

**FOUNDING CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE  
ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA)**

**AND**

**FIRST MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR  
IRENA 26-27 JANUARY 2009**

**THE STATUS OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SUB-SECTOR IN  
UGANDA: KEY ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND MEASURES PLANED  
FOR INCREASING ENERGY ACCESS.**

**Presented by**

**Hon. Simon D'Ujanga, MP**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY**

**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I thank the Germany Government for inviting me and my delegation to this Founding Conference of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and to be availed an opportunity to talk about the Renewable Energy Sub-sector in Uganda.
2. Most Countries in Africa, South of the Sahara including Uganda are currently faced with energy crisis. This is mainly due to prolonged drought, delayed implementation of energy projects and low financial resources to support investment.
3. We are glad therefore to note that this Founding Conference for International Renewable Energy Agency is focusing on promotion of use of renewable energy, with a view of environmental conservation, Climate Change, economic growth, poverty alleviation and sustainable development, increased access and security of energy supply as well regional development programmes.
4. Uganda is an active member of the Forum of Energy Ministers of the African Continent (FEMA), whose inaugural meeting was held in Entebbe, Uganda in August 2005. Uganda has continued to participate in the advocacy for increased energy access under FEMA at different meetings, like Energy Week 2005 and 2006 in Washington DC, CSD14 in May 2006 in New York and others.

5a) Uganda participated in the Renewable Energy Conference in Bonn in 2004 and has since been a member on the Steering Committee of REN 21. We contribute to the International Action Plan (IAP) on Renewables and update it regularly

5b) Uganda also represents Africa on the EU-Africa Energy Partnership based in Brussels.

### **Uganda renewable energy resource base**

Uganda is richly endowed with Renewable energy resources including;

6. Plentiful biomass and large quantities of non woody biomass such as agri residues.
7. Numerous options for mini hydro projects that can be used for feeding in the grid and as independent mini grids to accelerate rural development by meeting localized power needs of the communities that are not conveniently or economically served by the national grid.
8. Uganda is located astride the equator, thus it experiences an average of 6 hours of sunshine per day in a year (approx. 4.5 kwh/m<sup>2</sup>/day). This level of insolation is quite favourable for all solar technology applications; solar water heating and solar photovoltaic.

9. There is also a potential for geothermal energy in the western sector of the East African Rift System estimated at 450 MW

### **Main Challenges to development of Renewable Energy**

10. Lack of adequate technical data and general information to the public to create awareness on options and investment opportunities in Renewable Energy Technologies.
11. Inadequate Technical and Institutional Capacity in both the public and private sector to implement and manage renewable energy investments
12. RETs still have high upfront costs making them unaffordable for consumers
13. Lack or inadequate financing mechanisms to facilitate the development and promotion of RETs
14. Lack of or inadequate Research and Development geared to strengthening local manufacturing capacity in renewable energy technologies;
15. Biomass energy resources are utilized inefficiently and therefore, unsustainably

## **Way forward in addressing the challenges**

### **16. Renewable Energy policy development**

In Uganda we have developed and are implementing an ambitious Renewable Energy Policy intended to address the above mentioned barriers.

17. The policy goal is to increase the renewable energy usage from the current 4% to 61% in the next 10-15 years.

An appropriate feed in Tariff has been adopted in order to reduce transaction time and attract investments.

### **18. Renewable Energy Investment Plan**

Currently, a Renewable Energy Investment Plan is under preparation to provide a window for prioritized investment opportunities in the sub-sector. I would like to call all interested investors in RE to visit Uganda, given the great RE potential.

19. Uganda will continue to support the implementation of the long awaited IRENA and is ready to play an active role right from its inception.

We are convinced that IRENA will provide tangible contribution to the removal of major barriers to RE development in Uganda and Africa as a whole.

Thank you,