



The United States Africa Summit



H.E. President **Dr. Hage G. Geingob**, President of Namibia and Interim Chair of the AREI Board of Directors, made several important points in his remarks. **"This summit demonstrates the willingness of the United States and Africa to work together to foster a sustainable and prosperous future for the region,"** he said. Renewable energy plays a crucial role in this effort by providing a clean and affordable source of energy for African communities.



H.E. Dr. HAGE G. GEINGOB - President of NAMIBIA – Chair of the AREI Board of Directors



The U.S.-Africa Summit began on Tuesday, December 13, marking a new chapter in the relationship between the two sides. One of the main topics discussed during the summit was the increasing use of renewable energy in Africa.

African leaders and U.S. officials discussed how renewable energy can be used to support economic development in Africa while combating climate change. Several concrete projects will be announced, including a multi-million-dollar investment in solar power plants in sub-Saharan Africa.

In conclusion, the U.S.-Africa Summit is an important step forward in the transition to renewable energy in Africa, and demonstrates the determination of both parties to work together to build a better future for the region.

Sudan's first wind turbine with a height of 63 m was built in the Netherlands and delivered to **Dongola**. This is a big step forward for a country with a growing demand for electricity and a large potential for investment in wind energy.



Interview of the month

Southern Africa Region



1/ What can you say about AREI?

As an Africa-led Initiative, and with strong support from partners, including France and Germany, AREI is well positioned to lead on the question of access to clean energy for hundreds of millions of Africans, who today live without electricity. Second, with a strong focus on climate change, AREI has carried out remarkable work during phase 1, meeting the goal of 10 GW, a year in advance of the 2020 target. The leadership of the Board under President Alpha Condé of Guinea and the continued active participation of President Hage G. Geingob of Namibia and the late President Idris Déby-Itno was pivotal for the Initiative to meet those objectives

2/Do you think that AREI will be able to achieve the challenges of phase 2, being 300 GW by the end of 2030 ?

Without doubt, the goal of 300 GW by the end of 2030 is an ambitious one. But, without ambition, there is no progress and it is in that vein we should welcome the objective 300 GW by 2030. With what we have been able to achieve in phase 1, there is determination on the part of the Board, the Technical Committee and the IDU to live up to the expectations that are enshrined in the Founding Agreement of AREI. Moreover, since 2019, AREI has been hard at work to strengthen the work-streams of the Initiative with a stronger focus on the work of Focal Points in the member states of the African Union. The work of Focal Points has been intensified over the past two years, giving them an important voice, greater visibility and participation in the work of the Initiative. Through regional and continental platforms, they have shared lessons and best practices and these have put AREI in good shape to lead the transformation of the energy landscape in Africa through renewables.

I am also encouraged with the continued attempts to reform some of the working instruments and methods of the Initiative for better inclusion of civil society, the private sector and other global partners. The strategic intent of AREI is being operationalized to ensure that results are consistent with the ambition of 300 GW by 2030.

3/What would you recommend to other countries on the continent to accelerate their development in renewable energy?

Africa is currently at the bottom of investments in renewable energy, with the continent attracting a negligible 3 percent of investments out of the total global investments in the sector. Yet, Africa needs energy to power development and to fight against poverty. The debate is in my opinion three-fold. First, we need to get the legislative environment right in order to attract investments in renewable energy. Second, as part of the energy transition and the fight against climate change, partners should live up to their commitments to ensure that Africa is not marginalized in the energy transition.

As Africans, our approach should not be inward looking, we should focus on regional value chains and also draw the right lessons from the experiences of countries that have been able to scale up their share of renewables in the energy mix.

4 / In your opinion, will Namibia export clean energy to Europe in the next 10 years ?

The approach of Namibia to the question of clean energy is driven by the domestic requirements of energy security, investments in the sector for job creation and economic growth and third, the fight against climate change. As a country that is one of the least polluting countries, Namibia, with abundant solar and wind potential, there is untapped potential to export excess energy capacity to other parts of the world, of which Europe is one of many.

5 / What role could hydrogen play for the development of Africa?

Green Hydrogen is no longer the future, it is the present. With countries such as Namibia, Egypt and Morocco having taken the lead in promoting green hydrogen as the energy of the future, the transformational potential of this source of energy for accelerating access to electricity and the promotion industrial development is huge. Again, what is crucial is that we as Africans avoid taking country-specific approaches to the complex question of Green Hydrogen. We should think as regions and tap into regional value chains, which in turn should benefit from the creation of continental value chains.

Training Digital Platform - focal points December 2022

This series of digital trainings during the month of December allowed the presentation of the AREI INFO website as an innovative and unique platform in the world: it gathers in one place hundreds of renewable energy projects from a single continent, Africa.

With a very powerful search engine, to easily and quickly meet the expectations of politicians and decision-makers.

For Phase 1, it was the technical power of the tool that was favored.

For Phase 2, we are launching a more ambitious and collaborative effort, in which the focal points are invited to participate as co-creators.



These two days of training have resulted in the participation of many focal points and the clarification of several issues related to the use of the platform.

In particular, the point and the description of the various projects:

This element allowed them to have a global vision of the stages of AREI and a state of the art of the projects database, and these concerns:

- The number of countries enrolled in the initiative
- The number of adopted projects.
- The number of labeled projects
- The number of projects submitted.

Noor Ouarzazate and the phase 1 of Noor Midelt provide Morocco with over 1 000 MW of solar energy



2022 AREI HIGHLIGHTS



RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENDA 2023

AGENDA AREI

10/01/23

Meeting with Ambassador Stéphane Crouzat (Ambassador of France Climat), representative of France on the Board of Directors

13/01/23

AREI participation in the 13^{ème} session of the IRENA Assembly taking stock of the global energy transition before the COP28

26/01/23

Meeting of the AREI / IDU team with the European Union

GREEN ENERGY AGENDA

13/01/23

Biodiversity and renewable energies: conference at the University of Toulouse

16/01/23 World future environment exhibition, Abu Dhabi

23/01/23

Solar Africa: Ethiopia

25 - 26 January 2023

International Solar Energy Exhibition Inter Solution Ghent Belgium

01 - 02 February 2023

Hyvolution Paris - Porte de Versailles EnerJ-meeting

09 February 2023

Paris - Palais Brongniart

15-16 February 2023

European Biomass to power conference London