AFRICAN WOMEN ENERGY ENTREPRENEURS FRAMEWORK
LAUNCH AND PANEL SESSIONS

“From Recommendation to Implementation”

UN Environment Headquarter,
Nairobi, Kenya
2-3 December 2017

MEETING REPORT
African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework (AWEEF) Launch and Panel Sessions

“From Recommendation to Implementation”

2-3 December 2017
The Meeting

The meeting on “African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework (AWEEF)” launch and panel sessions was held at the UN Environment Headquarter – Nairobi, Kenya on 2-3 December 2017 under the auspices of the Global Science Policy Business Forum in the third session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA 3). The United Nations Environment Assembly gathered for its third edition at the UN Environment Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya on 4-6 December 2017 under the over-arching theme of pollution (“Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”), especially in its different dimensions, including costs and other measures that can be adopted to tackle it. The theme of this meeting that comprises AWEEF launch and panel sessions was “Innovative Environmental Solutions to empower Africa Women in Energy Sector”: From Recommendation to Implementation.

The meeting that comprises AWEEF launch and panel sessions was hosted and organized by the United Nations Environment in collaboration with UN Women, the African Union and the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA).

The launch and panel sessions brought together more than 150 participants that included representatives of UN agencies, development partners, regional economic communities, government and non-government organizations, private sector, women entrepreneurs, scientists and African civil society groups led by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA). These participants also attended and contributed to the parallel sessions of the two-day Global Science Policy Business forum leading up to the third UN Environment Assembly meeting (UNEA-3) which addressed ending of pollution.

More than 150 participants that included representatives of UN agencies, development partners, regional economic communities, government and non-government organizations, private sector, women entrepreneurs, scientists and African civil society groups
The main objectives of the launch and panel sessions were to acquire further political will and commitment from governments and development partners, and also to attract the needed investment in universal access to energy that will help women to play a significant role to achieve sustainable energy development in Africa. The specific objectives were to: (i) update and report the progress made so far in implementation of the Libreville outcome statement on “women entrepreneurs and sustainable Energy in Africa”; (ii) discuss and define modality and mechanisms of implementation of these tasks through AWEFF; (iii) develop Partnership and networking; (iv) identify resource mobilization and communication strategies; and (v) showcase the products and services of women entrepreneurs that contributes to end pollution.

In order to achieve these objectives, the launch and panel sessions were organized as below:

(a) **Panel Sessions**: engaging panel discussions that focused on five main areas: (i) Environmentally sustainable and Gender Responsive Policies (ii) Renewable Energy Investment and Finance (iii) Access to market for Women Energy entrepreneurs across the value chain (iv) Technology/innovation to empower Women entrepreneurs, and (v) Capacity building (Technical and Business skill).

(b) Presentation of the Roadmap *“From Recommendation to Implementation”*: This addressed key issues in finding a way of translating the Libreville outcome statement into action. This will enable women to play a key role as main change agents and stakeholders across energy value chain.

(c) **Launch of AWEFF**: aimed at establishing a vehicle and/or platform to start implementation and operationalization of the tasks indicated in the “Libreville outcome statement” and in the “Africa Environment Ministerial Declaration”. The Launch took place during the closing plenary of the Science-Policy-Business forum on 3 December 2017.

(d) **Exhibition of products and services**: Selected entrepreneurs from various African countries showcased their products and services during the Sustainable Innovation Expo of the UNEA 3 (3 -5 December 2017).

The main output of this meeting were: (i) Launching of the Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework (AWEFF), and (ii) Formulating the Nairobi commitment statement on implementation of AWEFF that could serve as a basis for effective and efficient implementation of the tasks indicated in the Libreville outcome statement and the decisions made the African Environment Ministers in their declaration on Investing on “Innovative Environment Solutions to implement the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063”.
Frank Turyatunga, the Deputy Regional Director of UN Environment Africa Office, and Simone Ellis Oluoch-Olunya, the UN Women Deputy Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, delivered opening remarks during the opening session of this meeting.

Frank Turyatunga, in his opening and welcoming remarks called for support towards availing sustainable, affordable and clean energy to help empower African women. He said that such support could enable them acquire opportunities to improve their lives. "Since women bear the burden of energy poverty, their involvement is critical to the achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s),” Turyatunga said during this opening forum on innovative solutions to empower Africa women in energy sector. He observed that affordable, clean, sustainable, reliable modern energy services and gender equality are a critical development-enabler for Africa by creating solutions to climate crisis. "These are also essential for ensuring the global SDGs 2030 and African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want are achieved," he added.

He noted that women face significant health and safety risks from household air pollution, carrying heavy fuel loads and lack of lighting. Turyatunga noted that even though African women’s current participation in decision-making and policy processes as well as in the labor force in the energy sector is low, they are powerful agents of change in the transition to clean energy as sustainable energy entrepreneurs. "Women can be essential drivers in avoiding future emissions and thereby actively contribute to climate change mitigation hence the need to exploit their potential as entrepreneurs,” he said.

“Even though African women’s current participation in decision-making and policy processes as well as in the labor force in the energy sector is low, they are powerful agents of change in the transition to clean energy as sustainable energy entrepreneurs.”

- Frank Turyatunga
Simone Ellis Oluoch-Olunya, the UN Women Deputy Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, expressed her pleasure to be part of the event and warmly welcomed all the delegates and participants once again to the United Nations of Nairobi. She stressed how renewable clean energy and gender equality are interlinked. “They represent preconditions of achieving the sustainable development goals”. She mentioned on SDG 5, 7, 13 and 15. In regards to energy being a key development agenda, women play roles as producers, distributors and consumers of energy in both urban and rural settings. Women are considered as the main stakeholders in the energy value chain. Simone then concluded by stressing the need for not just discussing the issues on paper but also to fully implement the recommendations addressed.

“UN Women is, therefore, considering AWEEF as a unique opportunity that will expand economic opportunities for women as main stakeholders across the energy value chain. This will be done by implementing practical, affordable, clean and innovative solutions for women energy entrepreneurs with the overall goal of tackling the socio-economic development challenges in the African continent.”

- Simone Ellis

Panel Sessions

Mr. John Bideri, of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance and Mr. Zeph Kivungi, Senior program coordinator of Africa Sustainability Center chaired the panel sessions. Mr. John Bideri introduced African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework (AWEEF) as a product that was conceived from the Libreville outcome statement and the declarations made by the African Environment Ministers in Gabon, in June 2017. He informed participants that the purpose of this event was to translate the Libreville recommendations into actions and expressed his pleasure in regards to the events theme which is ‘From Recommendation to Implementation’.

Bideri reiterated that, against the backdrop of significant health and safety challenges, African women face in their relentless quest for energy to meet household demands and the widespread energy poverty across the continent. AWEEF recognizes women as powerful agents of change and will empower them to engage in accessible, sustainable, affordable and in the transition to clean energy development and use. The framework will enable to contribute towards the achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 7 (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all) and SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and SDG 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change).
Prior to the panel session, a keynote presentation was delivered titled, “Sustainable development and gender in an energy constrained context: the Case for Africa” in order to set the scene for the meeting and provide background information for the follow up panel discussion. Mr. Joanes Atela, Senior Research Fellow and the head of the climate resilient economics programme of the Africa Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) delivered this keynote presentation.

Atela mentioned in his keynote presentation that globally 1.3 billion people lack access to energy and around 2.6 billion are without access to clean cooking. He noted that most of these (over 70%) come from Africa still not having access to clean sustainable energy. He sighted this linking lack of access to energy with socio-economic poverty.

He reiterated that women are the center of energy need in Africa. Currently, there are a number of women entrepreneurs who are engaged in unsustainable energy enterprises like charcoal production which has an economic value of 8 billion USD per year in Africa supporting 7 million households. Therefore there is potential to change this to sustainable economic ventures. He mentioned on having an enabling environment as opposed to just giving out of handout to women that will foster true sustainable development and bring forth climate resilient societies. Thus having an all-inclusive participatory approach in all aspects of the developmental agenda is tacit to achieve real SDG’s and the Africa Union Agenda 2063 goals.

Mr. Atela recommended in his keynote speech:

- Need to tackle issues with a more Strategic Approach: Have a devolved advocacy.
- Enhance policy implementation to mainstream gender at the national and international levels.
- Post 2015 SDGs need a transformative approach rather than a confirmative approach
- Coordinated partnerships must be built to bring adaptive solutions for women’s entrepreneurship.
Following this key note presentation a very interactive and engaging panel discussion was held. The panelists include representatives from Regional Centers on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE): African Development Bank, INTEL, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation (GEIDCO), Global CEO Alliance, Solar Sister, Rafiki Bank, UNU-GEST, Safaricom/MKOPA, Practical Action/Energia, and selected women Entrepreneurs from various geographical locations of African countries such as Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Senegal, Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, etc.

