



***'Luanda Declaration'***  
of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG)  
*Atlantic Basin Initiative*

***Towards a Atlantic Charter for Sustainable Energy***

Meeting in Luanda, Angola, on June 23-24, 2013, we adopt this Declaration and call for the creation of an Atlantic Energy Forum to study, articulate and facilitate the implementation of an Atlantic Charter for Sustainable Energy.

The Atlantic Basin is now a central energy reservoir for the world and will become even more so in coming decades. Atlantic Basin countries are increasingly bound together through the production, trade, transit and consumption of energy. Yet no framework exists to allow for deepening transnational energy collaboration, essential for tackling pressing problems of energy access and sustainable development in the Atlantic Basin.

Understanding our character as a private group, we embrace the notion of a cooperative and collaborative process towards sustainable energy development in the Atlantic Basin and affirm that energy policies of Atlantic Basin countries should be pursued and implemented in respect of the principles set out in this declaration.

We are aware of the adoption, signing and ratification of the Energy Charter Treaty in 1994 (and its subsequent Amendments in 1998) by some 62 states, including the countries of the European Union (EU), and take note of the successes and failures of the Energy Charter Process, and of the challenges posed to it by the high price environment and energy nationalism of recent years.

We seek to give deeper and more meaningful expression to a new impulse for pan-Atlantic collaboration, based on mutual respect and confidence. With this Declaration we strive to promote a new model for long-term energy cooperation in the Atlantic Basin, articulated upon a market economy framework, based on mutual assistance and the principle of international non-discrimination, and taking into account perspectives of both consumers and producers.

We are committed to promote freer movement of energy products and services and to develop efficient energy infrastructure to facilitate the deepening of market-based trade in energy in the Atlantic space.

We are committed to extend access to modern energy services to all people within the Atlantic Basin, taking account of the particular challenges posed by climate-resilient sustainable development. We are also committed to eliminating illicit trade in energy.

We are further committed to promote access to capital markets by companies and nationals of Atlantic Basin countries for the purpose of financing trade in energy materials and products, and for the purpose of financing investment in economic activity, in a legally secure environment, in Atlantic Basin energy sectors.

We call for the modernization of Atlantic Basin energy sectors and more effective coordination of regulatory regimes. Atlantic countries share mutual interests in promoting market-oriented reforms to facilitate energy supply, distribution and consumption, and environmental protection, including adaptation to, and mitigation of, current fossil-fuel and land-use-linked drivers of climate change. Taking advantage of the complementary features of the diverse energy sectors within the Atlantic Basin will benefit the Atlantic and world economies.

We recognize state sovereignty and sovereign rights over energy resources and are aware of obligations under major relevant multilateral agreements, of the wide range of international energy cooperation, and of the extensive activities by existing international organizations in the energy field.

Determined to establish closer, mutually beneficial commercial relations, to promote appropriate energy and climate investments, and to create a favorable climate for new enterprises, investments and technologies through the pursuit of both market principles and those of transnational governance in the field of energy, we are committed to fostering private initiative and recognize the role of entrepreneurs, operating within a transparent and equitable legal framework, in promoting economic and technological cooperation among Atlantic Basin countries and private sector agents.

**With these principles and perspectives in mind, we call for the creation of an Atlantic Energy Forum (AEF) and charge it with these overarching goals:**

- **To facilitate and develop Atlantic Basin trade in energy;**
- **To improve energy efficiency and access, environmental protection, and corporate social responsibility in Atlantic energy sectors;**
- **To develop an Atlantic Charter for Sustainable Energy, that defines the terms by which such cooperative efforts may be pursued with the goal of securing a sustainable energy future for all, guided by the principles and objectives outlined in this Declaration.**

## **Atlantic Energy Forum (AEF) Goals**

### 1. Facilitate and develop Atlantic Basin trade in energy.

The Atlantic Energy Forum (AEF) should work to facilitate and develop Atlantic Basin trade in energy, consistent with major relevant multilateral agreements such as GATT, to be achieved by means of:

- an open and competitive market for energy products, materials, equipments and services;
- removal of technical, administrative and other barriers to trade in energy and associated equipment, technologies and energy-related services;
- collaborative efforts to elimination of illicit trade in energy;
- improved access to energy resources, and exploration and development thereof on a commercial basis;
- access on commercial terms to technologies for the exploration, development and use of energy resources
- modernization, renewal and rationalization by industry of services and installations for the production, conversion, transport, distribution and use of energy;
- best possible access to capital, including public-private partnership financial conditions, particularly through appropriate existing financial institutions;
- further development and interconnection of energy transport infrastructure within the Atlantic Basin, and improved access to such infrastructure for international transit purposes.

### 2. Improve energy efficiency, energy access, environmental protection and corporate social responsibility in Atlantic energy sectors

The Atlantic Energy Forum (AEF) should work to improve energy efficiency, energy access, environmental protection, and corporate social responsibility throughout the Atlantic energy space, with consideration to:

- mechanisms and conditions for using energy as economically and efficiently as possible, including, as appropriate, regulatory and market-based instruments;
- mechanisms and conditions for improving energy access and eliminating energy poverty;
- possible collaborative frameworks to promote corporate social responsibility on the part of actors and agents in Atlantic Basin energy sectors;
- promotion of energy mixes designed to minimize negative environmental consequences in cost-effective ways, including through:
  - market-oriented energy prices reflective of environmental costs and benefits;
  - efficient and coordinated policy measures related to energy;
  - use of new renewable energies and other clean technologies;
  - achieving and maintaining a high level of nuclear safety and ensuring effective cooperation in this field.

### 3. Create an Atlantic Charter for Sustainable Energy.

The Atlantic Energy Forum (AEF) should work to facilitate the creation of an Atlantic Charter for Sustainable Energy defining the terms of joint or coordinated Atlantic Basin action in the following fields, taking into account the goals described above:

- co-ordination of Atlantic Basin energy policies -- within the framework of state sovereignty and sovereign rights over energy resources -- based on the principle of non-discrimination and on market-oriented price formation, taking due account of environmental concerns;
- formulation of stable and transparent legal frameworks creating conditions for the development of energy resources;
- liberalization of trade in energy, and open access to markets;
- promotion and protection of energy investments;
- dissemination of relevant best practices, safety principles and guidelines;
- promotion of energy efficiency, energy access, corporate social responsibility and environmental protection;
- mutual access to technical and economic data, consistent with proprietary rights;
- research, technological development, innovation and dissemination;
- education and training.

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