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# Alternative EU Marshall Plan with Africa

## Part two

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## Part Two:

### 1. Factors that eliminate poverty in the Sub-Saharan African Continent

#### 1.1 SDGs/Agenda 2030: Aims and Objectives

Sub-Sahara Africa's challenges on poverty and hunger and their elimination and minimization are elaborated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals SDG. The aims and objectives of SDG are as follows: elimination of poverty in SDG1, poverty elimination (SDG 1); hunger (SDG 2); education (SDG 4); health (SDG 3); gender equalities (SDG 5) clean Water and sanitation (SDG 6) decent work and economic growth (SDG 8) sustainable Cities & communities (SDG 11) climate Change (SDG 13) life on the land (SDG 15) clean energy (SDG 7) peace, justice & strong Institutions (SDG 16) reduced Inequalities (SDG 10)

#### 1.2 Sustainable Development Goals and its aspirations on women and children

The SDGs are 17 international development goals drawn from actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was unanimously adopted by global member countries to combat poverty, hunger, illiteracy, disease, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women. The first step of focus for the women to formulate a practical policy is to reflect on the SDGs on women and children and the meaning of poverty in African societies.

Almost all African nations and other 189 Heads of States of the world met in September 2000 to sign this most important MDG document. SDGs, a continuation of MDGs should be guidelines to formulate social and economic policy that spearheads development in our country. Policy implementation will mostly focus on the above-mentioned SDGs in conjunction with the currency and benevolence of the EU Marshall Plan with Africa.

### 2. The aims and objectives of the EU Marshall Plan with Africa <sup>1</sup>BMZ

The essence of the EU Marshall Plan with Africa are: New forms of cooperation, new rules of cooperation and new dimensions of financing.

The Pillars of the EU Marshall Plan with Africa: economic activities, trade, and employment: Peace, security, and stability. democracy, rule of law and human rights

Foundations of the EU Marshall with Africa: Food and agriculture, Protecting resources, Energy and infrastructure, Health, education, and social protection.

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<sup>1</sup> BMZ German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

The following chapters are practical recommendations for the EU Marshall Plan with Africa to implement sustainable development mostly in rural communities. The uplifting of the lives of people mostly in rural communities will be the cornerstone of this EU Marshall Plan with Africa. Fragile communities will be empowered and strengthened, poverty minimised, sustainable and decent communities stabilize reducing unnecessary internal and external migration adversely.

### 3. EU Marshall Plan with Africa intervention to community development

Villages in Africa are normally scattered in areas where there is a source of water which is usually a river. The distance from one village to another is usually about 2 to 3 kilometres. A holistic approach to effect sustainable development in diverse populations will need collaboration and consensus among key stakeholders with the regional government departments to give guidelines as to how a growth-point rural communities could be set up. Community development is effective if several villages resettle together to make an inclusive unit or a community development centre sharing social amenities in health, education, and agricultural activities.

The term growth-points is a new term known used in Zimbabwe and it denotes communal settlements designated for social and economic development. Such centres, as identified by the government, would receive public sector investment (in this case an EU Marshall Plan with Africa funding) to improve infrastructure development in these rural settings. These growth points have developed significantly in several other areas of mutual interest realizing pioneer projects based on those communities that have benefited from growth-point set-up. There is no need to invent the wheel if it is already invented in the <sup>2</sup>SADC regions.

The investment will be directed at bringing several villages together to form a single community whereby the community will have the benefits of water reticulations, all-weather roads, electricity supply, sewage facilities, communal agricultural equipment and machinery and many other services. Most women have already left the rural areas and most of them have found themselves living slum dwellings. There is an urgent need to persuade women to live in decent and permanent housing and to turn their lives around so that they can live a life full of

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<sup>2</sup> SADC Southern African Development Community

hope and dignity. Such life transformations can be realised by sustainable projects in rural and semi-urban community areas.

The most significant Human Development Indicator, HDI, that strikes anybody visiting an African village is the dire need for alternative and “cleaner energy use”. This means wood-burning must be replaced by utilising cleaner energy. The burning of wood as the sole energy source is well known to cause chronic and acute respiratory infections, increased infant mortality, pulmonary tuberculosis, lung cancer and deaths among children under the age of 5 years.

