Acronyms

AfDB – African Development Bank
AMCEN – African Ministerial on Environment Conference
AWEEF – Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework
AREI – Africa Renewable Energy Initiative
AU – African Union
AUC – Africa Union Commission
CAHOSCC – Committee of Africa Heads of State and Governments on Climate Change
CSO – Civil Society Organization
COP – Conference of Parties
EACREEE – East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
ECREEE – ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
EU – European Union
GEF – Global Environmental Fund
GCF – Global Climate Fund
MFA-ICEIDA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iceland
NDF – Nordic Climate Facility
NDCs – Nationally Determined Contributions
NGOs – Non Governmental Organizations
PACJA – Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
PPP – Purchasing Power Parity
RECs – Regional Economic Communities
RCREEE – Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
SACREEE – SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Sida - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency -
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
WESE – Women Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Energy
UN – United Nations
UNDP– United Nations Development Programme
UNEA – United Nations Environment Assembly
UN Environment – United Nations Environment Programme
UNECA –United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO– United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO– United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNU-GEST – United Nations University-Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme
UN Women– United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
wPower –Partnership on Women’s Entrepreneurship in Renewables
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1. BACKGROUND
The African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework (AWEEF) was conceived as per the outcome of the workshop on Women Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Energy (WESE) and the decisions adopted by the African Ministers for Environment during the 16th session of the African Ministerial Conference (AMCEN-16), which took place in Libreville, Gabon in June 2017.

The workshop was organized as a pre-event of AMCEN-16, by UN Environment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iceland, United Nations University-Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (UNU-GEST), UN Women and Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), on 13-14 June 2017. The workshop agenda resonated with the overarching theme of the Ministerial session: “Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions to Accelerate SDGs and AU Agenda 2063 implementation in Africa”. Among other outcomes were resolution and declaration on implementation of Agenda 2030, African Union (AU), Agenda 2063, as well as the Paris Agreement. The Ministers also made a call to action on countries to address the critical environmental challenges facing the continent today.

The WESE workshop sought to identify the main barriers and challenges that hinder the establishment, growth and development of women entrepreneurs. It also aimed at developing an action framework to outline different approaches for women entrepreneurs to access technical and business skills and know-how; build technical competencies in sustainable energy technologies; utilize existing distribution networks; and gain access to start-up and working capital. This action framework is meant to be developed through identification of various solution action plans to overcome the main barriers and challenges that hinder the establishment, growth and development of women entrepreneurs in the energy sector in Africa.

The workshop concluded with the “Libreville Outcome Statement on Women Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Energy in Africa”, which focused on addressing the challenges and Solution action plans under the following three main Pillars:

(i) Environmentally sustainable and gender responsive energy policies;
(ii) Access to finance and markets for women energy entrepreneurs across the value chains; and
(iii) Capacity building, skills creation and empowerment for women entrepreneurs.

The African Ministers of Environment, in their Libreville Declaration on Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions, gave a mandate to AMCEN secretariat i.e. UN Environment Africa office to play a role and responsibility to spearhead the up-scaling of the development and use of clean renewable energy to drive sustainable development in the African continent and, support the work of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI). The Secretariat was also mandated to develop and strengthen gender-responsive policies to empower African women to engage in sustainable, affordable and clean energy development, access and utilization to enhance their entrepreneurial skills and to access finance and markets across the value chain in the energy sector.

The compiled workshop documents that include presentations, Libreville outcome statement, workshop report, photos and Declarations can be accessed at: [http://theargeo.org/wese.html](http://theargeo.org/wese.html).
Responding to the needs of women energy entrepreneurs in Africa as identified during the workshop, the UN Environment Africa office considered to set up an “African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework (AWEEF).” The framework could serve as an important platform and vehicle to provide solution action plans and implement tasks indicated under the three pillars of the Libreville outcome statement (Annex 1) and implement the mandate spelt out by the Africa Ministers for Environment in their Libreville declaration. This framework will ensure that the implementation of the proposed solution action plans strengthen the capacities of women energy entrepreneurs and tackle the global (SDG 2030 and 2015 Paris agreement) and continental (AU Agenda 2063) sustainable development challenges and gaps in a properly synergized, coordinated and coherent manner. To this end, AWEEF will encourage and promote collaborations among various Actors - African Energy Specialized institutions, Regional Centers for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Gender and Women Ministries, NGOs, Civil Societies, and Regional Economic Communities etc. - that are involved in Women Entrepreneurships and Sustainable Energy Sector.

The Platform will be a path and enabler to achieve the coordinated and harmonized Sustainable Development Goals that focusses on Gender-Environment-Energy-Entrepreneurship as well as partnerships. Renewable and Clean Energy, Gender Equality and Entrepreneurship are preconditions for sustainable development in the region and this linkage is tacit in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want.

Central to building more well-rounded socio-economic, environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient societies (SDGs 13 and 15 and Agenda 2063 Goal 7) are: (a) Women’s empowerment, effective participation and collective action (SDG 5, and Agenda 2063 Goal 17); (b) access to modern sustainable energy (SDG 7, and Agenda 2063 Goal 7); (c) promotion of development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, innovation, and (d) access to financial services (SDG 8, and Agenda 2063 Goal 4). Moreover, a successful sustainable development agenda requires (i) partnerships between governments, (ii) the private sector and (iii) civil society needed at the global, regional, national and local level (SDGs 17 and Agenda 2063 Goal 19).

