

**United States Position**  
**African Development Bank Investment in Lake Turkana Wind Project**  
**(Kenya)**

**April 26, 2013**

Addressing Kenya's acute energy needs will be critical if the country is to quicken the pace of its economic development and meet the development goals of its "Vision 2030" and the Least Cost Power Development Plan. As noted in the project document, Kenya's power sector is heavily dependent on hydropower, which is vulnerable to declining rainfall. Furthermore, current installed capacity barely meets demand, which continues to grow strongly at 12 percent per annum. Thus, the immediate need is to broaden sources of generation, specifically renewables, and extend the grid to the 85 percent of the population currently without electricity.

This investment should help Kenya to diversify its reliance away from hydropower and reduce the need for costly diesel fuel back-ups. This investment, which will be Africa's largest wind power project, could have a strong demonstration effect for other renewable public-private partnership projects in Africa's power infrastructure development.

The United States appreciates that the project is expected to benefit local business and industrial development in what is an impoverished, rural area and in the areas along the roads that will be upgraded as part of the project. In addition, the United States notes that the sponsor has made commitments to improve basic infrastructure, health, and education services in the project area.

As with many infrastructure projects, the potential for environmental and social impacts can be significant. However, the United States is confident that if the mitigation measures are implemented as envisioned, the risks from this project should be minimized.

Finally, the United States would like to note that to help address these challenges, the United States is providing technical assistance to the Kenyan utility to help it to effectively integrate and manage intermittent renewable energy into the national grid. With these comments, the United States wishes to be recorded as supporting the project.