

Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative Board of Directors

Niamey, Niger, July 7, 2019

Heads of delegations in attendance:

H.E. Prof. Alpha **CONDE**, President of the Republic of Guinea, Chair of the AREI Board of Directors and the African Union Coordinator of Renewable Energy in Africa

H.E. Hage **GEINGOB**, President of the Republic of Namibia

H.E. Idriss **DEBY**, President of the Republic of Chad

Hon. Dr Mohamed Shaker **EI MARKBI**, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energies, Egypt

Mr. Patrick **NZUSI**, Counsellor at the Africa and African Union Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya

Dr Amani **ABOU-ZEID**, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission (AUC)

Mr Stefano **MANSERVISI**, Director General, International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), European Commission (EC)

H.E. Alexandre **GARCIA**, Ambassador of France to Niger

Dr. Daniel **SCHROTH**, Advisor to the Vice-President, PEVP and Acting Director, Renewable Energy Department, PEVP, African Development Bank (AfDB)

1. Opening session

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

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the seventh meeting of the AREI Board of Directors held in Addis Ababa on 10 February 2019

The minutes of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the AREI Board of Directors held in Addis Ababa on 10 February 2019 were adopted.

4. IDU and Interim Technical Committee Activity Report

a) Presentation of the CTI activities since February 2019.

The AREI Interim Technical Committee (CTI) has met four times since it was established:

- 01 - 03 April 2019 in Brussels, Belgium;
- 28 - 30 April 2019 in Conakry, Guinea;
- 27 - 29 May 2019 in Brussels, Belgium; and
- On 09 June 2019 in Conakry, Guinea.

As requested by the Board, the CTI worked on the;

- Preparations of the Extraordinary Board Meeting held in Conakry on 11 June 2019;
- Recommendations for the AREI Legal Identity and Headquarters

The Extraordinary Board Meeting aimed to make up for the delays suffered with regard to the adoption of projects so as to attain the 10 GW by 2020 objective. It was agreed that two Extraordinary Board Meetings will be held in the course of 2019. The sessions will exclusively be dedicated to the adoption of new projects.

The work done by the CTI enabled the Board to adopt 104 projects on June 11, 2019, in Conakry, Guinea. A set of recommendations were also endorsed by the Board at the said meeting. The recommendations aim to ensure that AREI rules and procedures are adhered to so as to optimize in improving the implementation of the Initiative's mandate.

It should be noted that all members of the Board present in Conakry acknowledged and congratulated the work done by the CTI and the IDU and the rigor with which the work was done making it possible to make up for the delays.

It should be noted that the CTI rejected dozens of projects out of all the projects initially presented as they did not comply with the AREI criteria.

The CTI took note of the Board's instructions and vowed to ensure that the AREI principle on equity between regions and countries is respected as stipulated in the AREI Governance Instrument.

b) CTI recommendation for 300 GW by 2030 Objective.

The CTI recommends the:

- Analysis of the prospects for achieving the 300 GW by 2030 Objective with a proposal for a mid-term target of a minimum 150 GW by 2025;
- All African countries should be encouraged to adopt regulatory frameworks that allow the involvement of the private players in the energy sector and in particular in renewable energy, as a priority for all African Union member countries in order to achieve the 300 GW by 2030 Objective.

It should be noted that the aforementioned recommendations were also supported by the second Ministerial Meeting held on 10 June in Conakry, Guinea.

The Board adopted the two recommendations.

- c) Presentation of the decisions of the Extraordinary Board of Directors of AREI on 11 June 2019 in Conakry

The Board adopted the recommendations of the CTi in their entirety notably with regard to the creation of new categories of project evaluation. The said categories are available on the AREI website.

The Board adopted the 104 projects submitted by the CTI on 11 June. The regional distribution of the projects is as follows:

- Southern Africa - 96 MW
- Central Africa – 449.4 MW
- East Africa - 1,089.8 MW
- North Africa - 627 MW
- West Africa - 401 MW
- Regional projects – 258.75 MW

The aforementioned figures translate to a total investment of 3,348 million euros (or 3,780 million US dollars) and total capacity of 2.9 GW. Presently, more than 140 projects are under evaluation with a view to tabling them before the Extraordinary Board Meeting in New York for adoption in September 2019.

The Chair of the Board, H.E. Professor Alpha Condé and President Idriss Deby reminded the CTI to ensure that equity between the different regions of Africa is scrupulously respected.

