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## **Extensive Renewable Energy Projects in Africa and Small Island Developing States to Cut CO2 Emissions, Improve Energy Access**

### **Initiatives to Expand Use of Low-Carbon, Renewable Energy**

**New York**, 23 September — Two initiatives that will expand access to clean, renewable energy for people in eastern and southern Africa and the Small Island Developing States will be substantially scaled up, it was announced today at the Climate Summit by a coalition of leaders from government, business and civil society.

The Africa Clean Energy Corridor (ACEC) aims to expand the portion of renewable energy used by the Eastern Africa Power Pool and Southern African Power Pool from its current 12 per cent to at least 40 per cent by 2030. The Small Island Developing States Lighthouse Initiative will strengthen international cooperation and speed the development of low-carbon renewable energy resources, aiming to install about 120 megawatts of renewable energy in these countries by 2019.

Both initiatives have been coordinated by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), a global intergovernmental organisation working to advance the renewable energy goals of its 134 countries. Expanding the use of renewable energy is one of the major focuses of the Climate Summit, which aims to mobilize resources and generate actions that will reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change.

"I am glad to see initiatives that will expand the supply of clean, renewable energy for people in eastern and southern Africa and the Small Island Developing States," said United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "These initiatives will help reduce emissions and contribute to improved health, wealth and opportunity, and a life of dignity for all."

These two important initiatives can dramatically reduce dependency on fossil fuels for electricity generation in Africa and island nations and reduce global carbon emissions, said IRENA Director-General Adnan Z. Amin. "Renewable energy should not be seen as a niche for wealthy countries in the North. It can provide a pathway for developing economies to leapfrog the dominant electricity paradigm and move toward a sustainable energy future," he added.

### **Expanding energy supply in Africa, Reducing Costs**

Ministers from 19 eastern and southern African countries endorsed the Africa Clean Energy Corridor initiative at the Summit, which will advance the development of renewable energy projects and cut annual carbon dioxide emission levels in 2030 by 310 metric tonnes throughout the Eastern and Southern Africa Power Pools. The ministers, together with 32 partners, including governments, regional

organizations, development partners and financial institutions, agreed to scale up the initiative at the Abu Dhabi Ascent held earlier this year.

Cooperation on renewable energy deployment in the region would reduce generation costs by four per cent and nearly triple electricity supply, transforming the current energy mix of a large portion of the African continent.

“Africa’s surging economic growth can be fuelled by an energy mix that emphasizes the development of its vast renewable energy resources,” said Mrs. Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini-Zuma, chairperson of the African Union. “Low-carbon economic development powered by renewable energy can help meet the challenge that climate change presents all while improving the livelihoods and economic well-being of people all over the Africa.

Four-fifths of all electricity in Eastern and Southern Africa is currently generated from carbon-bearing fossil fuels like gas, oil or coal. Regional demand for electricity is expected to at least double over the next quarter century. The African Corridor aims to have half of all electricity produced from clean, indigenous, cost-effective renewable power options by 2030, allowing for a savings of 2,500 metric tonnes of cumulative CO2 emissions between 2010 and 2030. The combined effort will also diversify resource availability, improve energy security and foster investment opportunities and job growth.

The Corridor’s Action Agenda identifies renewable power development zones so that renewable plants can be clustered in areas with high renewable resource potential. Integrated resource planning will include greater shares of renewable energy in the energy mix, complemented by new financing models and investment frameworks; knowledge and capacity building; and public information campaigns.

ACEC signatories and partners include: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. France, Italy, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, The African Union Commission, the East African Community, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, The African Development Bank, The United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Copperbelt Energy Cooperation, ENEL Green Power.

### **Clean Energy for Small Island Developing States**

Also announced at the Summit were pledges to accelerate renewable energy through the Small Island Developing States Lighthouse initiative, a framework for action to support the island countries as they transform their energy systems to include a greater share of renewable energy.

Through partnerships and focused cooperation, the initiative aims to mobilize \$500 million within five years and deploy 100 megawatts of new solar photovoltaic capacity, consisting of new wind power, significant quantities of small hydropower and geothermal energy, and marine technology.

The initiative will deliver a cleaner energy mix for up to 4.7 million people living on the frontlines of climate change in small island developing states around the world. Disconnected from mainland

electricity grids, islands are vulnerable to fluctuations in the supply and cost of imported fossil fuels, making them ideal geographies for renewable energy development.

“For island states, climate action is a matter of survival,” said Samoa Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi “By marshalling resources and providing a platform for knowledge sharing, the Lighthouse Initiative will speed the uptake of renewable energy on islands around the world, underscoring that SIDS are leading on climate change by example.”

SIDS Lighthouse partners include: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cape Verde, Cook Islands, European Union, Fiji, France, Germany, Grenada, Guyana, Indian Ocean Commission, IRENA, Japan, Kiribati, Maldives, Mauritius, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Sao Tome and Principe, Samoa, SE4ALL, Seychelles, St. Vincent and Grenadine, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, UNDP, Vanuatu, The World Bank.

This announcement forms part of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call to keep global temperature increases to less than two degrees Celsius by reducing emissions, moving money, pricing pollution, strengthening resilience and mobilizing new coalitions. This is one of eight areas identified as critical and further developed during the Abu Dhabi Ascent, a two-day meeting held in the United Arab Emirates in May 2014.

View the Joint Action Statements and Action Plans for the Energy Renewable Action Area at <http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit/action-areas/> and learn the details of the commitments and the partners.

Websites:

<http://www.irena.org>

<http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit>



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