**Press Release**

**Electricity Generation from Household Waste: A Model Project at the Controlled Landfill in Sousse Governorate**

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025 – Oued Laya, Sousse Governorate**

Today, under the official supervision of H.E. Mr. Takeshi Osuga, Ambassador of Japan in Tunisia, and Ms. Aida Robbana, Head of the UN-Habitat Tunisia Office, the first green energy generation unit was inaugurated at the controlled landfill for household waste in the Oued Laya area of Sousse. This unit has been placed under the management of the National Waste Management Agency (ANGED).

This pilot project aims to harness and valorize biomethane gas extracted from household waste, converting it into renewable energy. It represents an effective, small-scale model for applying circular economy principles to waste management.

The initiative seeks to mitigate environmental degradation, support sustainable development and ecological transition, and promote waste treatment technologies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, addressing health risks, and contributing to energy deficit reduction.

This project is part of the cooperation between Tunisia and Japan governments, implemented by UN-Habitat Tunisia, and aligns with the outcomes of the **8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8)**, held in Tunis on August 27–28, 2022. During this conference, Heads of State and Government emphasized the urgent need to address environmental issues, particularly climate change and its related challenges, including waste management.

Within the same framework, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Government of Japan, has also been implementing household and plastic waste management and recycling projects in Tunisia. These efforts focus on adopting innovative technologies and facilitating knowledge exchange between African countries. Additionally, large-

scale cleanup campaigns have been organized in the **Japanese Garden in Tunis**, as well as in **Nabeul and Sousse governorates**, under the **"Villes Propres Tunisie" (Clean Cities Tunisia)** initiative. These campaigns, supported by the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**, **ANGED**, and the **Tunis International Center for Environmental Technologies (CITET)**, contribute to the implementation of the **African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP)** recommendations.

This energy generation unit was designed and manufactured with **Tunisian expertise** and stands as the first pilot unit in Tunisia to produce electricity from waste through biomethane valorization. By reducing emissions, it establishes a model of resilience and sustainability, serving as an exemplary initiative to encourage stakeholders in Tunisia and beyond to replicate such projects.

This initiative aligns with global and national strategies seeking innovative, alternative solutions to preserve environmental resources, protect ecosystems, and address climate change challenges effectively.

“Transforming waste into renewable energy not only helps reduce emissions but also establishes a model of resilience and sustainability that can inspire similar efforts across Tunisia and beyond. This initiative reflects UN-Habitat Tunisia's dedication to innovative solutions that address environmental challenges while advancing sustainable urban development. We are honored to collaborate with the Ministry of Environment, STEG, Sousse Governorate, ANGED, and the Embassy of Japan, whose commitment has brought this project to life," stated UN-Habitat Tunisia.

“This project marks the first initiative in Tunisia aimed at converting waste into renewable energy. I am very pleased and proud to see the recommendation of the Tunis Declaration from TICAD 8 materializing in Tunisia in collaboration with our trusted partners, including UN-Habitat, the Ministry of Environment, STEG, the Governorate of Sousse, and ANGED.

I am even more delighted because this year, African countries will gather once again in August for TICAD 9 in Yokohama to discuss the achievements since the previous TICAD. I look forward to seeing this pioneering initiative being shared not only in Tunisia but also with other countries across the African continent,” said Mr. Takeshi OSUGA, Ambassador of Japan to Tunisia.

“This groundbreaking project highlights the power of international collaboration and the importance of sustainable solutions in addressing environmental challenges. Leveraging advanced technologies and fostering partnerships sets the stage for a brighter, more sustainable future for Tunisia and the global community. We are confident that this initiative will inspire further efforts to promote environmental stewardship of Tunisia and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.”



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