following recommendations:

- Due to the large number of initiatives and actors contributing to the SDG7/SEforALL objectives, a continuously updated mapping of initiatives accompanied by proper knowledge management tools is essential to facilitate stronger coordination and planning between actors and an easier discovery of available opportunities.
- Participants recommended to set up an interactive central repository of the various mappings on the SEforALL Africa Hub website that will particularly include country-level information building on the envisaged second phase of the AEEP mapping work and the AREI mapping activities. The participants expressed desire to engage in and support this process.
- Given the strong cross-sectoral linkages among SDG7 and other SDGs, the participants strongly encouraged efforts to include information on related initiatives and programs to facilitate alignment of resources, e.g., the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other programs developing under the Agenda 2030 and Africa Union’s Agenda 2063 efforts.
- Country ownership of the mapping work and Government leadership on stakeholder coordination are critically important and partners are invited to support countries in this regard. With the acknowledgement of successful partnerships, it was recommended that the SEforALL Africa Hub undertake a diagnostic on the processes underpinning these examples in large markets, where multiple donors/programs are operating, and small markets, where there are few key players.

3.3 Working Group (3) discussed the topic: From IPs to project Implementation and was facilitated by Astrid Manroth, Director Energy Partnerships, AfDB, with brief presentations from Jane Ebinger (SEforALL), Safiatou Alzouma (IRENA) and Leslie Labruto (Acumen). The group made the following recommendations:

- High-level political buy-in and continued commitment is essential for the successful development of projects and their timely execution.
- Parallel progress on creating an enabling environment for private sector participation is required for successful implementation of IP projects. In their section on the enabling environment, IPs should provide solutions to identified obstacles.
- Greater involvement of the private sector is necessary in the IP development process from both project developers and private financing institutions to enhance the bankability of the

IPs. All the relevant IP projects shall be actively marketed to investors, including through their inclusion in marketplaces, such as IRENA's Sustainable Energy Market Place and strong linkages with the climate finance community are encouraged.

- A public-private dialogue on appropriate risk allocation between the public and the private sector and required risk mitigation instruments is required. At country level, this can be achieved with the help of experienced institutions such as PPPs or other delivery units and/or through a nationwide financing dialogue. Coordination amongst all relevant government entities is required. Integrated approaches should be piloted in selected countries. The SEforALL Africa Hub can assist in organizing national or regional public-private dialogues.
- IP development should be regarded as a living process that is able to produce a stream of projects on a continuous basis, timely executed, rather than it being a one-off paper exercise that becomes quickly obsolete. This links to the discussion around dedicated delivery units.
- Government approaches to attracting private sector investment should include both top-down (government owned) approaches (including the IPs) and bottom-up (developers proposed) projects. National institutions shall clearly signal what are the priority projects in terms of both impact and urgency and actively put them on the frontline for further development and matchmaking processes.

4. Moderated panel discussion on Assessing country investment readiness & monitoring progress towards SDG7 (moderated by Aliou Dia, Regional team Leader, UNDP)

The panel discussion took into account the different existing tools and reflected on their implementation status, key findings and challenges. Sunil Mathrani from the World Bank presented the recently launched RISE (Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy) initiative to assess country investment readiness. Bryony Collins, from Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) presented the findings of the recently released Climatescope 2016. Anna Ingwe from GIZ presented how EnDev is monitoring progress towards SDG 7 in their work in Kenya, and Marcos Sampablo from Carbon Trust presented an analysis of different opportunity assessment methodologies for energy access options developed under the AfDB's Green Mini-Grid (GMG) Market Development Program.

5. Parallel working groups – Day 2

The second day of the workshop was also dedicated for working group discussions that delved into specific subjects. The recommendations from the various working groups on day 2 are also provided under Annex 3.

5.1 Working Group (4) on Biomass and Clean Cooking Solutions (CCS) was facilitated by Daniel Wanjohi of the Global Alliance for Clean Cook-stoves. Gerry Ostheimer of the Bioenergy Partnership, John Hauge of the Global LPG Partnership, and Florent Eveille of FAO set the scene for the discussions with brief presentations on their activities. On Biomass data the group made the following recommendations:

- Biomass is the most important and least understood energy source in Africa. Reliability of biomass energy data is questionable in many cases and there is a need to engage and work closely with the national statistical offices and international data providers to assess the weaknesses and design specific actions to improve biomass data.
- Analysis of the net calorific value of the biomass used in Africa should be conducted, because there is no registered knowledge of the characteristics of wood/charcoal as a fuel.
- Data challenges on biomass production and use should be highlighted in high profile decision-making forums with the aim of building a coalition of actors to address the challenges.

