

# **Report on the Implementation**

of the

# **International Action Programme**

**of the International Conference for Renewable Energies,  
1-4 June 2004, Bonn, Germany**

**30 November 2006**

## ***REN21 – Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century***

REN21 is a global policy network that provides a forum for international leadership on renewable energy. Its goal is to bolster policy development for the rapid expansion of renewable energies in developing and industrialised economies.

Open to a wide variety of dedicated stakeholders, REN21 connects governments, international institutions, non-governmental organisations, industry associations, and other partnerships and initiatives.

Linking the energy, development and environment sectors, REN21 strengthens the influence of the unique renewable energy community that came together at the renewables 2004 conference in Bonn. REN21 is the network in which ideas are shared and action is encouraged to promote renewable energy worldwide.

Please visit the REN21 website at [www.ren21.net](http://www.ren21.net)

### ***Acknowledgements***

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# 1 Executive Summary

## ***Background***

The International Action Programme (IAP) was a major outcome of the International Conference for Renewable Energies (renewables 2004), which took place in Bonn, Germany from 1 to 4 June 2004. The IAP contains 197 voluntary commitments, all of which represent concrete Actions towards developing renewable energy. These Actions were put forward at the conference by a diverse group of Partners from governments, international organisations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholder groups. REN21 has been invited by the conveners of the Bonn conference to document the progress made with the implementation of these Actions. This report is an account of the information obtained from IAP Partners between March and October 2006.

## ***Reporting by the Actors***

Until 31 October 2006, 135 individual reports were submitted by the Partners of the IAP, representing roughly 70% of Actions committed.

This high turnout enables the REN21 Secretariat to proceed to a deeper analysis of reporting and implementation. All regions and types of Partners/Actions are well represented, although a somewhat uneven responsiveness has to be noted pertaining to regions with smaller numbers of commitments. Higher reporting assiduity for projects from Asia, the Pacific and Middle Eastern regions contrasts with a lower response rate from North and Latin America. However, these minor variations do not seriously impact the representativity of the analysis.

A closer look at non-respondents reveals that the overall turnout is significantly impacted by the absence of response from 24 European Partners. While Europe has by far the largest number of commitments, it also has the largest number of non-respondents.

## ***Progress of IAP Implementation***

Most reports show that the commitments are being implemented. Of the 135 Actions reported on, 21 have been completed and 86 are still underway. Another 22 Actions are currently in preparation. Only 2 commitments have not begun implementation yet, with another 4 reported as definitively abandoned.

Actions originating in or targeting Europe and Africa have higher implementation rates than average. Other regions show average implementation rates. Actions with a world-wide scope are somewhat slower on their way to implementation. Progress appears to be significantly delayed in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Governments committing to Actions in their own country have achieved the highest rate of implementation. The progress with implementation of Actions committed by the private sector is average. Actions based on multilateral cooperation and those coming from NGOs are minimally less advanced, but still close to average.

Partners focusing on capacity development have been among the first to report completed Actions, although their implementation rate is not higher than average. Actions in the financing category, however, clearly exceed the average implementation rate. Implementation rates are slightly below average for Actions with R&D and policy content.

A closer look at policy-related Actions - which can be split up into two groups, i.e. changes to the policy framework and economic incentives - reveals that regulatory modifications are more numerous among respondents and implemented faster than incentive policies. This discrepancy reflects a trend in policy-making to favour policies establishing or modifying framework conditions.

When Actions are monitored by established authorities (i.e. not expressly created for monitoring purposes), they have higher chances of quick implementation and completion.

In a number of cases, successfully implemented projects have inspired a programme extension, often combined with nudged-up goals or wider dissemination of a positive experience.

Among the Actions that have not (yet) entered the implementation phase, the most frequently cited impediment is "lack of funding." Other Partners that are experiencing delays or major obstacles – especially in developing countries – point to bureaucratic barriers, which can often be traced back to a lack of awareness among political decision-makers.

### ***Lessons Learnt from IAP Reporting***

The IAP follow-up has yielded a thorough feedback from most of the Partners that had committed Actions. The reports submitted to the REN21 Secretariat show that the commitments from the renewables 2004 conference are actually being put into practice.

The practical features which have contributed to a high rate of response are: the legitimacy of the follow-up through the mandate provided by the conveners of the conference, the opportunity for responding Partners to showcase their successes on the REN21 website, the perseverance of REN21 staff in identifying and following up with contact persons on the operational level.

It has come to the attention of the REN21 Secretariat that many Actions for which no report was submitted are in fact under implementation. Non-reporting is therefore not equivalent to non-implementation. It therefore seems safe to assume that implementation statistics would not look much different had the feedback rate been 100% instead of 69%.

### ***Conclusion***

The broad follow-up obtained from Partners and the significant progress reported with regard to Action implementation show that voluntary commitment schemes such as the IAP are absolutely viable. They can be an effective way to achieve real policy advancement through a bottom-up approach, especially when internationally binding agreements are hard to reach.

Reporting is an important feature of such voluntary commitments. The successful reporting initiative carried out by REN21 may therefore serve as reference for possible future initiatives in the international policy process.

Building on the present report, which only analyses the general status of Action follow-up and implementation, REN21 will publish another report shortly, which will investigate and evaluate the actual contribution of implemented IAP Actions to greenhouse gas mitigation.

## 2 Background on IAP Follow-up Process

### 2.1 Renewables 2004, IAP: Concrete Action for Renewable Energy

From 1 to 4 June 2004, the city of Bonn hosted the International Conference for Renewable Energies (renewables 2004). The Conference had been proposed by German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in September 2002. It was convened by the German government, represented by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). Among the 3600 participants were official government delegations including energy, environment and development ministers, representatives of the United Nations and other international organisations, actors from non-governmental organisations and the civil society, as well as executives from the private sector.

