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**Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy**

Sixth Session

Rome, 26-27 July 2001

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

(Rome, 26-27 July 2001)

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## **I. Introduction**

1. The sixth session of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy was held Rome at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Headquarters on invitation of FAO on 26-27 July 2001. The session was chaired by Ms. JoAnne DiSano, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UN/DESA. Mr. Deitrich Leihner, Director of the Research, Extension and Training Division of the Sustainable Development Department, Food and Agriculture Organization welcomed the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy noting the positive synergies that arise when mobilizing specialized expertise available in the area of energy across the United Nations system. 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 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and possibilities for joint activities**

2. The Task Force was briefed by DESA on the outcomes of the recent bureau meetings that dealt with the second meeting of the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD10) acting as the preparatory committee for the WSSD to be held in New York, 28 January-8 February 2002. The second session of CSD10 will consider the results of the national assessments, the results of the sub-regional, regional, and inter-regional preparatory meetings, the report of the Secretary-General and other inputs from the Secretariat, and inputs from relevant international organizations, international financial institutions and the GEF. The third preparatory session will be held in New York, 25 March - 5 April 2002, and the fourth and final preparatory session will be held in Indonesia, 27 May - 7 June 2002. The decisions of the most recent bureau meeting held in Geneva, 16-18 July 2001 were distributed to the Task Force, and they were provided with an outline of the agenda for the second preparatory session. WSSD will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 2 - 11 September 2002 and it was noted that up-to-date information on preparations can be accessed at: <<http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>>. This site is updated on a regular basis.

3. The Task Force was briefed on the recently held Regional Roundtables of Eminent Persons sponsored by DESA and it was noted that in most regions the area of energy (along with freshwater) was singled out as a particularly important sector, even though a sectoral approach was not generally followed at the roundtables. The outcomes of these Roundtables will be transmitted to the regional intergovernmental meetings. It was noted that arrangements are underway to enable the Chairs of the Roundtable to present the outcomes of their meetings to delegations during the General Assembly early in the Fall.

4. The preparatory process for the Summit is taking both a top-down and bottom-up approach. The bottom-up approach is being undertaken at the subregional and regional levels with intergovernmental meetings being organized by UNEP and the regional commissions. It was hoped that the issue of energy will be identified as an important issue for consideration at WSSD by the subregions and regions. It was agreed that a balanced approach with emphasis on the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environment) was important and it was noted that UNEP and the regional commissions were committed to this approach.

5. The Task Force discussed alternative means of including energy in preparations for WSSD. It was decided that the forthcoming meeting on energy in New Delhi organized by DESA in cooperation with the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) could be a useful vehicle for analyzing the outcome of the regional preparatory processes for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-9) and the outcome of CSD-9. It could possibly result in an approach which would represent a consolidated input to deliberations at the fourth prepcom to be held in Indonesia and, ultimately, at WSSD in Johannesburg. It was decided that DESA would make necessary organizational arrangements and that the Task Force members would provide inputs to a consolidated document on energy that would highlight steps currently taken by agencies, programmes and the Secretariat to support the outcome of CSD-9.

6. It was noted that energy could also be highlighted as an important issue by UNEP regional offices as they prepare for various intergovernmental processes in relevant regions.

7. The Task Force agreed to share information on meetings and activities with particular relevance to WSSD.

### **III. Outcome of the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-9)**

8. The Task Force noted that the consideration of the issues of energy, transport and atmosphere at its ninth session of CSD (New York, 16-27 April 2001) marked the first time the Commission considered the issue of energy in a comprehensive manner and that the outcome represents a framework for moving forward on this issue. It was agreed that it provided a basis for future work in energy undertaken by the United Nations, including coordination and cooperation efforts undertaken by the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy. It was agreed that the outcome provided good guidance for future work, but the need for continued coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system was recognized.

9. The Task Force particularly noted recommendations aimed at the regional and international levels and those addressing capacity building, information-sharing, research and development and the mobilization of resources including financial resources, as well as for the achievement of goals identified in the key issues. It was agreed that these could provide good guidance for future work in energy by the UN Secretariat and UN agencies and programmes. The following areas of work were identified as having particular relevance to ongoing and planned work within the UN system:

- Maximizing existing and exploring ways to increase financial resources and creating innovative financing mechanisms, including the outcome of COP6bis, and CDM
- Continuing dialogue on issues for WSSD
- Public-private partnership programmes to promote energy efficiency, advanced fossil fuel and renewable energy technologies
- Networking between centers of excellence for capacity building, technology transfer and information clearing houses
- Grants and loans for development of energy infrastructure including for rural and remote areas
- Financing and risk management
- Equal access for women
- Regional cooperation to
  - strengthen national and regional energy institutions or arrangements
  - conducting in-depth studies
  - promoting training and exchange of experience
  - strengthening regional networks of excellence
  - strengthening and establishing regional information and dissemination capabilities
  - promoting rural electrification and integrating energy policies into overall rural development strategies at the regional level
  - strengthening regional cross-border energy trade
  - strengthening and facilitating dialogue forums among producers and consumers of energy

### **IV. World Solar Programme**

10. UNESCO referred to the draft report of the Secretary-General on 'Concrete action being taken regarding promotion of new and renewable energy including the World Solar Programme' that has been prepared by DESA with input from agencies and programmes, and found that this draft provided an excellent account of the situation. It was noted that the World Solar Programme (WSP) is now an

instrument at the service of the international community and has been integrated into the mainstream of the efforts of the UN system. As recently approved by the UNESCO Executive Board, UNESCO's future contribution to the WSP will focus on capacity building, education, training and information. An external evaluation of the contribution of UNESCO to the WSP will be undertaken shortly and is expected to be concluded by the end of 2001. Future efforts in this regard will be in line with the results of this evaluation. It was agreed that the implementation of the WSP should be guided by the results of CSD-9 and many activities could be considered as a follow-up to recommendations made at CSD-9.

## **V. Technical Assistance Projects and on-going activities**

11. Task Force members briefed the group on their technical assistance projects and on-going activities, many of which are underway in line with priorities and issues identified during CSD-9. FAO highlighted activities underway and new activities in the area of energy and forestry. New activities include work on definitions and terminology in forestry, climate change, biodiversity and desertification. It noted work on national energy plans and programmes as well as specific country activities on energy in watershed management and bioenergy, pointing out that these are in line with the outcome of CSD-9. FAO has undertaken work with the WEC and the newly established African Energy Commission on improving energy policies and data in Africa. In the area of climate change FAO has also participated in developing an outline for a possible IPCC special report on climate change and sustainable development, and has continued to promote the role of biofuels in CO<sub>2</sub> substitution. FAO outlined its extensive normative and operational activities in forestry, including work to improve information on consumption, production and trade of wood products using the wood fuel flow system. It was noted that these activities are of interest to the Task Force and may also be of interest to the newly established Forum on Forests in DESA.

12. UNEP provided details on its work relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and the provision of sustainable energy advisory services. UNEP has undertaken with the World Bank a review of existing loans and programmes for energy efficiency in China, India and Brazil to identify blockages that prevent flow of funds. Renewable energy projects include the mapping of solar and wind energy sources using satellite data combined with GIS information for a global resource assessment. The sustainable energy advisory facility is being designed to determine the most cost effective way of providing services as needed to provide maximum effect on national energy policies. UNEP reported that it is cooperating with a group of research institutes on a science policy dialogue working for sustainable development and climate change in the long term on energy and food security. These issues are considered by UNEP from a sustainable development viewpoint rather than the climate change viewpoint.

13. UNESCO noted that it has undertaken a conceptual training platform for renewable energy in Zimbabwe and conducted its first training of trainers programme. It also has projects on renewable energy in some Pacific island countries and has been involved in business and investment forums held in various regions. These forums were designed to have scientists interact with investors and energy officials and exchange views and experiences. There are plans for two meetings for energy efficiency in Africa and Asia to take stock of available energy efficiency information. UNESCO noted its ongoing dialogue with UNEP on educational training, and energy resources assessment.

14. ESCAP provided details of its energy programme that are in line with objectives agreed upon at the ministerial level at the Bali meeting held as a preparation for CSD-9. Along with its traditional normative work, technical assistance falls within the three broad areas of sustainable energy planning, energy efficiency and renewable energy. He noted that some activities have run into budget limitations but that efforts continue to raise funds to finance proposed projects. One recently funded project on sustainable energy planning focuses on ways and means of incorporating environmental and social aspects into traditional energy planning, and this is being undertaken on a subregional basis. ESCAP has also undertaken a project to promote energy efficiency in energy intensive industries that includes energy audit and efforts to disseminate successful experiences. Another project encourages the adoption of energy efficiency practices among NGOs that are energy consumers. It was further noted that ESCAP promotes the use of renewable energy and clean technologies and that it has undertaken efforts to share successful experience in an effort to promote South-South cooperation in this area. It also plans to assist countries to

apply for funding to implement energy projects at the national level. It also plans to carry out a project in Pacific island countries to assist them in adopting a policy towards achieving 100 percent renewable energy based economies.

15. It was noted that ESCAP has been particularly successful, not only in its regional preparatory process that fed into CSD-9, but in acting upon and following up on agreements reached at the regional level. Along with work undertaken in other regions, this could provide input to energy activities on a more global basis. It was noted that regional commissions may require assistance to meet formidable challenges faced in achieving this objective.

