



Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy

Fifth Session

Paris, 27 November 2000

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

(Paris, 27 November 2000)

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I. Introduction

1. The fifth session of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy of the IACSD was held in Paris at the United Nations Environment Programme Offices on invitation of the United Nations Environment Programme on 27 November 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. Coordination and the future of the Task Force

2. Discussions centered around reacting to the views of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and Development (CENRD) on the role of Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy (Task Force) and the possibility of continuing the Task Force if a mandate is given by CSD. It was noted that there is potential for greater synergy of energy activities in the UN, including work and operations at the country level. It was the general view of the Task Force that this could be its next step.

3. It was noted that continuation of the Task Force needed the endorsement of CSD. A system wide strategy with an attending programme of work would, in all likelihood, need the approval of agency governing councils as well. It was also noted that there were a number of joint activities, undertaken both individually and jointly by agencies and programmes, which are within their current mandates.

4. The Task Force discussed how other cross-cutting issues in the UN such as finance for development and forests were handled. It was noted that these involved active participation of agencies and programmes, with secondments from them to DESA. It was also noted that both initiatives received wide government support and have mandates by intergovernmental bodies.

5. It was noted that the future of the Task Force depends on the type of direction given by CSD and that the future organization arrangement of the ACC committee structure would have an impact on the activities of the Task Force.

6. It was agreed that the Task Force could be a powerful mechanism for UN agencies and programmes to continue working together to achieve sustainable energy development. Developing a common strategy, if mandated by intergovernmental bodies, would require a major effort needing the full support of agencies and programmes.

7. Following current Task Force activities in which work was directed at preparations for the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development and CSD-9, the Task Force could continue to implement CSD decisions in the area of energy and work on developing joint activities in the field. Coordination of activities with respect to energy at the country level was considered to be an important element to be taken up in any future work of the task force.

8. It was recognized that cooperation at the country level necessitated good working relations with UN resident coordinators. It was decided that a briefing paper to highlight synergies and visions of agencies and programmes should be prepared which would serve as information for 1) UN resident coordinators and 2) as a background paper for the second session of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development. It would explain the focus of UN agencies and programmes in the area of energy and would be a joint effort by DESA and UN agencies and programmes. It was decided that each agency would contribute 2-page brief about its work in area of energy, but focusing primarily on the relevance of its specialized expertise in relation to overall efforts to achieve sustainable energy development. DESA would consolidate and distribute the draft before finalizing it. The due date for two-page briefs would be 17 December 2000 and that consolidation by DESA would be completed by early January. The format would be an overview of general views/ vision

on energy with a focus on how work contributes to sustainable development according to key issues with a general introduction prepared by DESA.

III. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development (CENRD)

9. It was noted that CENRD recommendations related to energy issues, including the key issues, were relevant and provide valuable expert input to energy projects and programmes. It was decided that agencies and programmes would take CENRD recommendations to governing bodies and implement recommendations where appropriate.

IV. Matrix of Activities

10. The recommendation of CENRD with regard to expansion of the matrix, including the provision of budget programming for each agency and the request to categorize activities in the matrix along the lines of key issues, was not considered necessary since agency websites are linked so that those interested can simply access the agency sites. Also, such an undertaking would require additional resources both at the agency level and at DESA. The matrix will be updated prior to the second session of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development.

V. Preparations for the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development

11. The Task Force was briefed by DESA on the state of preparations of the draft report of the Secretary-General on Energy and Sustainable Development: Options and Strategies for Action on Key Issues. It was noted that the report is under review by DESA at the Department level and the final version will be distributed to Task Force members when the review process is completed. Agency contributions and comments were useful in the process of preparing it and their time and effort are appreciated by DESA.

12. The Task Force was informed that the Co-chairs of the Group of Experts are organizing an informal briefing of delegations on Dec 8th in New York. The purpose of these consultations is to exchange views on delegations' expectations of outcomes for the second session of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development. Further informal consultations are planned by the Co-Chairs in mid-January at a venue near New York.

a. Case Studies

13. It was noted that twenty-five completed case studies by UN agencies and programmes have been received to date. Additional cases are welcome by end-December at the latest in either French or English. There will also be case studies by national governments and the private sector. It was noted that the guidelines prepared by DESA have been useful in preparing case studies. The case studies will be produced as a background paper for the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development. The co-chairs are seeking funding for an additional meeting to discuss lessons learned from case studies.

