

DECLARATION OF INTENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

FOR
REDUCING ENERGY POVERTY, INCREASING
ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND DEVELOPING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN
AFRICA

This Declaration of Intent is made between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the United States of America, through Power Africa, each hereinafter referred to as the “Signatories” The Government of the United States intends to implement this Declaration through the United States Agency for International Development (hereafter referred to as “USAID”) in furtherance of the goals of Power Africa, a United States presidential initiative (hereafter referred to as “Power Africa”) and the Government of the French Republic intends to implement this Declaration through the Agence Française de Développement (“AFD”). AFD is a financial institution and the main implementing agency for France’s official development assistance to developing countries.

The Signatories seek to coordinate their respective strengths, expertise and resources and to support one another's efforts that advance their common goals in sub-Saharan Africa of reducing energy poverty, increasing access to sustainable energy and developing renewable energy. This Declaration sets forth the intention to further align the Power Africa initiative, a U.S. Government-led partnership, and France’s relevant efforts through AFD and other French government agencies. This Declaration provides a proposed framework under which joint activities might be based, but does not impose any legally binding obligations (financial or otherwise) on either of the Signatories.

WHEREAS:

U.S. President Barack Obama launched Power Africa in June 2013 to leverage private and public sector partnerships to double access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa. Power Africa aims to add at least 30,000 megawatts (MW) of new, cleaner electrical power capacity and 60 million electrical connections across sub-Saharan Africa by unlocking sub-Saharan Africa’s substantial wind, solar, hydropower, natural gas and geothermal resources. As a presidential initiative, Power Africa involves a partnership-driven model among twelve U.S. Government departments and agencies, African governments, multilateral and bilateral development partners and more than 130 private sector partners.

French President Francois Hollande announced at the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris in December 2015 that France would invest at least two billion euros in renewable energy development in Africa between 2016 and

2020, to contribute to reaching the objectives of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), as part of its increased commitment to sustainable energy on the continent. AFD has been a supporter of energy infrastructure development in Africa as a means to increase social and economic development, working with partners such as African governments, other bilateral donors and multilateral development banks.

The Signatories recognize the significant financial commitments that have already been made by a number of countries to accelerate efforts to harness Africa's renewable energy potential and expand energy access across the continent. During COP 21, the Governments of France and the United States, along with Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Sweden and the Netherlands committed to mobilizing at least \$10 billion cumulatively from 2015 to 2020 toward this effort.

The Signatories acknowledge the contributions from countries interested in helping Africa harness its renewable energy potential and improve access to sustainable energy. The Signatories fully support Sustainable Development Goal 7 to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030, as well as Goal 13 to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

The Signatories' efforts to advance the energy sector in sub-Saharan Africa, including through renewable energy, are intended to support poverty reduction and inclusive and sustainable growth, sustainability and climate compatibility, and partner country ownership and collaboration. Increasing access to electricity would enhance energy security, decrease poverty, and advance economic growth.

Recognizing that, through coordination and collaboration among the Power Africa Coordinator's office in South Africa and Washington, D.C., working with the U.S. Government agencies and departments supporting Power Africa, and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AFD and other French agencies and departments, the Signatories intend to work together to support key activities that meet the shared goals of increased energy availability and access in Africa through Power Africa and AREI.

The Signatories intend to leverage one another's expertise, relationships and resources to achieve their shared goals to accelerate Africa's renewable energy potential and expand energy access across the continent.

NOW THEREFORE, desiring to establish a mutually beneficial collaboration, the Signatories hereby record the following intentions:

PARAGRAPH I
PARTNERSHIP FOCUS AREAS

The Signatories share common goals and intend to collaborate by sharing information and exploring opportunities in the following issues:

1. **Accelerate Access to Renewable Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa, including in support of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI).** The Signatories intend to work with key partners to identify opportunities for coordination in the implementation of commitments

under AREI and Power Africa activities, including France's and the United States of America's COP 21 commitment to help accelerate efforts to harness Africa's renewable energy potential and expand energy access in support of AREI's targets. This collaboration may include sharing and aggregating project information and pipeline and leveraging the Power Africa Tracking Tool. Such collaboration might include, but not be limited to, joint missions to countries where the Signatories are working together, as well as regular meetings between U.S. Embassy and French Embassy personnel in particular countries to advance the goals of this Declaration..