- d) Updating projects approved by the CTI

The Board noted that the CTI had labelled 69 new projects, and encouraged all African countries to submit their renewable energy projects to the CTI and urged the African Union to become more involved.

- e) Regional Consultations and Training Platforms

The Regional Technical Training Platforms have been conducted in accordance with the approved work programme for the dynamic and inclusive capacity building of all stakeholders. The schedule of the platforms is as follows, the: -

First Platform took place in **N'Djamena, Chad** from **9 to 12 April 2019**. The objective was to initiate technical discussions to address some of the barriers identified in the large-scale deployment of renewable energy in Central Africa.

Second Platform was held on **13 and 14 June 2019** in **Conakry, Guinea** with the objective of initiating discussions on legislation and regulations in the renewable energy sector as well as identifying projects and investment opportunities.

Third Platform will take place in **Cairo, Egypt** on [21 and 22 August 2019](#) and themed strategies for grid investment and the capture of socio-economic values with a focus on human resource development.

Forth Platform discussions with Kenya are underway on the planning of the which will focus on policy instruments such as auctions and tenders, as well as governance and regulation. The meeting will be held by the end of October 2019;

Fifth Platform will be held in **Windhoek, Namibia** on [18 and 19 December 2019](#) right after the Ministerial Meeting scheduled for [16 and 17 December 2019](#). The theme selected for this meeting is investment support mechanisms and the capture of socio-economic values with a focus on women.

A continental restitution is slated for late January during the week of [27 January to 1st February](#) 2020 in Conakry, Guinea.

5. AREI Legal Identity and Headquarters

The 7th Board of Directors instructed the CTI to analyze the IDU's proposals and present recommendations on AREI's Legal Identity and Headquarters.

A. Legal Identity

The CTI recommended to the Board that AREI remains an initiative for the next five years at least. The Board adopted the CTI's recommendation and confirmed that when AREI achieves its objectives set for 2025-2030, the transformation into an International Organization covering the operations of all 55 countries of the African Union will be considered.

B. AREI Headquarters

The CTI presented its amendments on the criteria proposed by the IDU and voiced the collective recommendations at the Ministerial Meeting in Conakry, Guinea.

Recommendations adopted by the Board.

The Board also added a criterion that was adopted by a majority of voters: stating that the Headquarters should preferably be located in a country with a limited number of or none of the African Union Institutions.

The CTI introduced the three Board Member Countries that had applied to host the Headquarter; Egypt, Namibia and Chad.

The Board accepted the three applications highlighting that the:

- Recommendation of choice the winning candidate will be by consensus;
- Last criterion requested by the Heads of State in attendance notably on giving preference to a country with a limited number of or none of the African Union Institutions.

If the three countries do not reach a consensus, each country will be required to submit a file reflecting the approved criteria for the evaluation of the CTi

6. IDU 2020 budget

The 2020 budget has been increased by 9% compared to the budget adopted in 2019. The Board of Directors took note of the change. The Board requested that a detailed provisional budget (2020) be presented at the next Board Meeting in Addis-Ababa in January/ February 2020.

7. Miscellaneous

A. EU €3 million Grant for IDU Operations

On noting that the AfDB has to date not yet accepted the funds, the European Union (EU) proposed to use the said funds for recruitment of experts (mainly Africans) through the EU rules and procedures in a view of supporting the positive working dynamic of the IDU.

The President of the Board thanked the European Union for its constant commitment to AREI and welcomed the proposal to address this issue.

The Board adopted the proposal and authorized the IDU and the EU to work together to recruit experts for the IDU as soon as possible.

B. the 24 Projects adopted in 2017

The Director of the IDU, asked the Board for its authorization to have the 24 adopted projects re-assessed by the CTI using the same method as for the recently adopted projects. The results of the said assessment will be presented at the Extraordinary Board Meeting in New York.

The Board agreed and instructed the CTI to present the detailed report on the 24 projects adopted in 2017 at the Extraordinary Board in September 2019 in New York.

C. Mr. Seyni Nafu Claims

The Board, taking into account the realities of the situation and the rules and procedures of the trustee (AfDB), rejected this matter- considering the complaints abusive and unjustified.

8. Closing of the meeting

The Board lauded the hard work done by the IDU since the appointment of the new Director and encouraged the Interim Technical Committee in its rigor and commitment.