

I'm Andries Gryffroy, member of the Flemish Parliament and the Belgian Senate. Personally I've worked and had my own business for more than 30 years in EnergyManagement. Nowadays, as a politician and with my experience I try to move things forward in the energy world.

In March 2018, Parliamentarians from around the world gathered in Geneva, Switzerland, for the General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an organisation founded by MP's. During this assembly we adopted a resolution, unanimous (even with the 115 amendments from 25 different countries), drafted and finalized by my Vietnamese Colleague Mr Duong and myself, called : "Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDG's, especially on renewable energy". During the draft session, IRENA was also involved in the debates and was member of the panel

While the institution has been around since 1889, this meeting in march 2018 had – for the first time – discussed and adopted a resolution focused on deploying clean, affordable, reliable and sustainable forms of energy, which is recognised as a key pillar of the global sustainable development agenda.

Though non-binding, IPU resolutions are drafted & adopted by parliaments around the world, distributed at the United Nations and do influence legislation around the world. This resolutions identifies what Parliaments can and should do.

Called '***Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy***', the resolution draws also attention to the potential of off-grid and mini-grid renewable energy projects (including small-scale electricity generators converting power from renewable energy sources) for boosting the implementation of SDG 7 in developing countries. It encourages parliaments to facilitate the risk management needs of small local projects, and that they are taken into account when engaging the private sector, and encourages the creation of facilitating legal framework and incentives for public-

private partnerships in order to speed up the transition towards more sustainable forms of energy production and consumption.

Why the idea of this resolution :

Nowadays, about 1.1 billion people have no access to the power grid. In the case business-as-usual we still have in 2040 more than 600 million people who have no access to electricity.

Now they have to cope with unhealthy wood stoves, dangerous kerosene lanterns and loud, environment unfriendly gas and diesel generators. Moreover these types of energy are very costly or highly labour intensive. Solar power and power of small windmills, however, is very quickly becoming cheaper than oil and gas. It gives these people the opportunity to provide in basic needs such as lighting and drinking water, and in the creation of local employment, without CO2 emissions or pollution. Solar and wind for example has become so cheap mostly thanks to the developed countries. In most of Europe, Japan and the US, renewable energy has been widely subsidized over the past decades and so at the moment the technology is beyond his point of innovation. This has resulted in massive investments by businesses and homeowners, causing a rapid increase in production and decreasing the cost. As a result, for example, studies show that, with solar power, the cost of energy in Africa in off-grid areas can drop by 25% per household per annum. However in thinly populated areas, it is not financially viable to develop high voltage energy distribution networks where everyone can be connected to. The alternative is installing solar home systems (including battery) per village or even per house. Even though each of them are small investments, the search for suitable funding is not simple. Investors are less keen on such projects because they have little insight into the financial risks. The cost of assessing the viability of these projects are relatively higher than for larger projects. Another stumbling block is sometimes the political instability or political risk. Investors don't want to lose their investment. Therefore, they demand for example clear agreements on policy framework and

the level of electricity rates. Projects will start when the investor has obtained the express support from the local population or the government involved.

Green energy is part of everyday life in developed countries, but unfortunately this is not always obvious elsewhere in the world, and certainly not in remote areas. For the remote areas is the big challenge : how we can get everyone connected to the grid. Off-grid renewable energy technologies can offer a power system which is : cost-effective – environmentally sustainable – reliable – resilient – affordable. These technologies can trigger rural economic development, increasing incomes, creating jobs. In summary : would create more sustainable environments.

Some examples of this challenge of remote areas:

Marocco : irrigation of remote areas, needs electricity for pumps

S.E. Asia : container with PV and battery

Vietnam : fresh water irrigation, problem of salination of the Mekong Delta with a desalination installation

Peru – Nepal : small micro waterturbines

Which are now the highlights of this resolution about engaging the private sector in implementing the SDG's, especially on renewable energy, and especially enabling energy access for everyone

This resolution strongly urges parliaments to raise public awareness on this issue and calls upon equal access to clean and sound energy, to all members of society, including the vulnerable sections of the population.

We have to recognize the important role of the private sector, but also enlighten the private sector on its own responsibility in SDG's implementation. We have to incentive public-private partnerships to speed up the transition towards a more sustainable system of energy production and consumption.

We have

- to build, and supervise governments in following, the road map to accelerate the energy transition,
- to adopt national development strategies in which the engagement of the private sector as stakeholder in SDG implementation is identified, and urges states agencies to recognize the pivotal role of the private sector in implementing the SDG's
- to reorient financial markets and consider suitable risk-sharing partnerships
- to support the development of a transparent and competitive electricity market so it will ensure that the production of electricity from renewable energy sources is self-supporting. So you will need real-time energy measurements to facilitate cost-reflective billing and transparent revenue models
- to issue suitable incentive policies for the private sector, particularly small investment in small projects, in accordance with the respective socio-economic conditions of the country but without distorting functioning markets
- proposes more exchange of knowledge between countries in order to promote the transfer of high-technology with more incentives
- to spread awareness through education

Dear colleagues, we all go home in the next days, so you can wonder what can I already do tomorrow to engage the private sector in implementing the SDG's, especially on renewable energy?

Successful implementation of preliminary takeaways of the last 2 speakers is only possible when everyone is involved. So never forget : you need to engage everyone (private sector for funding and innovation, governments from local and national level - and parliaments - for policies and legacy, and the consumers), because you need them all for your energy transition.

You have the possibility with this resolution, you have the power to create roadmaps in cooperation with the government and all stakeholders, monitor them, encourage the participation of parliaments and their members in specialized organisations and forums on renewable energy, for example with IRENA. Establish with these centers of excellence, knowledge networks to facilitate exchanges on best practices and enable knowledge transfer, including on policy, technology and finance.

Take the opportunity, tell your people, that we want to ensure that access to affordable – reliable - sustainable energy is inclusive, for all members of society. And that we want to engage the private sector in implementing the SDG's, specially the 7th SDG, to develop rural economies, increase income, create jobs, save lives and create more sound environments.