

## **MINISTERIAL SUPPORT TO IRENA**

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

As the Government of South Africa we would like to congratulate the Federal Republic of Germany with the conceptualisation, organisation and successful implementation of the IRENA. The initiative is commended.

South Africa is also committed to reducing its carbon footprint and there is even an amount that will come directly from the fiscus towards this effort; although we know this will be insufficient.

For us renewable energy and energy efficiency are interventions that are at hand and relatively inexpensive.

We also believe that the development of the renewable energy industry will assist us in the battle against energy poverty, as well as create jobs and eradicate poverty. We have done a lot as a country to underscore the seriousness with which we view this matter. For example we have established policies and strategies like:

- Renewable Energy policy
- Energy Efficiency; and
- Biofuels;

Within SADC, we are working towards a regional integration of our grid.

We have recently signed a Declaration of Intent with Denmark on renewable energy sources. Our institutions are very active together with their international partners in renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate change mitigation initiatives. We also have the Designated National Authority which assists with the registration of CDM projects derived from national initiatives.

South Africa is a member of the Forum of Energy Ministers of Africa (FEMA).

We have assumed that our Renewable Energy Policy also respond to our socio economic challenges, unemployment and poverty reduction.

I would like to make the following proposals for consideration:

1. IRENA must include biofuels –amend Article to include biofuels as a renewable source.
2. Technology transfer
3. Research and Development to speed up the process of developing technologies (e.g. Carbon Capture and storage (CCS), that will help us deal with enormous emissions emanating from fossil fuels like coal.
4. Capacity Building
5. Partnerships between countries and between members of IRENA and the private sector.

From our side, we will expedite the process of obtaining necessary approvals to ensure participation as full members of IRENA. This will happen before the next meeting of the IRENA Commission in June 2009.

In closing, we are looking forward to participation with all the IRENA member countries.

The government and people of South Africa fully support the establishment of IRENA.