

Meeting with Ambassador Stéphane Crouzat (French Ambassador in charge of climate change negotiations, renewable energies and climate risk prevention) representing France on the Board of Directors

Following the success of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) in achieving its Phase 1 target, AREI is working on launching its Phase 2 with the goal of reaching 300 GW by 2030.

It was important for the President of Namibia, Interim Chair of the AREI Board of Directors, to take stock of the situation with the first partner of AREI at COP 21. In this dynamic, it was suggested to establish a periodic meeting in January between the Ministry and AREI.



The Acting Director of AREI stressed that without France AREI would not exist. She indicated that the Heads of State - in particular the one of Guinea - made an advance payment which was to be refunded. Guinea cancelled its request for reimbursement, which means that the 3 million brought by Guinea the time for France to unblock its envelope were not amputated to France, which allows us today to have an envelope that still exists.

The Heads of State members of the AREI Board of Directors have also contributed at their level by alleviating the expenses related to the travel of their representatives within AREI.

The German grant was received at the time of the extension. The Initiative has thus been working on the money from one state - France. This information is clearly mentioned in the Phase 1 report of AREI.

"Ambassador Crouzat indicated that on the French side, they preferred this observer status to allow this African initiative to be driven by Africa for Africa."

The Interview of the Month

1/Talk to us about AREI

The Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) is a significant Africa-led and Africa-owned effort to accelerate and scale up the domestication of the continent's enormous renewable energy potential. Under the mandate of the African Union, and endorsed by the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (AHOSCC), the Initiative aims to achieve at least 10 GW of new and additional power generation capacity from renewable energy sources by 2020, and to mobilize Africa's potential to produce at least 300 GW by 2030.

AREI is anchored in the context of sustainable development and climate change. It shows how low- or zero-carbon development can be achieved in African countries through climate finance and policy instruments based on the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It recognizes the critical importance of rapid expansion of energy access for increased welfare, economic development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



M. Ismail Omar GUELLEH

Minister of Energy in charge of Natural Resources

2/Do you think AREI will be able to meet the Phase 2 challenge, being 300 GW by 2030?

The Africa Renewable Energy Initiative recognizes that the scale of Africa's energy challenges is enormous, as are the opportunities associated with them. Transformative change is necessary and possible, and must be spurred by real international collaborative efforts and goodwill. By fostering partnerships, bringing together existing initiatives, and mobilizing new international support for secure, decentralized, and people-centered energy systems, the Initiative will help African countries access cleaner energy for development and prosperity.

The Initiative emphasizes that in addition to ensuring adequate access to electricity for households and families, access must also be sufficient to drive the productive sectors to greater job creation in local and national contexts; enabling economic development and greater resilience.

The challenge for Phase 2 of 300 GW by the end of 2030 is an ambitious and laudable one. To achieve this goal, better coordination of African states and large-scale deployment of national programs and policies would be key.

3/What are your recommendations for other countries on the continent to accelerate their development in renewable energy?

A greater strategic energy orientation and areas of work is the key to accelerating energy development.

The AREI action plan identifies specific activities related to five main areas of work and four cross-cutting areas of work, all of which are complementary to the work done by relevant partners. These activities range from assisting interested governments in strengthening their policy, regulatory, supportive and incentive frameworks, to supporting project development that will lead to the financing of renewable energy projects.

4 / Will Djibouti export clean energy to Europe in the next 10 years?

For more than two decades, Djibouti has been in an energy race against time. The stakes are high for this small country with a subsoil devoid of any fossil resources, and for which electricity coverage is as important for economic and social development as it is for national sovereignty.

The first element of the 100% renewable energy mix in Djibouti, the Goubet wind power plant, is expected to start its first full-scale tests in a few months. Built for 160 million dollars by the Spanish Siemens-Gamesa, which is very active in Morocco, this facility should provide 60 MW to the national grid by early 2023.

It is operated by Red Sea Power on behalf of the Nigerian-based pan-African investor Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), which was joined by the Great Horn Investment Holding (GHIH), owned by the Djibouti Port Authority, with a 20% share.

