The Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4All), launched in 2011 by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, is a great project expected to catalyse major new investments to accelerate the transformation of the world’s energy systems. It is envisaged to pursue the elimination of energy poverty and enhance prosperity.

The Government of Kenya fully embraces the objectives of the SE4All Initiative and appreciates that it’s timelines fall within those of the national development blue print, Vision 2030. Kenya is committed to contributing to the global goal of the initiative through mobilisation of all stakeholders in the country to take concrete action toward ensuring universal access to modern energy services, enhancing energy efficiency at national level and ensuring a greater share of renewable energy in the national energy mix by 2030.

The country opted to be part of the SE4All Initiative because the Government had achieved significant strides in developing the framework for energy development, following the implementation of the Energy Policy 2004 and Energy Act 2006, whose review is almost complete and has been submitted to the Cabinet for consideration and subsequent approval.

Kenya is in the process of finalising development of her Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus under the SE4All Initiative. The alignment of these two documents to Vision 2030 is almost complete. This is expected to further improve the enabling environment for the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including development partners, Government line ministries, private sector players, civil society, and the academia in the delivery of clean and modern energy services.

The initiative also comes at a time when petroleum resources have been discovered in the country. It will therefore be instrumental in ensuring diversity in the energy mix, addressing energy poverty as well as the gender dimensions of energy success.

The Kenya SE4All Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus being developed through a consultative process, and has provided useful experience in defining the country’s roadmap to delivering clean and modern energy to all Kenyans.

The process is led by the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum. It has received immense support from development partners, government line ministries, the private sector, civil society and academia.

We are grateful to the Global Facilitation Team, which has made it possible to receive financial and technical support from the Africa SE4All Coordination Hub, through collaboration of various development partners. These include UNDP, African Union, New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) Energy, the European Union (EU) BiClim Facility and the African Development Bank (AfDB), which has made it possible to make significant progress in the development of the Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus.

The development of these two documents depicts the third of the four milestones achieved by Kenya in charting the pathway to sustainable energy to all. The milestones are: i) Country Opt- in; ii) Stock-Taking and Gap Analysis; iii) Country Action Plan (Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus); and iv) Implementation, Monitoring and evaluation. Consequently, it paves the way for initiating discussions with potential local and international partners to secure the requisite financial resources and collaboration to facilitate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of high priority action programmes and projects in the energy sector. It also enhances the possibility to take advantage of the high impact opportunities to upscale notable initiatives identified from local and international best practices. Furthermore, it will enhance private sector participation in energy development while addressing energy poverty of Kenyan citizens.

Kenya, through the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, is pleased to take an early lead in contributing to the on-going efforts to address energy poverty in Africa by becoming the second country after the Gambia to develop the SE4All Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus.

The realisation of the actions, programmes and projects defined therein will be instrumental in driving socio-economic development in this country, thus enabling the achievement of middle income status, which is an aspiration of Vision 2030.

In the past, a significant portion of energy development was handled by the national government. The Ministry of Energy intends to change this by enhancing the capacity of County Governments to plan for energy resources at county level. This will accelerate access to modern energy services at the grassroots, thus reducing reliance on solid biomass for cooking and kerosene for lighting and addressing the associated indoor air pollution and environmental degradation associated.

I therefore wish to urge development partners, private sector, civil society, academia, the youth and the general public to take an active role in realising the Kenyan dream towards sustainable energy for all.

Message from the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) is a global UN initiative launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in September 2011. Nearly one out of every six people worldwide live without access to electricity and the opportunities it provides for working, learning, or operating a business.

Almost three billion people, rely on wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste for cooking and heating. The indoor air pollution lead to over four million deaths each year, affecting mostly women and children. Provision of adequate, quality and affordable modern energy services plays a vital role in poverty reduction and sustainable development. The UN Secretary-General highlighted this in 2012 when he said “Development is not possible without energy.” The initiative will mobilize energy for its potential to catalyse major new investments to accelerate the transformation of the world’s energy systems.