16. DESA outlined its technical assistance activities in the area of energy and noted that its work is aimed at achieving the objectives of sustainable development. The outcome of CSD-9 has provided guidance to current and future activities which now focus on four main areas – renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean fossil fuel promotion, and the transport sector. Efforts are made to work with other agencies and regional commissions, and it was noted that cooperation also exists with NGOs and civil society groups. Ongoing projects include those to promote sustainable energy objectives with regard to renewable energy, energy efficiency and power system planning, to promote the commercialization of renewable energy, and to encourage labeling and standards. Recently initiated projects deal with capacity building for CDM and for financing for alternative energy projects.

17. The Task Force noted that member activities represent a wide range of opportunities to work together to create synergies. It was further agreed to explore ways and means of communicating more frequently with regard to coordination and cooperation on implementing these activities so as to promote better involvement and complementarity of work, not only as a group, but on a one-to-one basis as well.

## **VI. Briefing on outcome of COP 6 *bis***

18. A copy of the political agreement of COP6 *bis* was distributed to the Task Force and it was briefed on the outcome by the representative of UNEP who attended part of the session. He noted that the details of implementing the outcome are now being worked out. The mood of the session was positive and, though the agreement in some ways is not as far reaching as that proposed last year, the outcome has received very good feedback. Countries were pleased that it had been reached despite recent setbacks. Positive aspects of the agreement included the stress on renewable energy sources. It was noted that it is now important to put the rules in place quickly to provide guidance on the modalities of CDM and to work on building capacity.

## **VII. Update on Case Studies**

19. DESA informed the Task Force that the Case Studies report that was produced as a background paper for the second session of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Expert on Energy and Sustainable Development has been posted on the web. The Case Studies will be published as a UN sales document and Task Force members have been contacted to make any changes prior to publication. Copies of the publication will be made available at the prep com meetings of the WSSD process.

## **VIII. Website/brochure**

20. The Task Force was also briefed on efforts underway to produce a brochure highlighting activities of the Task Force. It was agreed that the agencies will have the opportunity to review the brochure text prior to publication. Text will be based on contributions by agencies to the background paper produced for the Task Force side event held during the second session of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Expert on Energy and Sustainable Development.

21. DESA also noted that the efforts are underway to update and redesign the Task Force webpage for ease of use not only by users but by contributing agencies as well. DESA has just purchased a new software and this could be used for developing a more interactive website for the Task Force. Designs and

visual materials used in the brochure could be used to enhance the attractiveness of the site, and a PR firm contributing to WSSD publicity efforts could be consulted as well. The Task Force was informed that the 'matrix of activities' will be maintained but it was hoped that it will be easier to update inputs.

## **IX. Preparations for the third session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development (CENRD)**

22. A list of documentation outlined by CENRD to be prepared for its third session was distributed to the Task Force. DESA expressed appreciation for the continued commitment by the Task Force to contribute to preparations for CENRD. However, it was noted that ECOSOC has not yet approved the CENRD proposed agenda for the third session, and that ECOSOC has deferred consideration of the report of the second session until its resumed session in the Fall. It was thus agreed that discussions on this issue by the Task Force should be postponed until after a decision is taken by ECOSOC. The Task Force looks forward to continuing its work with CENRD related to achieving the goals of sustainable development in the area of energy.

## **X. Venue, date and agenda for the next meeting**

23. It was decided that the next Task Force meeting be held in conjunction with the DESA meeting on Rural Energy and Sustainable Development to be held in New Delhi in November 2001. The agenda of the meeting will include items on outcome of the regional preparatory processes for CSD-9, the outcome of CSD-9, and a consolidated input to deliberations at the fourth prepcom to be held in Indonesia and, ultimately, at WSSD in Johannesburg.

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome by FAO
2. Briefing on preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)
3. Areas of further cooperation/possible joint activities
  - a. Outcome of CSD-9
  - b. Technical assistance projects
  - c. World Solar Programme
  - d. Update on Case Studies
  - e. Public relations -- Website/brochure
  - f. WSSD -- possibilities for joint activities
4. Preparations for the third session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development
5. Other matters
6. Provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Task Force
7. Adoption of the report of the Task Force
8. Venue and dates of the next meeting of the Task Force

## **Annex II**

### **List of Participants**

#### United Nations, its entities and programmes

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	P. Saha
United Nations Environment Programme	J. Christensen M. Radka
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 H. Changhui, D. Leihner M. Trossero
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	B. Rouhban

## **Annex III**

### **List of documents**

Decisions of the commission on sustainable development acting as the preparatory committee for the world summit on sustainable development, at its organizational session, New York, 30 April - 2 May 2001 (advanced unedited text)

Note of the outcome of the first meeting of the Bureau of CSD-10 acting as the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, New York, 3 May 2002

Report of the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Ninth Session, New York, 16-27 April 2001.

United Nations, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Report on the second session 14-25 August 2000, (E/2000/32).

Report of the Secretary-General, Concrete action being taken for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 (advanced unedited text)

Documentation Required for the Third Session of CENRD (list prepared by DESA)

Political agreement reached at COP6 *bis*