

## **AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HYDROPOWER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### **ACTION PLAN**

1. Ministers to develop a holistic Africa Energy Vision (2025) and invite Ministers to consider institutionalising formal meetings between the Ministers of Finance, Energy, Water and Environment to monitor the implementation of such vision under the auspices of the African Union (within the existing institutional mechanisms such as New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), African Energy Commission (AFREC) and African Ministerial Forum on Energy (FEMA).

Inter alia,

- to gather data on case studies in general where hydropower projects have been developed, in order to serve as mentoring examples and provide networking opportunities
  - to produce non-prescriptive tools drawing on all relevant existing bodies of criteria and guidelines for planning and management of hydropower projects and their alternatives.
2. African Governments to request Multilateral Financing Institutions (MFIs) to commit to assist in alleviation of the financial challenge experienced by the continent, by providing grants and loans with sufficient repayment duration, necessary guarantees and refinancing facilities, as well as assistance to governments for securing their share of equity. We further request our cooperating partners to provide more resources to the infrastructure project preparation facility hosted by the AfDB.
  3. A Ministerial session to be held during the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of UN Commission on Sustainable Development to be held in New York from 1-12 May 2006 to focus on hydropower development in Africa.
  4. Governments to promote joint meetings, participation and consultations with appropriate stakeholders and put hydropower development on the agendas of respective ministerial conferences in Africa – water, energy, human settlements and environment.

5. South Africa and Egypt to support other African countries to develop their designated national authorities for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and provide technical assistance in project development.
6. AFREC should devise a strategy to assist member countries in building, utilising, retaining and exchanging technical expertise for the development of hydropower in Africa. In addition, African nations and AFREC to support regional power pools in creating and enhancing human capacity building programs among sectors involved in hydropower development and to give preference to home-based or regional training.
7. AFREC to provide secretariat services for the African Hydro Symposium in collaboration with the International Hydropower Association.
8. AFREC and FEMA, with the support of the UN-Energy Africa to establish, maintain and disseminate a comprehensive information system about Africa's hydropower. AMCOW (for the water group) and AFREC (for the energy group) to request the UN-Agencies (UN Energy/Africa and UN Water/Africa) to develop a systematic and regular reporting system on hydropower as part of their existing monitoring and reporting mechanisms, e.g. the Africa Water Development Report (AWDR) for AMCOW.
9. Outcomes of the African Ministerial Conference on Hydropower and Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (AMCHSD) (March 2006) to be submitted to the meeting of the African River Basin Organisations or Lake Basin Organisations (RBO/LBOs) scheduled for September 2006 for implementation.
10. Ministers, recognising the energy deficiency in Africa, request the AU and other regional and international institutions to assist countries to prepare feasibility studies of key NEPAD hydropower projects, such as the Inga Project in the DRC, to serve as regional sources of electricity.

11. Ministers request the AU to promote the development of integrated Water and Energy Master Plans by all Regional Economic Communities (RECs) taking into account their constituent RBO/LBOs.
12. AU member states to commit themselves to streamline their legal and regulatory framework and to build human capacity in support of hydropower development.
13. Ministers commit themselves to involve civil society in all aspects of hydropower development.
14. Ministers to develop (in consultation with regional bodies) and adopt a code of practice that, inter alia, ensures that people (both directly impacted and citizens in general) of hydropower source countries benefit equitably from the development of hydropower resources.
15. Ministers to promote synergies between hydropower and other renewable energy options such as wind, solar and geothermal power and their overall benefits.
16. African countries to monitor and assess the impacts of climate change on their water supplies as part of their commitment to the implementation of a plan of action to mitigate the effects of climate change on their economies and also the effects on dam planning and the performance of hydropower plants. Participation of all stakeholders in realising such plans as well as specific timelines are crucial.
17. Ministers request NEPAD Secretariat to speed up the establishment of centres of excellence on water, science, technology and renewable energy.
18. Recognising the limited knowledge about inter-basin transfers among African countries, the Ministers request AMCOW, with the support of UN Water Africa to initiate the development of clear guidelines for policy makers on the implementation on inter-basin transfer projects and requests that AU stimulates open effective dialogue to create awareness.

19. Adopt, at country level, better coordination of relevant sectoral ministries in hydropower development, and at river basin level enhance integrated approaches amongst the various sectors relevant to hydropower development.
  
20. A Steering Committee be established consisting of AFREC and AMCOW officials with the support of UN Africa and NEPAD to set timelines for the Action Plan. The AFREC secretariat to monitor the coordination.