HATOF Foundation

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

HATOF Foundation & INSTITUTE OF STATISTICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH (ISSER), UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SIDE EVENT - CONCEPT NOTE

Theme: Accelerating Investments in Renewable Energy in Africa: Challenges and success stories Ghana & Kenya Date: Wednesday 16th November 2016 Time: 15:00-16:30 Venue: Austral (Observer Room 5) @ Marrakech, Bab Ighli

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CONTEXT

At the twenty-first session of the Conference of Parties (COP 21) in Paris in December 2015, it emerged strongly that the mobilization of stronger and more ambitious climate actions by all Party and non-Party countries is urgently required if the objectives of the Paris Agreement are to be achieved. In the forthcoming twenty-second session of the Conference of Parties (COP 22) to the UNFCCC, parties will begin preparation for entry into force of the Paris Agreement. According to the Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, "*while the Paris Agreement gave clear pathways and a final destination in respect to decisive action on climate change, many of the details regarding how to move forward as one global community in that common direction still needs to be resolved*" - Patricia Espinosa. Similarly, the President-Designate of COP 22 also noted that "*COP 22 is committed to reinforce responsible collaboration between all Parties in order to achieve a collective shift towards a new sustainable development model*" H.E. Mr. Salaheddine Mezouar. COP 22 is therefore a crucial platform for all countries that signed and ratified the 2015 Paris Agreement, to cement their resolve to mitigate GHGs' emissions.

Aside documenting clearly her nationally determined contributions (NDCs) during COP21 and the development of key policies and reports (First, Second and Third National Communication Reports, Climate Change Policy, Climate Change Strategy, development of NAMAs Investor Guide, etc.), Ghana also signed the Paris Agreement in December 2015, followed by a ratification in August 2016 towards the achievement of "below 2°C" global objective. In the wake of ratifying the Paris Agreement, it is unequivocal that the country is poised to undertake various measures including the development of renewable energy (RE), which is currently contributing minimally (0.1 percent) to Ghana's energy generation mix, to mitigate climate change. Government of Ghana has adopted the policy of increasing the component of renewable energy in the national energy mix to 10% by 2020 in its NDCs through the deploying of up to 200,000 solar systems in the residential, public, commercial and industrial sectors. Cognizance to this fact, the Energy Commission is jointly implementing the National Rooftop Solar Programme with the Ministry of Power to facilitate the massive uptake of solar energy technology in Ghana under a Capital Subsidy Scheme to provide environmental, economic & social benefits for the country, including job creation and clean reliable power that will help to reduce the national peak load and help Ghana to meet its renewable energy goal.

Indeed, globally there is an advocacy for a paradigm shift from the highly intensive fossil fuel dominant energy production sources to RE sources so as to mitigate GHGs emissions and promote green economic growth. Nonetheless, the adoption and enhanced dissemination of renewable energy technologies (RETs) in Africa and especially, Ghana are hindered in so many ways leading to very low investment in the technology, culminating in low installed capacity. Diagnosing the gamut of binding constraints to the enhanced investment in the technologies as well as unearthing the reasons why potential policy instruments/interventions/strategies to unlocking these binding constraints are being blocked, are extremely essential, since that will help provide sustainable solutions to the root causes of low investment in RETs in developing countries like Ghana and Kenya. Predicated on a modified growth diagnostic methodology, the 'Green Growth Diagnostic for Africa' (GGDA) project sought to study the binding constraints to high investments in renewable energy sources and the political

economy dimensions surrounding the low investment in Ghana and Kenya.

AIM OF SIDE EVENT

HATOF Foundation and ISSER, University of Ghana are jointly staging this side event on the backdrop of the relevance of the 'Green Growth Diagnostic for Africa' (GGDA) project's findings to enhancing understanding on measures that developing countries can employ to beef up RE development for climate change mitigation. The GGDA project is a two-and-half years research project funded by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the UK Department for International Development (DfID) and jointly undertaken by the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex, UK, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), Kenya, Durham University, UK, Newcastle University, UK and Policy Practice, a policy Think-Tank in the UK. Specifically, the overarching objectives of this side event are:

- To give detail explanations to the key binding constraints to renewable energy development in Ghana;
- To explicate the political economy dimensions of the policies to tackling the binding constraints;
- To showcase some success stories and opportunities in RE investment in Ghana
- To give exposition to how climate change expenditure can be tracked;
- To showcase climate related works that have been undertaken by HATOF, ISSER and Government of Ghana.
- To guide potential investments in renewable energy solutions in Ghana

SPEAKERS

The speakers include:

- Mr. Seth Osafo, Former legal Advisor, UNFCCC
- Professor Felix Asante, ISSER-University of Ghana
- Mr Samuel Dotse, HATOF Foundation, Ghana
- Dr. Simon Bawakyillenuo, ISSER-University of Ghana
- Dr. El.Mostafa Jamea, MENA Renewables and sustainability, Morocco

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Mr. Seth Osafo-Chair
- Professor Felix Asante, ISSER- University of Ghana
- Mr Samuel Dotse, HATOF Foundation, Ghana
- Dr. Simon Bawakyillenuo, ISSER-University of Ghana
- Dr. El.Mostafa Jamea, MENA Renewables and sustainability, Morocco

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