The panel discussion was focused on five main areas: (i) Environmentally sustainable and gender responsive policies; (ii) Renewable energy investment and finance; (iii) Access to finance and market for Women Energy entrepreneurs across the value chain; (iv) Technology/innovation to empower Women entrepreneurs; and (v) Capacity building (Technical and Business skill). The moderator, Mr. Zeph Kivungi, engaged panelists from different sectors by raising various questions to be addressed by panelists. The questions and answers raised during this panel sessions are summarized below:

What can be done in terms of policy and other aspects to escalate women’s participation in Energy? What has already been done in the energy sector that other companies/sectors can emulate?

Mr. Fred Ishugah, Sustainable Energy Expert – East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) mentioned that women bear the biggest burden to energy insufficiency. Energy insufficiency comes with a lot with hidden costs which directly affects social and economic growth. Mr. Ishugah reiterated that women need to be empowered financially and technically because they currently face cultural challenges that limit their full potential. He informed the meeting that lack of relevant data prevents effective policy making. This calls for proper and large data collection and analysis to be done to inform policy makers. This data will assist policy makers understand the gap of women still accessing traditional energy. He noted that disproportionate access and complete lack of energy would be addressed if the correct data was availed which would be a solution to helping women energy entrepreneurs.

Mr. Kudakwashe (Kuda) Ndhlukula, Executive Director – SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) mentioned that the mandate of the Regional Centre is to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. He also stressed on the need for market based adoption for renewable energy and energy efficiency by contributing to energy security and energy access. Mr. Kuda mentioned that the regional center looks into capacity building, knowledge management, awareness creation, enabling policy framework standard adoption and application for early stage preparation support for feasible projects. Currently,
SACREEE creates programs which feed into policies for example, promoting women participation in renewable and energy efficiency.

Ms. Charity Wanjiku, in her experience working as woman entrepreneurs in Strauss Energy, sighted that the eligibility criteria to access resources are very strict and the applications made are keenly scrutinized. Charity mentioned that, access to finance is not easy especially without long historical track records. Borrowing hasn’t been possible so far due to collateral barriers and financiers tend to shift goalposts when a woman is borrowing, requiring more documentation than what typical a man would be requested for.

The same issue has been raised by other entrepreneurs in the room stressing that getting initial investment capital for women is extremely hard. Flexible payment plans could be explored during low and high-income seasons for women entrepreneurs.

On the other hand, issues of: (i) utilizing more resources such as solar energy; (ii) Promoting renewable energy entrepreneurship through Capacity building and (iii) involving entrepreneurs in development of important energy projects to escalate women’s participation in energy sector, have been raised.

Aminata Dumbua, an entrepreneur from Sierra Leone- Power for All, indicated the importance of working various sectorial ministries and agencies together in order to address challenges related to women and the whole energy value chain. She gave an example of Sierra Leone where the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should work together with the Ministry of Energy for finding a way of assessing and rewarding company’s dealing with renewable energy.

**What things from a policy perspective are missing that is slowing down the implementation on women’s participation in energy?**

One of the innovative environmental solutions from a policy perspective to advance Women empowerment in energy sector is to develop a harmonized policy that cross cuts various sectorial ministries (Energy, Environment, Agriculture, finance, industry etc...). Further there is a need for governments to look for ways in which women will be at the decision-making level regarding energy issues.
What other sector beside the Policy sector that needs to be fixed to escalate women’s participation in energy?

Ms. Jasmin Jakoet, Investment Officer, Energy Financial Solutions Team – African Development Bank (AfDB) stated that the Bank expects to ramp up its investments in the energy sector to invest USD12 billion over 5 years. She also highlighted that the AfDB is committed to the promotion of more socially inclusive and gender-responsive interventions, including specific efforts on increasing access to clean cooking solutions.

What Mechanisms should be put in place to break down the barriers for women entrepreneurs to allow them access funds?

Ms. Monica Maduekwe, Programme Officer – Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) reiterated that access to finance is a challenge for women entrepreneurs, but lack of technical capacity (as well as financial and business development) is a key limiting factor to women’s capacity to run businesses that exist over a long period of time. Ms. Maduekwe said that even though business plans may be developed by consultants, women entrepreneurs still need to understand what is being drafted by consultants to ensure that high quality business plans are developed for them. Studies show that women in Africa tend to start of businesses out of necessity, instead of whether the business is perceived as a highly lucrative investment opportunity.

