



Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy

Fourth Session

New York, 24 August 2000

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE AD HOC INTER-AGENCY TASK
FORCE ON ENERGY**

(New York, 24 August 2000)

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I. Introduction

1. The fourth session of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy of the IACSD was held in New York at the United Nations Headquarters on 24 August 2000. The session was chaired by Ms. JoAnne DiSano, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UN/DESA. The agenda of the session, as adopted by the Task Force, is contained in Annex I, the list of participants in Annex II and the list of documents in Annex III. The following are the main conclusions and agreements reached at the meeting.

II. Preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001

A. Outcome of the second session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development

2. The Task Force reviewed its recent efforts in light of comments provide by CENRD (subgroup on energy) and agreed that it should operate within the guidelines of its mandate. CSD-9 activities should remain the focus of its efforts, but it was highlighted that, since the sustainable development approach incorporates economic, social and environmental considerations, most activities undertaken by the agencies can be considered relevant to CSD-9. DESA will circulate the report of CENRD for Task Force member response as soon as it is finalized.

B. Preparations for the second session of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development

1. Case studies

3. DESA expressed its gratitude for input to the case studies and indicated that it would relay feedback to individual agencies. The Task Force agreed that case studies should be policy oriented, with a focus at the national level on impact and lessons learned. Failures as well as success stories are welcome. Case studies could address more than one key issue and multiplier effects should be pointed out were relevant as part of lessons learned. The Task Force agreed to participate, in principle, if a meeting on the case studies is convened. It was suggested that a side event or a parallel meeting at the second session of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development might be appropriate if a meeting on the case studies could not be convened.

2. Secretary-General's report

4. A discussion paper for the S-G's report is currently under review within DESA and it

will be distributed soon for agency comments. The paper is focused on options for actions on key issues identified by the first session of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development. Inputs from the Task Force to date have been useful. The report will go through an extensive consultative process with governments that, as planned, will be completed shortly before the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development.

3. Other matters

5. The Task Force discussed the best way to highlight agency activities at the second session Ad Hoc Open-ended Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development, and DESA agreed to provide options for agency presentations for consideration at the next meeting.

6. The Task Force was informed that an exhibition for CSD-9 has been proposed by the Government of Canada, and that further information has been requested. DESA will keep members informed about its status.

III. Other activities

7. In addition to the CSD directed work, specific activities underway that involve interagency cooperation include the World Solar Programme, Indicators for Sustainable Energy Development and certain technical assistance projects. It was noted that the General Assembly (RES/54/215) has endorsed interagency cooperation on the World Solar Programme (WSP) and the representative of UNESCO renewed its invitation to each member of the Task Force to actively collaborate on the implementation of the WSP and in the identification and preparation of projects and activities. After discussing possible modes of cooperation, the Chair invited UNESCO to brief the Task Force on its activities and possible ways and means of cooperation at the next meeting.

8. The IAEA noted that cooperation among agencies, both UN and other international and national agencies, had been an important facet of its recent work in developing energy indicators for sustainable development. The initial phase of the work has been completed and a testing exercise is underway. DESA indicated that testing has been done on the broader sustainable development indicators (SDI). DESA will look into the possibility of participating in testing the IAEA indicators for sustainable energy development using the SDI testing methodology.

9. Following a discussion on financing technical assistance project, it was agreed that such efforts could be improved and ways and means of furthering such cooperation would remain a priority of the Task Force. Recommendations by the Task Force in this regard could be formulated as part of recommendations to CSD-9.

IV. Matrix of Activities

10. The Task Force agreed that the matrix be updated along the lines of the current format. DESA agreed to investigate ways and means of improving it technically to make it more user-friendly.

V. Briefing on the preparations for Rio+10

11. DESA briefed the Task Force on preparations for CSD-10 and Rio+10, including regional processes, regional roundtables, global thematic roundtables, and documentation to be prepared. Possible outcomes of CSD-10 and Rio+10 were discussed. DESA will keep Task Force informed of latest developments.

VI. Provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Task Force

1. Outcome of CENRD
2. Preparations for second session of Ad Hoc Open-ended Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development
 - a. Case studies
 - b. S-G's report
3. World Solar Programme (UNESCO)
4. Other cooperation
 - a. Indicators for Sustainable Energy Development (IAEA)
 - b. Technical assistance projects

VII. Venue and dates of the next meeting of the Task Force

12. The next meeting of the Task Force is tentatively scheduled for Monday, 27 November 2000 in Paris. UNEP has generously offered to host the meeting.

Annex I

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001
 - a. Outcome of the second session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development
 - b. Preparations for the second session of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development
 2. Case studies
 3. Secretary-General's report
 4. Other activities (short briefings by agencies)
 5. Matrix of Activities
3. Briefing on the preparations for Rio+10
4. Other matters
5. Provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Task Force
6. Adoption of the report of the Task Force
7. Venue and dates of the next meeting of the Task Force

Annex II

List of documents

“Matrix of activities”

List of submitted proposals for Case Studies

Provisional agenda of the Second Session on Energy and Natural Resources for Development
(E/C.14/2000/1)

Report of the Secretary-General on coordination of energy activities within the United Nations
System (E/C.14/2000/6)

Annex III

List of participants

United Nations, its entities and programmes

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia O. Touqan

United Nations Development Programme	S. Hurry T. Johansson
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United Nations Environment Programme	M. Radka
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Department of Economic and Social Affairs	J. DiSano (Chair) J. Gururaja K.N. Mak K. Abdalla (Secretary)
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Specialized agencies and related organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization	T. Murata
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International Atomic Energy Agency	A. Khan
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United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change	O. Pilifosova
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United Nations Industrial Organization	C. Gurkok
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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	C. Valencia
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Observers

Global Environment Facility	S. Li
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United Nations Fund for International Partnerships	W. Kennedy
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