14. DESA will look into the possibility of publishing the case studies as a sales publication. It was suggested that a future Task Force activity could be to update and expand the case studies. DESA also noted that the case studies would be put on the web and distributed to Task Force members as soon as they are completed.

b. Briefings on regional meetings

15. Briefings were made by DESA and ECE on recent regional meetings in preparation for CSD-9 held in Europe and the Asian and Pacific region. Regional meetings have also been held in Western Asia and Latin America and the resulting regional declarations will be distributed to the Task Force. DESA and UNEP informed the Task Force about preparations underway for the regional meeting in Africa to be held in January 2001 in Nairobi.

c. Agency Input to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development and CSD-9

16. DESA undertook to discuss with the Co-Chairs and the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development the feasibility of allotting some time to agencies and programmes during its second session to make statements. The possibility of holding a side event at CSD-9 where Task Force agencies and programmes could describe their activities in the area of energy and sustainable development was also discussed.

VI. Exhibition for CSD-9

17. DESA briefed the Task Force on the status of the Exhibition organized by the Government of Canada. DESA will keep agencies and programmes informed of developments including the dedicated website, once it is established.

VII. Preparations for Rio+10

18. DESA briefed the Task Force on arrangements to date. An outline of preparation details was distributed. The Task Force noted progress made by UNEP and the regional commissions on organizing the regional preparatory meetings. DESA indicated that the regional preparatory meetings would be preceded by regional roundtables comprising eminent persons from the regions. It was noted that global roundtables may also be held. It was also noted that the location of the final event has yet to be decided, however it was hoped that the matter will be resolved before the end of the current session of the General Assembly.

19. CSD-10 will be held immediately after CSD-9, during 30 April—2 May 2001. The Task Force was briefed on the outcome of discussions with IACSD with respect to roles agreed by task managers for the preparation of documentation for CSD-10.

20. Mr. Desai has invited a number of eminent persons to share their views on preparations for Rio+10, and many have responded.

21. The Task Force was briefed on the participation of major groups, and in this regard it was noted that all major groups will be fully involved throughout the process.

VIII. Briefings by UNESCO and IAEA

22. The Task Force was briefed by UNESCO on the status of the World Solar Programme and the Task Force had an opportunity to discuss individual projects, which were presented, and how best to contribute to the programme. The representative of UNESCO made suggestions for cooperation and pointed out the mandate for cooperation on World Solar Programme activities under GA resolutions 53/7 and 54/215. A briefing by IAEA dealt with progress made in its work on sustainable energy indicators.

IX. Venue, date and agenda for the next meeting

23. It was decided that the next Task Force meeting be held immediately after CSD-9 in New York. The exact date is to be determined. Also, the Task Force agreed to meet on an informal basis during the next session of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development (27 February-2 March 2001), if possible.

The agenda for the next meeting will include

1. outcome of CSD-9
2. preparation for RIO+10
3. update on sustainable energy indicators (IAEA)

Annex I

Agenda

1. Outcome of the second session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development (CENRD, 14-25 August 2000)
2. Preparations for second session of Ad Hoc Open-ended Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development (26 February – 2 March 2001)
 - a. Case studies
 - b. Secretary-General's report
 - c. Regional meetings
3. Report on activities of the World Solar Programme (UNESCO)
4. Other areas of cooperation
 - Report on developing Indicators for Sustainable Energy Development (IAEA)
 - Technical assistance projects
5. Briefing on Preparations for Rio +10
6. Other matters
7. Provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Task Force
8. Adoption of the report of the Task Force

Venue and dates of the next meeting of the Task Force

Annex II

List of documents

Case studies under preparation for the second session of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development, DESA, November 2000

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subgroup on Energy, Advanced unedited report of the second session, New York, 14-25 August 2000

Annex III

List of participants

United Nations, its entities and programmes

Economic Commission for Europe	G. Kowalski
United Nations Development Programme	T. Johansson
United Nations Environment Programme	L. Agbemabiose J. Christensen M. Radka E. Usher
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	J. DiSano (Chair) K.N. Mak K. Abdalla (Secretary)

Specialized agencies and related organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization	G. Best
International Atomic Energy Agency	H.H. Rogner
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	L. Marques
United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change	L. Morales
United Nations Industrial Organization	C. Gurkok
World Health Organization	Y. von Schirnding
World Meteorological Organization	P. Llanso