Djibouti's other financial arm, the newly created Djibouti Sovereign Wealth Fund (DSF), launched in mid-2020, has taken a 20% stake in the solar project developed by the Emirati company AMEA POWER in the Grand Bara desert. For an investment of 40 million dollars, this photovoltaic farm will have a capacity of 30 MW, which will be increased to 100 MW if production estimates are confirmed.

Djibouti is also exploring biomass opportunities. The government signed a contract in August 2020 with U.S. investors CREC Energy to start production from the capital's waste. For \$150 million, the project plans to reach between 35 and 40 MW of power from its future Damerjog plant.

Finally, these projects will allow us to ensure our energy security by accessing solar energy production technologies through the transfer of skills, which will gradually lead us to energy independence.

When we will reach 100% of our energy needs by 2035, we will study the possibility of exporting our energy production.

5 / In your opinion, what role hydrogen can play in Africa's development?

Africa could produce green hydrogen at one of the lowest costs in the world thanks to its huge potential in renewable energies.

Africa has the world's greatest solar energy, and turning this energy into green hydrogen can enhance energy security, reduce emissions and pollution, and decarbonize industry and transportation. The European Investment Bank is working with partners in Africa and around the world to harness its renewable energy potential to produce low-cost green hydrogen on a large scale.

Other socio-economic benefits of developing the green hydrogen industry in Africa also include higher levels of economic development, improved electrification rates on the continent, and the reduction of several countries' dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Djibouti joins African countries embarking on the development of the green hydrogen industry. CWP Global, based in Newcastle, Australia, has signed an agreement with the Djibouti authorities to develop a green hydrogen project over the next few years. The company wants to develop an electrolysis capacity of 10 GW based on renewable energies. CWP Global wants to integrate this project into Djibouti's 2035 Vision. Due to its geographical position, Djibouti is a favorable candidate for exporting green hydrogen to the international market. In addition to exporting, CWP plans to inject some of the electricity produced into Djibouti's national grid. This will support the authorities' ambition to produce 100% electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

13th session of the IRENA Assembly taking stock of the global energy transition before COP28



The thirteenth meeting of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) took place on January 14 and 15, 2023. It brought together Heads of State, Ministers and energy policy makers from multilateral organizations, global stakeholders and private actors to take stock of progress and set an agenda for action to accelerate the global energy transition.

The first annual milestone on the global energy agenda in 2023, the Assembly brought together more than 1,500 high-level participants under the theme "Global Energy Transitions - The Global Assessment" to identify energy transition priorities in the lead-up to the UN Climate Conference COP28 hosted by the UAE later this year.

"We have a remarkable opportunity, and responsibility, to ensure that today's energy decisions put us on a positive trajectory for sustainable development," said the Director General of IRENA, Francesco La Camera"

"The Assembly enables governments to align their efforts to build a new energy system, enabling the goals of the Paris Agreement and key global priorities such as job creation, industrial development and green supply chains, energy security and universal access, among others."

"Energy transition is not only a priority in these defining times, but a responsibility for countries, industries and communities," said H.E. Raj Kumar Singh, India's Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy and designated Chair of the 13th IRENA Assembly. "India continues to take concrete steps to meet its firm commitment. We look forward to facilitating discussions on the energy transition trajectory in preparation for the global inventory process."

AREI PARTNERS



The Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) attended and participated in the 13th session of the IRENA Assembly held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates from January 13-15, 2023, in addition to participating in the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week on January 16, 2023.

In addition, the mission was a good opportunity to organize various bilateral meetings with the AREI partners such as IRENA, APUA, Kenya, RCREEE, RES4Africa and others. AREI also intervened at the ministerial meeting on the Africa Continental Interconnection Masterplan.



The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) was a great opportunity to meet many innovative companies in the field of renewable energy and new technologies from around the world as the exhibition attached to ADSW brought together hundreds of exhibitors and pioneers showcasing the latest technologies and innovative solutions to protect the planet.