Ms. Maduekwe emphasized that simply advocating for increased levels of local manufacturing capacity will not increase the number of women in the manufacturing sector, unless social norms that describe those jobs as men-only jobs are addressed and on the job/vocational training opportunities are promoted through energy projects.

What are some of the in-country mechanisms that organizations/companies have that incentivize entrepreneurship for women?

Jennifer Matheka, Microfinance expert from Rafiki Microfinance bank, Kenya said that Rafiki Microfinance Bank Kenya: exercises due diligence from the point of application to ensure that most women dominated enterprises receive funds. She added that 90% of groups of women are in ‘chamas’ (women associations) and no collateral facilities are required as this is the greatest barrier in women’s access to finance. In addition, in case collateral is required, ensure the men are aware of the applications in the event it is the man who owns the collateral. She also mentioned that Rafiki bank trains and encourages women to save money and the savings eventually become collateral. She mentioned, however, that this has a number of challenges including – access to funds and international organizations help, banks interest rates and expenses related to the development of business plan.

Rafiki bank also shared its experiences that the bank visits women in the field to find financial products that contribute to the needs and expectations of women entrepreneurs. Rafiki recognized importance of strategic partnerships. This was witnessed by existing close collaboration between Energy4impact and Rafiki. In this
partnership, Rafiki allows Energy4Impact sponsored Women entrepreneurs to display their products and services in the bank whereas Energy4impact brings new customers to Rafiki on board.

“Our objective is to grow a huge women and youth brand proposition by focusing on distinctive customer service. At Rafiki, we endeavor to widen financial access in the micro-finance sector through multiple delivery channels and are distinctively positioned to empower communities we operate in to come out of poverty and live in dignity; and for businesses, we enable them to upscale thereby creating wealth and generating employment opportunities to many. It is for this reason that Rafiki won ‘Best Bank in Product Innovation – Winner – Banking Awards 2014’.”

Why has Mobile money, e.g. Safaricom not worked in other countries?

Ms. Jacqueline Mebur, Product Officer for Technology for Development in Safaricom Limited said that the policy environment in Kenya has allowed for industry cross-cutting policies. The Central Bank of Kenya allowed regulation to follow innovation. This means that once the model was found to be viable, the governor of the Central Bank supports in coming up policies that would ensure proper running of Mobile Money. In addition, there is cross cutting policy regulations within Organizations/companies to ensure that Mobile money can be used everywhere. There is value addition due to collaboration with banks as well.

Further, as Safaricom has a wide network reach it is easy to move money from Urban centers to Rural centers. The Central Bank of Kenya, Communications and Competitions authorities, have allowed for mobile money to operate across industries. Ms. Mebur informed the meeting on MKOPA, a domestic solar provider, that; (i) leverages the wide reach of the mobile network and at the same time (ii) delivers solar power solutions to homes (over 500,000) in Kenya by March 2017. She explained that main electricity grid reaches only 30% of Kenyans, but mobile networks reach about 80%, and can thus be used to deliver solutions in energy. In addition to this, the pay-as-you-go payment model, has triggered behavioral change from kerosene to solar for lighting, by meeting the needs of domestic households at their price point, usually 1-2$ a week. Safaricom works with financial institutions to give loans, with largest loans coming in as early as 4am requested by entrepreneurs going to the market. Through Credit Reference Bureau (CRB) Kenya, a financial analysis on the borrowers allows for funds from banks.

In her discussion on why mobile money in Kenya? Ms. Mebur highlighted that the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) formulated and enforced a policy that allowed regulation on mobile money. These cross cutting policies are
existent among stakeholders in Kenya. In terms of value addition to access to finance and renewable energy, MKOPA has bridged the gap in lighting.

**Why are there many women entrepreneurs, but their businesses are not scaling up? What measures are put in Place to address this?**

Mr. Suraj Shah, the Africa Program Director from Intel Corporation, pointed out that the greatest challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa is Lack of access to Internet information and technology. This, he said, would best be tackled if institutions and government programs would provide technology training and disseminate the information that is relevant to Energy Entrepreneurs, and similarly encourage the use of the internet to the entrepreneurs as a powerful tool to accelerate innovation. Currently, INTEL is providing technology training to women, on how to make use of the Internet for socio-economic empowerment, how to use technology in order to disseminate what businesses they are doing to the world."

Some of the Entrepreneurs have also shared possible solution in accessing finance where they prefer funds to stay in development banks rather than the government having the funds. This is due to the high interest rates that governments charge.