As the primary energy managers in households and communities in developing countries, women can be powerful agents for change in the transition to sustainable energy and economic development (UN Women, UNDP and UN Environment, 2015). However, women energy entrepreneurs face a range of gender specific barriers. Consequently, the potential of women as entrepreneurs is under-utilized. The existing gender gaps in access to (a) finance, (b) information, (c) technology, (d) goods and services, and (e) markets translate into additional investment risks. Addressing these gender-differentiated risks will unleash the potential of women entrepreneurs in sustainable energy and contribute towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

This reinforces the need for establishment of this continental framework (AWEEF), whose key functions will be:

(i) Ensuring gender-responsive and environmentally sustainable energy policies and all-inclusive participation in policy formulation;

(ii) Enhancing access to finance and markets in the energy space;
(iii) Strengthening the capacities of women entrepreneurs, cooperatives and associations in the energy space through knowledge sharing and linking them with national and local governments

(iv) Fostering partnerships between women entrepreneurs, regional blocs, governments, the private sector and civil society needed at the regional, national and local level under the framework of women entrepreneurs in energy sector.

1.1 AWEEF Value Proposition in Relation to other Gender Energy Networks in the region

The UN Environment Africa office, through AMCEFN Secretariat, in collaboration with various existing African Specialized Energy, Environment and Gender institutions, UN Agencies, NGOs, civil societies coordinates, implements and delivers the WESE programmes and projects in the context of the following international, continental and regional development agendas and decisions:

- The combination of the adoption in 2015 of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goal 7, 5, 12, 17 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
- The designation of 2014–2024 as the “United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All”
- AU Agenda 2063 on Energy that spells out harnessing all African energy resources to ensure modern, efficient, reliable, cost-effective, renewable and environmentally friendly energy to all African households, businesses, industries and institutions, through building the national and regional energy pools and grids, and Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) energy projects.
- African Renewable Energy Initiative that is set to achieve at least 10 GW of new and additional renewable energy generation capacity by 2020, and mobilize the African potential to generate at least 300 GW by 2030.
- Decisions made by the African Ministers for Environment (i) during their 16th session of African Ministerial Conference (AMCEN-16) in their declaration on Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions held in Libreville, Gabon (June 2017); and (ii) During their 14th session of AMCEN (AMCEN-14) in implementation of AMCEN Regional Flagship Programme on “African Sustainable Energy Development in Africa” in support of the implementation of Rio+20 outcome in Africa (2014)
- “Aide Memoire” signed between UN Environment Africa office and the African Union Commission (AUC)’s Department for Infrastructure and Energy on the subject of cooperation and collaboration on Sustainable Energy Development Programmes in Africa.

AWEEF will be a vehicle for coordination and implementation of the proposed solution action plans of the Libreville Outcome Statement and the decisions of the Africa Ministers for Environment while creating synergy and building upon existing similar and alternative mechanisms, systems and networks on mutually agreed terms.
This will also assist AWEEF in leveraging experiences, knowledge, skills and resources in order to maximize the benefit for Women Energy Entrepreneurs in Africa. AWEEF plays a role in coordination and implementation of activities of WESE that was reflected in the Outcome statement of Libreville including: (i) develop and strengthen a clear and coherent enabling gender responsive policies; (ii) access to finance and markets in energy sector, (ii) build technical and business skills and know-how as well as technical competencies in sustainable energy technologies; (iii) utilize existing distribution networks and gain access to start-up and working capital.

AWEEF will also coordinate, create synergy and take the advantage of complementarities with existing and planned Gender-Environment-Energy-Entrepreneurs network such as: (among others):

- AFREPREN/FWD [http://www.afrepren.org/index.htm];
- AREA [http://area-net.org/en/home];
- AEA [http://www.africanenergyassociation.org/];
- NGSEN [http://www.ngsen.org/viewpage.php?page_id=1];
- WEN [https://www.womensenergynetwork.org/about/];
- ENERGIA [http://www.energia.org/];
- ENERGY 4 IMPACT [https://www.energy4impact.org/];
- wPower [http://wpowerhub.org/];
- PACJA [http://www.pacja.org/]

AWEEF will also bring the innovative environmental solutions through leveraging UN Environment’s experience, best practices, skills as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda and the main authoritative advocate for the global environment and above all for meeting the integrated approach of Sustainable development in Africa.

At the United Nations level Key strategic partnerships with other UN agencies will be (among others) UN Women, UNIDO, UNDP, UNU-GEST, UNESCO, UNECA etc. This will also fulfill the priority of “National Determined Contributions- NDCs” in the Clean Energy and entrepreneurship sector to meet the objective of the 2015 Paris agreement. Partnership will not end with UN Agencies only. Rather, the Framework will demonstrate its innovativeness by striking strategic partnerships with the Private Sector in Africa, Civil Society and Academia. Illustratively, the WESE was collaboration between UN Environment Africa Office and the Civil Society Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, cultivating a collaborative effort that will endure beyond the event. Equally participating in the workshop was an array of energy entrepreneurs who have demonstrated willingness to continue with the partnership. A critical mass of stakeholders are already mobilized for the AWEEF.

2. VISION MISSION STATEMENT
2.1 VISION: Equitable all-inclusive gender-sensitive sustainable development in the clean, renewable, and affordable energy and women entrepreneurship value chain in Africa
2.2 MISSION: AWEEF as a vehicle to implement “innovative environmental solutions Action plan” that could provide affordable practical solutions for the Women Energy Entrepreneurs in Africa. This will be achieved through playing a strategic role, providing practical, affordable innovative solutions to the socio-economic development challenges in order to actualize the SDGs and realize aspirations in the AU Agenda 2063 through Women Energy Entrepreneurs in Africa.