The 13th IRENA Assembly was also a good opportunity to meet some of the AREI focal points and deputy focal points from Nigeria, Central African Republic, Angola, Mozambique, Eswatini, Djibouti and Guinea. The AREI delegation was composed of :

- Dr Mohamed Moussa Omran, CT member, North Africa
- Dr Alfredo Hengari, CT member, Southern Africa
- Dr Barakat AHMED, consultant IDU

During the three days of the IRENA Assembly and Pre-Assembly, several high-level meetings, including a ministerial meeting, were held and included

1. High Level Ministerial Meeting on "African Continental Energy Systems Master Plan (CMP) - Establishing a Continental Planning Process".

2. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Ministerial Meeting, "Climate Pledges to Action: Amplifying the Energy Transition for Sustainable Development in SIDS.

3. High Level Meeting, Public-Private Dialogue: Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions - Social Dialogue, Skills and Decent Jobs for All.

AREI FOCAL POINTS



The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) brought together key global stakeholders to discuss how to advance the net zero agenda under the theme 'United on Climate Action Toward COP28'. The aim was to accelerate the pace of sustainability, in the presence of the President of the State, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and a number of presidents, officials and experts.

The opening ceremony was attended by the President of South Korea Yoon Sok-yol, the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the President of Seychelles Wavel Ramkalawan.

In addition, a number of African heads of state attended the opening, including:

- President of Angola Joao Lourenco,
- President of Zambia Hakende Hichilema,
- President of Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo,
- President of Uganda Yoweri Museveni,
- President of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi,

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed welcomed the leaders and experts who are meeting in the UAE "to discuss sustainability issues and challenges, ways to expand the horizons of dialogue, and intensify and join efforts to find solutions that move the world towards building a more sustainable future for future generations."

The President of the UAE stressed that "the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week constitutes a global platform that embodies the country's keenness to attract leaders of the international community to work together to serve the interests and aspirations of peoples in the field of sustainable economic and social development,".

The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week Summit focuses on a wide range of important topics that include food and water security, energy savings, decarbonization of industries, health and climate adaptation.

The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2023 also seeks to involve young people in climate action, through the "Youth for Sustainability" platform, which annually organizes a special event that attracts 3,000 young men and women. "Masdar", and he forum gives women more space to discuss sustainability issues. The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week focuses on small, medium and emerging companies, by hosting more than 70 small, medium and emerging companies from various sectors, in addition to the global "Innovate" initiative launched by Masdar City, which showcases the latest global technologies.



TO THE COP 28

The 13th session of IRENA Assembly was a good opportunity to capture the essence and meet with different stakeholders and players in the renewable energy sector in Africa and all over the world, learning from different countries experience and best practice. It was also a good gathering for energy decision makers and experts and leading institutions in the world supporting renewable energy and energy transition.

The AREI delegation took the opportunity and met with H.E. Minister of Kenya and discuss several issues with him where the minister confirms his full support to AREI. In addition to meeting with AREI focal points from different countries.



The 13th IRENA assembly discussed different matter concerning energy transition. the main points of the discussion could be summarized as follows:

- A short-term action must be given top priority to urgently accelerate the energy transition in the coming years and correct the 1.5°C pathway to 2050. This is the message sent by energy leaders from the 13th IRENA Assembly, the first milestone on the global energy agenda of 2023 which started with a high-level discussion on “World Energy Transition – The Global Stocktake.”
- IRENA members confirmed their readiness to fully support the UAE’s COP28 Presidency by establishing the latest knowledge on the renewable-based energy transition and leveraging the international cooperation through the Agency’s global platform. Building a common understanding about what the roadmap to 2030 must look like is critical to drive a global energy agenda.
- The meeting underlined the fact that the world is not on track to reach climate and development goals and is even regressing in some instances. Action cannot be delayed and must be taken with already available solutions.
- While every country is different, each must find a way to balance national priorities with short- and long-term goals to accelerate the world’s nationally driven actions.
- The Global Stocktake is an important process. What is equally important is to find common agreement on the global priorities after COP28 in Dubai.



