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Statement

The World Energy Council urges the G20 Leaders to address Energy Poverty

“Urgent action from the international community is required to address what is today an unacceptable situation”, says Professor Abubakar Sambo, World Energy Council Vice-Chair for Africa. “None of the Millennium Development Goals can be delivered without access to modern energy services for the 1.5 billion people who today live without it.”

The World Energy Council highlights the following key challenges: the lack of adapted financing mechanisms that can deliver on rural energy supply schemes; a lack of technical education and shortage of local skills for project initiation, implementation and system operation; the absence of easy local access to components for equipment maintenance and enhancement; the lack of understanding and political support necessary to replicate enduring local ownership models.

Christoph Frei, Secretary General of the World Energy Council says: “The World Energy Council fully supports the new initiative championed by the Canadian government which addresses Mother and Infant welfare in developing countries. Energy is needed to clean and pump water, refrigerate medicines, operate medical devices, lights and other services to improve maternal care and children’s health. Rural communities account for 85% of energy poor. International financial institutions and also most governments are focusing on grid-expansion and densely populated urban areas. This leaves the rural poor perpetually exposed and in the dark.”

A global effort is needed for the development and implementation of technologies and business models. To help ensure a sustainable energy future, the World Energy Council stands ready to provide energy expertise and support to the G20 governments. Concrete solutions already exist. The Council is now facilitating the development of a rural electrification action plan in developing countries, through a global fund for rural electrification that will be

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capable of delivering the loans required (3-30 million dollars) at the village level. It is estimated that around 1 trillion dollars of financing is required to eradicate energy poverty worldwide.

The issue of energy poverty will be one of the main focus areas at the forthcoming World Energy Congress in Montréal, 12-16 September 2010 where the world energy community will convene and will combine efforts to define a Global Action Plan.

Statement

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The World Energy Council is the only truly global and inclusive forum for thought-leadership and tangible engagement committed to our sustainable energy future. A not-for-profit body established in 1923, the Council represents today over 3000 member organisations in over 90 countries, including organisations in public & private sectors, developing & industrialised countries, producing & consuming countries and covering all technologies of the energy value chain. The flagship event of the Council is the World Energy Congress, which brings together over 3000 industry and government leaders every 3 years. The next Congress will take place in Montréal on September 12-16, 2010.

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