One of the major outcomes of the Conference was the International Action Programme (IAP). It contains 197 voluntary commitments from Partners across diverse stakeholder groups, all of whom put forward concrete Actions for the advancement of renewable energies. Paragraph 8 of the Political Declaration of the conference states:

*“Ministers and Government Representatives commit to work toward these objectives, individually and jointly, by undertaking the Actions they have submitted for inclusion in the International Action Programme and through other voluntary measures. They agree that these measurable steps should be reported to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and that progress should be reviewed as foreseen in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. An appropriate arrangement for follow-up should be identified in a future meeting in preparation for CSD 14/15.”*

### 2.2 IAP Follow-up: Monitoring Implementation

The conveners of renewables 2004 have invited REN21, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, created according to paragraph 9 of the conference's Political Declaration, to carry out the reporting on IAP implementation progress. At its meeting in Beijing in November 2005, the Steering Committee of REN21 confirmed this activity. In March 2006, a joint letter from the German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development encouraged IAP Partners to communicate their feedback on commitments to the REN21 Secretariat (see Appendix A).

The aspiration of the conference was to go further than mere political declarations of intent. The IAP is a compilation of concrete commitments to become active. Following up on these commitments to see if progress has really been made is an imperative of this action-based approach. The results of this IAP follow-up process show that the idea behind voluntary commitment to action is a productive one. With some 70% of IAP Actions reported on and almost 80% of these underway or already completed, the Partners of the IAP have proven their continued interest and commitment to their Actions and their ambition to “walk the talk.”

The present Implementation Report and the contained statistics (as of 31 October 2006), along with the analysis of the impacts to be released shortly, concludes the series of follow-up publications on the IAP. However, individual reports on the implementation of IAP Actions can still be submitted by Partners and will be made available on-line as they reach the Secretariat. The dedicated website (<http://www.ren21.net/iap>) will ensure continued follow-up on the IAP and remain a platform for the community to share a growing wealth of experience, communicate about lessons learnt, and showcase their success.

With regard to the assessment of direct impacts of the 197 Actions included in the IAP on global RE investment, installed renewable energy capacity and production the resulting contribution to the worldwide reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, please be referred to a separate study commissioned by the REN21 Secretariat due for publication on our website shortly (<http://www.ren21.net>).

## 3 Analysis of IAP Follow-up Responsiveness

### 3.1 Overall Response Performance

The present report takes into account all documentation received by 31 October 2006. Many Partners of the IAP have responded to the call for reports, submitting individual descriptions of progress with implementation of their specific commitment. As will be seen below, the replies received cover fairly evenly all types of Actions, stakeholder groups, and regions.

The total number of to-date submissions is 135 reports out of 197 IAP Actions, which corresponds to a response turnout of 69%. 28 months after the beginning of the Bonn Conference, more than two thirds of Actions have been reported on. In 6 cases (3%) REN21 was unable to contact the respective Partners of the IAP, who were logically unable to respond. Thus, the response rate among potential respondents is 135 out of 191 or 71%.

Actions contained in the IAP were initially sorted into three categories according to the type of lead Actor (government, international organisation, civil society/private sector). This classification, used in the conference document itself, was improved in a study on the potential impact of IAP Actions, the IAP Content Analysis ([http://www.renewables2004.de/pdf/IAP\\_content\\_analysis.pdf](http://www.renewables2004.de/pdf/IAP_content_analysis.pdf)), which had been commissioned by the conference conveners shortly after the IAP was drawn up. Besides sorting by five instead of three lead Actor types (government, international organisation, civil society, private sector, development agency), the Content Analysis introduced a classification by the Actions' regional origin/target and the type of Action (i.e. the thematic focus).

The present report builds on this comprehensive classification introduced in the Content Analysis and provides the reader with statistics on the degree of reactivity per category. Some of the categories established in the Content Analysis, however, are absent from this report on implementation. The REN21 Secretariat does not consider reporting on these categories (RE technology targeted and project financing) sufficiently dense or significant for commenting.

The only noteworthy variable not discussed in more detail below is per project monitoring. Although monitoring of IAP Actions through independent external bodies (i.e. by authorities that existed prior to the IAP and that are not directly linked to the Actions committed) seems to have a favourable influence on reporting (73% response rate instead of 65% for Actions not in this category), this monitoring bonus is less significant than could have been suspected.

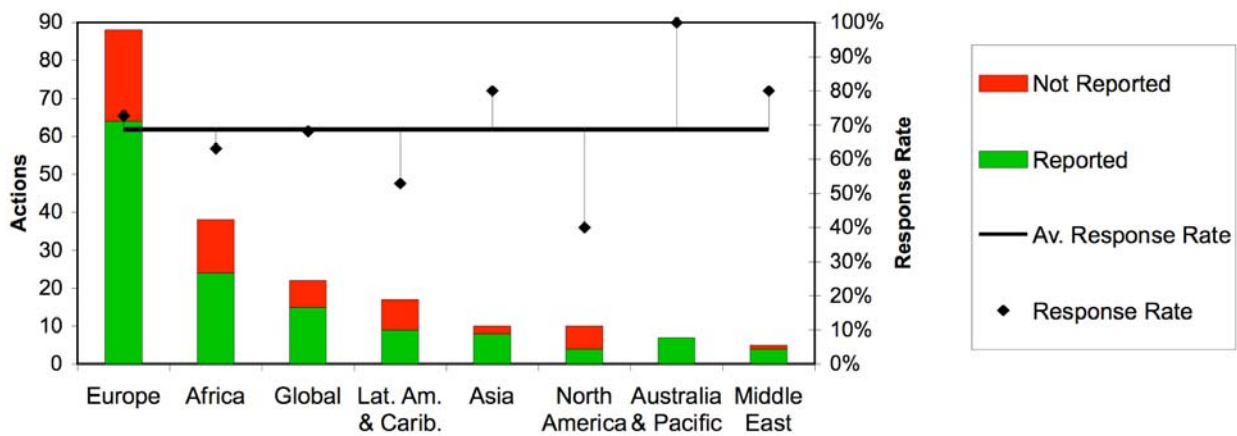
### 3.2 Response by Region

All regions of origin (of the leading Partner) and target (where the Action is implemented) are well represented in the current sample of IAP follow-up respondents. No region has responded at less than 40%. Nonetheless, splitting up responses by regional characteristics returns the highest variations, with response rate deltas between regions significantly higher than between different types of Actors or the Actions' thematic focus.

