Renewables for Growing Cities in Africa: A roadmap from 2012 to 2050

Sunday, 2 September 2012, Mostra d' Oltremare, Naples, Italy

African cities are predicted to welcome an additional 300 million inhabitants between now and 2030. This equates to an 80% increase in urban population within less than 20 years, representing the majority of the global urbanization taking place throughout this period. The majority of these city dwellers will settle in small cities (< 0.5 million), many of them doubling in size. In most cities, these new settlers will join the already 70% of urban population living in slum areas.

The influx of city dwellers will dramatically increase the demand for food, water, energy, and housing. This increase will place additional strains on the already overstretched infrastructures, especially in those urban cities where urban growth is outpacing economic development. Without sufficient energy, this can lead to electricity blackouts, inadequate waste collection, poor housing conditions, excess-water drainage systems, and poverty. A lack of energy will also constrain economic development, which will lead to unemployment and a reduction in living standards.

Clean, reliable and affordable energy is essential to maintain and improve living conditions in cities. Renewable energy provides energy security for those cities relying on fossil fuel imports, often transported over long distances. Furthermore, the development and use of renewable energy can enhance productivity, generate employment, reduce poverty, and support a healthy, safe and clean environment. The question is how to do this?

The aim of this workshop is to develop a concrete set of activities that different stakeholders can undertake to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy in rapidly growing cities in Africa. Four important areas for activities have been identified:

- Sustainable cooking systems, including issues like the impact of charcoal use and clean cooking stoves on renewables deployment in cities;
- Electrification, including slum electrification, solar home systems and solar panels, and the electrification of transport systems;
- Energy Planning, including energy demand planning through energy efficiency, data management, and renewables for sustainable development;
- Financing, including micro-financing, climate fund financing, and new business models.

In the morning session, a number of speakers will be invited to discuss their experiences regarding the opportunities and barriers for renewables in growing cities. In the afternoon sessions, workshop participants will be asked to provide suggestions and a prioritisation of activities to be undertaken by the different stakeholders to address these opportunities and barriers.

The workshop will take place on Sunday 2 September 2012 in Naples (Italy) preceding the World Urban Forum organised by UN Habitat. Besides leaders and practitioners working on renewable energy issues in cities in Africa, we will also invite stakeholders from other regions to share their experiences. A detailed agenda is provided on the next page.

WORKSHOP AGENDA *(tentative)*

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08.30-09.00   Registration

09.00-09.30   Introduction

- Introduction to the renewables in cities technology roadmap at IRENA
- Introduction to UN Habitat's Global Energy Network for Urban Settlements
- Introduction to workshop

09.30-10.15   Sustainable cooking systems

- Opportunities and barriers for renewables-based sustainable cooking systems

10.15-11.00   Electrification

- Opportunities and barriers for in renewables-based electrification

11.00-11.30   Coffee Break

11.30-12.15   Energy planning

- Opportunities and barriers for energy planning for renewables

12.15-13.00   Financing

- Opportunities and barriers for financing renewable energy deployment

13.00-14.00   Lunch

14.00-15.30   Break out groups

- Break out sessions in four groups
- Identification of action items

15.30-16.00   Coffee break

16.00-17.30   Plenary session

- Prioritisation of action items
- Developing a roadmap

17.30-18.00   Next steps