Michel Caubet - Team Leader and Sustainable Energy Expert - EU Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy

Magda Popescu – Stantec Project Manager

Nicolas RITZENTHALER - Administrator - Sustainable Energy and Climate Change - European Commission

Dr Alfredo Tjiurimo Hengari – Technical Committee Member - Southern Africa Region AREI

Dr Chantal Colle – Acting Director of AREI - Member of the Technical Committee - West Africa Region

Commission of the European Union - January 26, 2023, Brussels

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress made so far during Phase II of AREI, with specific emphasis on the Electrify projects, recruitment of experts and also a general update about EU investment in the Renewable Energy sector as part of the commitments made at COP21.

The AREI delegation provided a general synopsis of the work that has been carried out over the past 2 years, stressing the commitment of the Board and the Technical Committee, including the IDU to pursue the goal of 300 GW by 2030. AREI thanked the EU for its support of AREI. The team also highlighted the increasing importance of Focal Points in Africa and more demands for capacity building, specifically on the issues of energy regulation. The team also highlighted the increasing involvement of civil society in the activities of AREI.

On regulation and capacity building in the sector, the EU team committed to provide punctual support to AREI through expertise from the Technical Assistance Facility. Upon request, the EU team agreed **to capacitate AREI with a consultant to carry out a study that will look at the nagging issues of energy regulation in Africa and how this impact on the acceleration of renewable energy generation in Africa**. Moreover, the EU acceded to the request to recruit one expert for policy and training, and two experts who will be responsible for the mapping of renewable energy projects in Africa, one for Francophone and another for Anglophone Africa.

With regard to Electrify, and over 100 projects of which 68 are incomplete under the framework, the meeting resolved that the EU team would provide a more accurate update of the Electrify projects since certain bits of information were missing from the data that had been provided. An official report and the modalities used in the Electrify projects would be provided by the EU for the purpose of reconciling the pledged commitment of 1 Billion Euro.

Kenya : The Menengai geothermal power plant, financed by the African Development Bank



RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENDA 2023

AGENDA AREI

February 18-19 | Addis Ababa

African Union Summit
February-March Brussels.
Participation in the EU-Africa Business Forum.

February 27 - March 3 | Casablanca

Technical Continental Platform (Hybrid):
Regulation for Energy Transition: Fostering
Private Investment in Africa's transition in Africa

AREI CT meeting

March 12-15 | Johannesburg

Pan-African Parliament

March 13-15 | Windhoek

Ministerial Meeting
Technical Continental Platform (Hybrid):
Elements of a bankable PPA
AREI CT Meeting

AGENDA GREEN ENERGIES

SOLAR EXPO MOROCCO

February 21 - 23, 2023 | Casablanca - Morocco
<https://solaireexpomaroc.com/>

ELEK ENER 2023 / February 22 - 26, 2023 | Tunis - Tunisia

2nd Exhibition of Electricity and Renewable
Energies ELEK ENER
<http://www.elekener.com/>

**6th Hydrogen & Fuel Cells Energy Summit March
08 – 09, 2023 | Lisbon - Portugal**

European Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Summit.
<https://www.wplgroup.com/aci/event/hydrogen-fuel-cells-energysummit/>

NAEPEC March 13 - 16, 2023 | Barcelona – Spain

NAEPEC is the largest and most influential
international exhibition and conference in North
Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean in the
hydrocarbon and energy sectors.
<http://www.naepec.com/>
World Electrolysis Congress

March 14 – 16, 2023 | Dusseldorf -Germany

World Electrolysis Congress is the event focused
solely on the opportunities and challenges of
electrolyser technology.
<https://www.worldelectrolysiscongress.com/>

Be POSITIVE March 21 – 23, 2023 | Lyon - France

Be POSITIVE is the only French exhibition
dedicated exclusively to the challenges and
solutions of the energy transition. It brings
together all the players in the building and energy
sectors.