

**Joint declaration of the participating country delegations of the Facilitation Workshop and Policy Dialogue on Energy Access for the Rural Poor organised by the EUEI.
Maputo 12-15 April 2005.**

The Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Heads of Delegations of Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia gathered on 15 April 2005 in Maputo within the scope of the European Union Energy Initiative (EUEI) for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development.

Conscious of the real challenges that Africa faces today and in order to ensure that the majority of its populations can access affordable and viable energy supply in accordance with the Declaration of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD),

Taking into account the fundamental synergies that link energy to the eradication of poverty, and the essential role that energy plays in the pursuit of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Recognising the pertinence of the EUEI as an appropriate framework for the promotion of energy access for the rural and peri-urban poor in Sub-Saharan Africa,

Considering the pertinence of the conclusions and recommendations formulated by the African countries at the Energy for Africa Conference organised by the EUEI and held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2003,

Considering the recommendations from the Nairobi Conference and the relation to the priority actions that the European Union Energy Initiative:

- 1) We recommend the strengthening of the cooperation between Africa and the European Union and that the focus should be on increasing energy access, especially for poor rural and peri-urban households. In addition, future cooperation should be through public and private-public partnerships aiming at specific actions. These actions and partnerships are based on the aid mechanisms in the framework of the Cotonou Convention, the bilateral cooperation between the member states of the European Union and the African countries as well as any future mechanisms that will be implemented;
- 2) We appreciate the support that the European Commission and the member states of the European Union have given to the energy sector, also particularly to the aspects relating to poverty alleviation;
- 3) We fully support the new proposal of the European Commission to create an Energy Facility of 250 million Euros, which will pave the way to fulfill the commitments made at the World Summit for Sustainable Development and to assist African countries in implementing the recommendations of the Nairobi Conference;
- 4) We regard this new Facility as a step forward in contributing to addressing the wide range of energy needs of the African countries;
- 5) We, the representatives of the African governments and institutions gathered at Maputo, commit ourselves to free-up the necessary internal resources to support the establishment and implementation pertaining to the follow-up initiatives launched by this Workshop and Dialogue concerning energy access for the rural poor;

- 6) We commit ourselves to integrate the important energy issues into national strategies for poverty eradication to enhance the cooperation with the member states of the European Union and recommend that energy is taken into account as a priority sector eligible for funding under the framework of the 10th European Development Fund;
- 7) We salute the opportunity given to us this week to develop national proposals in accordance with the recommendations of the Nairobi Conference;
- 8) We commit ourselves to contributing actively to the continued dialogue with the European Union in order to finalise the creation of the new ACP-EU Energy Facility.
- 9) We extend our appreciation to the Government of Mozambique for hosting the workshop, and to the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark, as well as the European Commission, for financing this important event.