**What is Global CEO Alliance strategy in capacity building for women entrepreneurs to increase participation of women in entrepreneurship?**

James Donovan, Managing Director, Global CEO Alliance, mentioned that Global CEO Alliance is bridging the gap and bring solutions to empower people from disadvantaged areas.

He advised to ensure that all players in the sector to come together (policy makers, to implementers and companies) as well. This will bring innovative solutions that create impacts. Global CEO Alliance positioned itself as provider of catalytic tools to enable better communication platforms. Data and access to information is important to tell success stories from the action plan implementation and showcase how renewable energy can be channeled through women entrepreneurship networks.

**What are some of the policies that will increase women's participation in the value chain?**

Ms. Chinenye Ifechukwu Anekwe of Solar Sister highlighted that over 90m people in Nigeria live in energy poverty; 17m in urban areas and 73m in rural areas. In the last years, Solar Sister has created business opportunities for women to distribute clean energy products to the last mile. Currently, it supports over 1000 women entrepreneurs in Nigeria and operates in 3 Africa countries: Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda with plans of expansion to other African Countries. Solar Sister provides a source for (i) quality and affordable solar products for the women and (ii) partnership for funding to support their businesses. Ms. Anekwe recognized the need to empower women through
on-going training and mentorship which in turn equips them with business skills that enables them to reach the end-users.

“...since energy poverty affects greater percentage of people in rural areas, there should be policies on ground concentrated on rural electrification by supporting and launching out more last mile distributors of which women could play a vital role in this aspect. As a result of this and many more, access to finance should be available to all women entrepreneurs across the energy value chain. Thus if we really want to descend the energy poverty ladder in Africa, attention should be channeled to last mile distribution. In this regard we will achieve three great milestones which are women empowerment, energy poverty eradication and women inclusive participation in the sustainable energy sector...”

-Ms. Chinenye Anekwe

In a similar vein, Mr. Fred Ishugah, stated that there is a considerable effort both ways from the private and the public sectors. He informed the meeting that EACREEE is setting up a gender equality and youth empowerment strategy to reach out to the two disadvantaged groups. This is aimed at pushing for equality in clean energy access and focused on electrical power. In conclusion he pointed out that proper capacity building to develop proper systems that are efficient and environmentally friendly needs to be the main focus in the EA community.

Is there a way to get more women interested in the energy sector and in entrepreneurship?

Panelists indicated that there are various ways to bring more women in energy sector entrepreneurship that includes:

- Building Women’s self-confidence, through mentorship and success stories which will in turn spread finance across the energy value chain.
- Through projects that will show them opportunities in the energy sector and their viability.
- Look at ways in which finances can be spread across the value chain to allow women more access.
- Work with policy makers from the local level to realize the potential of women.
How the entrepreneurs hope the Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs framework (AWEEF) will work for them?

Ms. Diana Mbogo of a woman entrepreneur of Millennium Engineers from Tanzania expressed her idea to the whole continent to learn from best practices and replicate programs in order for women to work together from all regions to have an inclusive team. In implementation plan she recognized that (i) AWEEF can facilitate the working together with different countries and; (ii) can be a vehicle to this integration.

All Regional platforms (RCREEE, ECREEE, EACREEE & SACREEE) with collaboration & facilitation with the UN and the entrepreneurs can create a sustainable framework to work on.

In a similar vein, a women entrepreneur from Sierra Leone explained that it is important to work with women to facilitate empowerment through the regional centers, government and other stakeholders. I believe AWEEF could be the right vehicle to implement this.

A woman entrepreneur from Nigeria has also indicated that women should be able to acquire appropriate technical and business skills to learn the right technology suitable to that specific country. She urged not to send equipment and appliances to those areas that are not adaptable to that region. She mentioned that AWEEF could help in monitoring and evaluating of the disbursement of right technologies and businesses.

What has your experience been as women entrepreneurs? Any successful stories of women entrepreneurs?

Kenya: 80% of the population in Kenya is involved in small scale business. Women are household energy providers and managers. Many are energy consuming entrepreneurs running home based micro enterprises. While women constitute majority of the population and dominate the micro enterprise sector, very few are engaged gainfully in energy markets. It was proposed that these capacity building institutions should assist women understand technology and link them to financial institutions. With infrastructure issues, it was noted that women require an enabling environment to participate effectively in energy markets as actors and not just as consumers.
Unanimously, it was agreed that, when women have skills and opportunities, their businesses and market grow ultimately contributing to poverty reduction. In Kenya, there are around 2m users of modern technology and there are various case studies to show how families have improved through modern technology. Stakeholders and change agents of renewable energy and energy efficiency have been able and continue to create awareness through media.

