



**Draft Communiqué of the Workshop Concentrating Solar Power  
(CSP) Technologies for Electricity Generation in Africa**

**Tunis, Tunisia  
19-22 December 2012**

# Workshop on Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) Technologies for Electricity Generation in Africa

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## COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE UTILIZATION OF CSP IN AFRICA

We, the Solar Energy Experts of the Ministries in-Charge of Energy of the African countries, Regional Specialized Institutions, African Academics, gathered at the AFREC's Workshop on Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) Technologies for Electricity Generation in Africa which took place in Tunis, Tunisia on 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2012. Therefore:

1. **Considering** Resolution N° Assembly/AU/Res.2 (XIV) on Solar Energy in the Sahara which was adopted by the XIV Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2010;
2. **Recognizing** that, despite the immense potential of solar energy radiation over Africa which could be harnessed for electric power generation for the benefit of all countries of the continent, and the recent global considerations for exploiting this resource for utility-scale bulk electricity generation, and the fact that most countries of Africa still face serious challenges to assure access to electrification or having reliable electricity supplies;
3. **Noting** the rich, infinite, limitless solar energy resources in all African regions;
4. **Conscious** of the low rate of electrification in the continent, especially in the sub-Saharan region;
5. **Aware** of the depletable and unsustainable nature of hydrocarbon resources for electricity generation and their negative impacts on the environment;
6. **Recognizing** the technical improvements of solar technologies for utility-scale electricity generation and their suitability for installation in the Sahara and other semi-arid areas in Africa;
7. **Commending** steps taken by some African countries to adopt and adapt solar electricity generating technologies for power supplies within their territories;
8. **Supporting** the international initiatives for introducing advanced solar technologies in Africa for bulk-scale electricity generation and **urging** such initiatives to bring equity to the host countries, accelerating technology transfer and support indigenous manufacturing of equipment;
9. **Welcoming** the prospect that solar electricity generation has the potential for increasing the rate of electrification to all Member States and accelerating electricity integration among the African regions.

**THEREFORE RESOLVE TO:**

**COMMEND** the African Energy Commission (AFREC), the African Union Commission (AUC) for the excellent and timely efforts made in organizing this workshop and **CALL** for all participants to commit themselves and adopt concrete steps towards the implementation of its outcomes and recommendations.

**URGE** all African countries to foster close cooperation for the development of solar energy in general and the technologies for utility-scale electricity generation in particular and promote fruitful partnerships for solar projects' implementation.

**FURTHER URGE** all African countries, regional groupings and specialized institutions to assure the adoption of sustainable development of solar energy in their policies and strategies.

**REQUEST** the AU Commission to prepare various studies and implement activities with the objective to promote the introduction of large-scale solar energy technologies for electricity generation in Africa and to mobilise necessary financial and technical resources for their preparation.

**REAFFIRM** our commitment to support the development, operation and expansion of viable solar-based electricity generation, by committing our departments to full and substantive involvement in the programs and activities leading to its success.

**ACKNOWLEDGE** the National Agency for Energy Conservation of Tunisia and the people of Tunisia for their warm hospitality and the excellent organization of this workshop.

**Done in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2012**