



HYDROPOWER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2011

31 March - 1 April 2011 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Conference Recommendations

1 April 2011

Hydropower for Sustainable Development 2011 was attended by water and energy Ministries and specialists from 32 countries (Africa, Americas, Europe, Asia, Oceania) as well as representatives of AUC, UNECA, regional power pools, regional economic communities, African specialised institutions and river-basin initiatives, together with participants from bilateral and multilateral financing agencies, academia, industry and civil society.

Recognizing the major benefits of hydropower at the local and regional level, as a source of renewable energy and a multipurpose tool for poverty alleviation, energy security, climate-change mitigation and adaptation, water conservation, navigation, irrigation, flood risk management and drought mitigation;

Noting that the full extent of these benefits can only be achieved when hydropower is developed in a sustainable way, to meet the need to avoid, mitigate or adequately compensate for adverse impacts on livelihoods and the environment; and

Observing that, while hydropower has been developed extensively in Europe and in North America, and is being harnessed vigorously in Asia and South America, Africa is lagging behind in deployment, and this has led to significant development opportunities being missed;

Participants at the Conference recommend the following:

Encouraging Regional Development

- That further emphasis be put on coordinated and harmonised regional development, and
- That existing initiatives be given the impetus to accelerate progress, from the point of view of river-basin and continental (PIDA and Hydro 2020) initiatives, strengthening of power pools and regional economic communities
- That we encourage environmental conservation be taken into account when undertaking regional development projects

Enabling Finance & Investment

- In recognising the need to increase the role of the private sector in hydropower development, the differentiated roles of the public and private sectors should be well defined and utilised, and
- There is a need for innovation in the structuring of financing including guarantees where appropriate to take into account realities of regional hydropower development which include high capital costs, long development lead times and long operational lives.
- Enhancing capacity of the utilities to develop bankable projects

Role of Hydropower

The role of hydropower should be further advanced by:

- Catalyzing improvements in water security and management
- Nurturing the development of multi-purpose water infrastructure and use
- Strengthening and expanding regional power transmission systems
- Promoting and utilising knowledge on climate-change mitigation and adaptation
- Ensuring that project impact assessment and related management plans are responsibly implemented
- Encouraging an appropriate approach among riparian states and strengthening relations between them
- Prioritising the delivery of benefits to affected communities
- Promoting the distribution of water and energy services to local areas

Delivering Sustainable Hydropower

- Encourage that the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol be used to guide and evaluate hydropower project development
- in the interests of capacity building, establish in Ethiopia a continental centre of excellence on sustainable hydropower development

Vote of Thanks

We thank His Excellency Mr Meles Zenawi Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee for taking the initiative to organise and host the conference and delivering the keynote address.