Lydia Awuor an entrepreneur from Kisumu appreciated that after training with Practical Action, a network for saving funds was opened among women where they were able to lend and borrow. This has helped to overcome the funding barrier. Further, a case study of a solar business company in Kisumu owned by women was described. The Solar business approached women enterprise fund and got initial capital of 100.000 Kenya Shillings with no interest, just 5% for admin fees. This money has been used for table banking: to give out individual loan that are repaid monthly. The company has been successful in creating own mechanism of accessing and boosting finances.

An entrepreneur from Mozambique, Gilda Mojane, has adapted rural energy shops, an initiative aiming to take renewable energy to rural off grid communities. Rural women are trained to manage the shops and this helps to generate income for the family. In the shops it is possible to buy solar bulbs and it is also possible to recharge solar bulbs, mobile and batteries. It was noted that the cost of recharging the solar bulb was much cheaper than use of kerosene. Challenges were presented through shift in existing gender roles, where the conflict to benefit the rural off grid community by replacing kerosene and firewood with solar bulb. Majority of the shops that deal with renewable energy are managed by women. Productive use is promoted, irrigation and food agro processing are using solar. The initiative wishes to use the solar technology to help reach SDGs. She also mentioned, “My experience is that at the beginning people, especially men did not expect to see a woman repairing and installing solar kits. They considered energy as a male issue. I used myself as an example and requested them to allow me train more women in the communities, Now we have 42 rural Energy Shops among which 30 are managed by women and 12 are manage by male individuals”.

Gilda Monjane –Mozambique Entrepreneur
A Ghanaian Entrepreneur, Vivian Ahigyibor, from City Waste Recycling Limited shared her company’s experience. It is a sustainable recycling company working with women in Ghana to reduce carbon footprint. It is also engaged in converting excess extra heat from cooking into electricity. Once energy from cooking is produced it is stored in a battery and can be reused for lighting.

City Waste Recycling Ltd offers responsible waste processing for a wide range of waste types from problematic e-waste and batteries to sawdust and plastic. It provides formal employment lifting waste collectors out of the informal sector.

A summary of the discussion of the panel session includes:

- Need for harmonized policies that cross cut sectorial policies and follow up in its implementation.
- The MKOPA Model is a good model on mobile network money access. It creates a loaning facility to enable people to pay the debt at their convenience. Agreed for the need to replicate to other parts of African countries.
- Capacity building is more than just conducting trainings and raising awareness. Modern training including technical and business skills need to be conducted.
- Access to finances and high interest rates still a major issue. There is a need to look at ways to minimize bureaucracies, interest rates and Institutions to reduce the time it takes to grant finances to women after proposal submissions.
- Other challenges that women face include: Access to data and information, lack of access to internet and information technology
- Need to have solid discussions with policy and decision makers on the value addition of some policies that are not properly implemented.
- Encourage the inclusion of all stakeholders particularly women entrepreneurs in the design, development and distribution of technologies, systems and innovations.
The Roadmap “From Recommendation to Implementation”

UN Environment summarized the process of Libreville outcome statement development, its objectives, methodology and the declaration made by African Environment Ministers in June 2017, in Gabon. In this presentation, the following issues were given emphasis. These include:

- AWEFF will be the platform and vehicle to implement innovative environmental solutions to enable women to play a key role as change agents and main stakeholders across energy value chain.
- AWEFF will build on existing initiatives of energy sector with a focus on women entrepreneurs.
- It will be a continental framework for Africa with involvement of all regional stakeholders.
- Key issues and components in implementation plan include: (i) Gender responsive policies focusing on Policy harmonization and its means of implementation; (ii) Capacity building, Technology transfer and innovation: (iii) Program and project support; (iv) Access to finance and market; (v) Partnership.
- Partnerships are crucial to bring together different stakeholders and leverage on resources, experiences and innovation solutions.
- Productive use of clean energy is catalytic to socio-economic development with climate change mitigation effects (example of Ghana)
- Paradigm shift is required to include women to the energy value chain as main stakeholders and change agents.

