

# African Group Renewable Energy Submission to the UNFCCC

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31 May 2014

Submission by the Republic of Sudan on behalf of the African Group on ADP Workstream 2

Establishment of a global partnership to accelerate the Energy Transformation required for a well below 2° Celsius World by supporting renewable energy feed-in tariffs and other incentives

1. Africa welcomes the opportunity to engage under the ADP Workstream 2 on exploring options to accelerate and scale-up the transition to clean energy in developing countries while simultaneously promoting development through incentives such as, but not exclusively, feed in tariffs for renewable energy (REFiTs).<sup>1</sup>
2. Africa and other developing countries face tremendous immediate development challenges that are of primary concern. Increasing energy production and enhancing access to electricity is at the core of these challenges and is an imperative. From a climate mitigation and economic diversification perspective the challenge is to ensure this expansion of electricity can be made, to the extent possible, and in a sustainable manner.
3. The transition to clean renewable energy sources must ensure national ownership, guarantee locally adapted and controlled energy solutions, enhance adaptation capacity, stimulate job creation and lead to thriving local economies and industries, and helps achieving sustainable development.
4. As a practical response to the above concerns, in particular the acceleration and scaling-up of the increase of clean and renewable energy in the energy mix, the African Group proposes that Parties through a dedicated platform initiate rounds of in-depth assessments followed by interactive discussions and deliberations, on inter alia:
  - a. the range and mix of relevant country or region specific incentives, such as but not exclusively restricted to nationally determined and appropriate renewable energy feed-in tariffs schemes
  - b. the quantification of mitigation, adaptation and other development co-benefits achieved per different scale of finance and per incentive and mix combinations;
  - c. how best to implement the highest beneficially achieved mix in a country owned manner.
  - d. needs and means for capacity building, technology access and financing, in accordance with the principles of CBDR, to enable these mixes of incentives.
  - e. The barriers (financial, technological, institutional and legal) impeding the dissemination of renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) and removal of these barriers

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<sup>1</sup> According to REN21, 138 countries had established RE policy targets in 2012, a 27% increase from 2010. More specifically, Feed in tariffs (FiT), renewable portfolio standards (RPS) or quota policies, and biofuel mandates have expanded in recent years: with 99 countries, states or provinces implementing FiTs, 76 with quota policies, and 76 with biofuel mandates in place in 2012.

- f. Availability of financial and technical support and international investments to support developing countries plans
  - g. Available technologies that would assist developing countries plan for an economic Feed-in Tariffs
  - h. The potential of renewable energy as an enabler for achieving Sustainable development
  - i. Highlighting relevant experiences, if any, under the CDM
5. By creating a Platform to support systemic exploration of REFiTs and other appropriate incentives, a paradigm shift towards renewable energy can be more readily conceptualized and successfully implemented. Ultimately, the Green Climate Fund could play a pivotal role of providing and catalysing funds (both contributing to upfront capital financing and associated needs for capacity building/planning, as well as funds to cover the tariffs and other incentives).
  6. The Platform should furthermore and over time promote and facilitate domestic capacity to manufacture and develop renewable energy technologies in developing countries, thereby stimulating economic development, decreased dependency and local job creation. This platform would also need to ensure access to nationally appropriate renewable energy technologies and capacity building, including sharing of best practices, following a country driven approach and in the context of sustainable development.
  7. With this submission the Africa Group encourages all Parties to engage in this constructive and trust-building proposal. As concrete suggestions, we propose the following way forward:
    - a. Deepen current understanding through focused technical discussions on REFiTs and other incentives based on countries' experiences, success factors and challenges at the ADP Workstream 2 Technical Workshops during 2014, also drawing on expertise from relevant UN agencies, civil society, renewable energy industry, power industry, and other stakeholders.
    - b. Highlight the role of the technology mechanism in enhancing the transfer of related technologies
    - c. Updated version of the WS2 technical paper, with input from a wide range of actors, to review region specific incentives types and categories;
    - d. A number of developed and developing countries take leadership and build trust by immediately engaging on the topics under Paragraph 4, with the view of setting in motion concrete pilot activities and projects with a view to demonstrate the full potential of such incentives: laying the foundation for rapid and massive scaling-up.