

**SYMPOSIUM FOR CLIMATE, ENERGY
TRANSITION & AGRICULTURAL ADAPTATION
FINANCE IN AFRICA**

22-23 October 2017

PREFACE

This report captures the proceedings of the symposium for climate, energy transition and agricultural adaptation finance in Africa workshop held at the Pan African Parliament headquarters in Midrand, South Africa from the 22nd -23rd of October 2017. The workshop gathered stakeholders from Government and Civil Society to discuss issues related to energy transitioning and the widening of access to renewable energy in Africa. The two day workshop was conducted in partnership with the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), ACSEA and The Big Shift Campaign, amongst others. The goal of this report is to encourage further dialogue on the issues contained herein as well as to provide a synopsis of the work done by various stakeholders who were present at the workshop.

ACRONYMS :

ACLI- African Climate Legislative Initiative

AREI- Africa Renewable Energy Initiative

HFC's- Hydrofluorocarbons

IEA- International Energy Agency

GHG's-Greenhouse Gases

MDB's- Multilateral Development Banks

PACJA-Pan African Climate Justice Alliance

PAP-Pan African Parliament

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INTRODUCTION

The achievement of energy transition and wider access to renewable energy in Africa requires active and intentional participation of all stakeholders that are in a position to influence the future of energy in Africa. At the forefront of these are the policy makers and the individuals who are participating in renewable energy initiatives on the ground level. It is with this reasoning that PACJA used its convening power to bring together various stakeholders and partners to engage in a two day workshop whose purpose was to drive and catalyse robust discussions on the future of energy in Africa. Africa needs to transition towards climate proof development and low carbon energy systems. A key objective of the workshop was to practically define how key actors can interact with one another to ensure that Africa indeed moves towards a low carbon resilient green growth trajectory. The workshop further allowed participants to share achievements and challenges with one another in order to fully appreciate not only the work that has been done to gain traction in the journey of transition and broader action but also to clearly understand the amount of work that is yet to be done. Following the discussions of the workshop, it was expected that the working group would consensually identify and define a clear action agenda ahead of the Cop 23 conference.

In her keynote address, the chairperson of the Pan African Parliaments Committee on rural economy, agriculture, natural resources and environment Hon. Jaqueline Amongin reminded participants about the Nairobi Declaration which was developed to allow for engagements such as this one to take place in order to encourage harmonisation of working areas amongst all present stakeholders. She further commended PACJA for its role in facilitating the discussion which led to the formation of the African Climate Legislative Initiative (ACLI) and touted this as a critical tool for the enhancing of the legislative agenda that focuses on climate issues. The Committee of . . . at PAP has identified the need to develop a working agenda with clearly defined steps towards achieving energy goals in Africa and it has prioritised this as one of its strategic agendas for 2018, energy goals will take into consideration existing developmental strategies such as Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), amongst others.

Africa is naturally endowed with the resources to allow for renewable energy systems, however capacity issues in relation to financing, energy production, technology development, research and development as well as skills acquisition, amongst others, hinder the gains that could potentially be achieved. It is therefore important to focus on these factors when setting laws and policies or when civil society galvanises support for active change. Our policy makers should focus efforts towards harmonisation at a cross-sectorial level to encourage implementation of more encompassing and thorough policy frameworks in African Member States.

STATE OF AFFAIRS IN ENERGY TRANSITION: AREAS OF CONSENSUS AND CONTESTATION

In the historical context, coal is hailed as the hero that led the path to industrial development. It was the primary fuel (along with other fossil fuels) that powered the industrial area, however, following the associated negative environmental effects and direct linkages to detrimental climate change caused by the heavy and wide spread use of coal as a source of energy it is fast becoming an unpopular choice amongst many.

Overtime a global community of environmental activists has come together to raise one voice that resists destructive fossil fuel projects around the world, creating pressure to prioritise the process of energy transition. It is for this reason that the first presenter of the workshop Ms. Trusha Reddy of the International Coal Network: Women African Alliance shared insights on the state of affairs in energy transition with a particular focus to the issues surrounding coal and other fossil fuels.