Creating synergy and building upon existing similar and alternative mechanisms, systems and networks is AWEEF’s priority to optimize resources and maximize the benefit of countries. This is through regional networking geared around gender-responsive policies, enhancing access to finance, partnerships and building capacity under the framework of renewable energy and entrepreneurship.

2.3 CORE VALUES: We aim to maintain the following principles that are also in line with the UN core values in achieving our mission:-

- Respect for diversity, integration and unity
- Demonstrate integrity, impartiality and justice
- Professional competence and mastery of subject matter
- Inclusiveness and equality
- Innovation and creative thinking
- Commitments, accountability and teamwork
- Voluntarism and self-help

3. OBJECTIVES AND KEY FUNCTIONS
AWEEF’s main objective is to coordinate and implement the proposed solution action plans of the Libreville Outcome Statement and the decisions of the Africa Ministers for Environment while creating synergy and building upon existing similar and alternative mechanisms, systems and networks on mutually agreed terms. This is with the aim of overcoming the main barriers and challenges that hinder the establishment, growth and development of women entrepreneurs in the energy sector in Africa. These objectives can be categorized as shown below:

- Ensuring gender-responsive policies and all-inclusive participation in the realm of renewable energy and entrepreneurship;
- Fostering partnerships between regional blocs, governments, the private sector and civil society needed at the regional, national and local level under the framework of women entrepreneurs in energy
- Integrating coordination and knowledge management in strengthening the capacities of national and local governments, women’s cooperatives and associations and women entrepreneurs themselves
- Enhance access to finance and markets for women energy entrepreneurs

The Key functions of AWEEF are described in the table below.
POLICY DEVELOPMENT & ADVOCACY

- Develop and operationalize Gender-Responsive policies on Energy and Women Entrepreneurs
- Develop and operationalize Gender-Responsive accountability frameworks for monitoring and evaluation
- Strengthen the role of UN Environment and other development partners in supporting national governments to harmonize, develop and operationalize cross cutting integrated policies
- Develop and operationalize affirmative actions and accountability mechanisms that will facilitate the effective participation of women entrepreneurs in policy making processes.
- Promote enabling policy mechanisms informed by gender analysis and sex- and age-disaggregated data to accelerate the sustainable growth

REGIONAL NETWORKING & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Integrate gender and sustainable energy curricula into formal educational programmes
- Develop and operationalize capacity development programmes (scholarships, mentoring, internships and others) for women
- Sensitize the general public, including men and boys, on the importance of integrating women and girls in the energy sector.
- Establish a network of African Women Entrepreneurs in the Energy Sector to exchange, learn and share knowledge and resources.

ACCESS TO FINANCE & MARKETS

- Remove barriers that hinder women entrepreneurs' access to affordable finance by promoting innovative financial mechanisms
- Facilitate access to finance from multi-lateral agencies and development partners
- Promote an inclusive enabling environment through instruments such as a guarantee facility that allows women to effectively compete in sustainable energy markets.
- Develop and implement Energy Impact Programme and others that promote women's entrepreneurship across sustainable energy value chains

PARTNERSHIP

- Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through regional support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
- Mobilize additional financial resources from multiple sources and investment promotion regimes implementation
- Enhance regional cooperation on and access to energy and entrepreneurship, and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms and networks
- Enhance policy coordination and policy coherence for sustainable development and ensuring micro and macroeconomic stability while respecting each country's policy space and leadership
4. MANDATE AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

4.1 MANDATE

Further to the global and continental development agenda, the African Ministers for Environment provided a mandate to UN Environment Africa office, through AMCEN secretariat, to set up African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework and use as a vehicle to coordinate and implement the key functions and its strategic priorities. These decisions include:

- African Renewable Energy Initiative that is set to achieve at least 10 GW of new and additional renewable energy generation capacity by 2020, and mobilize the African potential to generate at least 300 GW by 2030.
- Decisions made by the African Ministers for Environment (i) during their 16th session of African Ministerial Conference (AMCEN-16) in their declaration on Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions held in Libreville, Gabon (June 2017);
- Decisions made during 14th session of AMCEN (AMCEN-14) in implementation of AMCEN Regional Flagship Programme on “African Sustainable Energy Development in Africa” in support of the implementation of Rio+20 outcome in Africa (2014);
- “Aide Memoire” signed between UN Environment Africa office and the African Union Commission (AUC)’s Department for Infrastructure and Energy on the subject of cooperation and collaboration on Sustainable Energy Development Programmes in Africa.

In the Libreville Declaration on Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions, the African Ministers of Environment mandated the UN Environment Africa office (AMCEN Secretariat) to play a role and responsibility in (i) up-scaling the development and use of clean renewable energy to drive sustainable development on the African continent and to acknowledge and support the work of the Africa

4.2. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

AWEEF will be open to membership for women energy entrepreneurs, civil society and government agencies working on gender and energy related matters from all 54 African countries. The framework will initially be piloted in at least 10 African countries.

In this regard, AWEEF strategic priorities can be described in terms of its establishment and operational phases.

A. Establishment Phase

The concept of AWEEF establishment and its implementation is strategically categorized into various phases, with each subsequent phase building on a preceding one.

The initial phase for AWEEF conception and establishment took place as a result and outcome of the Workshop on Women Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Energy’ held in Libreville Gabon in June 2017 where the most-crucial, ground-breaking activity, and commitment of decision makers (at Ministerial level) and vital stakeholders (who are part of the backbone) were made.