Also on Access to Clean Cooking, the following recommendations were advanced:

- Adopt a national planning approach, as recently shown in Cameroon and India.
- Establish an enabling environment across the whole LPG supply chain, including the implementation of necessary government policies and regulations, to de-risk that environment so that local and external funders will come in, marketers will invest significantly in more LPG cylinders, distributors will act appropriately, etc.
- Design incentives to make investment in the sector attractive and catalyze adoption - through tax reduction, removing of import duties on stoves, raw materials and LPG equipment.
- Pursue market-based approaches in stoves and fuel dissemination, to guarantee a long-lasting and sustainable uptake of clean cookstoves.
- Catalyze a rapid roll-out of clean cooking solutions through strong political leadership, as demonstrated in some countries in Asia and Africa.
- View the clean cooking agenda from a nexus perspective (health, gender, livelihood etc.).

5.2 Working Group (5) on Energy Efficiency (EE) was facilitated by Katrina Pielli of Power Africa. Mark Lister of the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2) and Paula Edze, the SEforALL focal person in Ghana made presentations on EE work at the global level and in Ghana, respectively. Marcos Sampablo from Carbon Trust provided an overview of the EE opportunities from a private sector perspective. The following recommendations were provided:

- To mobilize the required technical assistance and investment for EE in African countries, participants recommended dedicated financial schemes to accelerate investment, such as lines of credit through financial institutions coupled with technical assistance and capacity building programs provided to local banks and project developers.
- Participants also highlighted the need for countries to prioritize EE interventions in high opportunity sectors first, such as the industry and transport sectors for the demand-side, and transmission & distribution losses for the supply-side. This would allow countries to focus in specific areas and demonstrate/showcase quickly successful projects in EE.
- To strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks and to deliver on EE projects, it was recommended to develop both top-down (national governments) and bottom-up (local community) programs. Regional institutions should also play a leading role to raise awareness on EE and develop regional EE approaches.
- Participants also recommended interventions to enable the development of Energy Services Companies (ESCO) in African countries. ESCOs play an important role as market catalyst for EE and can help to build the bridge between financiers and project beneficiaries.

5.3 Working Group (6) on Decentralised Energy Access was facilitated by Dean Cooper, Chairman of the Clean Energy Mini-Grids (CEMG) Partnership who presented highlights of the recently adopted GMG Africa Strategy. Koen Peters of the Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA) gave an overview of the SHS market in Africa, challenges encountered and key expectations from stakeholders. Nicola Bugatti from ECREEE presented an overview of mini-grid trends in West Africa and the recommendations from the recently concluded ECOWAS Mini-Grids Workshop, while Joao Cunha, AfDB, presented the key outcomes of the off-grid revolution workshop. The following recommendations were provided:

- Establish consistent policies and regulations in support of private sector investments into the off-grid and mini-grid sectors. For mini-grids, build enabling environments in line with the GMG Africa Strategy, recently adopted by the African Union Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Transport, Energy and Tourism in Lomé, with a focus on sustainable tariffs, simplified

and clear licensing processes and predictable outcomes in the event of main grid arrival. For the off-grid sector, a particular focus needs to be placed on consistent fiscal policies.

- Increase the use of auctions to accelerate the deployment of mini-grid initiatives. Donor funded initiatives can conduct feasibility studies and get mini-grid projects nearly ready, then auction them off to private sector partners that offer the best combination of technical solution and low consumer tariff.
- Conduct integrated energy sector planning between main grid, mini-grid and off-grid sectors. Countries need to take a long-term view of rural electrification combining all three delivery solutions, each mapped geographically where it is the least-cost solution. This integrated planning can then serve as the foundation for project-specific feasibility studies and auctions.
- Support local businesses involvement in the mini-grid and off-grid sectors, including in the manufacturing of components. Countries should invest in capacity building of local stakeholders to make them more competitive, and support them with concessionary financing. International clean technology manufacturers should be encouraged to seize opportunities to manufacture on the continent.

The recommendations were presented by the working group facilitators at the final plenary session on the overall workshop conclusions. Two moderated panel discussions were then held in quick succession on the afternoon of Day 2.

