

Report of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Energy Rome, 14-15 April 2004

1. At the initiative of the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) an ad hoc task force, composed of UN system experts on energy, met in Rome 14-15 April 2004 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Mats Karlsson, Vice Chair of HLCP, to elaborate the terms of reference, functioning modalities, and work programme for a system-wide collaborative arrangement on energy. Participants expressed their appreciation to FAO for hosting the meeting.
2. The agenda for the meeting and the list of participants are attached at Annex III and IV respectively.
3. The ad hoc task force viewed this task in the context of energy issues related to achieving sustainable development that were identified by CSD-9 and confirmed at World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) on the basis of a note prepared by CEB Secretariat. It took note of the need for (i) increasing access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources, (ii) improving energy efficiency, (iii) increasing the share of energy from renewable energy sources, (iv) diversifying energy supply through advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost effective energy technologies and (v) implementing transport strategies for sustainable development.
4. It also took note of emphasis placed by WSSD on the relationship between access to energy and poverty eradication in both urban and rural areas as well as the importance of increasing the share of renewable energy resources in the total energy supply, and the importance of energy for achieving sustainable development. The JPOI focuses on implementation while acknowledging the important role of all stakeholders. The wide range of stakeholders involved, including the private sector, represents a major and critical challenge to the UN system's efforts in support of sustainable development and requires a concerted and coordinated response to the follow-up of WSSD in this area. Due to the complexity of the issues, their interrelationships within the broader sustainable development framework and the diversity of mandates and approaches that exist, a significant further effort will be required to develop a coherent, collaborative and effective UN system response.
5. The ad hoc task force benefited from the following guidelines provided by HLCP in the context of an effective and integrated framework for follow-up to WSSD: (i) focus on implementation at all levels (global, regional, sub-regional and national); (ii) place WSSD within the context of other summit/conferences follow-up processes; (iii) take into account the two-year "implementation cycles" set out by CSD for reporting requirements and the sessions planned for 2006/2007; (iv) build on past efforts to coordinate UN energy activities; and (v) take due account of the flexible and results-oriented approach to coordination adopted by the Chief Executives Board (CEB) for Coordination.

6. In elaborating the terms of reference for a collaborative arrangement, the ad hoc task force considered the generic objectives as discerned by HLCP:

- *“Advocacy/Public profile:* Promoting public profile of the issues through outreach to media, advocacy campaigns and the active involvement of a broad range of actors.
- *Clearing-house function:* Serving as a clearing-house for policy and programme information exchange, and for sharing lessons learnt and experiences. This could include preparation of a comprehensive annual report providing an assessment of the state of play. While this should be approached as a continuing function, the conveying of special annual meetings of all relevant actors, including bilateral donors, may prove desirable for sharing information and future plans.
- *Policy coherence/development:* Promoting policy coherence at all levels in line with the JPOI and identifying specific areas where there is a need/opportunity for further policy development.
- *Promoting collaboration among actors:* Encouraging and facilitating collaborative arrangements in relation to programmes and projects among relevant actors, in order to avoid duplication and ensure optimal utilization of resources.
- *Strengthening the knowledge base:* Establishing linkages among and with research centers, institutes, networks and other sources of knowledge related to a particular sector.
- *Encouraging linkages:* Serving as a link between global, regional and national level activities.
- *Capacity building:* Ensuring coordinated approaches to capacity building in developing countries.
- *Monitoring and evaluation:* Evaluating progress towards the achievement of goals/targets including the MDGs and harmonizing the reporting formats”.

7. The ad hoc task force reiterated that although no single entity in the UN system had the primary responsibility for system-wide collaboration in the area of energy, a coherent and consistent approach is needed. While cooperation on specific projects and activities exists, independent initiatives abound across the UN system. A review of activities undertaken prior to CSD-9 and WSSD show the potential for synergies within the system. Moreover, energy is an area where other development actors, particularly the private sector, play a major role and must be effectively engaged. The ad hoc task force recognized the need for a far more inclusive and broad-based approach in the light of the call for joint actions by the United Nations and by all stakeholders in the JPOI.

8. The task force agreed to the creation of UN-Energy and elaborated its terms of reference, see Annex I. It requested Mr. Mats Karlsson to chair UN-Energy and invited Mr. Gustavo Best to serve as its Vice Chairman, both for the first two-year period, 2004-2005.

UN-Energy Work Plan

9. The task force agreed on the following elements for elaborating a work programme for UN-Energy drawing upon key issues identified in the outcome of CSD-9 and the WSSD

JPOI. The work programme will build on on-going work of the UN system organizations involved and strengthen synergies among them.

10. Initially the work of UN-Energy could include identifying linkages and synergies, further areas of cooperation as well as unmet needs for further action based on a review of relevant activities currently undertaken by the UN system and relevant non-UN entities on energy and sustainable development with a view to:

- a. Defining modalities for interaction with non-UN system stakeholders;
- b. Setting up means of communications and an electronic gateway to facilitate exchange of information and cooperation and collaboration within the group including the creation of a website; and
- c. Preparing a contribution of the UN system as an input to CSD14/15.

11. A draft proposal on a framework for UN-Energy Work Programme is attached as Annex II. This draft is to be further discussed during the first meeting of UN-Energy when specific collaborative actions/activities will be identified.

