



Media Advisory

To: All media

Date: 19 November 2020

African Union Commission - International Energy Agency Second Ministerial Forum

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) will co-organize a virtual Second Ministerial Forum, under the auspices of the South African Chairship of the African Union (AU), represented by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, South Africa.

The aim of the Forum is to agree on and promote actions to ensure a sustainable economic recovery and scale up of energy investments in Africa over the next three years coinciding with end of the first 10 year Action Plan of the AU Agenda 2063.

The 2nd edition of the Forum will bring together a diverse mix of high-level stakeholders from government, industry and other international organizations to discuss the development of Africa's energy sector. The event presents an opportunity to build on the outcomes of the first 2019 Ministerial Forum, identify further diverse and pressing energy challenges facing African countries, and highlight opportunities to continue driving Africa's clean energy transition.

Speakers in the Virtual Event will include:

- H.E. Mr Gwede Mantashe, Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, South Africa;
- H.E. Dr. Amani ABOU-ZEID, AUC Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy;
- H.E. Dr. Fatih BIROL, IEA Executive Director and
- H.E. Dr. Mohamed Shaker El-Markabi, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Egypt.

The Virtual Event will take place as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 24 November 2020

Time: 13:00 to 16:00

Venue: Virtual Platform

Where: Online @ <https://www.iea.org/events/auc-iea-ministerial-forum-securing-africa-s-energy-future-in-the-wake-of-covid-19>

Livestream: <https://livestream.com/accounts/2466140>

Register in advance for the press conference @ 4:15 P.M (Paris time) using the link below: https://ieaorg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_M7RwHi6pSs-MKzneMoJj5g

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Ends –

Issued by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

AUC-IEA SECOND MINISTERIAL FORUM ON POWERING AFRICA'S ENERGY FUTURE

Draft Preliminary Agenda

13:00 – 13:10	<p>Welcome Remarks by Co-Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union • Dr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director, International Energy Agency
13:10 – 13:30	<p>Introductory Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Gwede Mantashe, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, South Africa • H.E. Dr. Mohamed Shaker El Markabi, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy, the Arab Republic of Egypt, & Chair of the AU Bureau of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism (STC-TTIET)
13:30 – 13:37	<p>Presentation on 2020 World Energy Outlook: Implications for Africa</p> <p>The conference begins with a presentation of the key findings from the <i>World Energy Outlook 2020</i>. This will outline implications for Africa of three possible scenarios. It will highlight IEA's energy sector policy recommendations relevant to facilitating a strong sustainable economic recovery in Africa. The opening presentation will also highlight actions needed to accelerate the deployment of modern, reliable and clean energy technologies and infrastructure, thereby setting the scene for subsequent sessions.</p>
13:37– 13:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Cozzi, Chief Energy Modeller, International Energy Agency <p>Presentation on Africa Union Resilience and Recovery Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Cheikh Bedda, Director of the Infrastructure and Energy Department, African Union Commission
13:40 – 14:40	<p>Session I: <i>Ensuring a sustainable recovery in uncertain times: Pathways to Progress</i></p> <p>It is acknowledged that the momentum behind existing policy and investment plans was insufficient to meet the modern energy needs of Africa's population. The initial Covid-19 crisis impact has already severely affected recent progress on universal energy access. Confinement measures put in place to tackle the pandemic have also put off-grid developments at risk and weakened the financial health of decentralized service providers. There are concerns over a reversal of progress. The achievement of full access to modern energy by 2030 as outlined in the Africa Case scenario of the IEA Africa Energy Outlook 2019 is achievable but will require stable, consistent policies and strong political will. Maintaining focus on universal access to electricity and modern cooking is essential in Africa. African governments and other partners must continue to work together to ensure progress towards achievement of SDG7.</p>

	<p>Four invited lead speakers will provide perspectives on the session theme.</p> <p>An interactive ministerial dialogue facilitated by the African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy will follow their contributions.</p>
	<p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the top three priorities to boost wider economic recovery and ensure progress towards universal access to clean energy? • How robust is Africa’s energy sector to mitigate possible negative post pandemic pathways and scenarios, if necessary? Which policies have been most effective in improving energy access and how could they be replicated across the region in light of the Covid-19 crisis • What are the good practices of post Covid-19 recovery strategies the private sectors can show? How best can that be replicated by other Governments that are struggling to increase the rate of energy access in the wake of the pandemic?
<p>14:40 – 15:40</p>	<p>Session II: Filling the financing and investment gap: <i>Priorities, Innovations, & Modalities of Stronger Multilateral Cooperation</i></p> <p>The easy availability of necessary finance and new public/private investments is essential to ensuring a resilient dynamic energy sector that can power a successful economic recovery. Africa is facing major challenges on both fronts. These include reduced financing and revenue flows, a slowdown in new investments in the energy sector and significant increases in the cost of borrowing. Existing oil and gas producers in Africa have already been hit very hard, and many new ones have seen their hope for energy sector transformation dashed by the global economic slowdown. Enhanced multilateral, regional and international cooperation could play an important role in addressing these challenges. A crucial factor in achieving an efficient clean energy transition as well as building secure, flexible and reliable power supply in Africa is stronger regional integration of electricity markets and infrastructure. The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), in addition to other regional initiatives, opens the door to a new era of increased interconnectedness. Governments should focus on improving power infrastructure, within and across borders, building up the regulation and capacity to support Africa’s power pools and further enable regional electricity markets. These actions could all play an instrumental role in improving the financing and investment climate in the region. The African Union has already taken the Regional Economic Integration approach to advancing the energy sector transformation agenda through the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). This plays a major role in enlarging markets for energy services, as well as ensuring economies-of-scale and profitability for investments in this sector, which will in turn attract private sector, both local and international investments.</p> <p>Four invited lead speakers will provide perspectives on the session theme. An interactive ministerial dialogue facilitated by the International Energy Agency Executive Director will follow their contributions.</p>

	<p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the top three financing and investment challenges to tackle today to ensure a better tomorrow? • How can Africa's energy resources be maximized to propel economic growth and recovery in light of the market uncertainty created by the pandemic, and where will the investment come from? • How can governments best enable increased private financing and investment flows in the energy sector? • What actions are critical to promoting innovative multilateral financing as well as effective public-private investment partnerships to address the financing gap?
15:40 – 15:50	<p>Closing remarks and conclusions (Correct protocol for speakers to be confirmed by AUC)</p> <p>H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Energy Infrastructure and, African Union</p> <p>Dr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director, International Energy Agency</p>