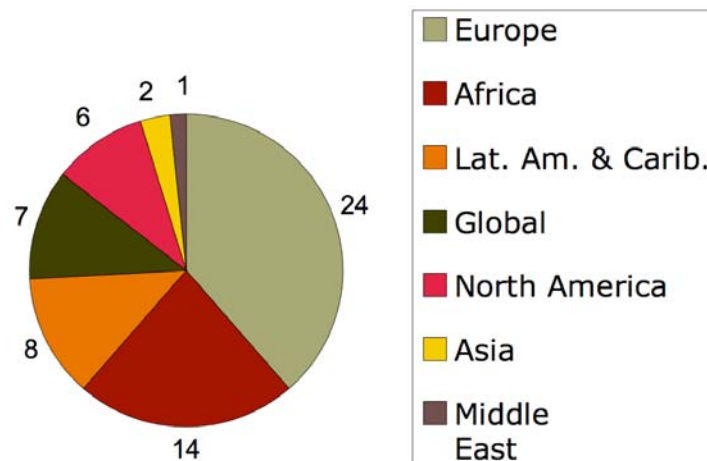
The two regions that contributed the most commitments, Europe and Africa, have responded well, reflecting the good average response rate. Taken together, the Middle East, Asia, and the Pacific region also account for a considerable part of the IAP, and their response turnout is even higher. In contrast, the response turnout is below average regarding the Americas.

It is apparent from figure A.1 and becomes even clearer when zooming in on the non-respondents (see figure A.2) that Actions originating in Europe account for over a third of commitments for which no report has been submitted so far. This is not surprising as European Partners contributed by far the largest number of commitments. But it also highlights the fact that European Partners have not shown a reporting assiduity that extends much beyond the average.

**Figure A.1 – Respondents by Region of Origin**



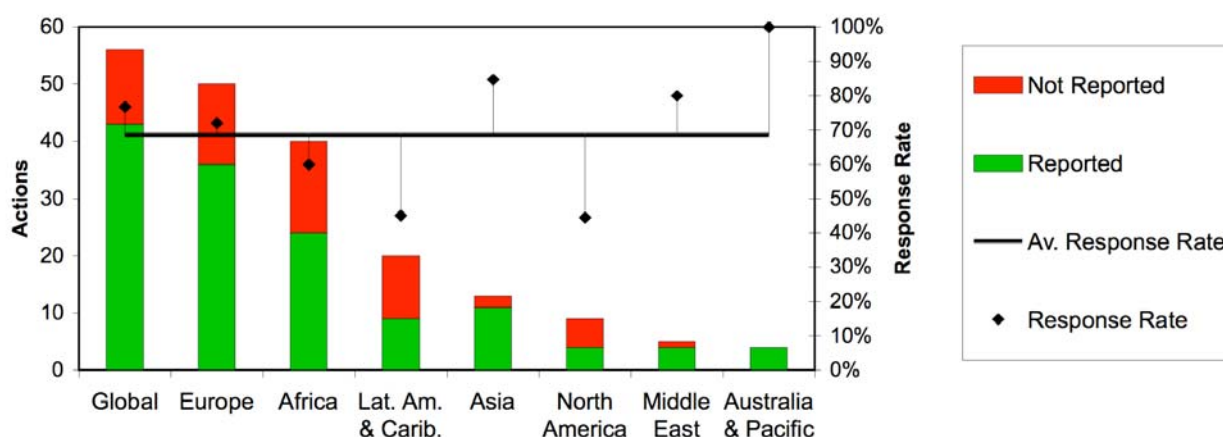
**Figure A.2 – Non-respondents by Region of Origin**



The regional distribution of responses is similar where target regions are concerned (see figure B.1), with the exception that the largest group of Actions, those with a global reach, has a much higher response rate (77%) than the Actions originating from a globally active Partner (68%, see figure A.1). For the other target regions, the results do not change a lot. Actions targeted towards European countries have a reactivity slightly better than average. Actions targeted towards Asia, the Pacific region and the Middle East have a very high reporting turnout, just as do the Actions which originate there. This is logical, as most of the Actions targeted at these three regions are piloted by Partners from the respective regions themselves.

Actions targeting Africa are more numerous than those originating in that continent and have a somewhat better reporting turnout. This reflects the fact that many European-led RE commitments are targeted towards this continent. Also, quite a number of Actions originating in Europe have a global reach and thus consolidate the higher reporting assiduity of the “global” target region with the typically high numbers for European Partners.

**Figure B.1 – Respondents by Target Region**



**Figure B.2 – Non-respondents by Target Region**

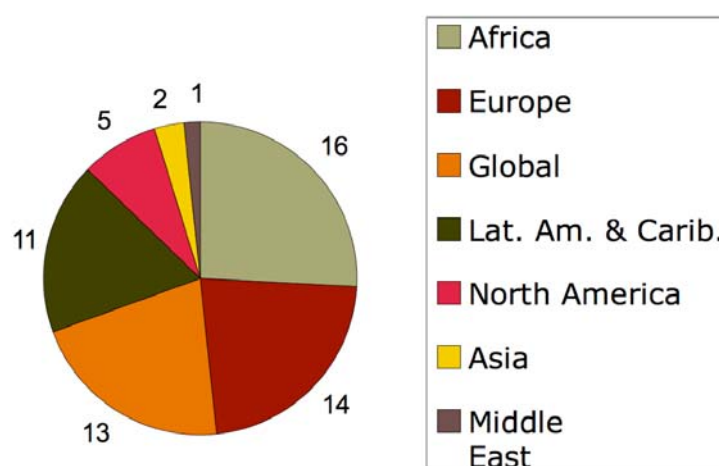


Figure B.2 shows that Actions targeted at Africa or Europe plus those with a global reach account for over two thirds of non-respondents. Once again, this stresses the contrast between good overall reporting from Europe and the reporting negligence of some European Partners, which also affects the African target region (many Actions targeted towards Africa originate in Europe).