#### 4. Intervention of the EU Marshall Plan with African Plan: regarding sustainable food security.

Founding principles of the EU Marshall Plan with Africa: Food and agriculture: Poverty is rural. Poverty has the face of a woman; therefore poverty is feminine. Much as agriculture is the key to economic growth, it is also a major key to alleviating and eradicating poverty in rural communities. The rural population in Sub-Saharan Africa constitutes 75% of all Africans. According to Per Pinstrup-Andersen and Rajul Pandya-Lorch, cooperation in the form of technology transfer and expertise is needed to facilitate agricultural investment: Yield-increasing crop varieties, including improved varieties and hybrids that are more draught-tolerant and pest-resistant together with improved livestock.

Yield-increasing and environmentally friendly production technology such as small-scale irrigation and irrigation management systems and techniques such as integrated management are the basic infrastructure needs of rural communities. Reliable, timely and reasonably priced access to appropriate inputs such as tools, fertilizer and, when needed, pesticides, and the credit often needed to purchase them could be the challenges communities have to overcome: Strong extensive services and technical assistance to communicate timely information about developments in technology and sustainable resource management to farmers, and to relay farmer concerns to researchers: Improved rural infrastructure and effective markets: Free primary education, health care and good nutrition for all.

#### 5. Intervention of the EU Marshall Plan with Africa: regarding education & SDG

For a child to be able to learn better, food security and adequate nourishment must be guaranteed. Unfortunately, in rural Africa children are affected by hunger and malnutrition that seriously affects their learning at school. Food security must be addressed to give rural populations the capacity to improve food securities and to overcome hunger, poverty, and illiteracy. Fighting for free primary education for all children on the continent is of paramount importance. Social justice is a necessary reality for all Africans and can be achieved through eradicating illiteracy on the whole continent. Compulsory and free primary and secondary education for all children of all ages is to be realized. Development of educational programmes to eradicate poverty in African society is also a target area for community development. A continent endowed with vast natural resources, free education to all children is possible. All countries in Africa should respect this universal call to implement the SDG 4

The EU Marshall Plan with Africa supports expanding technical and vocational education and training that meets local demands. Africa lacks infrastructure facilities and equipment and, above all, skilled professionals, and administrative staff to provide efficient academic education to growing children in educational centres. The emphasis is on primary education as this creates the basis for further training relevant to rural community development. Community development comes with a package. Included in the package are durable housing, clinics, and school infrastructures, adjacent to the community growth points, reachable to growing children, skilled professionals to run the schools, secondary education within reach of growth points, technical and vocational training institutions to give professionalism in agriculture, efficient services in wastewater and sanitation, energy infrastructure. Technical and vocational training saves many aspects of community development it will help commercialize agricultural production and will therefore give value chains to agricultural products, to service and maintain roads and energy infrastructures, and servicing domestic and industrial wastewater treatment will be possible.

Advancement and economic empowerment of women and girls by eradicating illiteracy and poverty is to be the primary objective. Teaching women and girl's ICT knowledgeably and comfortably to enhance their knowledge of agriculture and health; how to protect the environment; and of how to fully understand their human rights as women and girl-children is of paramount importance. In any sustainable development, education and health go hand in glove.

*The goal is an Africa that will be amongst the best performers in global quality of life through the provision of basic services in education whose human capital will be fully developed as its most precious resource (Agenda 2063)*

## 6. Intervention of the EU Marshall Plan with Africa regarding health.

Africa bears the burden of a ¼ of global diseases but has only a 2% of world doctors. The international community is finally aware of the harrowing state of health in Africa and of its battle to combat such major health challenges as malaria and water borne diseases such as cholera, dysentery, diarrhoea. Other health issues are Ebola, HIV-AIDS, maternity mortality rates etc. The list is endless.

Africa is struggling to meet basic standards of care. The Sub-Saharan countries should pursue vertical programs that target specific diseases and horizontal efforts to strengthen health care systems in rural communities. Facilities that offer primary care in rural areas are small clinics and dispensaries. Usually they deal with vertical cases. Health centres are referral centres that deal with acute health cases. There is a great demand for such health institutions in community development centres which are increasingly necessary. Setting up sustainable and durable health infrastructures is of vital importance. The EU Marshall Plan with Africa will assist in technology transfer and much needed funding to set up durable health infrastructures.

The basic problem that Sub-Saharan African countries face is the shortage of health workers. Poor wages and salaries drive the push-pool-effect of migration. In most cases, skilled workers migrate to developed countries for better payment and higher standards of living. A correctional approach to this will mean giving health workers liveable wages that will encourage them to stay in their own community environment. Sustainable investments are needed in leveraging training programs in the health sector, improving knowledge skills and resources, regular and decent payment for workers. Low salaries and supply levels lead to low morale that also leads to low productivity and retention rates, creating sustainable health systems by increasing funding in the health sectors, better management capabilities with the use of information technology. ICT can improve systems supply chains; ensure enough drugs and equipment which are available on demand. Better management also produces better collaboration and consensus among key stakeholders.

It has been known for years that African health system is ailing. Understanding the link between health and economic development is of vital importance. The health sector, just like education, is one of the key factors in achieving sustainable economic development. In this complicated context, the EU Marshall Plan with Africa initiatives will assist in giving rural

communities the much-needed sustainable projects necessary to make life in rural areas more attractive. If rural areas are properly developed, there will be an automatic decongestion of towns and cities. Most women will find rural life a better option than squatting in outskirts of towns and ghettos like dwellings.

## 7. Intervention of the EU Marshall Plan with Africa: regarding clean water & sanitation and clean energy use

Access to clean water and sanitation is extremely uneven in Sub-Saharan Africa. This varies from 3, 2% in Somalia to 99% in Namibia: Sanitation ranges from 0, 2% in Chad to 100% in Gambia. There are about 138 surveys that were conducted in 41 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa between 1991 and 2012. Their findings were as follows. It is 2 to 8 times more likely that the rural population used improved water sources and sanitation. It is about 2 to 80 times more the population will defecate in open places: (Bush toilets).

The WHO and UNICEF concurred that more than 2 billion people or 1/3 of the world population will remain without improved sanitation by 2015. According to the WHO only 69% of the world's population has access to clean water and sanitation. This in fact, means that the MDG threshold level of 75% was a pie in the sky. Clean water and sanitation must be taken seriously because inadequate clean water and sanitation can adversely affect public health in both rural and urban areas and, subsequently affect economic growth.

It is necessary to develop the concept of compulsory lavatories in rural areas to improve hygiene and good sanitation, thus reducing water borne diseases. Making clean water available equally in cities and rural areas should be a priority for all governments. There should be governments programmes to persuade citizens to abandon slum dwelling and relocate to rural areas where there will be community development projects with improved living standards. It is vital to have a holistic approach to communities, benefiting from education, health, clean water, and sanitation. Intensive agriculture and permanent home structures uplift peoples' living conditions. Water and sanitation will be made available to benefit the entire community setup. rather than attempting to service scattered, individual village households.

## 8. Intervention of the EU Marshall Plan with Africa: regarding democracy and good governance.

The Sustainable Development Goals on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions combine the following: It is important to address the threat of international homicide, of violence against

women and children, of human trafficking and of sexual violence to promote peaceful, inclusive societies. These pave the way for the provision of access to justice for all and for building effective accountable institutions at all levels. Many people in Sub-Saharan Africa are suffering from inadequacies in the rule of law. They also suffer from exclusion from political processes, inefficient administrative structures, and corruption. Every year Africa loses 50 billion US dollars through illicit financial practices, draining its various national economies of vital capital.

Africa should commit itself to the rule of law. Investors will only invest in countries where there is peace and security, the key elements to economic growth. The rule of law and development has a significant interrelation and are mutually reinforcing. This is essential to achieving sustainable development at national and international levels. Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa should be able to build strong institutions to effectively fight corruption by using their independent judiciary institutions. Corruption, bribery, theft, and tax evasion cost the continent trillions of US dollars. This is money that should be used to fund social protection institutions such as education, health, and community development. The aims of the rule of Agenda 2063 are: *Africa of good governance, democracy, and respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law. (Agenda 2063)*

It is important to nurture and maintain a working relationship with democratic governments such as the **UN** agencies, the **OAU**, **UNDFEM**, the **EU** and other relevant organisations. It is also necessary to publicise activities and services, to document plans of action through publishing in the local and international press. A strong commitment to empowering women, by building sustainable communities to improve their lives, is of paramount importance. Empowering the women of Sub Saharan Africa to help conquer their underdeveloped way of life would give them the experience to improve their communities. It is vital to address such issues as poverty, literacy, education for women and girls, human rights, and economic empowerment of women in the context of good governance, peace and security for all citizens.

## 9. Intervention of the EU Marshall Plan with Africa regarding climate change

To quote the EU Marshall Plan with Africa verbatim: "Africa and Europe are neighbouring continents bound together by a shared history. We are responsible for determining the course of our shared future. How successful we manage the major challenges that lie ahead of us will not decide only the future of African continent but also the future of Europe. These challenges

can be tackled successfully by taking our cooperation to a new dimension that benefits both continents.” Taken from the Marshall Plan Project Group <sup>3</sup>BMZ

Africa is a rich continent and has vast agricultural land resources. However, 43% of the African continent consists of dry land which is none productive for agricultural purposes. The Sahara Desert which is about half the size of USA is not being put into use. Research found that Africa’s dry lands have huge reserves of underground water in some of the driest places in North African countries: Libya, Algeria, Egypt, and Sudan notwithstanding the Sahara Desert. Writing in the journal Environmental Research Letters, it quotes, *the reserves of groundwater across the continent are 100 times the amount found on the surface*. This research finding could provide a buffer against the effects of climate change.

*Dry research suggests that the biggest reserves of underground water are found near the Sahara Desert!* <sup>4</sup>

The discovery of groundwater reserves under parts of Africa is extremely positive, but the challenge is how to make it available for use because the ground water levels are deep, up to about 100 to 250 metres below the ground. The African Marshall Plan could be of great assistance in finding solutions to sustainable extraction of ground water to boost agriculture and other domestic uses in African communities.

Turning the Sahara Desert into a green belt “once more” should never be seen to benefit only African communities. Such an elaborate scientific and technological transfer of knowledge can give our European neighbours good job opportunities and be part of the combined cooperation between the two continents: a cooperation that can instil confidence between Africans and Europeans. Our combined inability to know how climate change is going to affect us globally in the future makes us think it wise to make combined efforts to work together.

Climate change should be put on the same pedestal as the other two world wars of the recent past. Climate change or global warming could provoke mass movements of people in search of agricultural land in the event of vast territories being submerged and claimed by the oceans!

The Sahara Desert has another potential that can radically increase interest the European cooperation, the Sahara's wind, and solar energy potential. Changes in energy use from fossil fuels to renewable energy are an important and necessary step towards combating climate

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<sup>3</sup> BMZ German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

<sup>4</sup> Taken from 'Conversation UK': Sept 6, 2018

change. The Sahara Desert has energy answers to future global energy solutions. A science research study published by Yan Liu and colleagues suggests the possibility of turning some parts of the Sahara into a giant solar farm that could provide energy to entire regions of the Earth.

*A new pact on the future between Europe and Africa: "European countries can play a role in tackling these massive challenges by offering knowledge, innovations and technology advances and getting directly involved."* Taken from the Marshall Plan Project Group BMZ

Scientists have made predictions that wind turbines and solar panels could make the zones where they are installed warmer and rainier, turning some parts of the Sahara green for the first time in 4,500 years. An Afro-European project of such magnitude, placed in the Sahara, would be the perfect site for transmitting clean and renewable energy both to Africa, Europe, and the wider world at large.

The Marshall Plan Group BMZ notes that: *"Financing such projects we need to develop a common international strategy and take a coordinated approach."* High-profile projects such as water sources and renewable energy in North African countries can strengthen regional integration in the Mediterranean region, creating millions of job opportunities for young Africans in the region and in Sub-Saharan Africa. *"Let us put an end to individual countries doing their own thing in Africa and come together to join forces with Europe, a paradigm shift from being donor recipient countries to economic, technical, social, cultural partners and neighbours who share the negative effects of global warming and climate change."*

## 10. Conclusions

The wheel was invented long ago by scholars regarding poverty eradication on the African continent. We just need to implement the results of ground-breaking research that has already been accomplished by renowned global scholars. Answers to Africa's challenges are out there to be put into practice. In the light of all these ills which societies are currently experiencing on the African continent, the list is exceedingly long, it is pertinent for women to reflect and define what type of rural community development they really hope for. The EU Marshall Plan with Africa is a golden opportunity to engage with our European neighbours on the same page at eye-level contact and together embrace challenges of poverty, hunger, and climate change. Eradicating poverty and improving the living conditions in rural areas can there be stability and a sure social and economic growth.

In what direction do women in Africa wish to see their continent moving? To engage women in eradicating poverty is a sure way of successfully achieving poverty elimination. The evidence indicated above shows a gloomy picture of Africa at present. One must think how to turn this desperate situation into an opportunity to develop Sub-Saharan Africa into a prosperous continent. African women have depended on their men folk for too long. It is a wakeup call for women in every corner of Africa to realize a call to engage proactively in the development of the continent within their respective communities.

African migration is, to a great extent, migration to seek work opportunities and takes place both within the African continent and internationally to richer countries. International migration is caused by unavailability in job opportunities. If wage differences were eliminated between countries, migration would cease to exist, theoretically speaking. Countries in the North, or rather the western developed countries, are capital-rich, but lack in their menial labour force. As a result, they pull migration from capital-poor and labour-force rich countries. The labour markets determine the mechanisms that influence international migration.

In this context, according to neoclassical economics, a refined argument can be made that since migrants expect higher wages in their countries of destination, the EU Marshall with Africa should create similar wage conditions in their countries of origin. Introducing new forms of EU cooperation together with African communities will guarantee a better life in rural communities with durable housing, clean water & sanitation. Decent employment will induce economic growth, clean energy use, health facilities and better schools.

Improving living conditions and eliminating poverty and famine will create a labour market for Africans in their own communities and the hope of finally taking their destiny into their own hands. The EU Marshall Plan with Africa should never be defined in terms of a financing project per se but should also be considered as a technological exchange of expertise in the field of agriculture, water and sanitation and clean energy sources. Solar energy, for example, be project that transform the lives of millions of populations.

African experts, Per Pinstруп-Andersen and Rajul Pandya-Lorch, argue, in a document of March 1995, that since Sub-Saharan Africa is the 'locus' of poverty, agriculture must be in the forefront of the national agenda in eradicating poverty. They summarize their findings as follows: Agricultural growth is a catalyst for broad-based economic growth and development in most low-income developing countries; and that low economic growth is linked to poverty.

Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa must be aware of the following points to eradicate poverty: Alleviate poverty through employment creation and income generation in rural community

areas. Durable and sustainable community development by transforming rural life can revolutionize several supply chains in rural and urban populations thereby uplifting millions of lives from poverty. Economic growth is intertwined with health and education; investment must go to women and girl-empowerment. Not only is this a moral imperative but makes sound economic sense. It is essential to meet growing food security needs, driven by rapid populations' growth, rapid and congested urbanization. Stimulate overall economic growth in agriculture is the most important sector for growth and development in low-income developing countries. Conservation of natural resources. Poverty is a serious threat to the environment in developing countries and in Africa generally. Wood as an energy source is not only a danger to life, but a threat to the environment: Cutting wood for energy leads to deforestation in Africa.

Per Pinstrup-Andersen and Rajul Pandya-Lorch conclude the following. Failure to significantly expand agricultural research in developing countries and failure to invest in agricultural development will make poverty eradication an elusive goal.

## 11. Appendix

### Clean energy use versus traditional biomass.

The general population of the Sub-Saharan Africa depends on traditional biomass for their daily energy use. About 93% of Sub-Sahara households depend on wood-burning for their daily cooking needs and this trend will continue to remain as the preferred choice in rural areas. Traditional biomass is low in cost, but its efficiencies are low too notwithstanding the dangers of exposure to air pollution. The collection of wood fuel is not without its dangers: snake and scorpion bites.

