Conclusions and Recommendations
to G7 Energy Ministerial

9th April 2017
Rome, Italy

"Africa 2030: Empowering the continent through innovation, green tech solutions and capacity building"

1. **Accelerating access to sustainable energy in Africa** is key to **unlocking economic growth opportunities** and driving the continent's sustainable development. The deployment of sustainable energy can help achieve universal energy access, strengthen energy security, consolidate resilient growth, trigger socio-economic benefits such as job creation and inclusive development, and improve prosperity, security and stability in Africa.
2. The Rome side event aimed to build upon the Leaders' Declaration issued at the G7 Summit held on June 7th– 8th 2015 in Elmau to "*Improve sustainable energy access in Africa by 2030 by accelerating the deployment of renewable energy*" and the **objectives to reach up to 10 GW of additional installed renewables capacity by 2020**. The side event reaffirmed this message and built upon its conclusions by proposing an interactive multi-stakeholder discussion and by **presenting concrete proposals to achieve the objectives**.
3. **Accelerating African transition towards clean tech solutions:** Although the continent is characterised by **vast renewable energy resources, dynamic population growth, and falling technology costs**, important challenges remain. Africa's transition to sustainable energy relies on the appropriate **enabling policy and regulatory frameworks** on the one hand, and on **bottom-up innovation dynamics and business models** on the other hand. Empowering both levels to advance sustainable energy access in Africa through sustainable energy solutions, innovation and capacity building will foster investment and development opportunities.
4. The UN Agenda 2030 and the Programme for Infrastructure and Development (PIDA) highlight the importance of the international community's role in the **promotion of improved infrastructure** through renewable energy in Africa. To that end, **enabling policy and regulatory frameworks** should be prioritized to create a favourable business environment. **Strong financial de-risking mechanisms** for grid-connected and off-grid projects should be recognized as turnkeys to promote medium and long-term investments.
5. **Innovative solutions for a secure and sustainable energy access:** Innovation is becoming a key enabler to powering Africa. **Bottom-up innovation dynamics** and **locally developed sustainable energy business models** are increasingly complementing grid-connected sustainable energy promotion as a co-driver to create social and economic development in Africa.
6. Off-grid renewable energy solutions can be deployed faster and cheaper compared to grid-extension, providing **leapfrog economic growth opportunities** from energy access that can significantly improve African lives and livelihoods. It is imperative to showcase African innovative solutions, business models, and capable players to scale up investments into projects and initiatives that can bring electricity to hundreds of millions of Africans. The objective is to strengthen **collaboration among private sector actors, African institutions, local innovative start-ups and civil society** to ensure the continuation of Africa's innovation development.
7. Deployment of off-grid renewable energy solutions requires clear understanding of the current energy access situation and should **go beyond the conventional focus on electricity**. For too long the off-grid energy **industry has worked in isolation by only providing the technology**.

8. Although electrification is necessary to support local economic development, it needs to be coupled with other technologies, solutions and quality inputs to successfully spur economic transformation and sustained growth. Therefore, it is crucial to promote action on the **urgent need to develop innovative and unconventional business models that leverage the advancement of new technologies** – for energy and non-energy purposes – to unleash Africa's untapped potential.
9. **Education and Multi-level Capacity Building**: Scaling up solutions in the right direction requires **an innovative approach to capacity building and empowerment, as well as a different perspective on effective project planning and impact evaluation analyses.** These two assets are consistent with the recent international debate. The need for a comprehensive approach to energy solution planning is strongly recommended (IRENA, 2016, World Bank – IEA Multitier Framework - 2016) to cover the whole "supply chain" of a project delivery.
10. Moreover, in line with the ethical imperative of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of "no one left behind" and its focus on people, the cross-cutting role of human capital becomes crucial both as a catalyst and a booster.
11. To scale up the process of promoting **Sustainable Energy Strategies** (SESs), powering **human capacity and capital must become key elements** responding to the needs, capacities, and aspirations of people and have to be absorbed within the local culture. Therefore effective project planning and impact evaluation analyses are crucial. SESs implementation requires that proper qualified and motivated human resources accompany the process supported by technology, finance and policy, to turn any progress into an efficient and effective, equitable long lasting transformative change.
12. The Rome side event calls the attention of G7 Energy Ministerial to advance sustainable energy access in **Africa toward clean tech solutions, innovation and capacity building**, which all represent **determining factors** to improve the continuous economic and social growth for the African continent.