6. Moderated panel discussion on Matching support instruments with country and private sector needs (moderated by Moses Ntlamelle of the SADC Secretariat)

The moderated panel discussion highlighted some of the available support instruments of partners and explored how access to the various instruments can be facilitated. Felice Zaccheo, from the European Commission, highlighted the EC's energy sector support instruments and specifically referred to the Electrifi initiative and the Covenant of Mayors to support SSA cities to prepare Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans. Ming Yang, from the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) Secretariat, highlighted available GEF resources for energy sector support and what GEF is envisaging under the GEF7 cycle. Amanda van den Dool, from Power Africa, presented the toolbox of support instruments that Power Africa has prepared, which provides an important step towards more easily accessible information on available support instruments.

7. Moderated panel discussion on Ensuring implementation: the importance of country-level implementation and delivery mechanisms (moderated by Astrid Manroth, Director Energy Partnerships, AfDB)

The moderated panel discussion discussed the importance of country-level delivery mechanisms, experiences and recommendations to strengthen the SEforALL country action processes. Ngoran Konan (SEforALL focal point for Côte d'Ivoire) highlighted the country vision on the achievement of universal energy access and initial ideas on practical institutional arrangements. Aaron Leopold, Board member of the Alliance for Rural Electrification, spoke about the long history of mini-grids in Africa and argued that future implementation structures, whatever form they will have, should assure a continuous dialogue between public institutions, private actors and civil society. Marcel Alers from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) highlighted the role of development partners and particularly the UNDP approach on de-risking instruments as a key for the effective implementation of any initiative. Khorombi Bongwe (South Africa) highlighted his country's experience and institutional settings that allowed for the successful implementation of renewable energy auctions and the large-scale integration of renewables in the South Africa energy mix. Emmanuel Cyoy from



Practical Action Eastern Africa highlighted the positive experience regarding the involvement of civil society in the development process of the AAs.

8. Closing session

The closing session was co-chaired by Jane Ebinger, Policy Director SEforALL, and Dr. Daniel-Alexander Schroth, SEforALL Africa Hub Coordinator. Jane Ebinger highlighted the need for SEforALL to focus not just on advocacy but also on implementation and the importance of having high-level Champions to move forward. Daniel Schroth reported that African countries have made considerable progress in defining their targets and identifying priority actions and investment opportunities and that there needs to be now a concerted effort focused on implementation, resource mobilization and alignment of all stakeholders. It was agreed that these messages would be conveyed to the global SEforALL Forum from 4-6 April in New York.

Annex 1: List of participants of Abidjan workshop

Annex 2: Detailed recommendations of working groups



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Annex 1 – List of participants





Annex 2

Working Group – Recommendations

- 1. Working Group (1) on Country level Implementation** was facilitated by Aaron Leopold of Practical Action. After brief presentations on the SEforALL processes in Kenya and Tanzania by Emillian Nyanda and John Maina, both alternate SEforALL focal persons for Kenya and Tanzania, respectively, the group discussed best practices in terms of effectiveness, ownerships and results of the national SEforALL process and came up with the following recommendations:

 - It is important to regard the AAs & IPs as *living* documents that require regularly reviews and updates.
 - Stakeholder engagements and communication campaigns were essential in reaching realistic goals, workable policies and building political will. “Sensitization” efforts on the part of partners should be ongoing to deliver results.
 - Stakeholder “buy-in” in terms of contributing resources is also important to ensure ownership.
 - National SEforALL “Secretariats” operating within the Energy ministries seem to be a good way to encourage national integrated energy programming.
 - Data gathering and management, needs assessments, and integrated planning are all related and fundamental to identifying actions with most potential for impact.
 - Demonstration or “Champion” projects must be part of a longer term vision for proving out opportunities and could be adopted as a policy fine-tuning mechanism.
 - Donors need to pledge contributions up front for follow-through / implementation if they agree to the soundness of the AA / IP process.

- 2. Working Group (2) on Mapping and Coordination** was facilitated by Christine Eibs Singer of SEforALL. The group set the stage for their discussions by laying the broad requirements in any mapping exercise. Generally, a mapping exercise needs to define its objectives and its target audience, identify country champions and ensure country ownership. Once the mapping tool has been designed, its usage needs to be stimulated. It ought to be cross-sectoral and have a forward-looking horizon: Meta-Mapping: e.g.: 2030 Agenda; Africa 2063; and needs to integrate across regional and global initiatives. With these broad outlines, the group discussed best practices for the continuous mapping of energy initiatives in Africa to improve information and coordination for efficiency gains and proceeded to advance the following recommendations:

