

ECA SOFT LAUNCHED TEAM ENERGY AFRICA AHEAD OF THE ENERGY AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM COME 17-19 MAY 2022 IN KIGALI.

The Executive Secretary at United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Vera SONGWE has launched “Team-Energy Africa” initiative in collaboration with Sustainable Energy for All (SEforLL) and the African Energy Chamber with the aim of mobilizing a coalition of like-minded private sector investors keen on advancing and championing, Africa’s energy transformation. During the launch – which served as a prelude to the high-level launch to be held in Kigali, Rwanda on May 17-19, 2022 parties brought for insight into the mission and vision of the initiative, the context in which the initiative was born and the next steps to be taken.

Speaking at the soft launch ceremony UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary and ECA Executive Secretary, Vera SONGWE States that

“We all want to talk about the importance of Energy for the continent. In forums, we always listen international players moving to do business on our continent. We should be spearheading that conversation and sitting on the decision making room. We can take some important conversations to Cairo. One conversation will be around gas. We need to go to COP27 to talk about this. For us, it is not just a question about Energy, but also about industrialization and job creation. We need to look at these from an African perspective and we need a team with the private sector in the room,”.

She added that any energy project delayed in Africa is prosperity delayed and development delayed. Working on that to reverse the tendency, ECA has just finalized a study that provides insights on the regulatory environment of the energy sector in a number of African countries

On harnessing the role of the private sector, Stracey Crowe of SEforALL said “as we plan for the energy transition, the process must be just and inclusive; this requires significant investment.” It is essential for governments to ensure that policies and regulatory frameworks are in place to support the large scale investment and we

need to build the right mechanism to bring together private sector investors, she added.

Setting the stage on why Team-Energy Africa at the soft launch, Linus Mofor, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer in charge of energy, infrastructure and climate change at the African Climate Policy Centre of the ECA affirms that less than 2% of global clean energy investments flow to Africa. “Africa has abundant energy sources. Looking at renewables alone, we have 20,000MW of geothermal, 350,000MW of hydro, 110,000MW of wind and abundant solar irradiation. Yet about 590 million go without access to electricity,” stated Linus Mofor, senior environmental affairs officer, African Climate Policy Centre, ECA.

Linus Mofor added “Africa needs to nearly double its present electricity generation installed capacity by 2030 and increase it by at least 5 folds by 2050. African private capital must be central to the investments needed for this energy transformation on the continent.

The **Team-Energy Africa** initiative centres on three overarching pillars, namely sustainability, governance and finance. By supporting countries that embrace sustainability and address key governance challenges to unlock private sector clean energy investment, **Team-Energy Africa** is committed to unlocking critical capital, fostering an enabling environment for investment in Africa, and ushering in a new era of energy access and growth while accelerating Africa’s energy transition

The private sector, as an engine of growth, drives productivity, innovative financing and inclusivity of participation which in turn drives inclusive economic growth and is critical for Africa’s transformation. It is even more so if most of the private sector participation in Africa is from Africa’s private sector.

Introducing the Team-Energy Africa Resource Platform (Dashboard) Abdur Omidia, Executive President, West Africa at African Energy Chamber, explains that Team Energy Africa mandate is to accelerate SDG7, facilitate technology, knowledge transfer & capacity building, enable modular rapidly deployed power solutions, oversee, monitor & audit projects.

Concluding the launch, Ayuk stated: "The time is now. We need a fierce urgency of now when it comes to making energy poverty history. For once, we have the private sector coming together with the public sector on a bigger scale. Let's seize this moment to really drive something that works and commit ourselves to action. There is a lot of money in Africa. There are a lot of young people. Do not wait for others to come to do it. We have started and we are not holding back."

Developing on next steps Mr. NJ Ayuk revealed he looks onward to meet key stakeholders work with member States in May for the official launch in Kigali at the Sustainable Energy for All Forum that will hold 17 to 19 of May 2022.

Background

- An initiative of the ECA, in collaboration with SEforALL and African Energy Chamber
- Launched at 4th Africa Business Forum of the ECA in 2021
- Europe has Team-Europe to engage in Africa

This side event, by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Energy Chamber, and the Secretariat of Sustainable Energy for All, brought together initial members of Team-Energy Africa for a soft launch of the initiative