

**AFRICAN UNION**

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**UNION AFRICAINE**

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Thirteenth Ordinary Session**

**24 – 28 June 2008**

**Sharm El-Sheikh, EGYPT**

**EX.CL/430 (XIII)**  
**ORIGINAL: FRENCH**

**REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF  
ENERGY FOR THE LAUNCHING OF THE AFRICAN  
ENERGY COMMISSION**

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

### INTRODUCTION

1. The African Union Commission organized, jointly with the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, in Algiers, Algeria, on 17 February 2008, the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Energy on the official launching of the activities of the African Energy Commission (AFREC).
2. The Ministerial Conference was preceded by a Meeting of Experts from AU Member States, held also in Algiers from 15 to 16 February 2008.

### RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

3. At the end of deliberations, the Conference adopted a declaration called the « Algiers Declaration », by which the Ministers took note of the official launching of AFREC and committed themselves to:
  - support and strengthen the African Energy Commission in order to enable it to play its full role;
  - strengthen sub-regional, regional, continental and inter-continental cooperation for the sustainable development and efficient use of energy resources to the benefit of our peoples;
  - make every possible effort with a view to speeding up the signing and ratification of the AFREC Convention by all countries that have not yet done so;
  - support efforts towards the operationalization of the African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC) as a subsidiary body of AFREC.
4. Furthermore, the Ministers requested the African Union Commission to:
  - recruit the Executive Director of AFREC by the end of June 2008 at the latest;
  - set up the Executive Board and the Technical Advisory Body by the end of June 2008 at the latest; and
  - increase the financial resources of AFREC to enable it to implement its 2008-2009 Plan of Action.
5. The Executive Council is invited to take note of the Report of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Energy to be adopted, and the Algiers Declaration of African Ministers in Charge of Energy on the Official Launching of the African Energy Commission (AFREC).

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

1. The African Union Commission organized, jointly with the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, in Algiers, Algeria, on 17 February 2008, the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Energy on the official launching of the activities of the African Energy Commission (AFREC).

2. The Ministerial Conference was preceded by a Meeting of Experts from AU Member States, held also in Algiers from 15 to 16 February 2008.

3. The Convention on the establishment of AFREC entered into force at the end of December 2006, with the obtaining of the required fifteen ratifications. To date, 19 countries have ratified the Convention and deposited the instruments with the African Union Commission.

## **B. CONDUCT OF THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE**

4. The Conference was attended by delegates from thirty-six AU Member States, five (5) Regional Economic Communities, three Regional Power Pools, and continental and international organizations in the energy sector, namely: the African Forum of Utility Regulators (AFUR), the Union of Producers, Transporters and Distributors of Electric Power in Africa (UPDEA), the African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC), the African Petroleum Producers' Association (APPA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the World Energy Council (WEC), the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the European Commission, the World Bank and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

5. To preside over the deliberations, the following Bureau was elected:

Chair:	Algeria (North Africa)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair:	Mozambique (Southern Africa)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair:	Gabon (Central Africa)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair:	Kenya (East Africa)
Rapporteur:	Senegal (West Africa)

## **C. GUIDELINES AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE**

6. At the end of deliberations, the Conference adopted a declaration called the «Algiers Declaration», by which the Ministers took note of the official launching of AFREC and committed themselves to:

- support and strengthen the African Energy Commission in order to enable it to play its full role;

- strengthen sub-regional, regional, continental and inter-continental cooperation for the sustainable development and efficient use of energy resources to the benefit of our peoples;
  - make every possible effort with a view to speeding up the signing and ratification of the AFREC Convention by all countries that have not yet done so;
  - support efforts towards the operationalization of the African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC) as a subsidiary body of AFREC.
7. Furthermore, the Ministers requested the African Union Commission to:
- recruit the Executive Director of AFREC by the end of June 2008 at the latest;
  - set up the Executive Board and the Technical Advisory Body by the end of June 2008 at the latest; and
  - increase the financial resources of AFREC to enable it to implement its 2008-2009 Plan of Action.
8. The Ministers called on the African Development Bank and other development partners to support energy development programmes in Africa.
9. Lastly, the Conference adopted the following major conclusions:
- (i) Concerning the Headquarters Agreement:
- Accelerate the finalization of the Headquarters Agreement.
- (ii) Concerning the recruitment of staff:
- in addition to competence, recruitment should take into account regional and gender balance, in conformity with AU procedures;
  - recruitment of additional human resources should be based on the increase in AFREC programmes and the mobilization of financial resources;
  - the proposed structure will be submitted to the organs of the African Union for approval;
  - the process for the recruitment of the Executive Director will be conducted by the African Union Commission, on the basis of a vacancy announcement for candidatures. The process should be initiated as soon as possible considering that the mandate of the current Interim Executive Director ends with the official launching of AFREC. Objective and transparent criteria, and an appropriate profile should guide the selection of the best candidate;
  - the current Interim Executive Director should continue to discharge his duties until the appointment of a substantive Executive Director.

