

WELCOME REMARKS BY H.E. DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA DURING THE SUMMIT ON CLEAN COOKING IN AFRICA CONVENED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY, HELD IN PARIS, FRANCE, 14TH MAY 2024

Excellency Co-Chairs,

Excellency Heads of State and Government,

Good morning!

It is fitting that we are convened in this UNESCO hall today; both because, clean cooking concerns science, technology and innovation; and because Tanzania enjoys a historic commitment to environmental conservation while promoting societal well-being. With protected areas encompassing one-third of its land, including seven World Heritage Sites; with

clean cooking, Tanzania's story of conservation, harmony and responsibility continues.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Clean cooking is about a just energy transition, and it is also about positively impacting our people, our planet and our environment. It should therefore be a priority agenda for Africa. I in this regard, commend the IEA for declaring 2024 the 'Year of Clean Cooking', and for convening this Summit. I also commend Dr. Birol and the co-chairs for their unwavering dedication, and I appreciate everyone here for honouring the invitation to discuss on ensuring clean cooking access for all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Currently, clean cooking access rates globally range from over 60% in Central and Southern Asia, to over 80% in Eastern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. To the contrary, Africa, the continent with the highest population growth rates, and with all necessary natural resources, ranks the least in access to clean cooking. Over 900 million Africans rely on unclean cooking solutions, a fact which contributes to environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and related health hazards.

As we see it, clean cooking in Africa has three dimensions. **Foremost**, is the lack of access to adequate, affordable and sustainable solutions. Many households, predominantly rural, struggle to adopt clean cooking solutions due to high costs, limited availability, and insufficient supply chains.

The second dimension is lack of global attention. Insufficient funding and a lack of awareness about the economic opportunities within the clean cooking industry, that hamper efforts to scale interventions. Moreover, development of the needed solutions is limited by insufficient research and innovation.

The third factor is absence of **smart partnerships** to ensure clean cooking access for all. Emphasis must be put on realizing accessible, affordable and tailor-made solutions, and on sustainable responses through development of clean cooking fuels and technologies in Africa. The key role of gas in a just energy transition, has to be recognized.

Excellencies,

Amidst these challenges, central to Tanzania's own commitment is delivering on our recently-launched ten-year Clean Cooking National Strategy, which aims to ensure that **80%** of Tanzanians use clean cooking solutions by 2034. A National Fund will be established to support clean cooking, and the Prime Minister will provide High-Level Oversight of implementation of the strategy.

Given the disproportionate burden faced by women, Tanzania will continue to advocate the African Women Clean Cooking Support Programme to not only address the environmental and health impacts, but also, empower women as agents of change within their communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Successfully advancing the clean cooking agenda in Africa would help protect the environment by increased use, development and access to clean cooking solutions. Increased access would provide women more opportunities to engage in other productive economic activities, arresting cycles of poverty and inequality. On the other hand, reduced use of biomass fuels would slash exposure rates to toxic fumes, and save lives. We are confident that this is achievable, and the successes of Brazil, India and Indonesia serve as prime examples of what is attainable. In Africa, Ghana stands as an example with lessons to share.

Excellencies,

This Summit underscores our shared commitment to advancing the clean cooking agenda. Central to this, are

support mechanisms and policy measures that provide a framework towards universal adoption of affordable clean cooking fuels and technologies across the continent. The sustainability of these measures relies on the ecosystem that would mainstream those measures into existing development and environmental financing facilities, and, integrating this agenda in key multilateral platforms.

To guarantee resources for clean cooking, I call for a generous next replenishment by fund donors, specifically, of the African Development Fund that includes \$12 billion for clean cooking, so as to reach a financial target that the International Energy Agency projects require for clean cooking for all by 2030.

We thus welcome your pledges of policy actions, smart partnership and support in ensuring clean cooking access for all.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.