

Intervention of

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at AREI Webinar

The negative impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Renewable Energy sector in Africa

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Good morning colleagues, Distinguished Participants,

It is indeed my pleasure to represent the AREI technical Committee to address this important webinar. On behalf of the technical Committee and on my own behalf, I would like to welcome you all and thank you for joining us in this discussion on The negative impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Renewable Energy sector in Africa. I wish to thank all the speakers and participants who joined us today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all aware how the COVID-19 pandemic affects our live in all aspects. The importance of energy sector, particularly electricity was Cleary obvious during the Pandemic, it plays a critical role in the global response to the crisis. Renewable energy has so far been the most resilient energy source to Covid-19 lockdown measures and accelerating renewable energy deployment can alleviate immediate energy challenges, while creating jobs, advancing industrial development and promoting human welfare.

The Africa Renewable Energy Initiative is the Africa voice for promoting the renewable energy in the continent. The Initiative focuses on developing integrated solutions in increasing access to clean energy services, improving human well-being and putting African countries on the path to sustainable and climate-friendly development. AREI has proved that when Africa speaks with one voice, it achieves its objectives faster than expected.

In 2019 the Initiative succeeded to reach its target by achieving 9.99 GW renewables more than one year ahead of time. In addition to about 600 projects labelled by the initiative and you will find the details on the AREI website. Therefore, we invite all partners and other initiatives in the continent to join hands to fight together the energy poverty in Africa through clean energy resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the challenges we are facing by COVID 19, this crisis provides different opportunities to work together to strengthen our connectivity and integration. Governments will play a major role in shaping the energy sector's recovery from the crisis, the design of economic stimulus packages presents a major opportunity for governments to link economic recovery efforts with clean energy transitions – and steer the energy system into a more sustainable path. lead to a more modern, cleaner and more resilient energy sector for all.

Investment in digital infrastructure, in particular electricity smart grids, and increasing energy efficiency would improve electricity security by lowering the risk of outages, boosting flexibility, reducing losses and helping integrate larger shares of variable renewables. Electricity interconnection will play also a vital role for ensuring secure and reliable

power systems. To achieve that countries must embark in a serious measures including a wide range of policies, regulatory framework, incentives to support the recovery plan.

Therefore, countries must make use of affordable renewable energy sources that can help the economic recovery in the aftermath of the pandemic. Also it could be an investment into the clean, sustainable energy infrastructure of the future for these countries.

International co-operation is also essential to help align different countries' actions and re-establish global supply chains.

I would like before ending my remarks to underline that AREI will continue play its role as the voice of Africa for renewable energy development in the continent as per the decision of the Heads of States and Governments of African countries. And assure you the full commitment of the AREI Board member countries (Chad, Egypt, Guinea, Kenya and Namibia) to work with all of you to support the initiative to achieve its ambitious target of 300 GW by 2030.

Thank you for your kind attention