

## CONCEPT NOTE

*Scientific Workshop*

# **Sustainability in Ghana: Challenges and Opportunities**

Accra, 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2018

### **Achieving the Agenda 2030 in Africa: challenges and new models of collaboration**

The complexity of the challenges put forth by the 2030 Agenda requires an integrated vision for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Africa, in particular, must plan relevant specific solutions to support its economic and social development.

Thus, it is of critical importance to start an important reflection on the new scientific cooperation models that will support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Africa in the framework of the Paris agreement on climate change, with particular reference to key interventions focused on four main deeply interconnected issues: Climate change (SDG 13), Agriculture, food production and nutrition (SDG2), Access to water (SDG 6) and Access to Energy (SDG7).

The accomplishment of these goals can come only through an integrated approach developed both at international and local levels and able to promote international investments and knowledge and technological transfers. To achieve the sustainable development goals in Africa it is fundamental to strength human capital, infrastructure and innovation: a major challenge with potential collaboration opportunities that need the implementation of new models of cooperation in Africa.

### **Energy and sustainability in Ghana: a glimpse of the Nationally Determined Contributions**

Ghana has presented 31 mitigation and adaptation actions as part of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in response to the Lima Call for Action. Ghana's NDC includes a total of 20 mitigation measures and 11 adaptation measures in 7 priority sectors that will be implemented in a 10-year period (2020-2030). Of the 20 mitigation measures, 9 concern the country's energy system: 5 involve the growth of renewables up to 10% of the energy mix within 2030; an action concerning the promotion of household electricity in rural areas; 2 actions concerning a more widespread adoption of clean cooking and heating stoves at household level; and an action concerning doubling the efficiency of the country's electric power stations.

In the next ten years Ghana is estimated to need 22.6 billion-dollar investments from national and international public and private sources to finance the overall actions proposal. It is expected that



6.3 billion dollars can be mobilized from domestic sources while the remaining 16.3 billion dollars will have to be provided by international support.

## **The Scientific Workshop**

Against this background the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) - in partnership with United Nations University – Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) and the University of

Ghana – plans to organize an international scientific workshop aimed to focalize the main Ghanaian challenges and opportunities in achieving the Agenda 2030 Goals and to lay the foundation for more structural collaboration with relevant scientific stakeholders in the country and at a regional level.

The Workshop will examine the state of the art of the research related with the achieving the selected SDGs mentioned above in Ghana with a common goal of showcasing and discussing scientific results, local policy initiatives, specific case studies and presentation of the research activities of the local universities on the specific sustainable development topics.

The workshop aims to create and develop a common platform for scientific and institutional dialogue within FEEM and Ghanaian universities, research centers and think tanks dedicated to the sustainable development of the African continent, in compliance with Agenda 2030, aimed at initiating common studies, research and dissemination activities.

In this activity, leading national and international scientists, scholars and experts will be invited to present their studies on the ongoing economic, environmental and social processes and share their thoughts on future national scenario, providing proposals to collaborate in scientific research for in-depth investigation on issues relevant for the area, such as: obstacles and possible solutions for access to energy, the use of natural gas to strength the local market, development of non-conventional energy infrastructures and an analysis of local energy markets, main climate change adaptation issues, at a national and interregional level, urban resilience.

Specific topics will be addressed on the basis of such evidence, such as the orientation of the energy mix of the Country based on natural gas at urban and industrial levels, the implementation of policies aimed at increasing energy access through renewables at the rural level, the connection between population growth and the resilience of the cities.

The event will include representatives of the Ghanaian Government, universities and research centers involved with discussion of the data collected, main results and methodologies used.

## **The way forward: collaboration between FEEM and local scientific institutions**

FEEM, founded in 1989, is an Italian non-profit, policy-oriented, international research center and a think-tank producing high-quality, innovative, interdisciplinary and scientifically sound research on



sustainable development. It contributes to the quality of decision-making in public and private spheres through analytical studies, policy advice, scientific dissemination and high-level education. Thanks to its international network, FEEM integrates its research and dissemination activities with those of the best academic institutions and think tanks around the world.

Recognizing the key importance of the African continent for the future sustainability of the whole planet, FEEM considers a strong scientific collaboration with African stakeholders to be of key importance to address the complex bundle of topics related to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 in Africa.

In this framework, FEEM launched a program aimed at establishing and enhancing scientific collaboration with African academic institutions, researchers, policy makers and opinion makers to develop collaborative research, outreach activities and to foster scientific dialogue between African and European scientific institutions, with a specific focus on Sub-Saharan Africa research universities and think tank. With this program FEEM aspires to become a catalyst for ideas and new studies, implementing a vast international network of scientific and decision-making institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa, made up of universities, companies, research institutes, think tanks, inter-African forums and scientific associations.

The launch of scientific collaboration with Ghanaian stakeholders represents the first step of this ambitious program and lays the groundwork for strengthening the relationships with African academic system - particularly in the sub-Saharan region.

The partners involved are representatives of national and regional institutions, academia and civil society, counting among others: The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation, The Ghana Statistical Service, The University of Ghana, UNU-INRA , The Forestry Commission of Ghana, The National Development Planning Commission, The Ghana Climate Innovation Center, The Regional Institute for Population Studies, Innovations for Poverty Action Ghana, The African Research Universities Alliance, SNV.

The scientific research activities conducted by FEEM in Ghana in partnership with local institutions will produce descriptive reports on methodology, results and policy implications, which will be submitted to scientific journals and presented at conferences and events, both in Europe and in Africa. All the scientific research activities are intended for sharing skills and expertise with local opinion leaders, academics and policymakers on issues related to the nation sustainable development, providing local universities with opportunities for growth, training and connections with the international scientific community, also by leveraging opportunities in Europe and in Italy.