

Date: 28/04/2015

H.E. Dr Elham M.Ibrahim Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union

Honorable Ministers

Representatives of development partners

**Distinguished Industry Leaders
ACRIS Organizers of this event**

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I feel greatly honored and privilege to be with you here today to adress Africa Climate Resilient Infrastructure Summit – ACRIS on behalf of the government of Ethiopia. I would like to say to you all welcome to our beautiful capital, Addis Ababa.

Due to a comprehensive development program and strategy being implemented in our country, we have achieved high economic growth consecutively for the past decade. The coming Growth and Transformation Plan II envisaged higher growth rate of above 11% GDP per annum.

Economic development requires the parallel development of the Energy infrastructure. We have noted that similar developments are being witnessed in most of the countries in our continent.

However, the well-established fact is that many of our countries are facing considerable energy shortages. In our continent energy shortage and its high price, forced to depend on Non Renewable Energy sources which has Sevier negative environmental impact with climate change effect. This constitutes one of the major challenges of our development endeavor. Our success in combating poverty and underdevelopment will, among

other things, depend on how soon and how effectively we solve the existing energy-related problems.

Africa Climate Resilient Infrastructure Summit – ACRIS which is organized by Entico Events Ltd. in cooperation with the African Union Commission (AUC) and which is taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia over three days, from the 27th to the 29th of April 2015 with over 90 Ministers and 500 delegates is instrumental in seeking strategic solution to the problem addressed above.

We appreciate and support ACRIS aims of assisting African Union Member States in preparing for and implementing measures related to resilient infrastructures in their respective countries, as well as in developing and strengthening local, regional and international cooperation on these matters.

It is an opportunity to give confidence to International private sector companies and organizations gathered here. In this respect we would like to highlight that Energy sector is the priority Infrastructure due to its determinant role in Economic, Social and environmental development objectives.

There is a need for an important response towards coordinating our efforts with a joint role of public and private sector in seeking solutions to this rapidly growing need for clean energy services in the continent.

I would like to say on the other hand that it is a blessing that our continent is also well endowed with immense natural and energy resources that include; hydro , Wind, Geothermal, Bio mass, Bio fuel oil and natural gas. Therefore from the onset of its establishment it is anticipated that The AUC in particular AU Infrastructure Commission in collaboration with public and private sector partnership will provide the means and will introduce the prerequisite ingredients for development of regional plans for development of Energy infrastructures through better utilization of our resources.

The implementation and proper management of these infrastructures among all member countries will allow the joint

utilization of our resources in a coordinated manner and it will make accessible, affordable, safe, modern, secure and reliable energy supply to the consumers and provide the means of economic growth and development of the region and the continent at large.

I would like to assure you that the Ethiopian government is highly committed to the fulfillment of this objective. We are aggressively working towards implementing hydropower, Wind and Geothermal plants, which are going to be commissioned during the coming few years. The 1900MW Gibe3 HEPP is destined to start generation by September 2015, which automatically enhances the current generation capacity by about 90%. Subsequent commissioning of the 6000MW Grand Renaissance HEPP and other generation projects under construction raises the installed generation capacity to more than 10,000MW. It is my firm belief that these plants at their initial years of operation can contribute towards the provision of Renewable energy in Ethiopia and extra capacity to facilitate power trade in the region.

Far more is also envisaged in our long term plans to triple this capacity from RE sources. Our RE Off grid expansion program is complementing our 100 % access target. In addition the cook stove vast expansion program to the majority of population, living in rural and urban area are designed to significantly reduce energy related traditional environment degrading sources use. This is proved with improvement registered in deforestation, soil erosion, climate change and other negative environment externalities

With regards to transmission line infrastructure expansion we are working aggressively not only on national level and closely with our neighbors. Broadly with North, East, South and Central Africa grid and beyond with middle east and Mediterranean grid to implement Extra high voltage capacity links which can promote regional, continental and intercontinental power trade. This has been demonstrated by developments being carried out on bilateral and regional means in all part of our continent. This has to be well coordinated with the ongoing strong effort of AUC, in order to take full advantage of the expected benefits.

This Africa Climate Resilient Infrastructure Summit is a positive step in bringing together government representatives, global public and private sector stakeholders. It gives confidence and better understanding, setting road map to meet our common objective.

Your presence here and active participation strengthen ACRI partnership thereby enabling the summit to deliver to the level of our expectation.

Finally I would like to thank the Entico Events Ltd. – in cooperation with the African Union Commission (AUC) for organizing this high value meeting and development partners and sponsors for their support to the success of this summit.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With those remarks I declare this Energy session is open for honorable speakers and you distinguished delegates to share your view on Clean Energy policy, Leadership, developing intellectual capital and pan African Energy work Force

Thank you

I wish you a successful meeting.

For Mr.Alemayehu Tegenu

Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia