

Draft Concluding Statement
“Energy Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa: Options for Closing the Gap”
4th IEF - OFID Symposium on Energy Poverty
2-3 May 2019, Cape Town, South Africa

1. The 4th IEF – OFID Symposium on Energy Poverty was organised on the 2nd and 3rd of May by the International Energy Forum and the OPEC fund for International Development on the topic of *Energy Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa: Options For Closing the Gap*. The Symposium was opened by HE Jeff Radebe, Minister for energy, and hosted by the South African government with the aim of enhancing dialogue and cooperation on the alleviation of energy poverty.
2. Discussions at the 4th IEF – OFID Symposium on Energy Poverty took place in combination with the JODI Energy Data Transparency Workshop, which aimed at building capacity for overall energy sector data collection to better support policy and investment decisions on alleviating energy poverty in Africa through the JODI framework.
3. The Symposium hosted over 100 delegates and 12 international organisations with participants consisting of various representatives from African countries, the African Energy Commission (AFREC), the Africa Energy Investment Corporation (AEICORP), the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), African Mingrid Developers Association, Global LPG Partnership (GLPGP), ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) as well as other private sector organisations including Total and Kayrros amongst others.
4. Partner organisations of the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI) including the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Gas Exporting Country Form (GECF) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) took part in the event.
5. Discussions advanced previous IEF mandates to address energy poverty, building on the 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting (IEF16) hosted by India where ministers, industry leaders, and heads of international organisations recognised that universal access to modern energy is an enduring factor in the socioeconomic development of humanity. Concluding that collective efforts must be strengthened to achieve universal energy access and alleviate energy poverty by 2030.
6. OFID, the co-hosting organisation, has recognized that access to modern energy services is a vital precondition to achieving sustainable development. It has been implementing energy projects for almost forty years. Since 2007, following a direct mandate from its Member Countries in the Solemn Declaration of the Third OPEC

Summit, OFID's has intensified its efforts of alleviating energy poverty in its partner countries worldwide and more specifically in Sub-Saharan Africa. OFID has, during the last decade (2008-2018) committed a total of over USD 3.7 billion to the noble cause of energy poverty. Africa benefitted about USD 2.2 billion in support of one hundred energy projects in 24 Countries.

7. In the opening session, HE Jeff Radebe was joined by Dr Sun Xiansheng, Secretary General, IEF, and Mr Belkacem Ouzrourou, Head, Africa Region, OFID. The speakers noted that poor and unreliable access to modern energy is one of the most important factors hampering the recognition of Africa's true development potential. They reiterated that sustainable access to reliable and affordable energy is key for overcoming poverty and improving the living conditions of the poor. HE Jeff Radebe emphasised the need to work collaboratively to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and to put in place the most efficient ways and means to, successfully, implement Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG).
8. The Symposium participants discussed options for closing the gap by reinforcing leadership for energy poverty alleviation, in five sessions focused on:
 - 1) Challenges and Opportunities in Electrification
 - 2) Ensuring Access to Clean Cooking Solutions and Other Caloric Uses
 - 3) Key Indicators for Energy Poverty- the Role of Data Transparency
 - 4) Energy Access Financing and Policy Formulation
 - 5) Synergies and Collaborations
9. Throughout the discussion, participants emphasised that the alleviation of energy poverty stands at the foundation of economic development and is the nexus underlying the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals. The Symposium also examined international cooperation as applied to energy poverty, including the benefits of data transparency, and how policy and regulatory reforms can expedite financing and investment towards electrification and clean cooking solutions.

Discussion outcomes were:

- **Efforts to eradicate energy poverty should be technologically neutral.** All energy sources should be used in the fight against energy poverty based on their relative merits, always with emphasis on affordability. This theme that is championed by the IEF and OFID was also emphasised by HE Jeff Radebe, the Minister of Energy of South Africa.
- **The policy space is a critical element.** Providing policy clarity is important to inform potential actors in the market and provide a stable platform for market development governed by accommodating and stable legislation. A good policy and regulatory framework are essential towards alleviating energy poverty.

- **Recognition of the importance of mini-grids in addressing the gap between rural and urban electrification.** Mini-grids have been identified as a key platform for resolving critical access issues in rural communities and advance social economic development while alleviating pressures of urbanisation. In addition, mini-grids should be developed using local resources, labour and manufacturing. There must also be a paradigm shift that recognises mini-grids, and rural electrification in general, as public utilities. Start-ups and SMEs need regulatory and policy support in order to develop. Business-favourable conditions may include interim government support, result-based financing and de-risking support.
- **Acceleration of clean cooking solutions.** Universal access to clean cooking remains elusive in most of sub-Saharan Africa as rural areas rely heavily on traditional biomass as the dominant fuel source for cooking. Attendees reiterated the negative impact that traditional biomass cooking has on health and its disproportionate effects on the well-being of women and children. The expansion of clean cooking solutions such as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and sustainably produced bioethanol can address this universal need while freeing up time for economic activity. LPG provides a realistic and effective solution offering several advantages including scalability, sustainability and a healthier option than biomass fuel. Nevertheless, access to clean cooking still faces many challenges including absence of the enabling environment with regard to policies and regulations by governments, weak market creation, lack of consumer awareness, and limited investments and public sector involvement.
- **A renewed focus on data transparency for the introduction of effective energy poverty monitoring mechanisms and of advancement in clean innovative energy technologies including but not limited to renewables and electrification.** The JODI partner organisations have been leading collective efforts for the improvement of global energy data collection and compilation standards. Their cooperation model to enhance oil and gas data transparency has proven to be efficient for monitoring supply-demand balances, both nationally and globally. Attendees acknowledged challenges to monitor progresses on SDG7 in Africa, such as the need for improving accuracy traditional biomass consumption as well as capturing insight from fast growing off-grid generation and electrification. Cooperation models such as JODI have a key role to play in the collection of robust and reliable energy data.
- **A commitment towards attracting investment by finding new finance streams and development of innovative business models in public and private partnerships.** A mix of policy and regulatory reforms are required to ensure an adequate flow of investment in new infrastructure and to maintain pace with growing energy demand. Any policy options should be open to ensure affordable energy access to all, by give equal weight to rural as well as urban areas. Catalysing Finance and building private-public partnerships is crucial to accelerate financing and build projects faster.

- **An understanding amongst participants that the Symposium should shift focus towards evaluating implementation to eradicating energy poverty in practice.** Key technical themes under discussion must be recorded and coordinated to empower IEF ministers to set out informed, tangible national actions plans as facilitated by international dialogue. This will be in addition to the follow up on existing, plans with new technical reflections outlining key pillars, priorities and actions at a global, regional, national, and community level that will enable stakeholders to achieve results.
 - **To enhance International cooperation in addressing energy poverty.** Energy access in Africa often requires the transport of energy across national borders. Shared cooperation through regulatory alignments and joint developments of energy infrastructure can enhance economic partnerships and further develop cross border relations on the international issue of energy poverty.
 - **In general,** addressing the challenges of energy access requires strong political will, well-designed energy strategies, much greater international, inter-African and regional cooperation, building strategic and institutional capacities, training national skills in the energy sector and devising innovative financing solutions.
10. These and other key findings will be evaluated in dialogue with relevant public and private sector stakeholders at future IEF-OFID Symposiums on Energy Poverty. The findings will also help inform session discussions at IEF Ministerial Meetings, including the 8th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable that the United Arab Emirates will host on 10 September 2019 in Abu-Dhabi with India as co-host. Here ministers and industry leaders will debate how to advance inclusive access to secure, affordable, and sustainable energy services to achieve global goals faster together.