2. **Deepen Collaboration to Expand Electricity Access.** Each Signatory has technical skills, resources and expertise related to increasing access to modern electricity services. The Signatories intend to coordinate their efforts in this space, including by sharing their respective strategic approaches; coordinating support to integrated electrification planning, grid extension, mini-grids, off-grid solutions, and relevant institutions and stakeholders; and identifying opportunities to mobilize financial support by jointly leveraging their respective resources and those of other Power Africa partners. Specific geographical areas for collaboration on accelerating energy access could include Francophone West Africa, particularly Senegal, as well as Kenya.
3. **Increase Access to Transaction Advisors in West Africa.** The Signatories intend to share information regarding access to French experts who have the technical expertise to help advance existing energy projects in Power Africa's current pipeline and identify new projects. Leveraging French expertise would also enhance joint engagement with host government officials in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in francophone West Africa.
4. **Mutual Outreach to French and U.S. Companies.** The Signatories intend to seek to identify opportunities to increase outreach to French companies so that they, too, can take advantage of project opportunities with Power Africa to advance power deals in sub-Saharan Africa, and network of partners to identify and explore investment.
5. **Support Gender Inclusive Growth in the Power Sector.** Each Signatory has demonstrated its commitment to advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment. The Signatories intend to collaborate on efforts to comprehensively integrate gender considerations into their respective investments to the energy sector in sub-Saharan Africa with the dual goals of increasing women's participation within the energy sector and increasing women's access to electricity. To facilitate this collaboration, the Signatories intend to share their collective strategies on gender integration within the energy sector, and identify specific areas of collaboration through Power Africa's Women in African Power network and other activities to increase access.

The above list is illustrative. The Signatories' planned areas of collaboration are not intended to be limited to these activities. Where applicable, the Signatories intend to jointly mobilize and deploy their resources in support of the energy programs and projects they prioritize through this collaboration.

**PARAGRAPH II
GENERAL INTENTIONS OF THE SIGNATORIES**

1. The Signatories intend to carry out their respective commitments under this Declaration in conformity with their respective legal and policy authorities.
2. The Signatories intend to join efforts and to maintain a close working relationship in order to achieve the objectives of this collaboration.
3. The Signatories intend to keep each other informed, as appropriate, of relevant activities pertaining to this collaboration and to schedule meetings and consultations as needed in order to evaluate the progress of implementation of this Declaration and to introduce or modify activities, as deemed necessary.
4. The Signatories plan to respect each other's confidentiality policies, with the mutual understanding that the Signatories intend to publicize this alliance and its objectives without disclosing any information shared by one Signatory with another that it designated as confidential or proprietary.
5. Neither Signatory intends to use, in any manner whatsoever, the name, emblem, logo or official seal of the other Signatory, or any abbreviation thereof in connection with their business or otherwise, unless expressly authorized by the other Signatory in writing.
6. The Signatories intend to coordinate with each on all press releases or public statements regarding collaboration activities under this Declaration..
7. This Declaration is a legally nonbinding expression of the current intentions of the Signatories. It does not, nor is it intended to, create any binding, legal or financial rights for or obligations on either Signatory under domestic or international law.

**PARAGRAPH IV
NOTICES AND POINT OF CONTACT**

Any notices pursuant to this Declaration may be given in writing and delivered to the following points of contact, or at such other address as may be given from time-to-time:

(a) In the case of Power Africa:

Power Africa/U.S. Embassy/Pretoria
100 Totius Street, Groenkloof,
Pretoria, South Africa 0027
Attention: Power Africa Coordinator
Telephone: +27 12 452-2000

(b) In the case of the Government of the French Republic:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development
Directorate General for Globalization, Development and Partnerships
27, rue de la Convention
CS 91533
F – 75732 PARIS CEDEX 15
France
Attention: The Director General
Telephone: +33 1 43 17 53 53

[Signature page follows.]

SIGNED in duplicate at _____ on _____, 2016, in the English and French language.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH
REPUBLIC:**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

By:
Title:

By:
Title:

IN THE PRESENCE OF THE AGENCE FRANCAISE DE DEVELOPPEMENT:

By:
Title: