



RENEWABLES AND THE CSD ENERGY CYCLE

By Richard Sherman

PART I: RENEWABLES IN THE UN SYSTEM

EARLY STEPS

- The international community's first major attempt to develop a strategy for the use of alternative fuels was the 1981 UN General Assembly Resolution on the outcomes of the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.
- In this Resolution, the UN adopted the 'Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilisation of New and Renewable Sources of Energy,' which addresses the need for an intergovernmental body, secretariat support, coordination within the UN system, regional and sub regional action, cooperation among developing countries, and the mobilisation of financial resources for new and renewable sources of energy.
- However, it was only following the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) that renewable energy issues began to feature more prominently on the international environment and development agenda.

UNCED-Agenda 21 (1992)

- Energy did not get its own place/chapter in Agenda 21, however, energy issues are addressed in several chapters, most prominently in Chapter 9 of *Agenda 21* (protecting the atmosphere), which notes that much of the world's energy is currently produced and consumed in an unsustainable manner.
- It recognises that the need to control atmospheric emissions of greenhouse gases and other substances will increasingly need to be based on efficiency in energy production, transmission, distribution and consumption, and a growing reliance on environmentally sound energy systems, particularly new and renewable sources of energy.
- The chapter also calls on governments and other stakeholders to, promote the research, development, transfer and use of technologies and practices for environmentally sound energy systems, with particular attention to developing countries; review current energy supply mixes to determine how the contribution of environmentally sound energy systems could be increased in an economically efficient manner; examine and implement measures to overcome barriers; and coordinate energy plans regionally and sub regionally.

WORLD SOLAR PROGRAMME

- As a follow-up to UNCED, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) organised a High-level Expert Meeting in Paris in 1993, which launched the preparatory process for a world summit on the wider use of renewable energy. The World Solar Summit Process (WSSP) extended over a period of three years and included a series of expert and ministerial-level regional meetings.

- In 1994, the Executive Board of UNESCO approved the creation of a World Solar Commission with the mandate to provide advice on measures to reinforce global and regional cooperation for the promotion of renewable energy.
- The WSSP, which convened in Harare, Zimbabwe in September 1996, adopted the '*Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development*' and launched the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, a ten-year programme for the promotion of renewable energy.
- Operated by UNESCO, this programme ends at the end of 2005. The General Assembly Second Committee is expected to take a decision on the programme by December 2005. The Secretary-General's Report makes the following point:
 - There remain large segments of developing-country populations that still do not have access to modern forms of energy, while many indigenous energy sources, including renewable ones, remain untapped. Increased local, national and international efforts will be needed to achieve the renewable energy elements of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

RIO+5: (1997)

- The 19th Special Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGASS-19), held at UN Headquarters in New York in June 1997, adopted Resolution A/RES/S-19/2 on the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21.
- The Resolution states that energy is essential for economic and social development and for improved quality of life, and that sustainable patterns of production, distribution and use of energy are crucial.
- UNGASS-19 also decided that energy issues would be further discussed at the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-9) and established an open-ended intergovernmental group of experts on energy and sustainable development to begin preparations for CSD-9.

MILLENNIUM DECLARATION

- Energy was not identified as a specific goal in the Millennium Declaration (2000) or in the MDGs (2001). However the Declaration contains the following relevant statements:
- Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants.
- We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.

- We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.
- To make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.

LDC-3 SUMMIT (2001)

- The Third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries was held in Brussels, Belgium, from 14-20 May 2001. Following lengthy negotiations, delegates adopted a Political Declaration and a new Programme of Action for the development of the LDCs over the next 10 years.
- The *Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs* includes a framework for a global partnership between LDCs and their development partners and includes commitments to enhance the role of trade in development, reduce LDCs' vulnerability, protect the environment, and mobilise much-needed financial resources.
- The Programme recognises that the levels of production and consumption of energy in the majority of LDCs are inadequate and unstable, and the majority of people, especially in rural areas, have to rely heavily on traditional sources of energy which are injurious to health and the environment.
- The Programme identifies the following actions to be taken by LDCs:
 - Promoting renewable energy development by putting in place an enabling policy environment, with appropriate institutional arrangements;
 - Promoting policies that address energy requirements and, in this context, giving as appropriate preference to cost-effective energy sources, including fossil and renewable energy development;
 - Encouraging regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation in research and development, as well as investment to increase the production and consumption of both renewable and clean fossil fuels and to encourage the interconnection of energy grids;

CSD-9 (2001)

- CSD-9, which took place at UN Headquarters in New York in April 2001, adopted a decision on 'Energy for sustainable development.'
- The Decision identifies challenges and recommendations regarding energy accessibility, efficiency, renewable energy, advanced fossil fuel technologies, nuclear energy technologies, rural energy, and energy and transport. The Decision states that energy is central to achieving sustainable development goals, notes wide disparities in the levels of energy consumption within and between developed and developing countries, and concludes that current patterns of energy production, distribution and utilisation are unsustainable.
- Regarding energy accessibility, the Commission made various recommendations, including: improving access to modern biomass technologies and fuel wood sources and supplies; commercialising biomass operations; developing locally available energy resources for greater energy diversification; and promoting renewable energy, especially in rural areas, through

community-based development methods.

- On rural energy, the Commission noted that access to affordable energy services is a prerequisite for implementation of the goal accepted by the international community to halve the proportion of people living on less than US\$ 1 per day by 2015.
- CSD-9 identified the major challenge for both developed and developing countries as the development, utilisation and dissemination of renewable energy technologies on a scale wide enough to contribute significantly to energy for sustainable development. The Commission also recommended, *inter alia*:
 - Developing and implementing appropriate national, regional and international policies and measures to create an enabling environment for the development, utilisation and distribution of renewable energy sources;
 - Developing domestic programmes to increase the contribution of renewable energy to total energy consumption;
 - Encouraging the role of the private sector in the development and utilisation of renewable energy technologies;
 - Strengthening research, development, demonstration and institutional capacities in the field of renewable energy utilisation;
 - Promoting the utilisation of renewable resources, such as solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, hydro (including mini-hydro), and ocean (wave, tidal, and thermal energy conversion) to meet part of the energy needs for sustainable development;
 - Developing and using indigenous sources of renewable energy, where appropriate; and
 - Strengthening financial support to developing countries for the promotion of renewable energy.

WSSD (2002)

- The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), which addresses renewable energy in several of its chapters.
- Regarding poverty eradication (JPOI Chapter II), governments agreed to improve access to reliable and affordable energy services for sustainable development, so as to facilitate the achievement of the MDGs. These included actions to: improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources through various means, such as enhanced rural electrification and decentralised energy systems, and increased use of renewables; improve access to modern biomass technologies and fuel wood sources and supplies, and commercialise biomass operations; and promote the sustainable use of biomass and other forms of renewable energy through improved patterns of use.
- Regarding sustainable consumption and production patterns (JPOI Chapter III), governments agreed to increase substantially the global share of renewable energy sources, with the objective of increasing the contribution of renewable energy to total energy supply with a sense of urgency.
- They recognised the role of national and voluntary regional targets and initiatives, and the need to ensure that energy policies support developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty.
- They also agreed to: develop and disseminate alternative energy technologies with the aim of giving a greater share of the energy mix to renewable energy; combine the increased use of renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, and greater reliance on advanced energy

technologies; and develop and utilise indigenous energy sources and infrastructures for local use and promote rural community participation in the development and utilisation of renewable energy technologies.

- During the final WSSD Plenary, Denmark, on behalf of the EU, announced the formation of a like-minded group of countries on renewable energy, now known as the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC). The EU, with Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Alliance of Small Island States, Switzerland and Turkey issued a statement titled “The Way Forward on Renewable Energy.” The statement contains a commitment by JREC governments to increase the share of renewable energy in the global total primary energy supply mix. It states that increasing renewable energy use is essential for achieving sustainable development at national and global levels, and that renewable energy can provide important new ways to reduce pollution, diversify and secure energy supply, and improve access to energy in support of poverty eradication. In the statement, JREC governments also commit to work toward substantially increasing the global share of renewable energy sources, with regular review of progress, on the basis of clear and ambitious time-bound targets set at all levels. The statement indicates that JREC countries have adopted, or will adopt, targets for the increase of renewable energy, and will encourage others to do likewise.