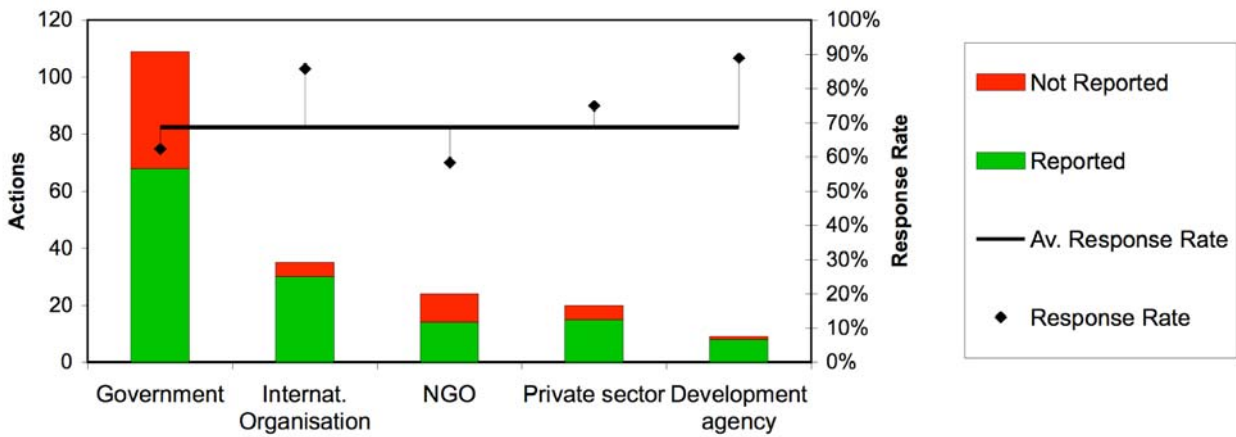
### **3.3 Response by Lead Actor Type**

All types of Actors, i.e. governments (including regional and local governments), international organisations (including international financial institutions), non-governmental organisations, research bodies, and the private sector, have shown strong participation in this reporting initiative, with no category achieving a response rate below 58%.

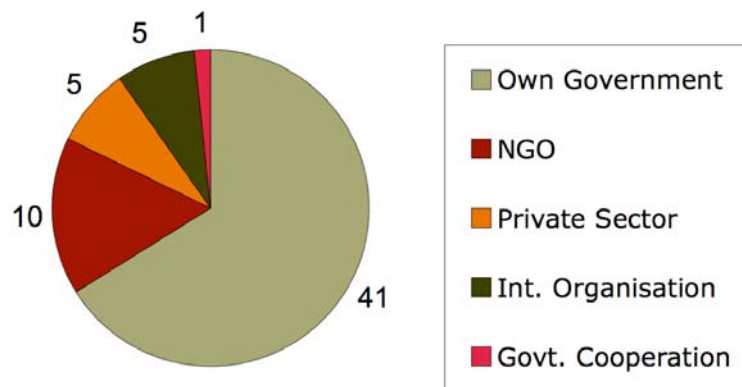
Governments, the largest contributors to the IAP, have responded well, though below average. Private sector reporting is somewhat better than average. It seems that the willingness to respond is highest among international organisations and, for the limited sample available, among government cooperations and development agencies. These are, of course, the Partners most used to working in an international environment and reporting progress publicly. This may also explain why NGOs, who have different work habits and are seldom accountable to other organisations, show somewhat lower than average reporting.

As stated above, the majority of IAP Actions were committed by national and local governments, targeting their own sphere of influence. It is therefore not surprising to find (in figure C.2) that two thirds of non-respondents are of that category. A better performance from governments could therefore have considerably boosted overall reporting turnout.

**Figure C.1 – Respondents by Lead Actor Type**



**Figure C.2 – Non-respondents by Lead Actor Type**



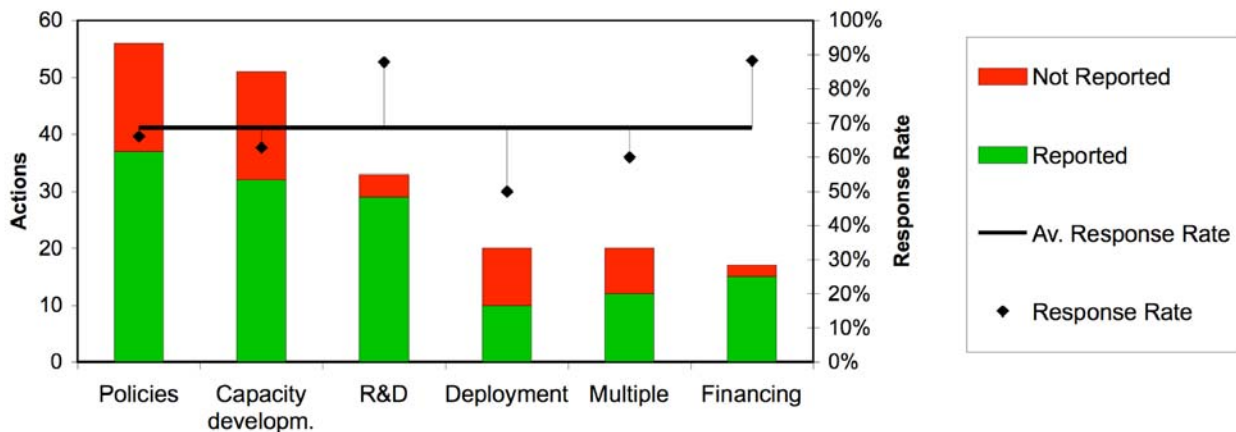
### 3.4 Response by Action Type

Responses are also relatively evenly distributed among the different types of Actions. No category remains under 50%. Higher than average response rates can be observed in the cases of financing mechanisms and R&D commitments. Capacity development and deployment Actions have been reported on at below average levels. This is also the case for Actions that involve different types of activities (i.e. the “multiple” category). Within the policies category, reporting is much stronger for policies geared to establish a regulatory framework (71% response rate) than for policies focussing on economic incentives (45%, see Appendix for Figure C).

