



s a n e r i  
South African National Energy Research Institute

*Short presentation:*

**AFRICAN MINISTERIAL  
CONFERENCE ON  
HYDROPOWER AND  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*Mark Howells of the Planning and Economic  
Studies Section of the International Atomic Energy  
Agency: [www.iaea.org/OurWork/ST/NE/Pess/](http://www.iaea.org/OurWork/ST/NE/Pess/)*

**for Kevin Nassiep of the South African  
National Energy Research Institute (SANERI)**

*The South African National Energy Research Institute*





s a n e r i  
South African National Energy Research Institute

# ***AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HYDROPOWER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT***

- General
  - 28 Ministers from Africa attended
  - 300 delegates from Africa attended
  - Funded by a combination of government and donor funding
  - Ministers agreed on a ***declaration*** and ***action plan***





s a n e r i  
South African National Energy Research Institute

## ***DECLARATION***

- The following were seen as a basis to move forward from
  - Millennium Development Goals
  - Summits of the African Union and NEPAD
  - Beijing declaration
  - International Conference for Renewable Energies





## ***DECLARATION***

- The following was noted in the declaration
  - Africa lacks the infrastructure to manage water variability
  - More than 90% of the people of Africa do not have access to electricity, which is essential to meet the MDG's
  - Less than 7% of the hydropower potential of Africa has been developed





s a n e r i  
South African National Energy Research Institute

## ***DECLARATION***

- The following was recognised in the declaration:
  - The value of hydropower in an optimum energy mix
  - The importance of knowledge, know-how and technology transfer in hydropower development
  - Hydropower projects are capital intensive and require tangible action to finance sustainable projects
  - Hydropower must be implemented in accordance with national, regional and international agreements and respect the principles of sustainable development and requires an integrated and holistic approach





## ***DECLARATION***

- The following was recognised in the declaration:
  - Water resources are vulnerable to climate change
  - Decision making process should incorporate the informed participation of all stakeholders, particularly vulnerable communities and those negatively affected.
  - Maintenance of assets and optimising the performance of existing hydropower facilities and adopting efficiency measures as priority options in planning for new developments
  - The existence of good practices and past mistakes as educational tools





## ***DECLARATION***

- The following was recognised in the declaration:
  - The public sector has an important role in leading project development and attracting investment from public and private sources
  - The need to incorporate financial commitment to regional plans in national budgets
  - Important role of the Power Pools expanding the good relationship between Power Pools and Regional Economic Communities





## ***DECLARATION***

- The following commitments were made by Ministers:
  - To work together (ministers of water and energy) to unlock the hydropower potential of Africa as a major RE option
  - Sound environmental and social impact assessments, mitigation and management plans should be the norm and must be implemented in accordance with national regulatory frameworks and international standards of good practice
  - To mainstreaming gender issues as appropriate





s a n e r i  
South African National Energy Research Institute

## ***DECLARATION***

- The following were emphasized:
  - Importance of capacity building in hydropower and climate change issues
  - Importance of resettlement principles and full participation of affected communities
  - Those communities affected must derive positive sustainable benefits





s a n e r i  
South African National Energy Research Institute

## ***DECLARATION***

- The following were agreed:
  - To promote the integration of hydropower generation with other water uses and promote hydropower on existing dams
  - Hydropower development must be carefully considered alongside other energy options
  - Accept that the costs of social and environmental mitigation measures should be fully assessed
  - To promote hydropower development within the principles that exist at national, sub-regional and regional levels of integrated transboundary water resource management and benefit sharing arrangements





s a n e r i  
South African National Energy Research Institute

## ***DECLARATION***

- The following were agreed:
  - To promote transboundary water basin organisations and regional power pools
  - To improve cooperation and coordination between the Ministers responsible for water and energy, particularly within the ambit of African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) as they have a good basis for cooperation
  - To strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks and human capacity
  - Ensuring that the outcomes of this conference is fed into the NEPAD infrastructure planning process of the AU as well as into national and ministerial plans of action





## ***DECLARATION***

- The following were called on:
  - Multilateral and bilateral funding agencies to engage with African countries on hydropower development to ensure innovative funding mechanisms
  - AMCOW and AFREC and FEMA with the support of UN umbrella bodies to implement the Plan of Action
  - South Africa with AFREC and FEMA to report back to the CSD14 and together with AMCOW to report back to the World Water Forum WWF4





## ***PLAN OF ACTION***

- Ministers to:

- Develop a holistic Africa Energy Vision (2025) and consider institutionalising formal meetings between the Ministers of Finance, Energy, Water and Environment to monitor the implementation of such vision under AU
- Gather data on case studies in general where hydropower projects have been developed
- Produce non-prescriptive tools drawing on all relevant existing bodies of criteria and guidelines for planning





## ***PLAN OF ACTION***

- Ministers to:

- Request Multilateral Financing Institutions (IMF's) to commit to assist in alleviation of the financial challenge experience by the continent by
  - Providing grants and loans with sufficient repayment duration
  - Necessary guarantees and refinancing facilities
  - Assistance to governments for securing their share of equity
- Provide more resources to the infrastructure project preparation facility hosted by the African Development Bank





## ***PLAN OF ACTION***

- A ministerial session be held during CSD14 to focus on hydropower development in Africa
- Governments to promote joint meetings, participation and consultations with appropriate stakeholders and put hydropower on the agenda at ministerial conferences on water, energy, human settlements and environment
- South Africa and Egypt to support other African countries to develop their DNA's for CDM and technical assistance in project development





## ***PLAN OF ACTION***

- AFREC should devise a strategy to assist member countries in building, utilising, retaining and exchanging technical expertise, support regional power pools, capacity building at regional level
- AFREC to provide secretariat services for the African Hydro Symposium in collaboration with the International Hydropower Association
- AFREC and FEMA maintain and disseminate a comprehensive information system about Africa's Hydropower
- AMCOW and AFREC to request UN agencies to develop a systematic and regular reporting system on hydropower as part of existing monitoring and reporting mechanisms





## ***CONCLUSION***

- It is clear that Africa has a huge potential for hydropower which is considered a renewable energy
- With the political will that has emanated from the conference, it is hoped that all the structures in Africa will work together to ensure sustainable development for Africa