THE DELHI DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (UNFCC COP-8, 2002)

- Parties have a right to, and should, promote sustainable development. Policies and measures to protect the climate system against human-induced change should be appropriate for the specific conditions of each Party and should be integrated with national development programmes, taking into account that economic development is essential for adopting measures to address climate change;
- National sustainable development strategies should integrate more fully climate change objectives in key areas such as water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity, and build on the outcomes of the WSSD;

MAURITIUS STRATEGY ON SIDS

- In April 1994, the first Global Conference on Sustainable Development of SIDS was convened in Barbados. The conference adopted the *Barbados Programme of Action* (BPOA) that set forth specific actions and measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels in support of the sustainable development of SIDS. The Programme of Action consists of 15 chapters including: climate change and sea-level rise; natural and environmental disasters; and energy.
- In September 1999, the 22nd Special Session of the UN General Assembly undertook a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the *Barbados Programme of Action* and called for concerted efforts to support its implementation.
- In 2002, the WSSD reaffirmed the special case of SIDS and highlighted a series of SIDS-specific issues and concerns in the JPOI. The meeting also called for a comprehensive 10-year review of the BPOA at a high-level international meeting.
- The International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was held from 10-14 January

2005, in Port Louis, Mauritius. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the *Mauritius Declaration* and *Mauritius Strategy*. The climate text was the last section of the Mauritius Strategy to be agreed, and only after delegates concluded with an all-night negotiating session.

- The Strategy notes that SIDS are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to develop and implement integrated energy programmes. These programmes should include, *inter alia*, comprehensive assessments of energy resources, current and projected patterns of energy use, and ways to enhance energy efficiency in SIDS, and promote the development and use of renewable energy as well as advanced clean energy technologies that are affordable and readily adaptable to the circumstances of SIDS.
- SIDS are committed, with the required support of the international community, to strengthening ongoing and supporting new efforts in the area of energy supply and services, including the promotion of demonstration projects. It is recognized that a renewed effort is required by all for SIDS to achieve real and demonstrable progress in this area by the time of its review by the CSD in 2006, in accordance with its work programme.
- SIDS and other international partners should work together to promote wider dissemination and application of technology that is appropriate to SIDS and to strengthen existing mechanisms, such as the UN renewable energy fund and the UNDP thematic trust fund on energy for sustainable development, for this purpose. Cooperation among SIDS should be further pursued in areas where success has been achieved, such as a collaborative agency for financing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in SIDS.

WORLD SUMMIT (2005)

- Held in New York on September 2005

Paragraphs: 50-55

- Para 55: We are committed to take further action through practical international cooperation to, *inter alia*:
 - Promote innovation, clean energy and energy efficiency, conservation, improve policy, regulatory and financing frameworks; and accelerate deployment of cleaner technologies,
 - Enhance private investment, transfer of technologies and capacity building to developing countries, as called for in the POI, taking into account their own energy needs and priorities
 - Assist developing countries to improve their resilience and integrate adaptation goals into their sustainable development strategies, given that adaptation to the effects of climate change due to both natural and human factors is a high priority for all nations, particularly in those most vulnerable, namely, those referred to in the UNFCCC, article 4.8.
 - Continue to assist developing countries, in particular small island developing States, least developed countries and African countries, including those that are particularly vulnerable to climate change in addressing their adaptation needs relating to the adverse effects of climate change.

PART II: THE CSD ENERGY CYCLE

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE PERIOD AFTER 2003

- CSD-11 decided that the implementation of that programme of work will be guided by the

following considerations:

- Relevant provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the JPOI and the decisions of the Commission;
- Take into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
- Means of implementation, as identified in Agenda 21 and chapter X of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,
- Cross-cutting issues (see below); and
- African and other regional initiatives, as well as initiatives on small island developing States and least developed countries.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

- Poverty eradication,
- Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production,
- Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development,
- Sustainable development in a globalizing world,
- Health and sustainable development,
- Sustainable development of SIDS,
- Sustainable development for Africa,
- Other regional initiatives,
- Means of implementation,
- Institutional framework for sustainable development,
- Gender equality, and
- Education

REVIEWING IMPLEMENTATION: CSD-14 Review Session Mandate:

May 2006

- The review sessions will undertake an evaluation of progress in implementing Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), while focusing on identifying constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation with regard to the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle.
- The review sessions will include a high-level segment, an exchange of regional experiences, dialogues with experts, including scientific experts, and sharing of best practices and lessons learned, with a view to facilitating implementation, as well as capacity-building activities, such as learning centres and partnership fairs.
- The review session evaluation should enable an improved understanding of priority concerns in the implementation of the selected thematic cluster of issues and facilitate an effective policy discussion in the course of the policy year with a view to strengthening implementation in those areas.
- The outcome of the review session will be a report, including a non-negotiated chairperson's summary, identifying constraints and obstacles and possible approaches and best practices for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI.

Documents

- National Reports and case studies submitted by governments
- Secretary-General's Reports on each issues- out in December 2005
- Inputs from Major Groups

Reports of the Regional Implementation Meetings

- African RIM Statement- adopted in October 2005
- West Asia- November 2005
- Europe- December 2005
- Latin America and Caribbean- January 2006
- Asia-Pacific-January 2006

Other Inputs

- UN Environment Programme's 8th Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Environmental Ministerial Forum (February 2006): Three day high level segment will focus on energy
- Contributions from UN Agencies, Programmes and Funds
- Outcome of the GEF-4 replenishment negotiations (November 2005): is expected to include an amount of US\$ 100 million for renewables
- Possible input from the UNFCCC- although this remains an unresolved and highly controversial issues
- There will be lots of other meetings inputting into the CSD process- see the calendar on the CSD website

Other UN meetings

- UNDESA- Parliamentary Forum (Cape Town October 2005)
- UNDESA- Sustainable and Consumption Meetings

DESIGNING POLICY AND GUIDING INTERNATIONAL ACTION

Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (February 2007)

- In the policy year, the Commission will convene an intergovernmental preparatory meeting (IPM) to discuss policy options and possible actions to address the constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation identified during the review year.
- The discussions of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting will be based on the outcome of the review session, reports by the Secretary-General as well as other relevant inputs. Based on those discussions, the Chair will prepare a draft negotiating document for consideration at the policy session.

Policy Session (April/May 2007)

- The policy sessions will take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation in the selected thematic cluster of issues, taking account of the discussions of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting, the Secretary- General's reports and other relevant inputs.
- The review sessions and the policy sessions should mobilize further action by all implementation actors to overcome obstacles and constraints in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI, and should address new challenges and opportunities and share lessons learned and best practices.

- The major outcome is a negotiated document!

PART III: GETTING ON THE BUS, CHOSING A DRIVER AND FIGURING OUT THE ROUTE

FIRST CYCLE POLITICS

- The first CSD cycle focused on water, sanitation and human settlements. This was the first attempt to implement the WSSD reforms and CSD-11 decision.
- There were mixed feelings at the outcome of CSD-13. Many delegations felt that multi-year programme of work did not adequately follow the CSD-11 decision, in terms of assessing the three themes through the prism of the three pillars of sustainable development and/or the cross-cutting areas. Major problems emerged due to the lack of attention/recognition to the cross-cutting themes of Africa, SIDS, other regional approaches, governance and means of implementation. While some of the issues were addressed, they were relegated to minor points, and certain delegations felt that these priorities should be addressed as stand alone issues and not just in a generic manner.
- The Group of 77 and China's final statement to the CSD-13 Policy session notes: "we have also seen attempts to turn the CSD into an environmental commission, with the reinterpretation and renegotiation of previously agreed language, including through a continued insistence on having a Chair's summary that contradicts CSD-11 decisions." This statement reflects the concerns over the lack of attention, in particular to the means of implementation, finance and technology transfer.
- The Group of 77 and China's statement to the General Segment of the ECOSOC Agenda Item on Economic and Environmental Questions - Sustainable Development (New York, 20 July 2005) notes: "We have only recently concluded the first in the planned thematic cycles of the CSD's long-term programme of work, and we are at a juncture where we can assess the outcome of that first cycle, including lessons learned and the implications for future cycles of the Commission. The G-77 and China urges all to take detailed stock of the outcomes of the Commission's thirteenth session, with a view to guiding our work in future sessions."
- The Group of 77 and China's statement in the General Debate of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (New York, 3 October 2005) notes: " I would also like to reaffirm the commitment of the G77 to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (JPOI). We attach great importance to the three pillars of sustainable development and to the need to address them in an integrated manner in order to provide a better living for our peoples. With the conclusion of the first cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development the challenge ahead is to implement those policy options and practical measures in order to secure safe drinking water, sanitation and human settlements to all our citizens, with a clear support from our development partners. The next review session in the areas of energy, industrial development, pollution and climate change will be of particular importance as these are matters that require further development for improved international cooperation. The methods of work of the Commission should also be further reviewed in order to enhance the impact of our decisions."
- There is still a feeling from some countries that the CSD is still to focused on the environment pillar of sustainable development

