



Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy

Seventh Session

New Delhi, India, 22 January 2002

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

(New Delhi, 22 January 2002)

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I. Introduction

1. The seventh session of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy was held in New Delhi, India on 22 January 2002 at the Headquarters of the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) where many members were participating in the Multi-stakeholders Roundtable on Energy and Sustainable Development: New Partnerships for Concrete Actions. The session was chaired by Ms. JoAnne DiSano, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UNDESA. 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)

a. Outcome of the brainstorming session

2. The Task Force was briefed by DESA on the outcomes of the informal brainstorming session held for delegates in New York 16-17 January 2002 that provided an informal forum to air views on the Secretary General's Report on Implementing Agenda 21, possible outcomes of the second session of the preparatory committee (prepcom) and the Summit, and implications for the institutional framework for sustainable development. It was noted that the brainstorming session generally recognized the bottom-up approach to WSSD preparations as successful and that many delegates mentioned energy as an important area for consideration at the Summit and some cited it as an example when referring to areas that require urgent attention. The informal brainstorming session noted that a balanced approach giving due consideration to all three pillars of sustainable development was important and should be maintained throughout the preparatory process as well as at the Summit. The importance of regional institutions and regional cooperation for achieving sustainable development was raised by many delegates at the informal brainstorming session.

b. Expected outcome of the second session of the preparatory committee for WSSD

3. The Multi-stakeholders Roundtable on Energy and Sustainable Development: New Partnerships for Concrete Actions was intended to be a major vehicle for all major groups to make an input to WSSD in the area of energy as agreed in the sixth session of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy. Many UN agencies and programmes working in the area of energy actively participated in the Roundtable as panelists and resource persons. It was noted that the Government of India, as the host of the Roundtable, was expected to raise the decisions and conclusions to delegates for their consideration at the second prepcom immediately following the Roundtable.

4. Discussions were held about possible outcomes of the second prepcom which, along with the outcome of the Multi-stakeholders Roundtable, was expected to 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 inputs from relevant UN agencies and programmes, international organizations, international financial institutions and the GEF. It was noted that the Secretary General's report was intended to serve as a basis for discussion, and, though this prepcom would not be a negotiating session, the delegates were expected to discuss the clustering of issues to facilitate negotiations at the third and fourth prepcoms. It was noted that the delegates would discuss how to include energy in the clusters and what aspects of energy and sustainable development to highlight. The outcome of the second prepcom would be the Chairman's report that would serve as the basis for negotiations in the third prepcom.

5. It was noted that the Consolidated Report on Energy Activities would be updated and made available to delegates at the second prepcom.

c. Other prepcom sessions

6. The third prepcom for WSSD will be held in New York, 25 March - 5 April 2002, and the fourth and final prepcom will be held in Indonesia, 27 May - 7 June 2002. The decisions of the bureau meetings are available along with up-to-date information on WSSD preparations on the website which can be accessed at: <<http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>>. Information about holding side events at the precoms and at the Summit is also included on this site, which is updated on a regular basis.

7. The Task Force decided to continue efforts on publicity material, including a brochure, to highlight agency/programme activities in the area of energy, and to contribute relevant information to DESA as needed in a timely manner.

8. The Task Force agreed to consider holding a side event during one of the forthcoming prepcoms. The format of the side event would serve to highlight an issue of importance in the area of energy rather than focus on specific agency activities.

9. It was noted that agencies and programmes interested in holding side events at the forthcoming prepcoms and at the WSSD should contact DESA.

III. Agency Activities

10. It was noted that details about agency activities could be found in the Consolidated Report of Energy Activities prepared for the Multi-stakeholders Roundtable, but agency and programme representatives highlighted activities particularly important for WSSD. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) indicated that its sustainable energy indicator project has entered its second stage and cooperation with the International Energy Agency for implementing the project in a select number of countries is underway. The IAEA indicated that its other activities were in-line with CSD-9 recommendations and focused on improving safety and reporting procedures and measures. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) noted that its activities had changed in focus from mainly energy efficiency to projects aimed at ensuring access to energy in rural areas as well as some Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.

11. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reported that a series of industry reports has been prepared for WSSD on power generation, transport, aviation and major group contributions. UNEP has also undertaken initial steps on a project that will create a network of existing regional centers for energy in developing countries as recommended by CSD9. The purpose of the network would be to facilitate sharing of knowledge and promotion of best practices and policies. Agency comments and suggestions regarding the network are still welcome. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicated that it is preparing a short publication on energy policies for WSSD since this topic was not highlighted in the World Energy Assessment. UNDP reported that it will host a high level roundtable meeting in Moscow, 22-23 April 2002 in preparation for WSSD. Countries with leadership roles in the intergovernmental process as well as a small group of industry representatives will be invited. UNDP reported on its new organizational structure and noted the main focus areas of the energy trust fund are energy policy, rural energy, low-emission technology, financing.

12. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) noted that its energy activities focus on sustainable development, technology, transport and prices and subsidies. Policy workshops on energy and sustainable development energy are being undertaken aimed at energy and environment ministers as a contribution to WSSD. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific indicated that its activities are guided by decisions taken at the Bali Ministerial level meeting undertaken as the region's contribution to CSD-9. Thus, activities center around policy and planning, energy efficiency and conservation and renewable energy. ESCAP noted that assistance is needed from

funding agencies and other UN agencies and programmes to fully implement the Bali Sustainable Energy Programme. The World Bank indicated that its energy strategy is under review and that it is expected that energy activities undertaken in the future will be more focused and will have linkages to support good governance and macroeconomic benefits. It was noted that the World Bank expects to decrease funding of electricity projects except as part of post conflict reconstruction projects.

13. DESA indicated that the Multi-stakeholders Roundtable was its major energy-related activity specifically aimed at WSSD preparations and appreciation to its partners was expressed. Support for a periodic update of the World Energy Assessment was indicated by DESA and UNDP and it was noted that the World Energy Council is also interested in cooperating on such an endeavor.

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

IV. Venue, date and agenda for the next meeting

15. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy during the third prepcom in New York, 25 March-5 April 2002. The agenda of the meeting will include a briefing on the outcomes of the second prepcom and an update on preparations for WSSD.

Annex I

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)
 - a. Briefing by DESA
 - b. Other agencies
3. Other matters
4. Provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Task Force
5. Adoption of the report of the Task Force
6. 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 K. Iwakami
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	H. Altomonte
United Nations Development Programme	S. McDade
United Nations Environment Programme	M. Radka
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	J. DiSano (Chair) J. Gururaja K. Abdalla (Secretary)

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency	A. McDonald
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	C. Gurkok

Observers

World Bank	S. Zaheer
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Annex III

List of documents

Consolidated Report of Energy Activities, Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy

Note on the outcome of the sixth meeting of the Bureau of CSD-10 acting as the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Washington DC, 7 December 2001)

Organization of Work during the second session of CSD10 acting as Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Updated on 15 January 2002)

Possible Framework for Strengthening Linkages Between the Expected Outcomes of WSSD (15 January 2002)

Priorities for WSSD -- An Overview of the Regional Preparatory Meetings

Provisional agenda of the second session of CSD10 acting as Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Provisional Agenda of the Seventh Session of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy

Report of the Secretary General on Implementing Agenda 21