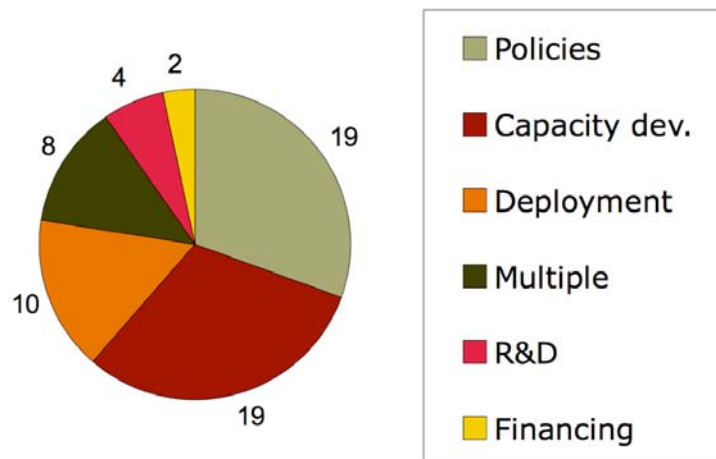
The striking difference between the two types of policies reflects recent trends, which favour policy action in the areas of targets, quotas, feed-in laws and public bidding. Obviously, in the larger sense, feed-in laws do also rely on mechanisms of economic incentive. Here, however, the category only refers to purely fiscal measures like dissuasive taxes on “dirty energy” and state support through subsidies, which have all become less common.

Significant non-response for policy Actions (see figure D.2) is consistent with the high number of non-respondents among government Partners, as mentioned above. These also account for the majority of non-respondents for capacity-building Actions, which were also largely contributed by governments.

**Figure D.1 – Respondents by Action Type**



**Figure D.2 – Non-respondents by Action Type**



## 4 Analysis of IAP Implementation Progress

### 4.1 Overall Progress of Implementation

As demonstrated in the above analysis of responsiveness, the overall response rate of 69% shows no major distortions with regard to the different regions or categories of Actions or Actors. The response rate never falls below 40% for any region or type of Action or Actor, and is generally higher than 50%. Therefore, the received reports can be considered fairly representative for all of the Actions put forward in the IAP, and provide a reasonably solid basis for an analysis of the Actions' progress with implementation. In the following, the reader will find some tentative inferences, which have been drawn regardless of the potential margin of error.

Most reports (79%) show that the commitments are being implemented. Of the 135 Actions reported on, 21 have been completed (15%) and 86 are still underway (64%). Another 22 Actions are currently in preparation (16%). Only 2 commitments have not begun implementation yet, with another 4 reported as definitively abandoned.

Generally, for those projects that have been completed or are being implemented, only few modifications of the originally submitted Action are reported. However, it is encouraging to see that in a number of cases, projects successfully implemented as laid down in the IAP have inspired an extension of programme duration, often combined with nudged-up goals or wider dissemination of a positive experience.

Among the Actions reported as not (yet) implemented, the most frequently cited impediment is "lack of funding." (Please note that the absence of adequate funding is being addressed by the successful implementation of numerous IAP Actions proposing international RE financing schemes or bilateral and multilateral development aid.) Other Partners that are experiencing delays or major obstacles, especially in developing countries, point to bureaucratic barriers, which can often be traced back to a lack of awareness among political decision-makers.

As noted in section 3.1, external monitoring of commitments by existing bodies increases the chances for reporting. It also favours implementation: 84% of externally monitored Actions are either completed or under implementation, compared to 75% for Actions without this feature. However, just as noted for the influence of the monitoring on responsiveness, this monitoring bonus for implementation is not as high as might have been suspected.

### 4.2 Implementation by Region

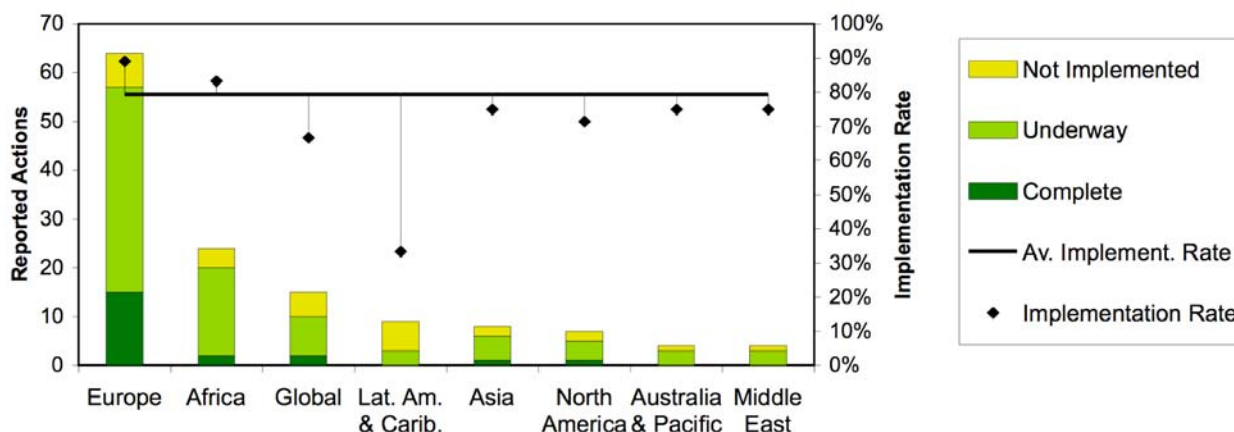
As was shown with regard to responsiveness (see section 3.2), implementation, too, varies more between the regions than between the type of Action or Actors. For the category "region of origin", the highest implementation rate (i.e. the aggregate of Actions that have been completed and Actions that are under implementation out of total reported Actions) approximates 90% and the lowest goes down to 33%.

The implementation rate of Actions originating in Europe is clearly higher than average (see figure E), just as is the case for Actions that target Europe (see figure F). When Actions originate in or target Africa, the reported implementation rate is also above average. Actions originating in or targeting Asia, including the Middle East and the Pacific region, almost attain average implementation rates. While the implementation of Actions originating in or targeting North America remains slightly below average, performance is very weak for Latin America and the Caribbean.

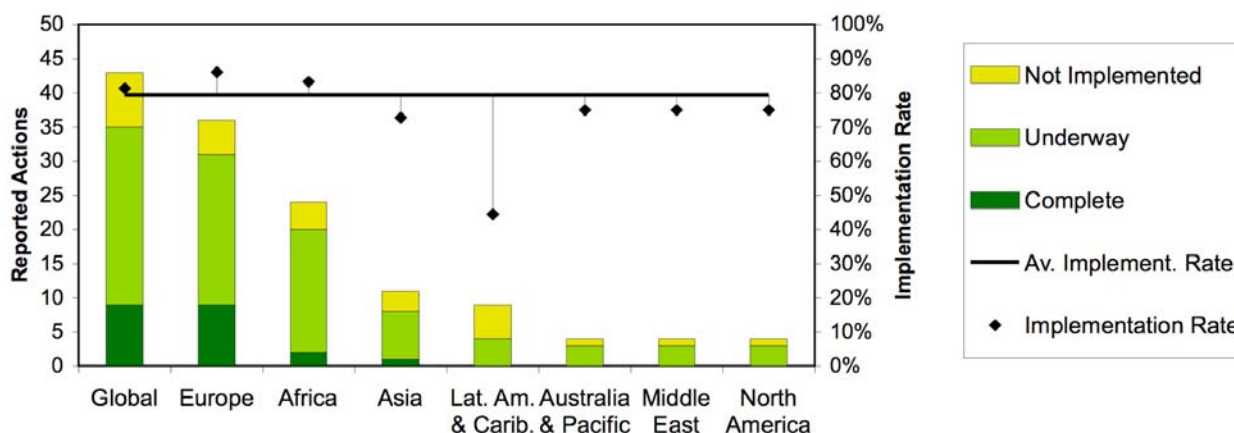
Overall, there is little difference between the implementation rate for one "region of origin" and its corresponding "target region." Since the majority of Actions put forward by European Actors, for example, were also targeted towards Europe, it is logical that European Actions perform well both as regards the region of origin and the target region.

The only major difference between one region of origin and target is that of globally active Partners (implementation lower than average) and the global target region (above average implementation). This is possible because Actions with a global reach are generally carried out by Partners that come from regions with higher than average implementation rates (Europe and Africa).

**Figure E – Implementation by Region of Origin**



**Figure F – Implementation by Target Region**

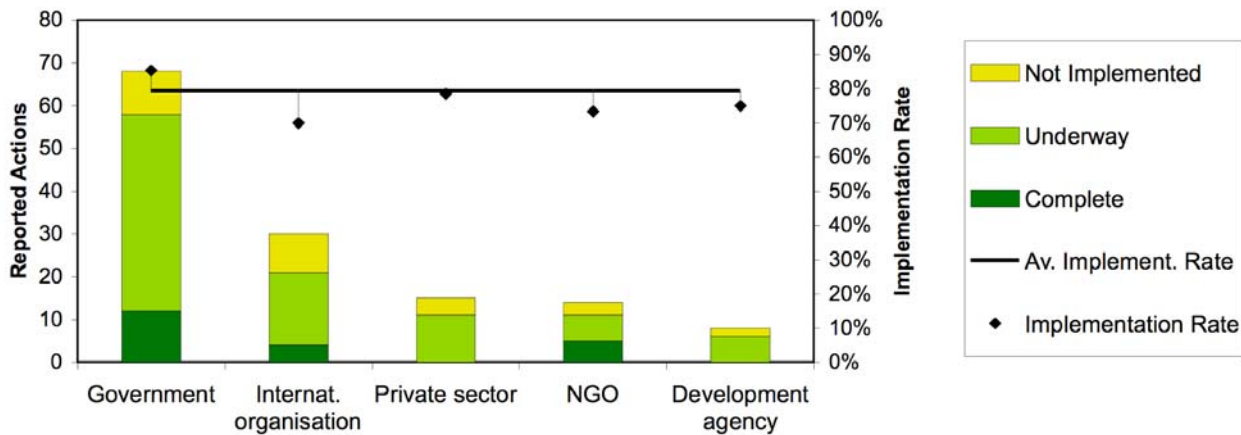


### 4.3 Implementation by Lead Actor Type

According to the reports received, government Actions have the highest rate of implementation when adding up completed Actions with those underway (85%). Actions committed by Partners from international organisations have a somewhat lower than average rate of implementation (70%).

Actions led by NGOs show a peculiar pattern of implementation, with many - smaller - Actions already completed (36%, the highest proportion for all lead Actor types), but many others (over 30%) not even in implementation. While NGOs can be very efficient when Actions have no great financing requirements, it can be assumed that the delays with larger projects are partially due to difficulties with fundraising. It is very promising also to observe that the implementation of private sector Actions advances just as well as that of the other Partners.

**Figure G – Implementation by Lead Actor Type**

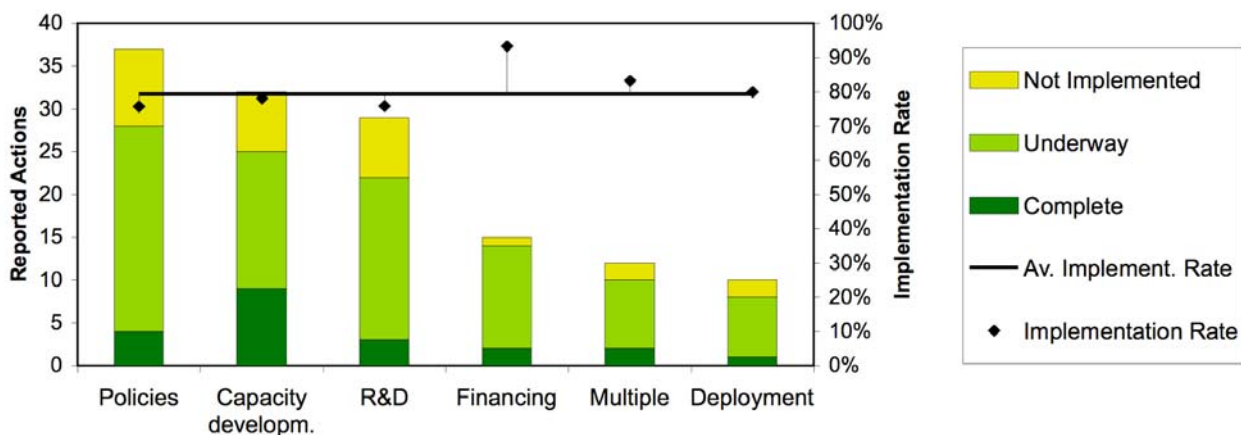


#### 4.4 Implementation by Action Type

The pattern is generally very even for this categorization (see figure H). Considerably higher than average implementation rates are reported only for Actions in the financing category. Policy, capacity development, R&D and deployment Actions show close to average progress.

As shown above (see section 3.4), the reporting rate of financing Actions (i.e. development of financing schemes) is particularly high. Financing Actions also boast an extraordinary implementation rate (93%). This is due in particular to the setup of a number of international funding schemes for RE investment. Significant new programmes have been established by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the German development bank Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). The World Bank also committed and accomplished an initiative to increase lending for renewable energy projects, which focuses on relatively large projects. Recently, private sector financing investment has begun to add even further momentum to these RE financing activities.

**Figure H – Implementation by Action Type**



Another fact also illustrates the improved environment for fundraising through such new mechanisms: 46% of the 19 Actions that (against the general principle) had been admitted to the IAP without fully secured financing, are being implemented or have even been completed (not visible from figure H). Naturally way below average, this performance is not nearly as weak as one might have expected for projects that, only 28 months ago, had no financing to show for at all. It is prob-

able that some of the new financing mechanisms mentioned above have helped the implementation of these Actions.

Similarly to the analysis of response per Action type in section 3.4, the distinction between policies of economic incentive and regulatory policy Actions once again yields some interesting insight (see Statistical Appendix for figure H). While framework-related Actions, which often do not involve direct costs for the legislator, were implemented at a near average level of 78%, the policies involving subsidies and other costly fiscal measures were implemented at a rate of 60%, which is clearly below average.

Also, it must be noted that quite a number of deployment, capacity development and financing Actions are piloted by governments. In a wider sense, this makes them part of the renewable energy policy of the respective countries. In addition, the above category of “combined” Actions contains a number of cases where policies are implemented together with supporting investment or deployment programmes. Taking together the input from individual Action reports with government participation across all categories, it can be said that governments have proved to be particularly important and highly reliable Partners for the advancement of renewable energy. This finding is very encouraging for the implementation of progressive national renewable energy policies, especially those based on a national renewable energy target.

## 5 Reflections on IAP Follow-up Methodology

### **5.1 History of IAP Follow-up: Method and Process**

The REN21 Secretariat kicked off the reporting process on 17 March 2006, when it e-mailed out a request for progress reports on individual IAP Actions to all contact Partners. A two-page reporting form was provided by the Secretariat, accompanied by a copy of the ministerial letter mandating REN21 to perform this follow-up activity.

Approximately 30% of these initial e-mails did not reach the contact persons specified in the IAP. The REN21 Secretariat then used various channels (telephone calls, internet research, peer group contacts, etc.) to research updated contact details. However, for 3% of Actions committed the Secretariat was unable to identify the current contact person.

On 5 April, with the response rate stagnating at only 7%, the Secretariat sent out reminders, also implicating the REN21 Steering Committee members and other authorities with close ties to REN21, in order to encourage the contact persons in their environment to respond. By 12 April, the response rate had climbed to over 25%.

On 21 April, the Secretariat sent out an information and appreciation e-mail to all contacts. Partners were informed that reports were still welcome. They were also informed on the disclosure policy, whereby the REN21 Secretariat would make the responses publicly available on its website, alongside the original commitments. Some reports had to be slightly edited or condensed for increased readability.

In order to further increase the response rate, REN21 intensified its outreach efforts, now focusing primarily on Actions that promised a particularly important contribution to GHG mitigation.

On 27 April, the response rate had reached 42%. This constituted the basis for the first Interim Report on IAP Implementation prepared for the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 14) in May 2006.

Personal contact with IAP Partners or their colleagues during CSD meetings helped to further increase the response rate prior to the publication of the second, more detailed Interim Report on 1 June 2006, on the occasion of the two-year anniversary of the renewables 2004 conference. By that date, the response rate had climbed to 56%.

A final outreach was conducted during the summer of 2006, focusing on Actions where REN21 had received indications that reports were being prepared. These continued efforts have pushed the response rate to a respectable level of 69% as of 31 October 2006, which was the basis for this report.

Partners' reports on the implementation of IAP Actions are still accepted and will be made available on-line as they reach the Secretariat. The dedicated website (<http://www.ren21.net/iap>) will ensure continued follow-up on the IAP and remain a platform for the community to share a growing wealth of experience, communicate about lessons learnt, and showcase their success.

### **5.2 Lessons Learnt: Methodological Strengths and Weaknesses**

The Secretariat's continued effort in reminding Partners of their commitments proved to be a successful approach, as it has yielded good overall feedback with more than two thirds of Actions reported on. An analysis of the IAP follow-up process, from the initial invitation to this implementation report, however, shows that there is also room for improvement.

First of all, it has been difficult to contact people when there has been little interaction for almost two years. The contact established with IAP Partners at the Bonn conference should probably have been entertained more intensely following the event. This would certainly have helped to

identify from the very beginning the person who is effectively in charge of project implementation on the operational level. Where that person is situated in other branches of an administration or organisation than the person provided as primary contact in the IAP, follow-up and reporting accountability were substantially weakened. Also, top decision-makers in ministries and organisms rarely make good interlocutors for the sometimes tedious practical aspects of reporting. At the same time, it can be very useful to have the contact information of superiors and keep them informed in order to enable them to exercise gentle pressure in favour of reporting. On that level, it has been very helpful to establish a personal, emotional or political attachment to reporting. When Partners understand the importance of RE policy development, where REN21 has close personal ties and where top politicians are avowedly concerned with greenhouse gas emissions, reporting and implementation are clearly higher. This is why it has proved useful always to stress the benefit of reporting for Partners: increased visibility of successes and information exchange.