- Some delegates summed up the first cycle as follows: ‘the poor come to CSD to get told what to do by the rich’

ENERGY CYCLE POLITICS

- Energy and Climate Change Issues remain highly political and contentious issues on the global sustainable development agenda- just remember the long nights at CSD-9 and in Johannesburg
- The Energy Cycle will be the biggest test so far for the CSD reforms and the new programme of work- it could make or break the CSD in the eyes of the world
- The Energy Cycle comes at a time where:
 - 2 billion people do not have access to modern energy services; and
 - an estimated \$16 trillion will be needed for investment in the world energy systems in the next 25 years

Nuclear: Will be on the agenda. At CSD-9 in 2001, was a very controversial issue, in fact government negotiators asked the CSD Secretariat not to be present in the negotiations, and wanted to resolve issues without any watching eyes. Besides, NGOs and other Major Groups, opposition to the nuclear issue will come mainly from Saudi Arabia and OPEC and AOSIS- small island states. Depending on what transpires in the current tension between Iran and certain Security Council members, these could ‘infect’ the CSD process.

Hydropower: Will be on the agenda. We will see a big push from many African governments to have hydro-resources feature highly in the process, including ensuring the CSD recognises the need for international funding for ‘infrastructure’ (code word for dams!!!). It has been difficult in the past to get the CSD or any UN process to respond to the recommendations from World Commission on Dams. Also expect a discussion on whether hydro is a renewable energy source.

Sustainable Consumption and Production: Will be addressed as a cross-cutting issue, however, the US will attempt to focus the discussion on SCP patterns in developing countries, and avoid entering into discussion about their own or industrialised countries SCP patterns. The EU is expected to push for a balanced debate on SCP, but also a strong focus on industrialised countries’ actions.

Subsidies: The WSSD called for a focus on energy subsidies, however, the US, Japan, Canada and Australia, will argue this is not an issue that can be addressed by the UN system and is being addressed under the World Trade Organisation.

Climate Change: Like energy issues, climate change issues are just as controversial within the US system. On a procedural issue, many governments feel that such issues should only be addressed under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. At CSD-9 govt ring-fenced all climate change discussions as they feared the CSD would assist in the negotiations of the climate process (CSD-9 coincided with what was meant to be the end of the Buenos Aires Programme of Action at COP-6).

Oil and Gas: The OPECs states are apparent keen to address the oil/gas issues (no surprise here) but are talking about the need to address them as a “commodity” issue and to address the economic impacts of sustainable development policies on single commodity dependent export countries.

All energy options must remain open: While we can expect the EU to push hard for, and focus on

renewables, the reality is that the majority of countries, will oppose a narrow focus on energy, and will want the process to focus on all energy sources. So, renewables will be only one component of the CSD discussions and outcomes.

Energy security

Technology Transfer Constraints: The CSD has a mandate to focus on international technology transfer and cooperation. However past discussion have merited little benefits for developing countries and this issue has soured the South-North relationship. Speaking at the COP-9 ministerial roundtable, the G-77 identified two primary concerns with technology transfer, namely that: “hopes for accelerated transfer and diffusion of environmentally sustainable technologies have remained largely unfulfilled; and most government equated transfer of technology with commercialisation citing private sector domain and intellectual property rights as the main reasons for such a failure (G-77 2003).” A position paper released by the Indian government in July 2005 notes that “even though the international community has made promises for technology transfer and additional financing since Rio, this has not resulted in any effective transfer on the ground.” The position further notes that “critical technologies, which can have significant impact on decarbonisation, have been out of reach of developing countries because of both prohibitive costs and the existing intellectual property rights regime.”

Role of the UN System: A key area of debate will be on the role of the UN system- Agencies, Programmes and Funds. Since CSD-9, some Major Groups and the Renewable Energy Sector have been lamenting the lack of a dedicated UN Agency/programme on Energy, and they have developed positions on a Global Sustainable Energy Organisation. This issue will once again emerge in the energy cycle; however there is seemingly little support from governments for such an agency. Discussions will focus on UN-Energy- the inter-agency body that brings together the UN system to coordinate energy activities and to ensure there is no duplication of activities. Some govts are particularly concerned with the inter-agency process, as it is not ‘accountable’ to the intergovernmental process.

Missing Targets: The CSD and the UN, more generally, are notoriously bad at reflecting on missing targets. While there were no specific targets and timeframes for renewables or energy in the WSSD, there was a specific target for SIDS. What happened to this target- should the CSD cycle account for the failure to act?

FOCUSING THE ENERGY CYCLE

A Global Programme for Energy Access

- CSD-15 must answer the question, identify the actors and ensure the international community commits the resources to ensure that international policies and actions on energy for sustainable development assist in the process of eradicating poverty and raising the living standards of the world’s poor and populations in developing countries. Energy access should be seen as a means to increase the standard of life of the world’s poor and people in development countries and not as a goal in itself.

Decarbonisation Agenda

- CSD-15 should establish a global decarbonisation agenda or an agenda to switch to low carbon

fuels. There should be two approaches to the decarbonisation agenda

- First, a rapid shift by all industrialised nations to clean energy and a major energy efficiency revolution are essential to avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change. These governments will have to adopt new policies to reduce coal and oil consumption, increase renewable energies and rapidly expand and remove barriers to technologies that increase energy efficiency.
- Second, a decarbonisation agenda needs to meet the priorities of developing countries- economic development, poverty eradication and sustainable development. It should not impose impossible conditions on the development and/or industrialization process, however, it should assist developing countries- via finance, technology transfer and capacity building- to support a low carbon energy future. For developing countries, measures to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and alternative technologies could allow them to leapfrog over the relatively inefficient path of economic growth followed by the industrialised countries and achieve a high level of energy services without the same economic, social, and environmental costs (Johansson & Karlsson).

The role of Sustainable Development Policies in Energy and Climate Change

- CSD-15 should focus on a package of policies and measures that maximize sustainable development, address poverty eradication, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ensure technological innovation and reduce poverty, while not inhibiting economic development or placing conditions on the choice of technologies (except nuclearJJJ)
- There is growing recognition that climate change policies that implicitly address social, environmental, economic and social issues may turn out to be important levers for sustainable development. The IPCC suggested that some mitigation actions may yield extensive benefits in areas outside of climate change: for example, they may reduce health problems; increase employment; reduce negative environmental impacts (like air pollution); protect and enhance forests, soils and watersheds; reduce those subsidies and taxes which enhance greenhouse gas emissions; and induce technological change and diffusion, contributing to wider goals of sustainable development. It also suggested that “development paths that meet sustainable development objectives may result in lower levels of greenhouse gas emissions (IPCC 2001, Mitigation). The IPCC also concluded that “the effectiveness of climate change mitigation can be enhanced when climate policies are integrated with the non-climate objectives of national and sectorial policy development and be turned into broad transition strategies to achieve the long-term social and technological changes required by both sustainable development and climate change mitigation.”
- At the country level, governments need to prioritise sustainable development policies and measures (SD-PAMs) and commit to implementing these with financial support from domestic and international resources. The SD-PAMs approach addresses the introduction of clean technologies that can reduce emissions and meet sustainable development objectives. The approach focuses on implementing policies for sustainable development, rather than setting emission reduction or intensity targets, however it recognises the importance of promoting a sustainable development path that could avoid burdensome future mitigation efforts and even have a greater long-term impact on emissions than climate change policies.
- CSD-15 could be an important milestone if it focuses on these points and avoids getting bogged down in endless negotiations over specific technologies- even renewable energy.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