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List of Annexes:

- I Terms of Reference for UN-Energy
- II Draft proposal for a framework for UN-Energy Work Programme
- III Agenda for the meeting of the ad hoc task force, Rome 14-15 April, 2004
- IV List of participants.

Annex I

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR UN-ENERGY

1. The UN-Energy, open to all UN organizations, is the principal interagency mechanism in the field of energy to help ensure (a) coherence in the UN system's multi-disciplinary response to WSSD; and (b) collective engagement of non-UN stakeholders. Accordingly, UN-Energy will :

- (a) Promote coherence in the UN system's multi-disciplinary response to WSSD by:
 - (i) Acting as a gateway for sharing information, knowledge, experiences and good practices as well as initiatives in all aspects for implementing the JPOI;
 - (ii) Maintaining an overview of ongoing and planned work within the system and building/strengthening synergies among independent initiatives at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;
 - (iii) Promoting joint programming, harmonization and cooperation in the energy-related activities of the organizations of the system including technical programmes;
 - (iv) Building on and drawing lessons from past experience in inter-agency collaboration on energy;
 - (v) Employing dynamic and action-oriented approaches to coordination with extensive use of information and communication technologies.

- (b) Promote interaction with other stakeholders by:
 - (i) Developing a data base on the roles, potentials, strengths and programmes of relevant stakeholders;
 - (ii) Developing and maintaining dynamic and interactive mechanisms for information exchange and dissemination among all partners; and
 - (iii) Organizing a regular exchange of views on policy in the field of energy and related activities, as well as developing partnerships.

2. UN-Energy will focus on substance and collaborative actions both in regard to policy development in the energy area and its implementation as well as in maintaining an overview of major ongoing initiatives within the system based on the UN-Energy work programme at global, regional sub-regional and national levels. In addition, it will be:

- (i) A system-wide network open to all concerned organizations and entities;
- (ii) A mechanism for the system's interaction with non-UN stakeholders (non-UN stakeholders include major actors from the private sector and the NGO community as well as other major groups identified in Agenda 21.)
- (iii) A collaborative arrangement with rotating chairmanship at a high policy level and vice chair at the expert level.

3. UN DESA will provide dedicated secretariat services for UN-Energy.

4. Communications of the collaborative mechanism will be facilitated primarily through electronic means. UN-Energy will meet at least once each year. Meetings will be kept to a minimum and held within the margins of other activities whenever possible. UN-Energy may create time bound ad hoc issue groups.

5. In developing UN-Energy's work programme full account will be taken of the key issues identified at CSD-9 and elaborated in the JPOI. The work programme will build on the work of the UN system organizations involved and strengthen synergies among them as well as the relevant non-UN stakeholders.

6. UN-Energy will review its TOR every four years, or as appropriate.

Annex II

Draft Proposal for a Framework for UN-Energy Work Programme

I. Ongoing Activities

Central Issues	Actors						
	United Nations				Non-United Nations		
	International	Regional	Sub-regional	National	Private sector	Research Institutions	NGOs
Improving Access							
Energy efficiency							
Renewable energy							
Cleaner fossil fuel technologies							
Transport strategies for SD							
Other							

II. Work Programme

1. Knowledge Management
 - a. Website development and other web-based activities
 - b. Development of “new” knowledge
2. Policy Coherence
 - a. Long term perspective (2030/2050) on energy issues for sustainable development
 - b. Bottom-up approach focusing on sub-regions
 - c. Other
3. Technical Cooperation – synergies, joint programming
4. Input to CSD – case studies

III. Time Horizon – CSD14/15

Annex III

Agenda of the Meeting

1. Briefing by the Chairman and introduction of background note
2. Requirements of substance-driven and outcome-oriented approach to coordination on energy
(In the context of broader summit/conference follow-up processes, the task force may consider what needs to be done to develop a coherent, collaborative and effective UN system response to the implementation of energy-related goals of WSSD at global, regional and national levels)
3. Structure and functions of a collaborative mechanism on energy
(Building on past efforts to coordinate UN system activities on energy and taking due account of the flexible and results-oriented approach to coordination adopted by the Chief Executives Board (CEB) for Coordination, the task force may consider how best to achieve coherence in WSSD follow up on energy through a system-wide collaborative mechanism. Issues that need to be addressed include the mechanism's terms of reference; membership; modalities of coordination/interaction within the mechanism and collectively with non-UN stakeholders; frequency, duration, venue of meetings; reporting/relationship to inter-governmental bodies, CEB/HLCP and other inter-agency bodies; chairmanship and secretariat support)
4. Drafting of report and recommendations
5. Review and adoption of the report
6. Other matters

Annex IV

List of Participants

United Nations, its entities and programmes

Chief Executives Board Secretariat	S. Fareed
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	K.N. Mak K. Abdalla (Secretary)
Economic Commission for Africa	J. Moulot
Economic Commission for Europe	G. Sambucini
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	H. Altomonte
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	P. Saha
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	A. Hegazi
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT)	B. Williams
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	R. Figueredo
United Nations Development Programme	M. Takada
United Nations Environment Programme	J. Christensen G. Mackenzie
High Level Committee on Programming	M. Karlsson (Chair)

Specialized agencies and related organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization	Gustavo Best J.L. Fernandez I. Juergens W. Mann J. Monyo J.P. des Rosiers M. Trossero
International Atomic Energy Agency	A. McDonald
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	M. Sanwal
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	O. Benchikh
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	C. Gurkok