 - Publish links of existing mappings at SEforALL Africa Hub website
 - Building on the AEEP Mapping, with focus at the country level, establish a central database / mapping tool; consultant to be recruited by AEEP / EUEI PDF in cooperation with SEforALL Africa Hub and AREI by middle June
 - a. Kick-off meeting with interested parties; SEforALL Africa Hub to invite members of WG 2 and other interested parties



- b. Development of a mapping tool based on results of kick-off meeting
 - c. Synthesizing information contained in existing mappings into the tool
 - d. Publish the tool at SEforALL Africa Hub website
 - e. Regular updates
- Establish links to donor mappings at national level via the regional RE & EE centres (common template, live update into SEforALL Africa Hub master tool)
 - Develop a Mapping App
- 3. Working Group (3) discussed the topic: From IPs to project Implementation** and was facilitated by Astrid Manroth, Director Energy Partnerships, AfDB. The group discussed primarily how the projects in the IPs can be realized and came up with the following recommendations:
- A greater involvement of the private sector is necessary in the IP development process from both project developers and private financing institutions. Specific institutions that foster public and private sector engagements have proven to be more successful in bridging the gap between different players.
 - Creating the enabling environment for investments should be pursued in parallel to the IP development process so as to ensure removal of regulatory barriers before the eventual generation of the projects pipeline.
 - The Public sector has a great role and responsibility in reducing real or perceived risks that inhibits private sector participation. Risk mitigation mechanisms (both at the institutional and project level) should be considered an integral part of the investment strategy.
 - High-level political buy-in, and continued commitment, is essential for the successful development of projects and their timely execution. Multi-sectoral dialogue between ministers and sectors (such as the one developed during the action agendas process) should be continued for the successful and rapid deployment of energy projects. In particular, strong linkages between the SEforALL IPs and climate institutions and financing should be sought.
 - Projects identified in the IP need to be prioritized to enable countries focus on fewer projects to expedite commencement of implementation.
 - IP development should be regarded as a living process that is able to produce a stream of projects on a continuous basis rather than it being a perpetual preparatory paperwork that breaks down and frustrates countries on implementation. Countries grow weary of the process when identified prospectus does not concretize into actual projects on the ground in a timely manner.
- 4. Working Group (4) on Biomass and Clean Cooking Solutions** was facilitated by Daniel Wanjohi of Global Alliance for Clean Cook-stoves. Gerry Ostheimer of the Bioenergy Partnership, John Hauge of the Global LPG Partnership and Florent Eveille of FAO set the scene for the discussions with brief presentations on their various activities. Discussants were expected to apply their minds to the Africa Biomass Data Initiative required for promoting the sustainable production and use of Biomass. They were also expected to address challenges related to Clean Cooking Solutions and LPG use and make actionable recommendations for implementing CCS and LPG priorities identified in the Action Agendas.

Addressing the challenge of inadequate data on biomass production and use that continues to hinder efforts at raising awareness within governments, the group recommended:



- The need to engage and work closely with the National Bureau of Statistics to solidify data on bio-energy and
- Prioritize and continue to highlight bio-energy data in high profile decision making forums such as – AU, AfDB, UNECA, FAO etc.

Also on Access to Clean Cooking, the following recommendations were advanced:

- A government succeeds best when it adopts an approach of national planning, as recently shown in Cameroon and India. The idea only works if there is an enabling environment across the whole LPG supply chain, including the implementation of necessary government policies and regulations, that de-risks that environment so that funders will come in, be they local or external, marketers will invest significantly in more LPG cylinders, distributors will act appropriately, etc.
- An appropriate business model is key to the success of any clean cooking program.
- Governments need to invest in LPG infrastructure both upstream and downstream to ensure sustainable LPG availability, accessibility and affordability.
- Incentives to make investment in the sector attractive and catalyze adoption should be designed - through tax reduction. e.g. in Kenya, clean cookstoves (complete stoves, accessories & raw materials) are zero rated; LPG has been zero rated; and the import duty on clean cookstoves has been reduced from 25% to 10%.
- There is a need for political champions to catalyze the roll-out of clean cooking solutions as demonstrated in the Indian LPG program promoted by the Prime Minister and the Last Mile Connectivity program in Kenya led by the President.
- Inter-agencies/inter-ministerial committees on clean cooking solutions at national level should be established.
- Market-based approaches in stoves and fuel dissemination should be applied, other than a project/program approach.
- The clean cooking agenda needs to be viewed from a nexus perspective (health, gender, livelihood etc.) at all levels including the national level, donors and development partners' level.
- The clean cooking standards, standard and labelling (S&L) for clean cooking solutions should be developed and updated.
- Every country should be supported to build the capacity necessary to have a clean cooking testing facility.
- Improved quality and performance of locally-made cookstoves should be supported through R&D, as most have crossed the adoption barrier.

