

## **IEF Symposium on Energy Poverty**

**8-9 December 2009, Johannesburg, South Africa**

### 1 – Context

The 11<sup>th</sup> International Energy Forum (IEF) held in Rome, 20-22 April 2008 noted that “over two billions of people do not yet have access to modern energy services. This perpetuates the poverty cycle and inhibits economic development, availability of clean water and food, while preventing training and acceptable health standards. The Forum called IEF countries solidarity and a step-change in the collective effort of all international organizations involved to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals by halving poverty rates by 2015”.

At the Jeddah Energy Meeting (22 June 2008), Ministers noted that oil price rises and the underlying volatility, if they continue without concerted action from all parties, will have an impact on the economies of the consuming and producing countries alike, especially in the least-developed countries, as well as on the long-term stability of the international oil market and world economy. The Jeddah Joint Statement emphasized that “development assistance from national, regional and international finance and aid institutions be intensified to alleviate the consequences of higher oil prices on the least-developed countries”.

The UK Chair’s Report issued after the London Energy Meeting on 19 December 2008 calls for helping low-income countries to deal with high and volatile energy prices. It states: “Participants noted that high or volatile prices for oil and other energy sources had a particular serious impact on low-income countries. Participants agreed on the importance of multilateral measures to mitigate these impacts. In particular, they welcomes the enhancement of the IMF Exogenous Shocks Facility to make it faster, easier and more flexible to use, and capable of providing more financing; and the establishment of the World Bank’s Energy for the poor Initiative”.

## 2– Objective

Although a lot of laudable initiatives have been taken, the key question remains whether this is sufficient to make a dent in energy poverty. Billions of people have no energy security at all because they simply lack access to modern energy services which is one of the key impediments to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). If anything, the trend is even that energy poverty is going up instead of down. Therefore, the IEF, which is the only global energy forum in which developing countries participate, needs to address the concrete ways and measures to reverse this trend and set a MDG-derived target of e.g. halving energy poverty by 2015 (which means bringing modern energy to at least 1,3 billion people more). A dedicated action-oriented IEF Symposium, perhaps even including a selective group of Energy Ministers, should make an unprecedented attempt to deliver concrete recommendations and possibly an action-plan “ How to eradicate energy poverty” to Ministers at the IEF in Mexico 2010. In this Symposium all relevant players should participate and contribute towards this goal.

Draft agenda (03.08.09)

**8 December 2009**

08.30 - 09.15: Registration

09.15 - 10.00 Welcome Address and Opening Statements

- Minister of Energy, South Africa
- Secretary General, International Energy Forum

10.00 – 10.30: Coffee & networking break

**10.30 – 12.30: Session One: Energy poverty: characterization and consequences**

- What is energy poverty?
- Energy poverty on economic development in least developed countries
- Addressing energy poverty in a climate-conscious world
- What are the side effects of using biomass as source of energy?

Roundtable discussion

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch break

**14.00 – 16.00: Session Two: Exploring ways to help addressing Energy Poverty issue**

- What role for international financial institutions, regional banks, national development funds and others in funding access to commercial energy?
- How much investment is needed to halve energy poverty by 2015 and how can the funds for this amount if investment be mobilized?
- How can gas producing countries benefit from flared gas to generate electricity?
- Is there possibility of reconciling the need of affordable prices with necessity of acceptable return of investment for energy projects?
- Can development of renewable and alternative energies be a toll for growth?
- What are the benefits of regional energy integration?
- What types of technical assistance are needed in Developing Countries to achieve reduction of energy poverty?

Roundtable discussion

20.00 Diner hosted by the Ministry of Energy, South Africa

## **9 December 2009**

### **09.00 – 11.00: Session Three: *Recommendations for stakeholders (governments, industry, financial institutions)***

- What kind of cooperation can neighboring countries implement in developing joint projects to benefit from economic of scale?
- How can producer countries best help the least developed consuming countries to cope with high or volatile oil prices?
- How to make commercial energy affordable to the poor?
- How to reduce health impact of relying on biomass for cooking?
- How to secure cross-border energy projects and secure demand solvability?
- How can the potential for business to provide a sustainable solution to energy poverty be maximized?
- What role should governments play in supporting sustainable energy poverty solutions?
- How to expand energy access without compromising energy security and the climate?
- How can key stakeholders partner in leveraging large-scale projects to deliver rural energy services?

Roundtable discussion

11.00 – 11.30: Coffee & networking break

### **11.30 – 12.30: Session Four: *Wrap up session: Conclusions and recommendations* *Concluding statement***

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch