

STOP EUROPEAN HIJACKING OF THE AFRICA RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE

We, the undersigned representatives of African civil society, express our deep concern regarding efforts by the European Union and France to hijack the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), an African-owned and African-led initiative endorsed by all 55 African Heads of State to scale up renewable energy on our continent.

AREI (<http://www.arei.org>) was launched by the African governments with the support of African citizens during COP21 in Paris, with the goal to provide at least 10 billion watts (10GW) of new and additional renewable energy to Africa's peoples by 2020, and put the continent on course to add at least another 300 GW and achieve universal access to energy for all Africans by 2030. It was supported by \$10 billion in pledges for 2015-2020 by developed countries in Paris.

AREI as defined in its framework, principles and work plans is a unique initiative. It is aligned with our values of people-centred approaches, community rights, equity and a bold vision of Africa taking a global lead towards flourishing societies powered by clean, renewable energy.

Since Paris, an Independent Delivery Unit was set up to deliver in accordance with AREI's people-centred principles and approaches. The expectation was that a Board with Heads of State representing each African sub-region would be established, supported by a technical committee involving broad representation and participation by civil society.

AREI's integrity and promise of bringing light and energy to Africa's people is now being gravely threatened by the efforts of the European Union and France for premature, undue approval of 'their' projects and seeming attempts to co-opt the initiative to serve their ends, supported by a small handful of Africans. At a Board Meeting convened in Conakry on 4 March, we understand the European Union and France have:

- Publicly "announced the preparation of 19 new renewable energy projects, with a total potential investment of €4.8 billion" ([EU press release 4 March - http://bit.ly/2mLxigG](http://bit.ly/2mLxigG)) – when they are actually claiming to provide a mere 1/16th or €0.3 billion of this amount, not all of which is for "new projects" or even for "renewable energy", and with no clarity whether any of these are "additional" efforts.
- Managed to have rammed through the Board for adoption these partly EU-funded projects, despite the express objections from some African countries and institutions, and contrary to the principles of African ownership that would expect project priorities and proposals to stem directly from African countries
- Ignored and bypassed AREI's own evaluation process in accordance to its criteria (<http://bit.ly/2mwiMDr>) – developed with African and northern government, civil society and other

stakeholder inputs. These require all projects be assessed in line with AREI social, environmental, gender and other principles and safeguards before any approvals can be made

- Claiming Board memberships when they seem to have only been invited to the meetings (AREI minutes of the first inaugural board on 29 January - <http://bit.ly/2mY6b82>) and contrary to the idea there should be one developing and one developed non-African country in the Board.
- Pushed for the imposition of EU technical experts to supposedly take control of AREI core documents to be consistent with European interests

All the above seems to have caused the Head of the Independent Delivery Unit, a prominent and well-respected African, to declare his resignation.

These actions have been enabled by one or two African states while the interests of the majority of States, and of Africans, have been set aside.

While we acknowledge that the EU has scaled up support for African renewables since COP21 in Paris, these most recent behaviors are completely unacceptable. Recycling existing projects as “new” ones for AREI virtually ensures it will fail to meet its goal of 10 billion watts of “new and additional renewable energy generation capacity by 2020”, leaving Africans in the dark.

Listing projects in numerous African countries without their consent means these countries may miss out on genuinely new and additional resources from AREI in the future, undermining the legitimate expectations of those countries and their people.

These carefully staged interferences in Africa’s institutions threaten not merely the potential of AREI to deliver new renewable energy, they call into question the independence and sanctity of African governance arrangements, including the African Union.

Based on these concerns, we call on all African States, leaders and people to demand genuinely people-centred renewable energy for Africa, building on the great model set out by AREI and endorsed by all African countries.

We demand:

1. That the European Union and France step aside and abandon any aspirations to have seats as Board members, and ensure AREI remains African-led and African-owned. AREI must be run by Africans for Africans. Interference in African governance belongs to another era.
2. Full accountability, transparency and participation must be provided for African states and for civil society in all aspects of AREI. The Initiative cannot and must not become a tool for one or two African States to benefit themselves or their European counterparts.
3. That any ‘endorsement’ by the Board of the 19 existing EU projects is indefinitely suspended until a thorough review against AREI Criteria, environmental and social safeguards, prior informed consent by

the States and citizens concerned, and active civil society participation are undertaken. It must be for individual African states and people, not the EU, to propose projects to AREI.

4. That all further funding and projects through AREI be genuinely “new and additional” to ensure the delivery of real outcomes for our people, with no more accounting tricks, and to ensure that developed countries are accountable and meet their financial obligations.

5. That active participation by all civil society constituencies is ensured at all levels of AREI including its governing bodies, its workplan and project development, and project implementation on the ground.