The Libreville outcome statement developed as per the recommendations of all represented African Entrepreneurs in Energy sector to African Ministers and the African Environment Ministers of Libreville Declaration on “Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions” are the Key elements for the establishment of this framework under the AMCEN secretariat in the UN Environment Africa office.
B. Implementation phases

Key issues of the Implementation phases of AWEEF will be addressed on two levels – (a) strategic and (b) operational levels.

The implementation phases include in order of priorities:

(i) Preparation Phase: Promotion and Stakeholder Mobilization phase.

Strategic level:
- Identifying stakeholders in each geographical location who fit the various categories. Including (i) policy level stakeholders & (ii) operational / implementation level stakeholders.
- Preparing and disseminating informational & communication materials to introduce AWEEF to the different category of target stakeholders. This should include the objective of AWEEF, the roles expected of stakeholders and the benefits of membership
- Initiate membership drive
- Maximize stakeholder capacity to upscale Women Entrepreneurs in energy sector

Operational level – key activities
- List and categorize key stakeholders to recruit into AWEEF through various Regional Centers for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and other relevant actors.
- In abiding by the Libreville outcome statement, each regional center and relevant institution to submit the AWEEF Concept and other related communication material to government ministries / departments / agencies, women entrepreneurs in energy sector the private sector, NGOs, CSOs, educational and research institutions and other national level stakeholders and invite stakeholders to apply for membership
- AWEEF secretariat share outcomes of AWEEF with continental & international stakeholders such as the AU / NEPAD / other UN agencies etc. and invite stakeholders to apply for membership.
- Organizing an impactful launch and networking meeting to further explain the AWEEF concept and key operational documents including an overview of the rules of procedure and criteria for membership accreditation and all mapped stakeholders should be invited. Make a compelling call for membership applications.
- All stakeholders to be encouraged to integrate AWEEF objectives / domesticate AWEEF objectives to be part and parcel of their own aims and objectives.
- National branches to continue to seek clarification from secretariat where applicable (on-going)
- Undertake Strategic promotion of AWEEF at branch and assembly level – use digital, print and audio-visual media.
- Evaluate member applications continuously as they are received

(ii) Implementation Phase

This phase is described in the context of implementing the three pillars of the AWEEF Key Functions as per the Libreville outcome statement:

Strategic level activities
- Build synergy with on-going and planned continental, regional and global initiatives aligned with AWEEF objectives (e.g. AU Agenda 2063, UN bodies, SDGs)
- Build synergy with on-going stakeholder activities
- Facilitate inter and intra-country exchange of ideas and techniques / peer learning
- Initiate membership confirmation and operationalization of the resource mobilization strategy
- Continental and national level networking

**Operational level activities**
- Maximizing on-going stakeholder initiatives as carriers of AWEEF objectives by linking them to the implementation modalities of broader frameworks i.e. AU Agenda 2063, SDGs etc.
- Mapping out and reaching out to on-going initiatives AU Agenda 2063, and other UN agencies, NGOs, Regional Centers etc. to implement activities jointly in synergized manner
- Develop project proposals on various pillars of the Libreville outcome statement to target international financing e.g. GEF, GCF, Nordic Climate Facility etc. and implement activities and functions indicated in section 4.4
- Technical backstopping to on-going and new Women entrepreneurship and sustainable energy stakeholders to ensure they build on AWEEF objectives to meet the three pillars (i) Gender responsive policies; (ii) Access to finance and market, and (iii) Capacity building in terms technical and business skills
- Organize periodic peer-to-peer learning and exchange meetings bringing together all stakeholders at country branch level
- Regular branch stock-taking and networking meetings

(iii) **Follow up, monitoring and maintaining Momentum**

**Strategic level activities**
- Maintain established partnerships with stakeholders and initiatives primarily with governments, continental and global frameworks e.g. AU Agenda 2063, SDGs etc.
- Build partnerships with ongoing and planned continental, regional and global initiatives on Women entrepreneurs energy sector women economic empowerment, climate change, and inclusive economic growth.
- Enhancing branch technical and financial capacity
- Expanding to newer geographical locations
- Maintain a cutting edge in researching and disseminating newer techniques
- Monitoring and evaluation

4.3. **OPERATIONALIZING AWEEF:**

This operation will be described both at strategic and operating level.

(A) **At strategic level**, AWEEF facilitate inter-policy makers interaction. These include: (i) Link Policy makers to other policy makers, Women Entrepreneurs initiatives, and to academia and research. This will help to ensure policy implementation and break silos between policy makers in various sectorial ministries. Link policy makers with academia and research as well as international bodies will further enable further enrichment of policies/policy making.

(B) **In operational level**: Linking non policy actors and facilitate (i) Access to finance and markets, (ii) Peer learning, and (iii) Access to technology, technical and business skill, and linking products to accreditation.