Traditionally biomass energy has been considered carbon neutral because the released CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed by the crop re-growth. Many environmental scientists have, however concluded that generally biomass fuels from forest should not be considered carbon neutral for many reasons: There is a time lag between the wood fuel harvesting and full re-growth of the forest. The use of wood fuel in the Sub-Sahara Africa quantifies the effect of climate change because of deforestation and degradation of land. The carbon dioxide released by combustion of biomass has the same climate impact as carbon dioxide released by combustion of fossil fuels. Biomass influences the future time profile of the carbon uptake from the harvested stand.

Wood fuel is big business in the Sub-Sahara Africa because of its easy availability to satisfy the growing demand. Other energy sources such as electricity, gas, coal play a much secondary role in terms of demographic consumer demand. It is estimated that by 2030 one billion people in the Sub-Sahara Africa will depend on wood fuel as their source of energy. However, the harvesting of wood fuel has devastating effect on climate change.

The wood biomass is depleting because of unsustainable harvesting also leading to land degradation and deforestation subsequently affecting the climate change. It has been established that the supply and demand of wood fuel calculate the degree to which wood fuel demands exceed forest re-growth. Already 275 million people live in wood fuel depletion hotspots; this development already pose a danger to climate change.

The scholars: Ole Hofstad, Gunner Kohlin and Justine Namaalwa argued equally in their report that wood fuel harvesting and combustion aggravate global warming in as much as coal and gas combustion did. Wood fuel is equally a source and a sink for greenhouse gases.

When the extraction rate is greater than the rate at which the biological system regenerates biomass, forests or woodland become degraded resulting in climate change effects.

### Alternative energy to traditional biomass

The World Bank report of 2008 said: Sub-Saharan Africa has a huge technical potential in clean energy projects culminating from the rivers and deserts that have the potential of providing solar, wind and hydro energy. However, Africa's economic growth and development can be linked to energy demands and its economy hinges on fixing the energy sector said Chief economist Fatih Birol. The World Bank report noted that demand auctions could further contribute to Africa's growing energy economy. About 450 billion investment is required in the region's power sector: this is where cooperation with Europe will be of benefit to both continents on energy projects to access better resource and energy-based revenue management. If the European and African governments worked on such groundbreakingly cooperation together, it is possible to see an emerging African economy boost, an Africa full of hope and greater future for the coming generations.

Marcus Arcanjo's contribution of May 2018 says energy insecurity is a global problem, but more so in Africa. The inability of African to access clean and renewable and reliable energy has severely impacted millions of lives. Despite incremental increases since the region continues to be plagued with issues that have further accentuated and contributed to the present state of insufficient energy access. These include rapid population growth, climate change, and prolonged conflicts in several regions in the continent; he said. Proper incentives, meanwhile, will foster a healthier environment for innovation and dynamism in the sector, resulting in better technology and more opportunities for creating affordable energy and positive spill over is around health, education, and general economic prosperity. Said Arcanjo.

Arcanjo further suggests energy security is a prerequisite for economic growth. Indeed, the two are intimately linked as energy drives all aspects of modern existence. Both are essential for the smooth running of social and political systems as well as for enabling economic growth and sustainable development: The positive knock-on effect is enormous. Crucially, energy is a vital motor propelling education, poverty reduction, improved health, as well as economic growth – all areas in which Sub-Saharan-Africa has typically fallen short. According to South Africa journalist Suleiman Phillip, "The aspirations of Africa's billion people are hindered by lack of access to modern reliable and affordable energy. It cripples African economies, making it a crisis that affects national security.

Marcus Arcanjo finalizes his paper saying the following: “finally this revolution in renewable energy should be African led. While external financing and global initiatives provide valuable assistance, localized policy reforms and dedicated governance will be key for achieving long-term success in the region. The African governments concerned must demonstrate a greater determination to improve the livelihoods of their citizens and commit to doing so through policy. It is not enough for them simply to ride the coattails of large corporate and private investors: rather, they must drive transformation from within. Kenya and Tanzania represent two striking examples of what can be achieved. Both countries have set a precedence that others can benefit and learn from over the coming years. If more African nations step up, the opportunities for the future will be enormous. There is great demand for technologies from Europe to realize alternative energy use that can assist both continents to move towards a brighter and prosperous future for generations to come.

End

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