There are some important processes out there, such as:

- Bonn Renewables Process (Germany)
- Global Forum for Sustainable Energy (Austria)

But what about the processes that are less palatable, such as:

- The G-8 *Gleneagles Plan of Action on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development*, and the World Bank's implementation activities in this regard;
- The US govts bilateral climate change programme, including the recently concluded agreement with Asia-Pacific Countries;
- The US govts unilateral-global 'partnerships'- Carbon Sequestration Forum, ForumIV, Methane to Markets, International Hydrogen Partnership.
- The US, Canada, Japan and Australia will argue that the above are sufficient in terms of political commitment, finance and technology, and there is no need for further international outcomes or actions.
- NGOs and Major Groups must support governments who want more international action, but should be careful not to rely on the Bonn Process, as it still remains outside of the UN process.
- NGOs and Major Groups need to ensure that the Bonn process filters back into the UN process, another JREC statement and type initiative emerging out of CSD-14/15 will be another setback for international action.
- This will require a clever strategy from the NGO community, without derailing or relegating the Bonn process to the sidelines.
- JREC has grown immensely since Johannesburg- will this diversity be a constraint to lobbying for action targets on renewables at CSD-15?

PARTNERSHIPS

- Of the 308 international partnerships currently registered with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, 77 involve energy for sustainable development, of which 16 have a major focus on renewable energy.
- Yes these are an important part of the WSSD process and follow-up, however certain key questions still remain open, and could be potentially devise in securing significant outcomes at CSD-15.
- The US, Australia, Japan and Canada +others want to avoid a negotiated outcome on energy at CSD-15, and will pursue voluntary approaches and partnerships instead.
- Developing countries are still very sceptical of the partnership approach. They argue that it detaches significance away from the multilateral/negotiated process and diverts funding away.

NGO AND MAJOR GROUP PROCESSES

- Within the CSD process energy and climate change issues are coordinated by the NGO Energy and Climate Change Caucus. NGO Submission to CSD-14 included the following actions:
 - Phase-out of Environmentally Harmful Subsidies (including a general timeframe for the phase-out: e.g., end of 2008.)
 - Promote Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in all International Cooperation
 - Stop Development Assistance and IDB Lending to Fossil Fuels and Nuclear
 - Real and Fast Reductions of Man-made Climate Impacts
 - A Global Organization for Sustainable Energy
 - Stop the Promotion of Nuclear Power.
 - Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development
 - Renewable Energy in the Developing Countries
- The other Major Groups coordinated themselves and/or participate in the Caucus
- The CURES Network and 2004 Declaration
- In the climate process, NGO activities are coordinated by the Climate Action Network
- To date, no major effort is underway to coordinate or consolidate a NGO position for the energy cycle- desperate efforts- without any cohesion
- On the other hand, the Business and Industry Groups, under the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the World Energy Council (WEC) have established **Business Action for Energy**. The BAE wants to show that:
 - Business is a constructive contributor and indispensable participant in the strive toward delivering sustainable energy – alongside governments and civil society.
 - Business is a willing partner and can contribute to the process through the provision of resources, the development and deployment of technologies

CONCLUSIONS

- There must be a negotiated outcome from CSD-15- any attempts to ensure an outcome which places an emphasis on voluntary initiatives and partnerships alone, must be avoided
- The cycle must focus on the role and support from the international community, particular in relation to the means of implementation- finance, technology transfer and capacity building
- The CSD Energy cycle must be seen as a continuous process of 2 years and not as an insular process of three meetings lasting 5 weeks in total.
- Activities and engagement with governments and other stakeholders' needs to take place at the national and regional levels.
- NGOs still need a bus, a couple of drivers and strategically balanced roadmap till the Policy Session in 2007