(iii) Concerning AFREC programmes:

- take appropriate measures for the establishment of the African Energy Information System (AEIF) by continuing efforts for the integration of the systems developed in other sub-sectors such as electricity;
- place emphasis on training and capacity building through the inventory of existing national and regional capacities with a view to their networking at continental level;
- provide assistance to Member States and Regional Economic Communities in the establishment of an energy information system and database;
- strengthen collaboration between the RECs and AFREC by respecting the principle of subsidiarity in the implementation of the Programme and Plan of Action.

(iv) Concerning the establishment of the AFREC Executive Council:

- Carry out consultations at the level of the five geographical regions of Africa to designate three representatives per region. It was also suggested that two other members representing the African Petroleum Producers' Association (APPA) and the African Forum of Utility Regulators (AFUR) be members of the Executive Council.

10. The Algiers Declaration on the Official Launching of AFREC is annexed to the report.

## **D RECOMMENDATIONS**

11. Considering the importance of the African Energy Commission in the development of the energy sector and its role in the integration of the African continent as well as the appropriateness of measures taken by the Conference, the Executive Council is invited to:

- take note of the Report of the Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Energy;
- commend the African Ministers in Charge of Energy for their pertinent recommendations;
- adopt the Algiers Declaration of African Ministers in Charge of Energy on the Official Launching of the African Energy Commission (AFREC);
- call on Member States that have not yet done so, to ratify the Convention on the establishment of AFREC;

- request the Commission, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and other development partners, to take all possible measures to provide financial and technical support to AFREC;
- request the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to submit an activity report on the implementation of these recommendations at the next session of the Executive Council.

**EX.CL/430 (XIII)**  
**ANNEX**

## **ALGIERS DECLARATION**

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**AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS  
IN CHARGE OF ENERGY  
“LAUNCHING OF THE AFRICAN ENERGY  
COMMISSION” (AFREC)  
15-17 FEBRUARY 2008  
ALGIERS, ALGERIA**

**AU/EXP/EN/Decl.(III)**

## **ALGIERS DECLARATION**



**ALGIERS DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN UNION  
MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENERGY ON THE OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE  
AFRICAN ENERGY COMMISSION**

**WE**, the Ministers in charge of energy of the Member States of the African Union, meeting on 17 February 2008 in Algiers, Algeria on the occasion of the official launching of the African Energy Commission (AFREC);

**CONSIDERING** the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community adopted in Abuja, Nigeria in June 1991;

**CONSIDERING ALSO** the Constitutive Act of the African Union, adopted on 11 July 2000 in Lomé, in particular its articles 14 to 16, which provide for the Commission of the African Union to coordinate policies in the field of energy, industry and mineral resources on account of their particular importance for the development of Africa;

**RECALLING** the Decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia, relating to the creation of the New Partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) as a framework for the development of our continent;

**RECALLING ALSO** the Conference of the African Union Ministers in charge of Energy on the creation of the African Energy Commission held in Algiers, Algeria on 23 and 24 April 2001;

**CONSIDERING** the adoption of the Convention of the African Energy Commission by the 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held on 11 July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia.

**CONSIDERING ALSO** the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference, held on 23 and 24 March 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the "Joint vision and the strategic guidelines for a continental policy" on the African electricity sub-sector;

**RECALLING** the First High Level Seminar jointly organized by African Union, Brazil and United Nations Industrial Development Organization on Biofuels in Africa held on 30 July to 1 August 2007 in Addis-Ababa (Ethiopia);

**HAVING CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED** the Report of the Experts' meeting held from 15 to 16 February 2008 in Algiers, Algeria;

**DECLARE AS FOLLOWS****1. REAFFIRM:**

- The leading role played by the energy sector in poverty alleviation as well as speeding up growth and socio-economic development, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- The commitment of our Governments to develop the Energy sector so as to accelerate the industrial development of the continent while safeguarding environment and health.

**2. TAKE NOTE** of the official launching of the African Energy Commission;**3. COMMIT OURSELVES TO:**

- Support and strengthen the African Energy Commission (AFREC) in order to enable it to play its full role;
- Strengthen sub-regional, regional, continental and intercontinental cooperation for the sustainable development and efficient use of energy resources to the benefit of our peoples;
- Make every possible effort with a view to speeding up the signing and ratification of the Convention of AFREC by all the countries that have not yet done so;
- Support efforts towards the operationalization of the African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC) as a subsidiary body of AFREC.

**4. CALL ON THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION TO:**

- Recruit the Executive Director of AFREC by the end of June 2008 at the latest;
- Set up the Executive Board and the Technical Advisory Body by the end of 2008 at the latest;
- Increase the financial resources of AFREC to enable it implement its Plan of Action.

**5. CALL ON** the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other development partners to support the energy development programmes of Africa.

6. **REQUEST** the Commission of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariat, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Power Pools, African Forum of Utility Regulators (AFUR), Specialized institutions, AfDB and other regional development banks as well as development partners, to actively support the implementation of the activities of AFREC for energy development and integration in Africa;
7. **ALSO REQUEST** the Commission of the African Union to mobilize the necessary resources and political support for the implementation of this Declaration.

**Done in Algiers on 17 June 2008**

2008

# Report on the conference of ministers of energy for the launching of the African energy commission

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