The UN Environment explained its roadmap “From recommendation to implementation” where it will start practical implementation of the tasks indicated in the Libreville statement through AWEFF. This will include (among others): enrollment of membership of AWEFF, review of existing similar initiatives though desktop survey and gap identification, create partnership with various institutions and organizations to synergize efforts and leverage resources, develop projects & programmes to acquire finances from various financing institutions. This will be implemented under the leadership and ownership of women entrepreneurs and relevant stakeholders.
The following perspectives have been shared by the representatives from South, North East, and West of the Regional centers as per the questions raised by the chair of session. This was mainly to understand in terms of what is working well in the Women Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Energy in their respective region.

Mr Kuda, from SACREE indicated that there is a commitment at the political level on women’s agenda. In addition, the Protocol Agenda (2008) has specific action plans for women-Advocates for the need to ensure women economic empowerment at country level activities. Mr, Kuda said, since SADC is made up of different member states, the discrepancies in terms of economic growth, is a challenge.

Mr. Fred from EACREE has clarified that EACREE is coming up with a program that focuses on Gender Equality and Energy. Currently, EACREE is in the process of laying down strategies on how to implement Gender and Energy aspects in East Africa. Further, country disparities in terms of energy access are a challenge.

Ms. Monica Maduekwe, Programme Officer – Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) said that ECREEE has come up with specific gender programs started implementation. ECREEE has also performed a situation analysis study. Studies show that women in Africa tend to start of businesses out of necessity, instead of whether the business is perceived as a highly lucrative investment opportunity. ECREEE also run a regular program for young people and write success stories on this.

Ms. Iliyana Arnaudova, Senior Planning and Development Specialist – Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) in Cairo, Egypt mentioned that women in energy need qualifications support, capacity building and motivation. Working with youth is also important and RCREEs running a program that accommodates the youth. They have a work plan for 2017/18 to accommodate women and youth. She mentioned that the centers are established by the governments and work under their limited jurisdictions and terms of reference. She later on urged the need for governments to facilitate the use of green funds and come up with national level initiatives.
Recommendations:

The representatives from these centers also recommended the following to AWEEF to create empowerment for Women entrepreneurs:

- Have more focus on capacity building and technology transfer for entrepreneurs
- Help entrepreneurs in (a) developing business models, (b) get capital for business startups, in addition to assisting them access favorable loans.
- Facilitate to share best practices that will be strengthened through joint programmes
- Find ways in which the regions can improve the utilization of biomass to improve on energy consumption. This is by looking at ways the regions can minimize carbon emission from biomass use.
- Create a platform for the regional centers to work together to influence what happens in member state countries.
- Develop joint proposals/applications in consultation with regional centers and women entrepreneurs and submit to financing institutions.

Closing and Output of the Meeting

6.1 Closing Session

The workshop was officially closed by Mr. Augustine B. Njamnshi of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA). Mr Njamnshi, in his Closing remarks reiterated that policy makers, women entrepreneurs, development partners, civil societies, etc. to join forces and work together to enhance women economic empowerment in energy sector.

6.2 Outcome Statements

6.2.1. Nairobi Commitment statement

The panel sessions, that created interactive and engaging discussions, resulted in buying political will, ownership and commitment from governments and non-government organizations, development partners, civil societies, private sectors, women entrepreneurs etc. to empower Africa women Energy Entrepreneurs and make them change agents and main stakeholders through AWEEF.

The meeting was concluded after formulating the outcome statement entitled “Nairobi Commitment Statement on implementation of the Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework-AWEEF” on 2 December 2017. This was followed by the Launch of AWEEF on Sunday 3 December 2017. The Outcome statement is enclosed for ready reference.
6.2.2 Launch of AWEEF

President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and Gabonese Minister of Forest, Sea and Environment, Moubelet-Boubeya who was represented by Alice Kaudia, Kenya’s environment secretary who stood in for Prof Judi Wakhungu, Minister of environment and Natural Resources launched a new initiative “the African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework (AWEEF)”. AWEEF was launched during the closing plenary session of the Global Science Policy Business Forum under the auspices of UNEA-3 on 3 December 2017. Ms. Kaudia read the “The Launching statement of African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework (AWEEF)” at this high level event.

This framework aimed at involving women directly in the energy sector. AWEEF seeks to galvanize political commitment from governments and development partners to attract investment in tackling issues of access to clean and affordable energy in the continent. Ms. Alice Kaudia, while reading the Launching statement, said the launching was in fulfillment of the AMCEN decision on investing in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and AU’s Agenda 2063. It was indicated in the Launch that AMCEN will provide necessary support to this initiative and urged other partners to join in. AMCEN is committed to finding innovative environment solutions to many environment problems that affects Africa.

