

**Global Conference on Rural Energy Access: A Nexus Approach on Sustainable
Development and Poverty Eradication
Addis Ababa 4-6 Dec. 2013**

Draft Recommendations

We, representatives of around 35 countries and 15 international and regional organizations, civil society and the private sector meeting together in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 6 December 2013, at the "Global Conference on Rural Energy Access: A Nexus Approach to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication", organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with Sustainable Energy for All, UN-Energy and the Economic Commission for Africa, as part of the follow up to the 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development,

Having carefully and thoroughly discussed the key role of access to energy services on enabling sustainable development, and its impacts on health, gender, education, water, food security, the environment, humanitarian settings as well as on productive activities;

Fully aware that access to sustainable energy is the "golden thread" linking the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development;

Greatly concerned that well into the 21st century, around 1.3 billion people lack access to electricity, and at least 2.7 billion people are without clean cooking facilities;

Noting that a majority of those without full access to energy live in rural areas, and face the combined challenge of low buying power and high delivery cost for energy;

Cognizant of the many national, regional and global programs for rural energy access;

Supporting the objectives of the UN Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Initiative that aims by 2030 at: universal access to modern energy services; doubling the rate to improve energy efficiency worldwide; and doubling the share of renewables in the global energy mix;

Referring to the ambitions of the UN to achieve the goals of SE4ALL;

Emphasizing the important role of the International Renewable Energy Agency as SE4All-Hub for renewable energy;

Cognizant of the Africa Energy Ministers Conference September 2011 Johannesburg Declaration on "Promoting Sustainable Energy Access in Africa", defining the relation between energy access and climate change; as well as of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership aiming at providing energy access to 100 million people in Africa;

Cognizant of the recognition by the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 that access to sustainable modern energy services contributes to poverty eradication, saves lives, improves health, helps to provide basic human needs and is essential to social inclusion and gender equality, and to the commitments to address challenges and take further action to improve access to energy by the poor, including voluntary comments to this end made by numerous stakeholders.

Cognizant of the EU SE4ALL Summit of April 2012 mobilizing European and international partners to commit to the SE4ALL initiative, and for ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

Resolution of November 2012 on the importance of access to energy for sustainable economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

Cognizant of the recent United Nations General Assembly declaration of 2014–2024 as the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All that underscores the importance of energy issues for sustainable development and for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

Realizing the potential of the many best practices based on renewable energy presented at this conference,

Recognizing the importance of enabling factors for providing modern energy services for rural areas, such as the strengthening of local value chains, the contribution to productive uses, appropriate business models, the availability of financing, adequate policy and regulatory frameworks, capacity development, as well as technology transfer;

Grateful for the enlightening presentations made at this conference by practitioners of rural energy supply;

Thankful for the Government and People of Ethiopia, the Economic Commission for Africa, UN-Energy, SE4All, UN-DESA, and the organizing committee for the warm hospitality and the excellent organization of this conference;

Recommend that:

1. Governments, public authorities, international organizations, as well as the private sector and civil society, continue and increase their collective efforts to achieve the goals of the SE4All Initiative, particularly with respect to access to energy in rural areas;
2. The international community recognize the importance of the nexus approach, integrating energy access into programs for health, gender, education, water, food security, the environment, humanitarian settings as well as on productive activities, and that this nexus approach be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda;
3. The international community work together to coordinate and harmonize activities at the international and regional levels aimed at expanding rural energy access, including for meetings, workshops and conferences on the subject;
4. Public authorities, in cooperation with the private sector, make concerted, structured and targeted efforts to lift the administrative and regulatory barriers that impede replication of the many existing successful business models to provide rural energy access;
5. Public authorities create favorable conditions for domestic production of energy service delivery systems by local entrepreneurs;
6. Public authorities harness the many policy tools available – fiscal and economic, educational, regulatory – to create a conducive and favorable environment for expanding rural energy access;
7. Public authorities integrate rural energy access fully into national sustainable development plans and sector plans in line with the nexus approach and utilize multi-sector structures to ensure that efforts to expand rural energy access are fully integrated into public policies and programs;

8. All sources of financing – payments from users, international and national private financial institutions, international development financial institutions, national budgets, ODA – be used in a coordinated and optimal manner to support rural energy access, through mechanisms such as guarantee funds, loans, subsidies/counter-subsidies, micro-credits, intelligent tariff setting, and public-private partnerships;
9. Special attention be given to new and innovative means of energy service financing, including enterprise and consumer financing, through commercial and other credit systems to expand access to energy services;
10. New and innovative financing and policy incentives be made available for scaling-up, bundling and promoting wide adoption of successful decentralized energy projects and delivery systems to expand rural energy access;
11. ODA grant financing and technical assistance programs include support for capacity development and policy formulation;
12. Rural energy programs use a combination of the best technologies and service delivery models – grid connected, decentralized or stand alone; private, public or public-private partnership; renewable, hybrid or fossil fuel based - according to local circumstances and economic conditions;
13. Maximum use be made of rapidly progressing technologies, small stand-alone solar and wind devices that can provide high value low power energy services such as pico-hydro equipment, improved cook stoves and waste biomass generators;
14. Technical standards for energy service delivery and energy systems appropriate for rural areas be developed to ensure quality and efficiency;
15. Energy access programs strive to meet the needs of productive activities (the basis for poverty alleviation), of social services (essential to social progress) and of households, notably for clean, safe and sustainable cooking (key to gender equality, health and protection of the environment), enhancing the local production chain and local work force;
16. The nature of energy services offered be precisely adapted to the specific needs of users in each local situation, taking into account development priorities, ability and willingness to pay for services, and availability of local energy resources;
17. The definition of “access to modern energy services” be further refined to enable the development of quantifiable metrics and these metrics be used to measure progress on achieving the goal of energy access for all in rural areas by 2030.
18. The commitments made by the organizations listed below at this Conference for action-on-the-ground for meeting the goal of universal access to energy in rural areas by 2030 be recognized, followed-up and leveraged as inputs to 2014-2024 the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All: 1) Energising Development Partnership (EnDev)/ GIZ; 2) Barefoot Power; 3) Solar23; 4) Fosera; 5) ID-EEE (Germany) / UNDESA / Energetica (Bolivia); 6) Practical Action; 7) Phaesun; 8) Alliance for Rural Electrification; 9) WHO; 10) UNDP; 11) Amistad; 12) UNECA.