The Key activities, output and outcomes indicated in section 4.4 below will be operationalized as per the operation and approach above.
### 4.4 AWEF KEY ACTIVITIES, OUTPUTS AND OUTCOME:

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<tr>
<th>INPUT</th>
<th>STRATEGIC KEY OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>OUTPUT</th>
<th>OUTCOME</th>
<th>IMPACT</th>
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| - Agenda 2030 SDG  
  - AU Agenda 2063  
  - AMCEN 14 session of Regional Flagship Programmes “Africa Sustainable Energy Development”  
  - Libreville Declaration on Innovative Environmental Solutions” during AMCEN 16th session  
  - Aide Memoire signed between UN Environment Africa office and African Union Commission Department for Infrastructure and Energy  
  - Request from African countries  
  - Request from Donors/ support Programme  
  - Request from Private investors/developers | a. Develop and operationalize environmentally sustainable gender responsive energy policies and mainstream women’s empowerment commitments into means of implementation, budgets, social protection mechanisms and investments. | Reforms enforced to give women equal rights to economic resources and financial services, in accordance with respective national laws undertaken and formulated | Gender-responsive policies and all-inclusive participation in the realm of renewable energy and entrepreneurshi developed, adopted, strengthened and provided. | High % change in budget allocations to implementation of gender-responsive energy plans and policies |
| | b. Develop and operationalize environmentally sustainable and gender responsive accountability frameworks to monitor and report on the gender impacts, targets and results of energy policies. | Targeted gender-responsive Sustainable Energy instruments identified and proposed for incorporation into energy policies and for coordination with other relevant sectoral plans. | | Increased number of policy instrument packages developed |
| | c. Promote enabling policy mechanisms informed by gender analysis and sex- and age- disaggregated data to accelerate the sustainable growth of micro, small, medium and large women-led enterprises across the energy value chain. | Enhanced pool of coordinated, consolidated data and commissioned new research created to foster women empowerment through enabling policy regulations | | Linked energy policy making with other sectors |
| | d. Develop and operationalize affirmative actions and accountability mechanisms that will facilitate the effective participation of women entrepreneurs in policy making processes. | Improved capacity of women to understand gender-responsive energy policies and as a result effectively engage in planning and policy development | | Number of women entrepreneurs linked and connected |
| | e. Strengthen the role of UN | Increased national capacity | | Growth of women entrepreneurship through sensitized National gender-responsive policies |

A number of tools
| Environment and other development partners to play a catalytic role in supporting national governments to harmonize, develop and operationalize cross cutting integrated policies that link energy, environment, gender, finance and other line agencies, and support the translation of such policies in Nationally Determined Contributions. | to adequately finance, implement, monitor and evaluate gender sensitive provisions of energy policies. | and/or methodologies shared with governments on financing and implementing of gender sensitive provisions |

<p>| 2. Ensure Access to finance and markets for women energy entrepreneurs across the value chain | a. Remove barriers that hinder women entrepreneurs access to affordable finance by promoting innovative financial mechanisms | Promoted development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services | High percentage change or shift of women-owned enterprises identifying access to finance as a major constraint; A large number of new financial products designed to meet the unique requirements of women entrepreneurs |
| | b. Facilitate access to finance from multi-lateral agencies and development partners (e.g. GEF, GCF, World Bank, AfDB, EU, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iceland, Sida, NORAD and others) to support women entrepreneurship development programmes in the energy sector. | Investments from financial institutions, developments and implementing agencies catalyzed and enhanced | Improved access to upfront capital through concessionary financing for women |
| | c. Promote an inclusive enabling environment through | Women energy entrepreneurship | High number of Women |</p>
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<th>3. Ensure Capacity building, skills creation and empowerment for women entrepreneurs</th>
<th>instruments such as a guarantee facility that allows women to effectively compete in sustainable energy markets.</th>
<th>sensitization and business incentives enabled and facilitated</th>
<th>entrepreneurships launched</th>
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<td>d. Develop and implement GEF Energy Impact Programme and others that promote women’s entrepreneurship across sustainable energy value chains in Africa.</td>
<td>GEF Energy Impact Programme implemented</td>
<td>AWEEF launched in 6 countries</td>
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| a. Integrate gender and sustainable energy curricula into educational programmes from primary school level to universities, including vocational and technical training institutions. | Equal access for all women and men to quality education programmes in the energy curricula ensured at all levels | Enrollment, participation and graduation ratio of women to men improved |
| b. Develop and operationalize capacity development programmes (scholarships, mentoring, internships and others) that will enhance the skills, knowledge and employability of women in the energy sector. | Facilitated viable training programmes and knowledge sharing on best practices, new and emerging issues and trends on energy, energy investments and their implications on the African energy sector. | Integrated and well-coordinated knowledge management facilitated in strengthening the capacities of national and local governments, women’s cooperatives and associations and women entrepreneurs themselves |
| c. Sensitize the general public, including men and boys, on the importance of integrating women and girls in the energy sector. | Women’s entrepreneurship across the entire value chain in renewable energy recognized by all as viable and good business. | An equitable community of practiced enhanced |
| d. Establish a network of African Women Entrepreneurs in the Energy Sector to exchange, learn and share knowledge and resources. | A database system and forum for women energy entrepreneurs developed and consolidated existing data while commissioning new research on renewable energy development in Africa | A large number of women entrepreneurs connected |
5. AWEEF'S GOVERNING AND IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

AWEEF will operate through a joint coordinated management arrangement as indicated below. UN Environment Africa office, through its AMCEN secretariat and the Energy team, will handle it coordination and implementation according to its own operating procedures, by avoiding any duplication of efforts of existing initiatives.

**AMCEN/ CEMA/GENDER**

- Knowledge sharing and exchange
- Gender responsive Energy/Environment Policies
- Support to mainstreaming of access to finance and market

**Technical Advisory Team**

- Micro-finance Facility
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5.1 SECRETARIAT OF AWEEF

The role of the Secretariat is to:

- Support regional activities and country level coordination mechanisms with development and implementation of their roadmaps, including by:
  - liaising with UN Environment headquarters, Technical Advisory Committee and regional offices and country offices;
- Provide logistical and operational support to the Steering Committee.
- Ensure the monitoring of the operational risks and performance.
- Consolidate annual and final narrative reports provided by country-level mechanisms and share with the Steering Committee for review as well as with Administrative Agent for preparation of consolidated narrative and financial reports.
- Facilitate collaboration and communication between the Steering Committee, country level mechanisms, and implementing entities to ensure interventions are implemented effectively.
- Liaise with the Administrative Agent on fund administration issues, including issues related to project/fund extensions and project/fund closure.
- Coordinates programme communication and outreach activities and facilitates programme-wide knowledge management.
- Receipt, administration, and disbursement of funds to the participating organizations according to the instructions of the Steering Committee.
- Financial reporting and consolidation.

5.2 STEERING COMMITTEE

At the regional level, an inclusive Steering Committee will be chaired by representatives of AMCEN (on rotational basis) and co-chaired by UN Women. Representatives of major Development partners or implementing agencies and partnering civil societies/NGOs will be invited as members to the Steering Committee at the regional and continental level. National governments or focal points will form part of the steering arrangements at country level in auspices of their respective regional blocs, or collaborating centers.

The main responsibilities of the Steering Committee are to:

- Oversee implementation of AWEEF
- Provide guidance and direction for partnership, coordination and advocacy.
- Approve country allocations on the basis of AWEEF’s expected results, available funding, allocation criteria and country annual work-plans.
- Review implementation status and provide oversight to ensure achievement of results.
- Approve AWEEF’s risk management strategy and review risk monitoring regularly.
- Review and approve the periodic progress reports.
- Commission mid-term and final independent evaluations on the overall performance of AWEEF.
- Approve direct costs related to operations support by the Coordination Unit.
• Approve Programme extensions and updates to the Programme document, as required.
• Mobilize resources and provide guidance in managing donor relations.

The Steering Committee will adopt its own rules of procedures. It meets at least twice a year and makes funding decisions by consensus.

5.3 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

• Identifying consultants;
• Preparing terms of references;
• Reviewing country strategies and roadmaps before submission to the Steering Committee etc.
• Review country requests for funding, ensuring their conformity with the requirements of the Programme Document and results framework.
• Commission lessons learned or development of knowledge products.
• Provide quality assurance of knowledge products.

5.4 COUNTRY LEVEL MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS

At country level, national mechanisms will be identified to manage AWEEF implementation in the 54 countries. To the extent possible, existing structures will be used rather than establishing new ones (e.g. existing project management units in ministries of renewable energy, ministries of environment, and similar structures). It is envisaged that country level mechanisms will be co-chaired by the Ministry in charge of energy and environment and representatives of UN Environment. Representatives from the Ministry in Charge of Gender and other relevant government entities involved in the programme implementation will also be included and co-chaired by UN Women. Each country roadmap will elaborate on the country-level management mechanism to be used.

The main responsibilities of the country level management mechanism include:

• Ensuring that the deliverables highlighted above are completed on time, on scope and within budget.
• Liaising with the Coordination Office for support needs and share deliverables for technical review.
• Monitoring progress, preparing and consolidating narrative reports from partners at country/regional level.
• Identifying and maintain strategic partners.
• Mobilizing resources at country level.
• Ensuring knowledge management, outreach and awareness activities.
6. PARTNERSHIP

AWEEF will utilize UN Environment as the leading environmental and energy agency, and UN Women as the leading agency on gender equality within the United Nations system. AWEEF will bring together the comparative advantages of each of these organizations. It will leverage UN Environment’s experience and expertise, notably within the areas of energy policies, technologies and finance. Similarly, it will benefit from UN Women experience in promoting and collecting evidence on women’s economic empowerment, notably by engendering policies, addressing skills and social norm barriers, and strengthening women’s productive capacities. AWEEF will also leverage UN Environment’s expertise at the regional level as well as UN Women’s operational capacity in each of the African countries.

Further, for funding and financial aspects in each participating country, key strategic partnerships with other stakeholders will also be identified and developed. Notably, AWEEF will partner with implementing agencies from the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, MFA-ICEIDA, Multilateral Development Banks, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation among others, supporting market transformation efforts for sustainable energy at the country level. This could include the World Bank, the Regional Development Banks, microfinance institutions and other multilateral and bilateral agencies. Partnerships with the private sectors will be established, and will include national and multi-national companies, who can support in business development, trade, and job creation.

Notably, AWEEF will traverse regional blocs and centers like SACREE, ECREE, EACREE, CREE; National governments, including ministries of energy, environment, social affairs and international development and national women’s machinery. Furthermore, through its coordination function, partnership and collaboration will be sought with NGOs, experienced civil society and women-led civil society networks at both regional and national levels to implement activities at the community level. This will be with the likes of Energia, Energy4Impact, PACJA, wPOWER, among others. These for sure will be key counterparts in the implementation of AWEEF.
7. AWEEF MEMBERSHIP
AWEEF members represent a broad range of disciplines and experience levels within energy, environment, gender, policy, advocacy, entrepreneurs focused companies/organizations/agencies ranging from management and law to technology and engineering. This offers members the opportunity to learn from some of the industry’s most experienced leaders, and fosters leadership development through a network of energy contacts and programs.

