

## **SADC PROFILES ITS RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENDA AT SAIREC**

### **Introduction**

The Department of Energy, South Africa in collaboration with the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI), 21<sup>st</sup> Century Renewable Energy Network (REN21) and partners organized the International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC) from 04 to 07 October 2015. The theme of the conference was RE-Energising Africa and is the first one to be held in the Africa continent. The Minister of Energy, South Africa, Hon. Tina Joemat-Pettersson officially opened the conference. The Director of Infrastructure and Services, Mr Remigious Makumbe led the SADC Secretariat delegation on behalf of the Executive Secretary SADC in the conference.

The objective of the conference was to explore opportunities for renewable energy industry and share experiences with countries at the forefront of renewable energy deployment. The conference was also aimed to discuss the modalities of removing barriers against rollout of renewable energy globally while promoting innovation and sustainable development associated with this form of energy. The conference had a main program, exhibitions and side events where the SADC Secretariat participated effectively.

### **Launch of Status Reports on Renewable Energy**

The key highlights of the conference included the official launching of SADC Status Report on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency with assistance of the United Nations Industrialization Development Organization (UNIDO), REN21, UNIDO, Austrian Development Agency (ADA). The launching was attended by Ambassador of Austria to South Africa Her Excellency B. Walchshofer, the representatives of ADA Mr R. Zeiner, the Directorate of Infrastructure and Services and the representative of ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Renewable Energy (ECREEE). The Conference welcomed the report and was deemed a baseline report for Africa for future implementation of renewable energy programmes. The Conference also launched the Status Report on Renewable Energy for South Africa, and the conference hailed the strides Southern Africa has made with renewable energy programmes. This was deemed opportune given the need to implement Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) target within the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in particular SDG 7 on enhancement of access to modern energy and significant role of renewable energy in the global energy mix. The report will also enable the region to coordinate the programmes aimed at achieving Regional Renewable Energy goals.

### **Announcement of the Establishment of SACREEE**

The event was also utilized as appropriate platform for the official announcement of the establishment of SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) and selection of the Republic of Namibia as the Host Country to the international community, following approval by Council of Ministers on their meeting on 14-15

August 2015 held in Gaborone, Botswana. The Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy, for the Republic of Namibia Hon. Kornelia Shilunga made a welcome statement to the Conference as the Host Country of SACREEE. She expressed Namibia's appreciation to SADC Member States for showing confidence on her country to host SACREEE. The Deputy Minister thanked UNIDO and ADA for the initiative in supporting establishment of SSCREEE. She reiterated Namibia's commitment to host and support SACREEE in the interest of the SADC region and the continent. She further invited the entire International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) to render necessary support to the establishment and operationalization of SACREEE.