SE4All, A global UN initiative

The Kenya SE4All Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus is being developed through a consultative process and has provided useful experience in defining the country’s roadmap to delivering clean and modern energy to all Kenyans.

Let’s join hands toward universal access to clean energy
The Ministry of Energy and Petroleum wishes to express deep appreciation to all parties who have unreservedly offered support to enable Kenya to achieve the first three milestones towards developing its Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus (AA/IP) under the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative. In this regard, special gratitude is extended to UNDP, under the umbrella of the Africa SE4All Coordination Hub, for their unrelenting technical and financial support in preparing the Stock-Taking and Gap Analysis, conducting consultations with stakeholders, and reviewing the draft reports of the Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus.

We thank the African Union for coordinating the standardisation of the formats used, and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) Energy Division, led by Prof Mosad Elmissiry, for taking the leading role in securing financial support from the EU BizClim Facility. The fund was used to develop the initial drafts of the SE4All Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus. We appreciate Prof Elmissiry’s team for guiding us through the whole process and the NEPAD Kenya Team, for ensuring successful engagement of stakeholders to improve the initial draft documents.

The EU Delegation to Kenya, led by programme officer Sanne Willems, have been ardent supporters of energy development in Kenya, including the SE4All process. The African Development Bank, through Mr Daniel Schroth, has consistently walked with us by providing review comments on the initial drafts.

We also extend appreciations to stakeholders from line ministries of Environment and Mineral Resources, Devolution and Planning, and Industrialisation, and those from the Energy Sector, Semi-Autonomous Government Organisations, Kenya Renewable Energy Association (KEREA), and Civil Society Organisations through Practical Action Eastern Africa, for providing valuable comments at all stages of implementation. Their inputs helped to improve the drafts to acceptable standards.

The Ministry of Energy and Petroleum team has ensured successful coordination of developing the SE4All Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus.

The UN Secretary General affirmed that the success of SE4ALL will depend on three pillars: Government, Private Sector and Civil Society. Energy is an enabler and a catalyst for development and poverty reduction. We use technology to fight poverty. In the energy sector we focus on off-grid, renewable energy and technological solutions to reach majority of people in rural areas and ASALs who are not yet connected to the grid, and those in informal urban settlements who may be connected, but cannot afford to pay. All households need energy to meet several needs so we advocate for ‘Total Energy Access’ (Energy for cooking, lighting, heating and cooling, communication, productive uses and community services).

With support from Hivos, Practical Action, as a lead CSO convener, has worked effectively with the Ministry of Energy & Petroleum and national CSOs like Sustainable Community Development Services (SCODE) to: convene CSOs in the region, create awareness around SE4ALL, consult on the gaps in the energy sector, analyse and participate in policy processes like the Gap Analysis, as well as participate in the development of the Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus – providing meaningful feedback to policy makers on poor people’s perspectives on energy access in the region.

Civil Society has emphasised the need for governments to prioritise and fund energy for household use, productive purposes; farm and off-farm activities; communal facilities, and design programmes that take into account the differentiated gender needs of men and women. We call upon governments and donors to recognise and support the role of CSOs in delivering and advocating for sustainable and equitable energy solutions.

Grace Alice Mukaas Regional Director, Practical Action Eastern Africa

Putting clean energy in the mainstream

At Hivos, we run a Green Energy programme that focuses on promoting SE4All at the national level, as well as projects that focus on people without access to modern forms of energy. We create simple, smart and clean technologies like bio-digesters and efficient wood cook-stoves accessible to poor people in remote areas. We also engage with stakeholders in the SE4All process. Hivos is committed to supporting the SE4All process in Kenya, both through lobbying and advocacy, and through implementation of decentralised energy projects.

SNV initiatives revolutionising energy use in Kenya

The Netherlands Development Organisation – SNV – has been in the forefront in developing workable renewable energy initiatives for communities in Kenya. SNV takes a lead in domestic biogas installation and application, as well as the promotion of other technologies, such as clean cook-stoves and solar PV. Our initiatives focus on cooking, lighting and productive end-use, to improve livelihoods while mitigating climate change.

SNV is committed to continuously support Kenya in the attainment of the SE4All goals. We at SNV will further develop the renewable energy market, paving the way for access to energy for all in Kenya.

Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) Sustainable Energy: Powering Kenya towards Vision 2030 and Beyond

KEPSA’s mandate is the voice of the private sector in Kenya, providing an institutional framework for Government and private sector partnership. To meet its economic aspiration, Kenya needs increased, long-term investments in diverse energy sources such as geothermal, solar, biomass and wind power. Sustainable energy is a key enabler towards achieving envisioned double digit growth under the economic pillar of Vision 2030. The Private Sector commends the effort taken by government towards diversification of energy sources in the energy mix aimed at reducing over-reliance on hydropower which is climate change-vulnerable. Increasing power supply will make local enterprises competitive at the regional and global platform and spur economic growth. It is critical that focus is directed towards policy creation and a conducive environment which will allow sustainable development of the energy sector to ensure delivery of least cost power to improve Kenya’s competitiveness.

With national and county government support, we will successfully achieve SE4All with ease.

Using renewable energy to change lives in the counties

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Kenya is contributing to the access to sustainable energy agenda, and thus the SE4All objectives, through Clean Energy Access Initiatives (CEAIs). In Kwale County, close to 300 households have benefited from clean energy technologies for lighting and cooking. In Kajiado County, households are supported to acquire innovative solar predator deterrent lighting systems to minimise human wildlife conflict.

WWF and SEAF-K will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, development partners and energy sector players to support the SE4All process, both at national and county levels.
Energy leads to Women Economic Empowerment

Energy poverty has disproportionate negative impacts on women. Their roles at the household level are specifically heat intensive. They need energy products and appliances that are clean and affordable for cooking and for other family care chores.

Lack of credit, time, business and technological capabilities, relative to men, has hampered women’s ability to benefit from, and serve as a critical resource for the energy sector and development.

If we minimise the burden of searching for firewood over long distances, girls would have more time for their education and older women would find more productive time.

Clean energy improves their health, since they are not working in polluted kitchens that affect their lungs and those of their children. They make fewer trips taking children to health centres, thus spending less on health services. Women also comprise a huge population of small-scale entrepreneurs and farmers on whose labour our food security depends.

It is in recognition of the apparent disproportionate negative impacts on women, compared to men, and the benefits that accrue to the whole family when women access energy, that Practical Action designed the Advocacy for Gender and Energy in Kenya (AGEK) project. Funded by ENERGIA International and implemented in conjunction with a national organisation – Sustainable Community Development Services (SCODE) – AGEK aims to increase awareness and mobilise support for Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) approaches in energy planning and delivery in Kenya. In addition to this, the project will ensure the SE4All process integrates clear gender objectives.

The AGEK project complements an ongoing initiative – Women in Energy Enterprises in Kenya (WEEK) – which is aimed at increasing women’s awareness of the underlying causes of energy poverty, develop their business, improve their marketing and technology skills in different off-grid renewable technologies and value chains, and advocate and celebrate women entrepreneurship in Kenya.

Ultimately, Practical Action expects to reach 730 women entrepreneurs and strengthen their enterprises. We will benefit up to 364,000 people with energy access in household, productive (enterprises and off-farm activities) and community (schools and health centre) services. Some 450 people in seven counties will gain employment.

The project partners intend to document lessons from the WEEK project and widely share knowledge gained to influence major initiatives, such as SE4All, at the national and international levels, the Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus in Kenya, the EU ElectriFY Initiative and DFID Mini-Grids, to incorporate women in energy markets not only as primary consumers of energy products and services, but also as credible market actors in the sector.

CSOs are committed to working closely with the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum and other development partners to deliver poverty-alleviating and income-generating energy solutions in support of the global SE4All agenda.

A half-hour satirical comedy show featuring various personalities and events in the political, socio-economic and entertainment landscape

Thursday 7.30pm