Joint Statement on
Implementing the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative

We support Africa’s leadership and commit to working closely with African partners to bridge the energy access gap and develop Africa’s renewable energy potential. In this context we welcome the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) as an Africa-owned and Africa-led inclusive effort to accelerate and scale-up the harnessing of the continent’s huge renewable energy potential. The Initiative aims to achieve at least 10 GW of new and additional renewable energy generation capacity by 2020, and acknowledges the renewable resource potential in Africa, which the IRENA Africa REmap 2030 estimates as sufficient to generate.

We reiterate the expressions of support to AREI from G7 Leaders in June 2015 and May 2016, and G20 energy ministers in October 2015, and support for renewable energy and energy access made by the G7, the G20, and the global community at COP21. We support this African initiative through a variety of mechanisms and settings and endorse its aim of strengthening coordination with existing initiatives and identifying where further work is needed to accelerate renewable energy deployment in Africa. We will work to mobilize existing financial institutions and improve the enabling environment for private investments in climate technologies, project development capacity, and regulatory framework and sector policies.

With strong African leadership, good progress was made in 2016. An Interim Delivery Unit is being established to facilitate AREI. In July 2016, African Heads of State and Governments at the 27th African Union Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, approved the governance structure of the initiative. Significant financial commitments 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. We reaffirm our commitment made at COP21 to mobilize at least 10 billion USD cumulatively from 2015 to 2020. Since COP21, new initiatives have been launched and existing efforts strengthened.

We have made significant progress toward our commitment, having cumulatively mobilized at least 4.3 billion USD in financial commitments to support renewable energy deployment and expand energy access in Africa in 2016. These commitments are estimated to contribute to the installation of 4.7 GW.

At the margins of the 2016 UN General Assembly and the 2016 World Bank / IMF Annual Meetings, several high level meetings on AREI took place showing that African countries and international partners remain committed to supporting AREI objectives. We appreciate the efforts undertaken by the AU Coordinator for renewable energy, the CAHOSCC Coordinator, the AU Commission Chairperson, the AfDB President, the AMCEN President and as well as by the COP21 President to assist all partners in pursuing the objectives of AREI in an inclusive and gender sensitive manner. We welcome the COP21 President’s report on the initiative. AREI brings together African states, regional institutions and international partners under a shared vision for an African future powered by renewable energy and with access for all.

We welcome the contributions from countries interested in helping Africa harness its renewable energy potential and improve access to sustainable energy for all.
Partners to the joint statement:

Canada
European Commission
France
Germany
Italy
Japan
Netherlands
Sweden
United Kingdom
United States of America

Open to more signatories.