6. That African countries immediately take action to put AREI back on track and ensure full independence for the Independent Delivery Unit from donors, the African Development Bank and other third parties, and the reinstatement of its Head

We call for all partners in government, academia, faith-based, labour, gender, environmental, community-based organizations, national coalitions and regional and international networks to join us in championing a truly African-led and people-centred approach to renewable energy on our continent. AREI needs to succeed.

We hereby sign on to this statement:

Regional Groups & Networks	Country
Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)	Kenya
Association de volontariat "TOUIZA" de la wilaya d'Alger	Algeria
Réseau Action Climat Algérie	Algeria
CSA Benin	Benin
IDEAS for Benin	Benin
Confédération National des travailleur du Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso
African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)	Cameroon
Cameroun Ecologie	Cameroon
Cameroun Ecologie	Cameroon
l'Organisation pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable	Cameroon
Observatoire de Culture Baka et Bantu	Cameroon
Plateforme Nationale REDD+ et Changement Climatique	Cameroon
Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT)	Chad
Association Djibouti Nature	Djibouti
Action pour la Gestion de l'Environnement et le Développement Durable	DR Congo
Caritas Developpement Lubumbashi	DR Congo
Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Soustaibility in Africa	DR Congo
Forêts Communautaires pour le Développement Rural (FOCODER)	DR Congo
Humanitarian Assistance For Development	DR Congo

Pleaders of Children and Elderly People at Risk (PEPA)	DR Congo
Reseau sur le Changement Climatique RDC/ DRC Climate Change Network (RCCRDC)	DR Congo
United Christians for Overcoming Malnutrition (UWAKRIMA)	DR Congo
Beijing Platform of Action Ethiopia	Ethiopia
Consortium for Climate Change Ethiopia	Ethiopia
Fikir Leselam Development Organization(FLDO)	Ethiopia
Lem, the Environment & Development Society of Ethiopia	Ethiopia
MELCA Ethiopia	Ethiopia
Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Ethiopia	Ethiopia
Assosa Environmental Protection Association	Ethiopia
350 Ghana Reducing our Carbon	Ghana
ABANTU for Development	Ghana
Deperived Awareness Foundation	Ghana
Foundation for Grassroots Initiatives in Africa (GrassRootsAfrca)	Ghana
Friends of the Earth Ghana	Ghana
Institute of Leadership and Development (INSLA)	Ghana
Vision for Alternative Development	Ghana
Abibiman Foundation	Ghana
Actions for Human and Nature	Ivory Coast
AFHON Cote D'Ivoire	Ivory Coast
Africa Regional Organization of the International Trade Union Confederation	Kenya
Central Organisation of Trade Unions Kenya	Kenya
GRADIF Kenya	Kenya
International Institute for Legislative Affairs	Kenya
IP Hub Africa	Kenya
Ogiek Peoples Development Program	Kenya
Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya	Kenya
Transparency International Kenya	Kenya
Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Lesotho	Lesotho
The Faith & Justice Network (FJN)	Liberia
CSI-Afrique/ FISEMARE	Madagascar
Civil Society Network on Climate Change	Malawi
Association de Formation et d'Appui au Developpement (AFAD)	Mali
Coalition Contre la Corruption en Mauritanie (3CM)	Mauritania
Confédération Générale des Travailleurs de Mauritanie (CGTM)	Mauritania
El Karamat	Mauritania
Mer Bleue	Mauritania

Greenpeace Mauritius	Mauritius
Maudesco (Friends of the Earth Mauritius)	Mauritius
Mauritius Trade Union Congress	Mauritius
Migration and Sustainable Development Alliance	Mauritius
AESVT Tanger	Morocco
Association des Enseignants des Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre	Morocco
Association El Fath pour l'environnement et le Developpement	Morocco
Association Homme et Environnement	Morocco
Association Khnifiss	Morocco
Association Marocaine pour la protection des aires marines et développement durable (AMP Maroc)	Morocco
Association Talassemiane pour l'environnement et le développement ...	Morocco
Moroccan Alliance for Climate and Sustainable Development (AMCDD)	Morocco
Moroccan Forum for Environmental Initiatives	Morocco
The Human Touch	Morocco
شبكة خليج الداخلة للعمل الجمعي والتن	Morocco
ASS Groupe de recherches et etudes sur le littoral du sahara	Morocco
Takatoul des Associations Grand Tanger	Morocco
Grupo Para o Desenvolvimento da Mulher e Rapariga (GDMR)	Mozambique
Justica Ambiental (JA! Friends of the Earth Mozambique)	Mozambique
Niger Civil Society Platfom on Climat change	Niger
JVE Niger	Niger
100 Women Lobby Group	Nigeria
ActionAid Nigeria	Nigeria
African Centre for Food, Agriculture and Sustainable Development	Nigeria
African Research Association Managing Development in Nigeria	Nigeria
Agriculture and Allied Employees' Union of Nigeria (AAEUN)	Nigeria
Better Community Life Initiative (BECOLIN)	Nigeria
CAFSO-WRAG for Development	Nigeria
Center for Disaster Risk And Crisis Reduction (CDRCR)	Nigeria
Centre for Development & Civic Education	Nigeria
Centre for Environmental Development and peacebuilding.	Nigeria
Centre for Youth Initiative on Self Education (CEYISED)	Nigeria
Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development	Nigeria
Climate & Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet)	Nigeria
Climate Change and Environmental Research Group	Nigeria
Community Conservation and Development Initiatives	Nigeria
Community Development Alliance (CDA)	Nigeria
Development Communications Network (DevComs)	Nigeria

Echoes of Women in Africa Initiative	Nigeria
Entrepreneurship Initiative for African Youth	Nigeria
EnviroNews Nigeria	Nigeria
Environmental Rights Action (Friends of the Earth Nigeria)	Nigeria
Forward Action for the Conservation of Indigenous Species (FACIS)	Nigeria
Foundation for Environmental Rights Advocacy and Development	Nigeria
Friends of the Environment (FOTE)	Nigeria
Gender Perspective and Social Development Center	Nigeria
Global Race Against Poverty and HIV/AIDS in Nigeria	Nigeria
Green Impact International	Nigeria
Green Patriots	Nigeria
Green Planet Initiative International	Nigeria
Greenafrica	Nigeria
Habitat Care and Protection Initiative	Nigeria
Human Rights & Conflict Resolution Centre	Nigeria
Igala Environmental Watch	Nigeria
International Center for Accelerated Development	Nigeria
Journalists for Climate Change (JCC)	Nigeria
Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre	Nigeria
Media Advocacy Partnership	Nigeria
Media Initiative for Sickle Cell	Nigeria
Nature Cares Resource Centre	Nigeria
Non-Governmental Coalition on Environment (NGOCE)	Nigeria
Project IGALA	Nigeria
Project Shield International	Nigeria
RUKOF	Nigeria
Rural People Development Initiative (RUPEDIN)	Nigeria
Society for Development, Environmental Research & Documentation	Nigeria
SustyVibes	Nigeria
Vanguard Media Ltd	Nigeria
Women and Children Development Initiative	Nigeria
Women Environmental Programme (WEP)	Nigeria
Women's Rights Action Group	Nigeria
World Changers Foundation	Nigeria
BENGONET Rural Development Initiative	Nigeria
Centre for 21st Century Issues	Nigeria
Ziongate Empowerment Initiative for the Less Privilege	Nigeria
Agronomis	Senegal

Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Sénégal (CNTS)	Senegal
ARID	Seychelles
Keep Africa Beautiful Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
Sierra Leone Amalgamated Artisanal Fishermen Union (SLAAFU)	Sierra Leone
Sierra Leone Consortium for Climate Change and Sustainable Development (SLeCCSuD)	Sierra Leone
ActionAid Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
Somali Climate Change Network	Somalia
Barwaaqo voluntary organization BVO	Somalia
University of Hargeisa	Somaliland/Somalia
Greenpeace Africa	South Africa
Imbokodo Forum	South Africa
Kairos Southern Africa	South Africa
National Council Against Smoking	South Africa
Human Rights and Legal Aid Network	Sudan
Sudanese Environment Conservation Society	Sudan
Sudanese Youth Organisation on Climate Change	Sudan
Coalition of Informal Economy Associations of Swaziland (CIEAS)	Swaziland
Africans Rising for Justice, Peace & Dignity	Tanzania
Tanzania Tobacco Control Forum (TTCF)	Tanzania
Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Togo	Togo
Friends of the Earth Togo	Togo
JVE International	Togo
The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA)	Togo
Association for the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Bizerte (APEDDUB)	Tunisia
l'Association de l'Education Environnementale pour les Futures Générations (AEEFG)	Tunisia
National Alliance of Professional Environmentalists (Friends of the Earth Uganda)	Uganda
PACJA Uganda Climate Change and Environment Colition	Uganda
SALDO	Uganda
Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda	Uganda
PELUM Association Regional Secretariat	Zambia
Young Volunteers for Environment Zambia	Zambia
Acqua World Organization	Zimbabwe
Action 24	Zimbabwe
African Centre for Climate Change Knowledge Foundation (ACCCKF)	Zimbabwe
ASCHO Livestock Development Foundation	Zimbabwe

Climate Change And Sustainable Development Network Trust	Zimbabwe
Emmaus International	Zimbabwe
Emmaus Ventures	Zimbabwe
Environment Impact	Zimbabwe
Green Impact Trust	Zimbabwe
Light of Hope Development Trust	Zimbabwe
Light of Hope Development Trust	Zimbabwe
Matabeleland Women Farmers Trust	Zimbabwe
National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO)	Zimbabwe
SRS Livestock Development Foundation	Zimbabwe
Zero Regional Environment Organisation	Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe Climate Change Coalition	Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers Union	Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions	Zimbabwe
Centre for Natural Resource Governance	Zimbabwe
Mpilo Agricultural Organization	Zimbabwe