

Civil Society Call: Energy for All 2030

We, a diverse group of civil society organisations from Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa, call on EU leaders to commit to eradicating energy poverty and achieving universal energy access by 2030.

With a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, as the region most acutely affected, we call for increased political will to deliver energy for all and the quantity and quality of EU funding to make this a reality.

Addressed to:
President of the European
Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso

Vice President of the European
Commission, Catherine Ashton

EU Development and Foreign Affairs
Ministers

Development Commissioner, Andris
Piebalgs

Climate Action Commissioner, Connie
Hedegaard

Members of the European Parliament
Development Committee

Energy Access is Central to Poverty Reduction & Sustainable Development

- Whilst under-prioritised for decades, a global consensus is emerging which recognises the importance of sustainable energy access for the well-being of the world's people, the future of the global economy, and the preservation of our planet. It is now widely accepted that energy access for all is central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

- Energy poverty is acute. Globally, one fifth of the population lacks access to electricity and 2.5 billion people depend on traditional biomass for cooking. Sub-Saharan Africa is the region hardest hit, with two in every three families living without electricity.

- According to 'business as usual' projections by the International Energy Agency (IEA), by 2030 the same number of people will be living in energy poverty as today.

- The health impacts of energy poverty are severe and often underestimated. Each year, more people die from inhaling smoke from indoor cooking (1.4 million deaths) than from malaria. Whilst, as a result of political will and international financing, mortality related to AIDS, TB and Malaria is predicted to decline dramatically over the next two decades, preventable deaths from smoke inhalation are set to rise.

- Delivering energy access will fuel business, economic growth and prospects across the developing and developed world. The challenge of achieving energy for all must be seen as an opportunity – opening up the chance to innovate in terms of systems, finance, capacity and technology.

- Universal energy access is achievable. Just 3% of the predicted global investment in the energy sector over the next two decades would secure energy access for all.

- Forecasts by the IEA demonstrate that delivering universal access would increase total energy consumption by less than 1%, resulting in a marginal increase of emissions. The imperative of global carbon mitigation therefore must not be a barrier to rapid progress

The EU is Uniquely Positioned to Play a Leadership Role in 2012 and Beyond

- On a global level, 2012 will be a crucial year for intensifying the fight against energy poverty.

- 2012 has been designated the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All by the United Nations, with the aim of mobilising stakeholders to support the shared priorities of universal energy access, reduced energy intensity and increased renewable resources. Furthermore the UN Secretary General has committed to make energy access one of the central issues at the Rio+20 Earth Summit in June 2012.

- The EU, as the largest contributor of ODA in the world and with its commitment to championing sustainable development, coupled with its global political influence, is uniquely positioned to become a global leader in the movement towards universal energy access in 2012 and beyond.

Key Steps towards EU Leadership on Energy Access

As civil society representatives from across Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa, we therefore call on the EU to:

- Endorse the UN objective of achieving universal access to modern energy services by 2030, and to commit its fair share of the necessary resources to achieve this goal
- Make energy access a key objective ahead of the Rio+20 Earth Summit
- Ensure provision for universal energy access is incorporated into the new Multi-annual Financial Framework
- Champion energy access in dialogue with Sub-Saharan African governments, as a catalyst for community, national and regional development
- Use the pro-poor ACP-EU Energy Facility as a model for EU and global energy financing mechanisms and commit to a long-term, scaled-up Energy Facility beyond 2014
- Adopt an action plan for EU contributions to universal energy access from now until 2030, including targets for annual financial contributions and regular evaluation of progress
- Ensure that the Africa EU Energy Partnership prioritises energy access for the poor in its political targets and cooperation programmes and advocates investment in small-scale infrastructure and enhanced civil society engagement
- Ensure the integration of energy access perspectives in its climate financing

Key principles underpinning the above demands

- Increased quantity and quality of finance for energy access
- Focus on poverty reduction and sustainable development as objectives central to energy delivery
- Effective participation and consultation of local communities and civil society
- Active consideration of the full range of energy services – including cooking, heating, cooling, access to information and communications, and energy for income generation
- Harmonisation and coherence of goals and strategies of all relevant EU financing instruments and policies

As civil society, we look forward to working with the EU on this important agenda and contributing to the achievement of Energy Access for All by 2030 through our experience, enthusiasm and expertise.

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EDUCON
OBČANSKÉ SDRUŽENÍ ~ NGO



Signatories

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European Signatories



Aiguasol



Fundació Akwaba



Alliance for Rural Electrification



Alliance Sud, Swiss Alliance of
Development Organisations



The Ashden Awards



Azimut360



Climate Action Network, Europe



Centre for the Advancement of
Research & Development in
Educational Technology



Concern Universal



Christian Aid



Centrum Narovinu



Convergence of Cultures

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European Signatories



Ecumenical Academy Prague



EDUCON Prague



EED



Electriciens sans Frontières



Energia



Engineers Without Borders



Eurostep



Group for the Environment,
Renewable Energy and
Solidarity



Glopolis, Prague Global Policy
Institute



GRET



Global Village Energy
Partnership



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Mans Unides



Oikos, cooperação e
desenvolvimento



Project Gaia



Practical Action



Renewable World



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Sostre Cívic



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Wontanara



Yamuna Fundació

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African Signatories



Civil Society Organisations' Network, East Africa



Climate and Development Initiatives, Uganda

Action on African women foundation Ghana



Consent, Uganda



The Desert Research Foundation of Namibia

Forum for Environment (FfE)



Forum for Environment

East African Energy Development Network, Uganda



Food Rights Alliance, Uganda



Gaia Association, Ethiopia



Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de Recherche Appliquee de Katibougou



International Network for Sustainable Energy - East Africa

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement



Kenya Volunteers Development Service

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The Energy Center, KNUST, Ghana

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New Energy



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Pelum Kenya



Pastoralist Integrated Support
Programme, Kenya



Renewable Energy Association
for Swaziland



Fondation Tany Meva,
Madagascar



Tanzania Traditional Energy
Development Organisation



Uganda Coalition for Crisis
Prevention



Tanzania Renewable Energy
Association



United Church of Zambia,
Southern Presbytery