SIXTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE AFRICA RENEWABLE INITIATIVE SELECTS PERMANENT DIRECTOR

The sixth meeting of the Board of Directors of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) was held on 1 July 2018 in Nouakchott, Mauritania on the margins of the African Union Summit.

AREI is a transformative Africa-led effort to accelerate, scale-up and harness the continent’s huge potential of renewable energy sources. The initiative focuses on building integrated solutions to the challenge of widening access to clean energy services, improving human well-being and setting African countries on a climate-friendly and sustainable development pathway.

The Board meeting achieved concrete results. Most notably, the Board unanimously agreed on the selection of the permanent Director of the Independent Delivery Unit, the implementing agency of the Initiative.

The permanent Director is, in accordance with the Board’s instructions for the recruitment and agreed terms of reference, a citizen of an African country, with well-established qualifications in terms of expertise in relevant subject matters to AREI, who possesses strong leadership qualities and has a solid track-record on engagement with multiple stakeholders.

Following the successful approval of the AREI Governing Instrument in the previous meeting, the Board furthermore acknowledged the need to finalise the transition to permanent hosting of AREI which is to be resolved by the next Board meeting.

On substantive matters, the IDU reported that one regional consultation had been held for Central Africa, and that the consultations for East, North, Southern and West Africa will be held in the coming months. Furthermore the IDU reported that essential staff was recruited in May to advance key activities such as the ex-post assessment of the first 24 projects submitted for attribution, and to accelerate the engagement with African countries for the development of their priority interventions (mapping, projects and programmes).

The current budget was extended until next Board meeting where, at the request of the European Union and international partners, the permanent Director is expected to present a multi-annual work plan and budget.

***

Through these decisions, AREI is firmly transitioning from its initial interim period towards full operationalisation and fulfilment of its ambitious goals to help African countries move to clean, renewable and climate-friendly energy, while simultaneously driving sustainable and economic development.