The share of coal in world energy generation is recorded at 41 percent while its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions is 40 percent. Climate projections from the International Energy Agency (IEA) show that fossil fuels contribution to climate change is likely to reach 6°C of warming if planned coal expansion initiatives (which would see the erection of over 1 200 coal fired power plants) were to go ahead. Concerned environmentalists are lobbying for the eventual complete abandonment of coal, oil and gas as energy sources in light of the foreseeable increased strain on the atmosphere.

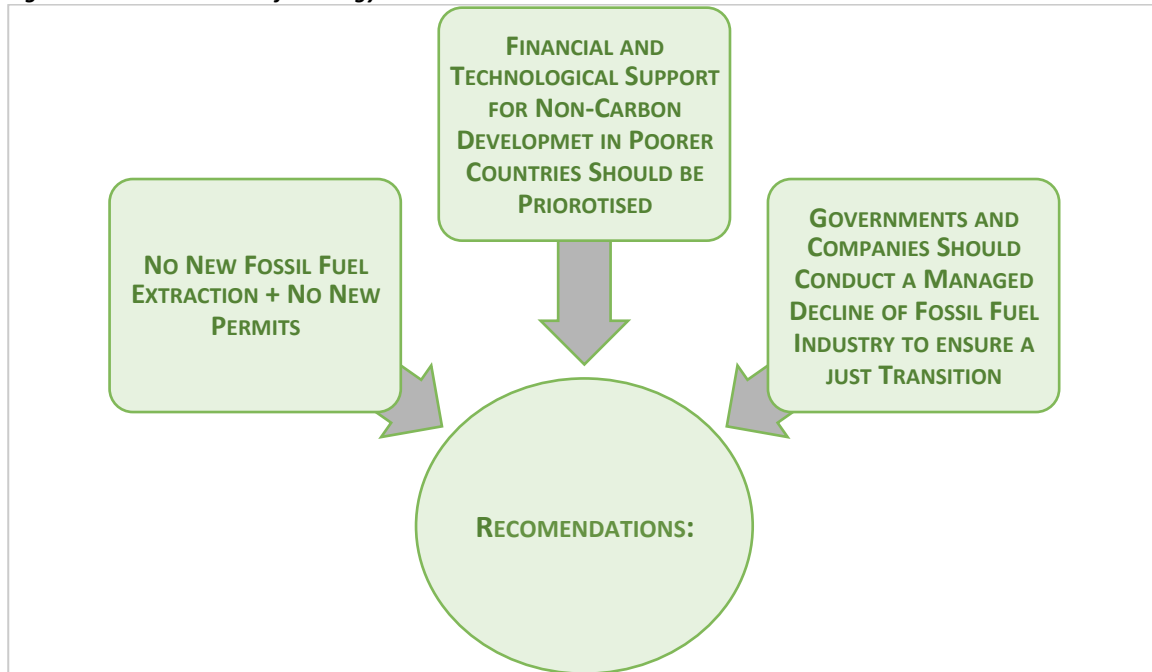
WHY TRANSITION?

- With respect to the African context, the impacts of climate change are much more acute and widespread due to the adaptive capacity of Africans to deal with climate change. Vulnerable communities in the developing world are at risk of being entrenched in poverty in the long run.
- The attached health impacts and extreme environmental impacts caused by fossil fuels are completely avoidable through the use of renewable energy sourced.
- Due to Africa's unique endowment of renewable energy resources such as wind and sunshine, amongst others; energy access would be more widespread. Currently urban electrification in Africa sits at 71 percent while rural electrification sits at 28 percent.
- Wide spread universal energy access can drive economic development by increasing the productive capabilities of economic groups.

- Renewable energy costs are cheaper when you take into consideration the negative externalities associated with the burning of fossil fuels.

HOW TO TRANSITION?

Figure 1: Recommendations for Energy Transition



DISCUSSIONS: THE PRACTICALITY OF ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE VIEW OF STAKEHOLDERS

Workshop participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and share remarks in relation to the topic of energy transition as presented to them. Sentiments that were expressed by participants are presented below:

- i. There is a need for Africa to focus development on the right models and to stop working in the paradigms that do not put people at the centre of development . Women should be at the epicentre of driving the transition to renewable energy.
- ii. There is a need for capacity training of stakeholders to be able to use their platforms to advocate for funding and the development of technologies in Africa.
- iii. Africa cannot afford a prolonged delay in the implementation of an energy transition strategy. Countries should each have differentiated but common renewable energy goals which utilise their resources in an efficient and optimal manner.
- iv. It is important for Africans to create their own technological and financial development models.

NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS, TRANSITION TO LOW-CARBON, CLIMATE RESILIENT GREEN ECONOMIES: A WINDOW FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO UNLOCK THE VAST RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL?

Africa holds firm to the belief that coal and oil are paramount to development and growth while the reality is that energy from fossil fuels has failed to develop or industrialise Africa. The energy mix that developed other parts of the world will not necessarily develop that of Africa and thus it is important for Africa to define its own development path which is compatible with African dynamics. Adding to that; African environmental government mechanisms have not been strong enough to curtail the increasing detrimental effects of fossil fuels and thus the continued use of them will only create a larger unsustainable dent in environmental issues which have spill over effects into other areas of the continental economy.

In light of this back drop, Ms Thuli Makoma from Oil Change International presented an approach to tackle funding for renewable energy in Africa. The funding discussed was funding that is directed to the energy industry by Multilateral Development Banks (MDB's) like the World Bank and the African Development Bank. Fossil fuels would not do as well without the subsidies and financing assistance that they currently receive the world over, this finance should be redirected to renewable energies.

Subsidies offered to fossil fuels are not only limited to financial terms; they also include the land offered for exploration, free water, cheap labour advantage as well as the environmental subsidies.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FINANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Off-grid and mini-grid renewable energy spending by African public financing institutions remains small and benchmarks on energy access spending are not being met. One of the leading reasons for the slow adaptation of renewable energy strategies is because the aid initiatives remain staggeringly few. Renewable energy costs could fall well below those of fossil fuels if financial support was provided, especially when you attach the environmental and health costs of fossil fuels to the discussion. Africa should aim to have renewable energy financing that accounts for at least 50 percent of the overall energy financing budget.
- Ms. Makoma urged participants, especially the parliamentarians to focus efforts on encouraging MDB's to prioritise funding of renewable energy sources.
- African countries should revise financing strategies in order to divert funds from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. It is important to take proactive steps towards change. We cannot live as though climate change is not happening.

DISCUSSIONS: THE PRACTICALITY OF REDIRECTING RESOURCES IN THE VIEW OF STAKEHOLDERS

- i. Given that Africa practices an energy mix that continues to include the use of fossil fuels, perhaps laws could be introduced to stipulate that revenues from these unclean forms of energies should be channelled to renewable energy projects.
- ii. Policy shifts that accommodate pro-renewable energy funding should be prioritised. Participants need to devise amongst themselves clear ways in which they can influence policies.
- iii. African policies should be harmonised to ensure lobbying power and increased success potential. Africa should have one voice on the issue of renewable energy financing.
- iv. Case-studies of pioneering African countries should be shared with stakeholders so that they can receive a clear picture of the challenges and achievements that are related to financing in the journey of energy transition.

THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS: ROLE OF THE AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

We all contribute towards pollution through the use of everyday appliances and technologies such as fridges and air conditioners which emit Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC's) pollutants that have negative environmental effects. The Montreal Protocol was developed as a direct response to mitigate the effects of the harmful HFC's and greenhouse gases (GHG's) which deplete the ozone layer. Following the amendment of the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, Uganda which included additional targets for the phasing out of CHF's, a multilateral fund was created to ensure that the implementation of the protocol is indeed feasible and that the introduction of cleaner solutions is prioritised.

Ms Chiloane Kgaugelo from WWF Southern Africa highlighted that it is important for stakeholders to ensure that implementation of protocols and resolutions in order to ensure environmental protection is followed through. This entails strong and effective resource mobilisation, strategic planning and monitoring and evaluation institutions.

In order to come up with adaptation strategies, it is first important to understand the level and extent of vulnerabilities. Thus it is critical to engage in strong research and advocacy initiatives from all levels.

---RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCING EFFECTS OF HFC'S

****Content to be added****

DISCUSSIONS: REDUCING EFFECT OF HFC'S IN THE VIEW OF STAKEHOLDERS

- i. African energy plans should ensure that they are in line with the Kigali protocol to ensure achievement of universal targets and deadlines.
- ii. Engagement with non-state actor such as philanthropic groups is encouraged as an additional source of funding for cleaner energy technologies.
- iii. Currently, financial assistance to Africa mostly comes from international/ developed countries who often dictate terms of use and operation that are in contradiction to Africa's strategic objectives. Africa should ensure that they have a strong voice in the operations of the multilateral protocol fund.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIG SHIFT CAMPAIGN

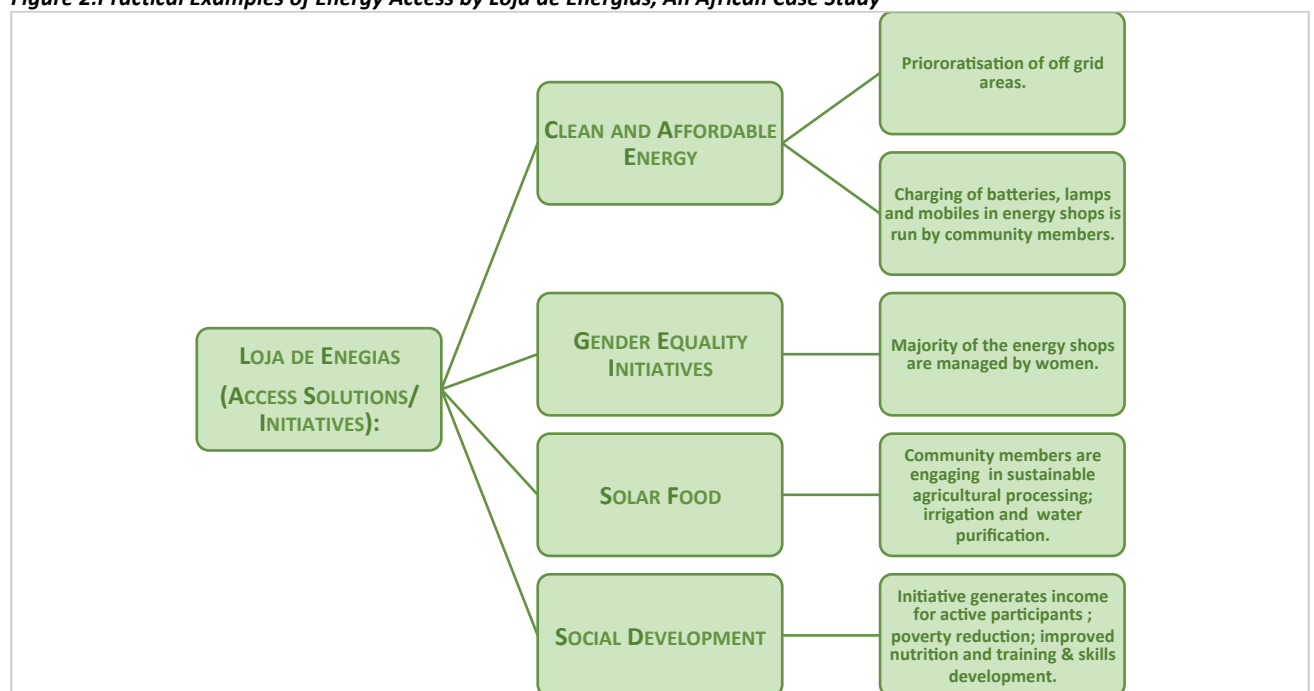
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TRANSFERRING THEORY IN TO PRACTICE: EFFECTIVE PROMOTION OF GREEN INNOVATION

Where the conversation of renewable energy is concerned, it is important to ensure that there is a linkage between global and local work that transforms theories into practice. Ms Gilda Mojane gave a practical example of what it means to engage in ground work and the creation of real and sustainable initiatives in communities. Through her organisation; Loja de energias, Ms Gilda Mojane is practically addressing energy issues faced by communities in Mozambique.

Several communities in Mozambique and Africa at large face severe restrictions to energy access, resorting to using fire wood for warmth and candle light for reading, amongst other activities. It is with this setting that Loja de Energias was created to mitigate the effects of energy shortages in indigenous communities. The initiatives and solutions provided by Loja de Energias are presented in Figure 2 below and they bring to surface one important message: **“Practicability is Important”**.

Figure 2: Practical Examples of Energy Access by Loja de Energias, An African Case Study



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM DAY 1

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