The statement read during this launch is enclosed below for reference.
Participation of entrepreneurs in Sustainable Innovation Expo of UNEA 3

Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework and Switch Africa Green Project joined forces to facilitate access for selected entrepreneurs to showcase their products and services at the Sustainable Innovation Expo of UNEA 3. These entrepreneurs showcased their products and services at this Sustainability Innovations Expo in line with the theme to end pollution. In addition, an interview with the media to broadcast the role of the concluded launch and panel discussions was conducted with women entrepreneurs to report on the progress made on “From Recommendation to Implementation”.

Women Entrepreneurs showcasing their products during the Sustainable Innovations Expo of UNEA 3

Switch Africa Green showcasing the entrepreneurs’ products at the Sustainable Innovation Expo

Tanzanian Entrepreneur being interviewed by Thomson Reuters
NAIROBI COMMITMENT STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRICAN WOMEN ENERGY ENTREPRENEURS FRAMEWORK

FROM RECOMMENDATION TO IMPLEMENTATION
NAIROBI COMMITMENT STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRICAN WOMEN ENERGY ENTREPRENEURS FRAMEWORK

The meeting on “Launch of Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework and Panel sessions” was held at the UN Environment Headquarter, Nairobi, Kenya n 2-3 December 2017. This meeting was organized under the auspices of the Global Science Policy Business Forum at the third United Nations Environment Assembly- UNEA 3.

The workshop was attended by representatives from governments, nongovernment organizations, civil societies, women entrepreneurs, multilateral agencies, development partners, private sectors, Regional Economic Communities and Centers on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

The participants expressed their appreciation to the UN Environment and its partners for the excellent organization of the meeting.

The participants, agreed on the Nairobi Commitments aimed at promoting implementation of the Libreville Outcome Statement of 14th June 2017 on Women Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Energy in Africa:

Taking note of the Libreville Outcome Statement and the decision made at the 16th session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment on “Investing in Innovative Environmental solutions to accelerate the implementation of the sustainable development goals and the African Union Agenda 2063;

Recognizing that the establishment of African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework will serve as a vehicle for implementation of innovative environment solution action plan and empower Africa women entrepreneurs in the energy sector.

Recognizing African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework provides benefits to various categories of members that include government, private sectors, NGOs, CSOs, educational research institutions, women entrepreneurs, youth and individual citizens.

Recognizing the need to address the challenges posed by climate change, indoor pollution and energy poverty.

Further recognizing the Global and continental development agendas, such as, 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 to combat climate change and its impacts); the
African Union Declaration of 2015 as the Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa Agendas 2063.

The participants commit to:

1. Integrate African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework’s vision, mission, values and goals into Africa Energy Stakeholders’ Initiatives.

2. Develop programmes and projects in clean and sustainable energy and energy services that are inclusive.

3. Develop integrated approaches to create social, economic and environmental innovative solutions and facilitate achievement of the global and continental development agenda (SDG 2030, Paris Agreement 2015 and AU Agenda 2063).

4. Use African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework to mobilize resources for the implementation of projects, programmes identified at national, sub-regional and continental levels.

5. Encourage multilateral and other financial institutions’ investments in Africa to a set proportion of financial resources to women-led decentralized renewable energy solutions with favorable access modalities,

6. Use African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework to coordinate the existing and potential initiatives to build strong partnerships and synergies.

7. Provide leadership and incentivize women to be actively involved in the whole energy value chain

8. 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.

9. Move from commitment to implementation in the field, complemented by robust monitoring systems;

And

10. Recognize and endorse the diversity of all stakeholders and ensure that progressive opinions are integrated into the process of implementing the Libreville outcome statement through African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework.

Done
Nairobi, Kenya
2 December 2017.
Dr. Alice Kaudia, Environment Secretary, Kenya reading the Launching statement as per the delegation given to Prof. J. Wakhungu, Minister of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (Kenya) by the President of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

Recalling the decision on, ‘Investing in Innovative Environmental Solution to accelerate SDGs and AU Agenda 2063 implementation in Africa’, made by the African Ministers of Environment held in Libreville Gabon on 15-16 June 2017.


We, the African Ministers for Environment, committed to finding innovative environment solutions, hereby launch the African Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework to empower women to engage in accessible, sustainable, affordable clean energy development and use.

We thank UNEP and the partners for taking up the decisions and making it a reality.

We will continue to provide the necessary support to this initiative and urge other partners to join.

3 December 2017
Nairobi, Kenya