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Bioenergy Development Strategy and Investment Plan for the Eastern African Region

INCEPTION WORKSHOP

**5 - 7 November, 2018
Kampala, Uganda**

CONCEPT NOTE

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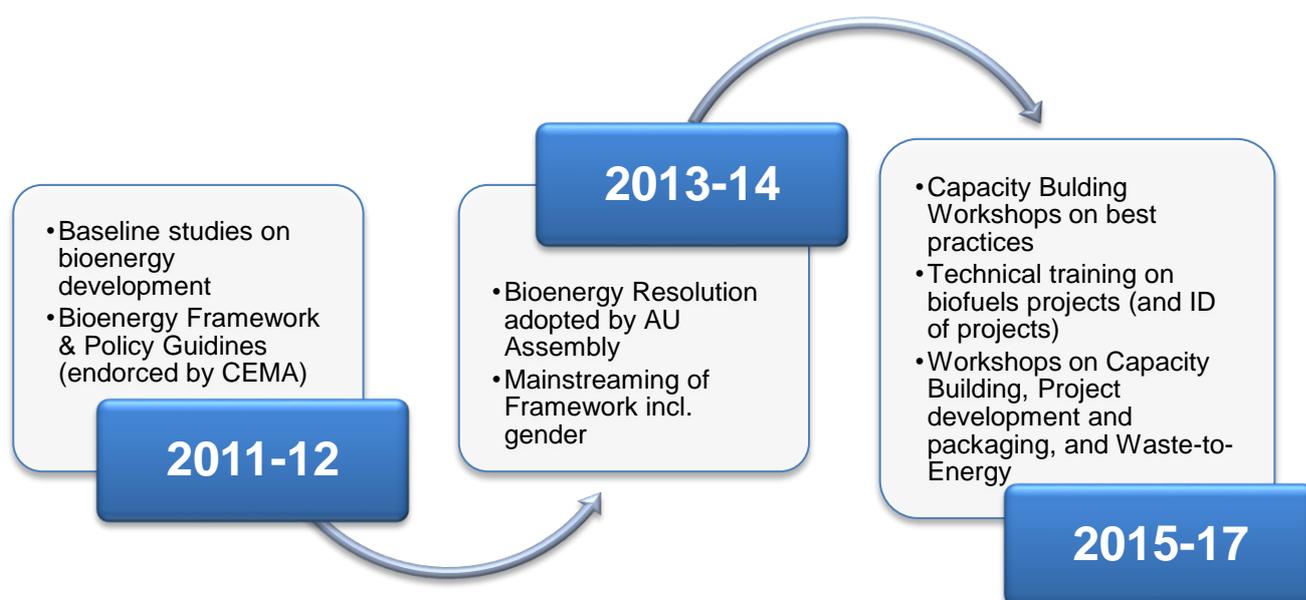
Kampala, Uganda

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The African continent is endowed with many renewable energy resources, whose potential unfortunately remains largely untapped. These renewable energy resources include hydropower, geothermal energy, solar, wind power, and bioenergy.
2. Over 80% of the population in Africa depends on solid fuels, primarily traditional biomass for cooking and heating, with related negative effects such as respiratory diseases from indoor air pollution, and impacts on social outcomes as a result of extensive time spent on firewood collection rather than on social and productive uses. Although bioenergy has many applications as a modern source of energy, high value bioenergy application such as gasification, ethanol production, use of bagasse for electricity generation and others are not fully exploited in Africa. However, even in its modern form, bioenergy exploitation can have unintended negative consequences if not well managed. Large-scale biofuels production and its associated mono cropping can reduce biodiversity and disturb ecosystems. The acquisition of land for biofuel production can also impact on food security as well as deprive rural people of the one asset they normally depend on: land. Biodiversity and food security effects of unsustainable bioenergy exploitation can have wider effects across local areas as well as countries and lead to conflict.
3. Bioenergy, therefore, constitutes an important source of energy in Africa that would have even greater potential if sustainably exploited. However its current exploitation is largely within unsustainable systems with negative impacts on livelihoods in the areas of health, environment and social impacts, including gender (ECA and AU 2014). There are many barriers against successful and widespread exploitation of bioenergy on the continent, including ineffective supporting policy (and associated regulations and legislations) and lack of financial support. It is against this background that in 2011 the African Union Commission (AUC) in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) initiated a programme to modernize the bioenergy sector in Africa in 2011. Through a consultative process spanning several years and involving a cross section of stakeholders and African Union (AU) Member States the ***African Bioenergy***

Framework and Policy Guidelines were developed and adopted by the AU Assembly in 2013. The purpose of the Framework is to (a) build consensus on shared framework that inspires and provides guidance to individual countries and regions in developing bioenergy policies and regulations; and (b) enhance awareness among African policymakers and the civil society about the need for more environmentally friendly and socially acceptable bioenergy development policies.

4. Following the adoption of the **African Bioenergy Framework and Policy Guidelines**, several workshops have been held to build capacity on the various aspects of bioenergy and exchange experiences on some of the best practices on the African continent. In addition, several studies have been undertaken with the aim of supporting the AU Member States to implement policy and regulatory framework for modernizing the bioenergy sector. The figure below summarises the programme activities and achievements to-date.



II. REGIONAL BIOENERGY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND INVESTMENT PLANS

5. Building upon the achievements and lessons learnt from implementing the programme, the AUC in partnership with ECA and NPCA plan to develop Bioenergy Development Strategies and Investment Plans with associated action plans for each region of Africa (Northern, Western, Central, Eastern and Southern). These bioenergy development strategies and investment plans are expected to lead to the deployment of sustainable regional bioenergy projects that will accelerate the adoption of modern bioenergy technologies, practices

that will have positive impacts on modern energy access, local industrial development, job creation and general improvement of local livelihoods and rural economic development. The expected accomplishments are threefold:

- a) To ensure that bioenergy development is integrated into policy development and priority given to modernizing the bioenergy sector;
 - b) Capacity is built across African stakeholders, particularly policy makers, civil society, local private sector, academia and community-based organizations; and
 - c) To increase investments of bioenergy projects in each region.
6. The Bioenergy Development Strategy and Investment Plan for each region will be developed in collaboration with the relevant Regional Economic Community (REC) and the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.
 7. The first two regions will be the Eastern and Central Africa Regions. Terms of Reference (TOR) for developing the Bioenergy Development Strategy and Investment Plan in the two regions were developed by ECA and AUC and used to procure consultancy services in accordance with AUC Rules and Regulations.
 8. Following award of the consultancy services for the Eastern Africa Region, the AUC in collaboration with the East African Community (EAC) and the East Africa Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) have organised the inception workshop of the assignment on 5th – 7th November 2018 in Kampala, Uganda, where the headquarters of EACREEE are located.

III. EXPECTED OUTPUT OF THE INCEPTION WORKSHOP

9. The Inception Workshop will bring together AUC, ECA and NPCA with key stakeholders from the Eastern Africa Region including ministries responsible for energy, government institutions concerned with bioenergy sector, the EAC Secretariat, EACREEE, private sector, civil society and academia.
10. The objective of the workshop is to give stakeholders a clear understanding of the assignment and make inputs on the consultant's proposed methodology and work plan as well as agree on key milestones. The workshop will give the consultant an opportunity to engage with the stakeholders for information required for the assignment. In addition, different stakeholders will make presentations on their involvement in the bioenergy sector.
11. The expected output will be consolidation of stakeholder comments which will be incorporated into the final Inception Report that will form the basis for implementation of the rest of the assignment.