7.1 Membership Principles, Criteria's and Terms of Conditions

The principle of inclusiveness shall be observed in admitting members. Therefore membership shall be open all to the State and non-state actors. The national assemblies shall be open to: (i) governments (specifically ministries of energy, gender, environment, industrialization & finance, in addition to others), (ii) Women entrepreneurs involved in energy sector, CSOs, private sector, NGOs, academia and research institutions, think-tanks and individuals.

CRITERIA: Membership to AWEEF is classified (membership categories) as all government levels (national & subnational), and energy, gender, environment, industrialization & finance, in addition to others), private-sector; CBOs; NGO; CSO; education & research institutions; individual member and shall be all inclusive.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP
- Accreditation: For admission as member of the Framework, the following criteria and rules shall be binding:
  - For government category, must be a national (or local government) recognized as (in) one of the 54 jurisdictions in Africa
  - Membership of the National Branch of the Assembly shall be on renewal terms of every three years
  - Accreditation as member in any category is subject to submission of an application for accreditation.
  - A complete application shall include the following:
    - Letter requesting accreditation (for all membership categories)
    - Valid contact information, including headquarter office location, post office addresses, emails, telephone numbers, positions etc. as may be applicable (for all members)
    - A copy of constitution/charter and/or statutes/by-laws and amendments to those documents, and list of affiliates (for organizational membership)
    - Copy or certificate of registration (for organizational membership categories)
    - Proof of interest in the energy, environment /gender/ industry /finance development such as annual reports; conference and seminar reports; recent press releases and copies of media statements; newsletters and other periodicals (for organizational membership)
    - Proof of existence by way of an account of at least one year of activities (for organizational membership)
    - Proof of non-profit making status (for NGOs – CSOs, CBOs etc.)

The AWEEF secretariat shall notify status of membership on annual basis.
7.2. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

AWEEF provides its members with educational and networking opportunities and mentoring programs. It provides the perfect opportunity to advance career and economic empowerment to all women in the energy sector value chain while at the same time providing support, developing and retaining talent and giving back to others.

AWEEF Membership is categorized into three groups:

- Individual Membership
- Corporate Membership
- Executive Membership

7.2.1. Individual Membership

AWEEF membership is limited to women entrepreneurs in the energy industry’s entire value chain, more notably that of clean cooking, lighting and heating. This is from policy-regulatory frameworks, manufacturing & distribution, financing, up-to end-user product consumption.

Requirements for New Individual Membership

- have a Bachelor’s Degree or five years professional involvement in the energy or entrepreneurship industry;
- be currently employed at an energy company or at a company or governmental entity providing services to and/or regulating energy companies;
- be recommended by an existing AWEEF member from the country or region of the applicant in good standing;
- in the case of individuals who are currently unemployed, but have worked in the energy industry previously – a proof or letter of recommendation from two clients/industry such services were provided by the applicant.

7.2.2. Corporate Membership

Africa Women’s Energy Entrepreneurship Framework (AWEEF) Corporate Memberships allows your company or organization the opportunity to enjoy great group membership discounts and privileges, and to be recognized as an organization that promotes the advancement and development of women who work in the energy industry.

AWEEF’s Corporate Members are prominent businesses that provide critical support to AWEEF while demonstrating their commitment to the advancement of women entrepreneurs in the energy industry. Corporate Members help us provide our women members with engaging networking & development opportunities.

Therefore companies are urged to join other companies in supporting AWEEF, and align your company with the premiere networking group for women in the energy industry. In appreciation of your support, AWEEF is pleased to provide unique recognition and benefits.

7.2.3 Executive Membership
The goal of this tier is to provide an innovative forum for Executive Women Leaders in the Energy industry to network, exchange and develop new ideas and become visible role models.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Private networking with industry peers
- Exchange knowledge with women of various backgrounds in the energy industry
- Give back by developing younger women of work in energy industry
- Support other Executive women and progress professional development
- Build and develop the pipeline of women working in the Energy industry
- Expand industry knowledge and network with peers by participating in AWEEF’s Executive Women’s Energy Forum, Executive networking events & other programs developed specifically for Executive Level Women

**8. BENEFITS OF AWEEF**

AWEEF will provide benefits to various categories of members that include government, private sector, NGOs, CSOs, educational and research institutions, women entrepreneurs, youth and individual citizens. These include:

**(A) Governments:** (i) Leverages clean energy development, inclusive growth and sustainable energy development; (ii) An engine for job creation for women and youth through leveraging value chains; (iii) Leveraging country level demand and supply energy value chains (iv) Assisting governments to meet some of their national, regional and global development commitments and obligations in the various agreed development policies, treaties and agreements.

**(B) Private Sector:** (i) Linking business to government partnership along areas of mutual interest e.g. Energy security; Linking business to business interaction; (iii) Linking business from producer to consumer networking and partnership; (iv) Linking business to market (consumer networking and partnership).

**(c) NGOs, CSOs:** (i) Mandate can be delivered at a broader scale to benefit more people; (ii) Platform for capacity building for local NGOs via interactions; (iii) Platform for interactions with research institutions and the private sector; (iv) Leverage resources, skills and businesses.

**(d) Educational and Research institutions:** AWEEF provides platform where institutions in Africa can build mutual partnerships in research, dissemination of innovations, scholarship and academic exchanges

**(E) Students, Youth and individual Citizens:** AWEEF Ensures this group gets exposure to opportunities technical capacity building e.g. through internships and mentorship opportunities to foster incubation of entrepreneurial ideas as well as employment opportunities.
9. ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR AWEEF
The total estimated budget for the AWEEF operation and capital costs is about USD 900,000 (Table 3) in 2017 and 2018.

This estimated budget for this unit is available till the end of 2018 as a result of leveraging resources, skills and experiences of the Africa office executed energy programmes of the Energy unit. This energy programme has mobilized adequate resources for its operation in the coming two years. Further, AWEEF will leverage resources from Africa office Gender and youth unit as well as Policy Environment Initiative.

In the medium and long term, it is expected that AWEEF will be able to mobilize additional resources for its operation cost and implementation of various continental, regional and national energy projects. This will be implemented through Development of project proposals on various pillars of the Libreville outcome statement to target international financing e.g. GEF, GCF etc.
## Total Estimated Budget 2017 and 2018

### Operational Cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2017 Amount (USD)/Yr</th>
<th>2018 (Amount) USD</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary (Program Manager-PM) P4</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>Resource secured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary (Program Assistant)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>Resource secured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Team Members (Project Coordinator, Communication and Database,)</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>Resource secured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel, meetings, workshops, conferences</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>Resource secured (UN Environment Gender Unit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution from various donors (ICEIDA)</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>425,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>425,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Capital Cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Space and facilities for PM and rest of the team</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Total** | **25,000** | **25,000** |
| **Grand Total** | **450,000** | **450,000** |
9.1 SOURCE OF FUNDING

Currently, possible sources for the funding (in Cash and in kind) could be:

- Africa office
- MFA- Iceland
- MFA-Italy
- GEF
- Nordic Climate Facility
- UN Environment- including Gender Unit
- Sub-programmes in Africa office
- Other Support programmes and development partners (both in kind and in Cash)
Annex 1: LIBREVILLE OUTCOME STATEMENT ON WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN AFRICA

The Workshop on “Women Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Energy” was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Libreville, Gabon on 13-14 June 2017 with the theme “Unlocking Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in Sustainable Energy”. This was held under the auspices of sixteenth African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN 16). The Workshop was attended by representatives from governments, non-government organizations, civil society, financiers, women entrepreneurs, multi-lateral agencies, private sectors, Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The participants expressed their appreciation to the Government of Gabon for hosting the Workshop and to the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iceland, United Nations University-Gender Equality Studies and Training (UNU-GEST), UN Women and Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) for the excellent organization of the Workshop.

The participants at this workshop;
Recognizing the critical role played by women entrepreneurs in sustainable energy in Africa and their efforts to scale up energy access, conserve the environment and address climate change challenges;
Concerned about the challenges faced by women in accessing resources such as land, finance and information to facilitate their engagement in sustainable energy initiatives;
Further concerned about the current limited participation of women in decision-making and policy processes at the community, national, sub-regional and regional levels in the energy sector;
Welcome the African Union Declaration on 2015 as the Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa Agenda 2063;
Mindful of Goal 7 environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities and Goal 17 on full gender equality in all spheres of life;
Take note of the resolutions and decisions made in the preceding year during the 6th Special Session of the AMCEN, Decision of the Committee of Africa Heads of State and Governments on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) to develop Women and Gender Programme on Climate Change (CWGPCC) to engage women and gender in climate change related action;
Further take note of the extension of the Lima Work Programme on Gender at United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) 22 Decision 21/CP.22;
Further recognize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts);

Consequently, we, the participants at this workshop, recommend the following actions to our African Governments:

1. Environmentally sustainable and gender responsive energy policies
   a. Develop and operationalise environmentally sustainable gender responsive energy policies and mainstream gender equality and women’s empowerment commitments into means of implementation, budgets, social protection mechanisms and investments.
   b. Develop and operationalise environmentally sustainable and gender responsive accountability frameworks to monitor and report on the gender impacts, targets and results of energy policies.
c. Promote enabling policy mechanisms informed by gender analysis and sex- and age-disaggregated data to accelerate the sustainable growth of micro, small, medium and large women-led enterprises across the energy value chain.
d. Develop and operationalize affirmative actions and accountability mechanisms that will facilitate the effective participation of women entrepreneurs in policy making processes.
e. Strengthen the role of UN Environment and other development partners to play a catalytic role in supporting national governments to harmonize, develop and operationalize cross cutting integrated policies that link energy, environment, gender, finance and other line agencies, and support the translation of such policies in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

2. Access to finance and markets for women energy entrepreneurs across the value chain
a. Remove barriers that hinder women entrepreneurs’ access to affordable finance by promoting innovative financial mechanisms
b. Facilitate access to finance from multi-lateral agencies and development partners (e.g. GEF, GCF, World Bank, AfDB, EU, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iceland, Sida, NORAD and others) to support women entrepreneurship development programmes in the energy sector.
c. Promote an inclusive enabling environment through instruments such as a guarantee facility that allows women to effectively compete in sustainable energy markets.
d. Develop and implement GEF Energy Impact Programme and others that promote women’s entrepreneurship across sustainable energy value chains in Africa.

3. Capacity building, skills creation and empowerment for women entrepreneurs
a. Integrate gender and sustainable energy curricula into educational programmes from primary school level to universities, including vocational and technical training institutions.
b. Develop and operationalise capacity development programmes (scholarships, mentoring, internships and others) that will enhance the skills, knowledge and employability of women in the energy sector.
c. Sensitize the general public, including men and boys, on the importance of integrating women and girls in the energy sector.
d. Establish a network of African Women Entrepreneurs in the Energy Sector to exchange, learn and share knowledge and resources.

14 June 2017
Libreville, Gabon