



**European Commission
Sustainable Energy for All - Joint Energy Efficiency in
Sub-Saharan African Cities Workshop**

Remarks by:
Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas
UN Resident Coordinator

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H.E Stefano Dejak, European Commission Head of Delegation to the Republic of Kenya

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted and honored to participate in this workshop— ensuring access to sustainable energy for all. This goal is at the very core of what we are doing in the United Nations’ sustainable human development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are putting emphasis on sustainable energy because it is the dominant contributor to climate change, accounting for approximately 60 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, cities account for a considerable portion of a country’s energy consumption and Green House Gas emissions because most production, trade and transportation activities are usually located in these areas.

Indeed, sustainable energy is critical in tackling the two biggest challenges of our time: making poverty history and managing climate change and global warming using appropriate technologies, innovations and advancing knowledge.

Many of us who are privileged to have access to reliable energy probably don’t even imagine a life without electricity in our homes and gardens, without modern stoves to cook, without freezers and fridges to store foods. It is unimaginable for my children to take a cold shower and do their school assignments without a computer and proper power in the house.

Lack of energy undermines people’s potentials and capabilities; takes away freedom of choice and dignity; affects prosperity and cripples the country’s economy. Many people in sub-Saharan Africa suffer from the reality of lack of access to energy.

However, I believe we are at a critical moment in our time which fortunately is ushering a better future, where many people can access reliable and modern energy.

My own life experience makes me believe that there is better future for all of us. I recall in 1980 when I left Addis Ababa via the Lufthansa flight at 10:30 p.m. looking down from the plane, I saw nothing but stark darkness. By Mid 1990s when I went back to Ethiopia and arrived at almost the same time (10.30pm), I looked down and I saw a city which was lit up like a Christmas tree. I remember, when I was a child, I use to dread the thought of visiting my relatives who lived in Bahr-Dar in Gojjam. This was because I had an allergic reaction to the kerosene lamps which were used by almost all households in the area. My auntie, who had a status in her society, used a noisy diesel generator, which emitted noxious particles. I could not get good sleep at night because of the noise it made. They lived lives of *energy poverty*. But, in August this year, I saw a complete change in Bahr-Dar. I noticed that many rooftops had solar panels and many people were connected to electricity grids. Many households own modern cook-stoves, fridges, TVs and are living a better life. There is hope because people's lives are being transformed. Children are able to do their schoolwork without straining their eyes. Fewer people suffer from asthma or chest-pains caused by the kerosene lamps. Shops are open at night, commerce and trade is booming, industries are coming up, hotels and resorts are thriving. The tarmac and feeder roads are well lit. I saw mammoth changes which I couldn't imagine to see in my lifetime.

We have also witnessed a shift to renewable and cleaner energy. Investment in wind, solar and hydro-power energy is booming. Prices of solar PV are going down, the market is moving in ways unimaginable only a few years back. Countless cities, communities and individuals are benefitting from the boom in energy sector.

I believe that the shift to a 100 per cent renewable global energy system is possible if every government, every corporation, every community and every mayor of a city makes it a priority. We are all collectively and individually responsible, and we should all be part of the solution.

However, not all the solutions needed to address these challenges are currently available. We need our scientists, creative and innovative minds of the young generation and research institutions to find the needed solutions. We need to have a shared vision, and determination to work together. This is a call to all of us – International Organizations, Development Partners, governments, businesses, communities, institutions and individuals. It is also the UN's duty to broker partnerships and foster cooperation between developed and developing countries.

It is for this reason that the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon highlighted the importance of sustainable energy when he said in 2012 that “*Development is not possible without energy.*” There is a global momentum on energy access. The recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) has included the three goals of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) under goal number 7 which seeks to “**ensure access to affordable, reliable and sustainable modern energy for all**”. The proposed SDG 7 targets international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technologies, the expansion of infrastructure and the upgrading of technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries.

So before I finish, let me just flag some among the many initiatives which the United Nations in Kenya is engaged in support of SE4ALL.

1. Under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDAF) launched last year, the UN is facilitating technology and skills transfer to help the energy

sector develop modes of cost-efficient bio-energy, solar, geothermal electricity production, mini-hydro and wind power generation to inform national strategies for expansion of access to renewable energy for households and production sector.

2. UN-Habitat in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the government of Kenya and East African Countries are implementing a programme of promoting energy efficiency in buildings. The aims of the joint programme are: to mainstream energy efficiency measures into housing policies, building codes, housing finance and building practices and to achieve considerable avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions as a result of improved building practices.
3. The DFID/UN-Joint project in collaboration with Kenya Renewable Energy Association (KEREAA), have developed a mobile code *860# to provide consumers information on the quality solar PV vendors and trained technicians to stem out poor quality solar PV in the country. In the month of November and December there will be a massive public campaign to educate the public on this provision.
4. SWITCH Africa Green which is an EU funded programme implemented by UNEP in collaboration with UNDP and UNOPs in 6 pilot countries in Africa including Kenya. The overall objective of the programme is to support countries in Africa to achieve sustainable development by engaging in transition towards an inclusive green economy which has the potential to create jobs and reduce poverty.
5. UNDP is also working with the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum in supporting the Gap Analysis and Stock Taking as well as the regional Guidelines for the Action Agenda process.
6. In addition, UNDP has been working with the Ministry of Industrialization in the implementation of UNDP/GEF project, 'The Standards and Labeling (S&L) Program' which aims to reduce energy (electricity) related carbon

dioxide emissions in Kenya. The project has supported the country to develop a Minimum efficiency Performance Standard for four (4) appliances i.e. refrigerators, air conditioners, motors and florescent bulbs. All importers and manufactures have up to Oct 2016 to comply with the set standards.

7. UNDP/GEF project implemented with the Kenya Association of Manufactures (KAM) contributed to the establishment of Kenya Centre for Energy Efficiency and Conservation (CEEC), which runs energy efficiency and conservation programs designed to help companies identify energy wastage, determine saving potential and give recommendation on measures to be implemented to ensure energy efficiency.
8. The UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building Project in partnership with USAID and the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities are developing three Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action Plans (NAMA) on climate change with funding from the European Commission. The NAMAs are on Clean Rural Household Energy, Bus Rapid Transit and Solid Waste Management. The National Climate Change Action Plan estimates that a mass transit system for greater Nairobi, based predominantly on Bus Rapid Transit Corridors complemented by a few Light Rail Transit Corridors could abate 2.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030.

Moreover, in line with the new constitution, the UN Delivering as One, is supporting an innovative Area based Development Programme in Marsabit and Turkana counties. These area-based projects bring together all the UN Country Team (UNCT) in joint programs which work closely with the County Governments to enhance capacity building and provide technical support. The UNCT has jointly worked to assist the two Counties revise and harmonize their County Integrated Development Plans, in line with the guidelines of the Ministries of Devolution and Planning and the National Treasury. UNCT has

helped the pilot Counties explore natural resource endowments and the potentials for renewable energy. Currently, the two counties in partnership with private sectors are working to harness the wind energy. This will definitely contribute immensely to the development of these two marginal and under-developed Counties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now that we have a full agenda today and an exciting panel of speakers ready to share more insights. Let me stop here- I wish all participants a successful two days of deliberations.

Thank you.