

Minutes of the 10th Meeting of the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) Board of Directors

New York, USA, 23 September 2019

Heads of Delegation in attendance:

H.E. Prof. Alpha **CONDE**, President of the Republic of Guinea and Chair of the AREI Board of Directors;

H.E. Idriss **DEBY ITNO**, President of the Republic of Chad and Member of the AREI Board

Hon. Netumbo Nandi **NDAITWAH**, Deputy Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia and Member of the AREI Board

Hon. Dr Monica JUMA, Cabinet Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya

Dr Mohamed Moussa **OMRAN**, 1st Undersecretary at the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy of the Arab Republic of Egypt

H.E. Amani **ABOU-ZEID**, African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission

Dr Daniel **SCHROTH**, Advisor to the Vice-President of the Electricity, Energy, Green Growth and Climate Change Complex of the African Development Bank (AfDB)

Mr. Stefano **MANSERVISI**, Director-General of the Directorate General International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) European Commission (EC)

H.E. Madam Brigitte **COLLET**, Climate Change Ambassador for France.

Welcome Address

His Excellency President Alpha Condé, President of the AREI Board of Directors, welcomed all Board Members and Observers and declared the meeting open.

Adoption of the agenda

The Board adopted the agenda without objections nor amendments.

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Board of Directors held in Conakry on 11 June 2019

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Board of Directors held in Conakry on June 11, 2008 were adopted. A total of 104 projects with a capacity of 2.92 GW were adopted by the Board during the meeting.

2. General presentation the CTi and IDU Activities

The IDU Director presented the work done by the Interim Technical Committee (CTi) in mobilizing more projects to be labelled, and submitted to the New York Board of Directors. The Board was informed that the CTi had held two meetings in the past three months, the first in Abidjan from 29 July to 1 August 2019 and the second in Brussels from 11 to 13 September 2019. The following points were raised during the meetings:

- **Meeting with the Niger Basin Authority (NBA)** on the instructions of H.E. Professor Alpha Conde regarding ABN's request for support for the Fomi Project. ABN also sent a list of projects to the CTi for analysis in addition to the Fomi Project;
- **Meeting with Power Africa:** the CTi received a representative of Power Africa who presented a list of 107 projects which were analyzed. The projects included 74 power generation projects and 33 capacity building projects. In view of the inadequacies observed between the AREI rules and procedures and those of Power Africa, the CTi drafted recommendations for the Board's consideration;
- **Use of EU Funds:** the Board was informed of the progress of discussions with the EU with regards to the use of funds for the recruitment of experts/consultants to support the IDU;
- **Support to NGOs:** the Board was informed of the support of certain partners towards NGOs in the framework of the implementation of AREI without the knowledge of the officially recognized bodies of the Initiative;
- **Fundraising:** as a prelude to the second phase of the accelerated implementation of AREI, the Board was requested to authorize the CTi commence fundraising activities.

The Board was informed of the progress of the AfDB-Germany Memorandum of Understanding with regard to Germany's €2 million Grant for IDU operations.

It was also brought to the attention of the Board that Chad had submitted more than 200 projects for the Central African region. These projects could not be analyzed prior to the New York Meeting due to lack of information.

3. Presentation of CTi Recommendations

The AREI Regional Focal Point for Southern Africa presented the following recommendations of the CTi for the consideration of the Board: -

- **The Niger Basin Authority (ABN)** request for a grant dedicated to finalizing feasibility studies including \$5 million for the recruitment of experts for the Fomi Project;
- **Power Africa Projects** be subject to labelling only on the same basis as ElectriFi Projects which are complementary to AREI;
- **Use of European Union funds** the IDU should expedite the recruitment process of experts/consultants;
- **Support to NGOs in the implementation of AREI:** that a meeting be organized between the CTi and the NGOs working on the AREI implementation in the presence of partners;
- **Fundraising:** that the Board authorizes the CTi and the IDU to initiate fundraising activities with partners and institutions willing to invest in the renewable energy sector in Africa.
- **Claim of the former team:** that joint AfDB-IDU note be sent officially to the former team informing them of the Board's decision.

4. Presentation of Labelled Projects

The list of 92 labelled projects was presented to the Board by the AREI Regional Focal Point for West Africa. The regional distributions of the projects as follows:

The 92 labelled projects have a total capacity of 24.76 GW.

- Southern Africa: 4 projects with a total capacity of 35 MW;
- Central Africa: 3 projects with a total capacity of 7.88 MW;
- Eastern Africa: 5 projects with a total capacity of 50.8 MW;

- North Africa: 34 projects with a total capacity of 1377.1 MW;
- West Africa: 40 projects with a total capacity of 23286.38 MW;
- Regional projects: 6 projects with a total capacity of 7.51 MW.

5. Presentation of Projects proposed for adoption by the Board of Directors

The CTI recommended **78 mature projects** to the Board for adoption. The said projects comply with the AREI rules and criteria.

These projects have a total capacity of **4.77 GW** and a total cost of **euro 7,111.99 million**, including a contribution of **euro 2,311.45 million**.

The Board **adopted all 78 projects**.

In addition, it should be noted that Central Africa, through its Regional Focal Point, submitted more than 200 projects for labelling but couldn't be presented at the Board. These projects are currently being evaluated.

The Board instructed the CTI to organize a meeting the earliest possible to analyze Central African projects for labelling and propose mature labelled projects to Board Members for adoption. Egypt agreed to host the said meeting in Cairo in October.

5. Partners Intervention

- **European Union:** the representative of the European Union lauded the IDU and the CTI for the work done thus far and indicated the following;
 - **Visibility:** on the need to raise awareness to increase AREI's visibility with the objective of making it the reference point for all renewable energy matters on the Continent;
 - **Labelling and adoption of projects:** the EU urged the CTI and the IDU to continue with the same rigour that has made it possible to achieve the presented results;
 - **ABN:** EU asked the IDU to provide additional information on the ABN request for support as soon as possible;
 - **Use of EU funds:** EU is ready to launch the recruitment process for experts the earliest possible.

- **France :**
 - **Support:** France expressed its readiness to contribute to the mobilization of the public and private sectors for the second phase of AREI, which entails a significant scale-up;
 - **Roadmap:** France recommended that the IDU draft a clear and credible strategy for the development of the second phase, in order to be able to mobilise additional support, especially from the private sector.
- **African Union Commission (AUC):** supported the CTi's recommendations highlighting the importance of raising awareness on the Initiative and institutionalizing regional meetings.
- **African Development Bank (AfDB):** On the claims of the former IDU team; the AfDB in its capacity as trustee noted the recommendations of the CTI and IDU with regards to informing Mr Nafo of the Board's decision not to pay the sums claimed by team.

6. Miscellaneous

The Chair of the Board urged his peers to be more involved in the Initiative for its success.

It was noted that the IDU has received the following focal points nominations by region:

- **West Africa:** Out of 15 countries in the region, only 6 countries have appointed their focal points;
- **North Africa:** Out of 6 countries in the region, only 2 countries sent names of their focal points
- **Central Africa:** 7 of the 9 countries in the region have appointed their focal points
- **Eastern and Southern Africa** only have regional focal points to date

The effective appointment of all national focal countries coupled with the use of a monitoring tool will ensure the successful and harmonized implementation of AREI, as proposed by Kenya.

7. End of Meeting

The Chair of the Board ended the meeting by expressing his satisfaction with the results achieved. AREI has already reached its 2020 target in 2019 with **9.99 GW** following the adoption of the **78 projects presented** at the New York Meeting.

This is testament to the fact that when Africa speaks with one voice and with the unwavering support of AREI Partners, actions are tangible.