5. Working Group (5) on Energy Efficiency was facilitated by Katrina Pielli of Power Africa.

Mark Lister of the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2) and Paula Edze, the SEforALL focal person in Ghana made presentations on EE work at the global level and in Ghana, respectively. Marcos Sampablo from Carbon Trust gave an overview of the EE opportunities from a private sector perspective. The working group was expected to take into account priority actions on EE identified in the AA and reflect on their implementation status and challenges. The following recommendations were advanced:

- Interventions needed to create demand for EE (i.e. awareness campaigns, trainings for local workforce, through the utilities)
- Increased financial schemes are need to accelerate investment in EE
 - a. Technical Assistance/Capacity Building to Local bank to enable local currency lending
 - b. Funding for national and local government to implement EE programs (enforcement)



- Interventions to enable Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) such as
 - a. Lending in local currency
 - b. Governments' use of ESCOs to implement public-sector projects (e.g. energy audits on public buildings)
 - c. Governments' creation of policies that enable ESCOs
 - Additional data/studies needed to inform the EE opportunities & multiple benefits of EE investment
 - National policies that include funding and staffing for enforcement (e.g. appliance standards & labeling)
 - Develop programs from both top-down (national government) and bottom-up (local community pilots)
 - a. Engage regional institutions for lessons learned and resources; adopt joint programming where appropriate
 - Prioritize efficiency in high-opportunity sectors (e.g. transport and industry with high energy use, cooking)
 - Develop interventions across the national government to maximize impact (i.e., Ministries of Energy, Public Works, Finance, Transportation)
 - Engage utilities: adopt tariffs to encourage efficiency, awareness campaign
- 6. Working Group (6) on Decentralised Energy Access** was facilitated by Dean Cooper, Chairman of the Clean Energy Mini-Grids-CEMG Partnership. Dean Cooper presented highlights of the recent meeting in Lomé of the Specialized Technical Committee on Energy of the AU where the GMG Strategy for Africa was adopted. Koen Peters of GOGLA gave an overview of the SHS market in Africa, challenges encountered and key expectations from stakeholders. Nicola Bugatti from ECREEE presented an overview of mini-grid trends in West Africa and the findings and recommendations from the recently concluded ECOWAS Mini-Grids Workshop while Joao Cunha, AfDB, presented the key outcomes from a recent event on off-grid revolution.

Discussants were to take a detailed look at trends in the off-grid solar and mini-grids sectors, and recommend best practices and actions required for implementing priorities identified in the AAs. The subsequent discussions came up with the following recommendations to increase decentralized energy:

- To reduce the perceived risk (uncertainty) of investors, Best practice/case studies /demonstration projects are required.
- To bring together public & private sector, product/service providers and civil society stakeholder fora should be encouraged.
- To avoid over-regulation, countries need to identify what not to regulate to expedite deployment.
- Assessment of tariff options: countries need to identify what works where; national tariff or cost-reflective tariff (or some other approach) and adopt the relevant approach to tariff.
- Countries need to specify options for hybrid solutions: what/when/how hybrids best meet customer expectations?
- Capacity building: training programmes for journalists and installers should be pursued to promote awareness and ensure quality of systems.
- A Quality assurance framework should be adopted for decentralized technologies.
- How to use subsidies: collate experiences and lessons to find the most effective use of “appropriate taxes” (without undermining the market) and avoid overnight changes.
- Assist the formulation of policy frameworks: prepare model documents for policy/regulation to encourage private finance; leave door open for changes in dynamic market.



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- Identify funding sources: Countries could ask MDBs to commit funds to off-grid applications and make known what incentives are available.
- Prepare options for grid extension: investor-friendly scenarios ready for the arrival of the grid.
- Connect info portals: increase knowledge of decentralized needs and opportunities; link African outlets to international media networks
- Financial incentives: specific provision for off-grid applications (e.g. tax relief, guarantees).
- Mapping of resources: clear information on local fuels sources accessible, related conditions; allow financiers to identify best sites.
- Prepare a model for integrated planning: consider the development focus (not only energy); provides an anchor for investors.