Timing has also proved to be an important factor for reporting effectiveness. It has been difficult to obtain reports in times of political “volatility,” shortly before or after elections. Although this cannot be considered when determining the general timing, the current political situation in a country has to be taken into account when following up with specific Partners, especially those in the administration. Also, for even better responsiveness, it would have been wise to plan the cadence of invitation, reminders and interim reports throughout the seasons. This would have allowed to identify periods of maximum activity, excluding extended holiday seasons (summer and religious holidays). REN21 should have started to invite even earlier and given more time before the first deadline (10 April 2006), which was initially set to a date only three weeks after the first invitation (17 March). However, it has certainly been helpful to make this deadline only “medium hard,” accepting late reports while reaffirming the importance of deadlines in principle. Also, it has been helpful to have an important event to back up the deadline. This worked well regarding IAP reporting and CSD 14, with Partners knowing exactly that they needed to send reports before the REN21 staff left for New York.

Another lesson is the complexity of global communication links and infrastructure. It has been more difficult to follow up with people in developing countries, where the information infrastructure is not very dense or e-mail communication is not part of work habits. The reporting rate was thus maximised by openness towards Partners seeking hand in reports directly at meetings and conferences or transmit them through people in close contact with the REN21 Secretariat. This aspect to some extent correlates with the finding that non-reporting is particularly clustered in countries and organisations that do not use English as their primary language. Latin American countries, for example, have reported more slowly and the contact persons have pointed out the language barrier. Even within Europe, regional differences in the response rate can be observed as Latin cultures show a lesser representation than Anglo-Saxon and Nordic countries. The language barrier should therefore be considered an important obstacle that may possibly be aggravated by other cultural factors. It will be noted, however, that the Secretariat has reacted to that observation and encouraged Partners to answer in their native language.

The REN21 Secretariat made a special effort to include reports on Actions cited in the IAP Content Analysis ([http://www.renewables2004.de/pdf/IAP\\_content\\_analysis.pdf](http://www.renewables2004.de/pdf/IAP_content_analysis.pdf)) for their potential impact on greenhouse gas mitigation. However, at 70%, reporting among the top 10 Actions of the Content Analysis is merely average. In the process of the IAP follow-up, the REN21 Secretariat has also become conscious of a number of Actions that are in fact being implemented, but that were not reported on. Thus, project notoriety and success with implementation do not seem to trigger a positive reporting bias and it seems safe to assume that implementation statistics would not look very different had the feedback rate been closer to 100%. If the non-response from approximately 30% of Partners cannot simply be attributed to difficulties with implementation, it most certainly results from unfavourable local reporting conditions or the methodological weaknesses of the follow-up process outlined above.

## 6 Conclusions

The broad follow-up obtained from Partners and the significant progress reported with regard to Action implementation show that voluntary commitment schemes such as the IAP are absolutely viable. They can be an effective way to achieve real policy advancement through a bottom-up approach, especially when internationally binding agreements are hard to reach. With the IAP, Partners have demonstrated their willingness to undertake meaningful and substantial projects, taking voluntary reporting just as serious as the implementation of these non-binding commitments. It has been particularly encouraging to see that governments have taken their responsibility as important actors and stakeholders of renewable energy development very seriously.

Adequate reporting has clearly been a major factor in guaranteeing the success of the IAP. It has been particularly beneficial for the efficiency of the IAP follow-up initiative to build on the legitimacy provided by a clear follow-up mandate from the conveners of the conference. Another convincing argument for reporting has been the ongoing opportunity for Partners to showcase their successes on the REN21 website. Lastly, the perseverance of the REN21 Secretariat in identifying and following up with contact persons on the operational level has also proved an important factor in broadening the feedback.

As the principles of reporting on voluntary commitment schemes have thus been established, the International Action Programme and its follow-up process may now serve as a reference for coming initiatives in the international policy process. In order to contribute to the success of future commitment schemes, the REN21 Secretariat is more than willing to share more details on the methodological insight and practical experience gained (see section 5), both with decision-makers considering commitment programmes and bodies charged with follow-up and monitoring.

The present report analyses the general status of Action follow-up (see section 3) and implementation (see section 4). It will also serve as the basis for an upcoming report that will investigate and evaluate the actual contribution of implemented IAP Actions to greenhouse gas mitigation. In that report, REN21 will also go into details regarding the impact of the IAP on global RE investment, installed renewable energy capacity and production. It will be made available on the REN21 website shortly (<http://www.ren21.net>).

## 7 Appendices

### 7.1 Appendix A: Letter from Ministers Calling for Follow-up



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety

#### renewables 2004 –REN21: Follow up to the International Action Programme

Dear Partners in the renewables 2004 International Action Programme,

Two years ago this June, governments and civil society came together to agree on the importance of Renewable Energy to our future. Our declaration was strong, and our commitment was real. It was a major affirmation of our conviction that renewable Energy is real, relevant, good business and good policy.

Almost all of the members of the unique community gathered in Bonn joined in an International Action Programme (IAP). As we move into the consideration of energy issues by the Commission on Sustainable Development in its 14th and 15th session, we propose that the Bonn Community revisit our Action Programme and tell the stories of our success and share lessons learned with others.

Accordingly we invite you to revisit your commitments in the International Action Programme and join with us in developing a comprehensive update on our progress for presentation to the CSD.

You will recall that one of our commitments was to form an international network to promote renewable energy that fully engaged all stakeholders. Thanks to the efforts of many, that Network – REN21 – now exists. Among other accomplishments it has published the most comprehensive report on the status of renewable around the world, available on its website [www.ren21.net](http://www.ren21.net).

REN21 being the follow-up Network to the Bonn conference, we have suggested to its Steering Committee that REN21 should facilitate the updating of the IAP. The REN21 Steering Committee has agreed to take on this central task. The Secretariat of REN21 will therefore contact you in order to compile the information on the current status of the commitments made.

We would like to encourage you to respond to this call in collaboration with all the relevant partners and leaders of your IAP activity so that your contribution can be adequately reflected.

REN21 intends to establish a network relationship with the Actors of the International Action Programme to allow for further activities to be carried out, thereby making this an ongoing activity of the committed Renewables Community.

We hope you will join us in following through on what we began together, and in expanding our commitment to renewable energy.

Yours sincerely,

**Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul**

Minister for Economic  
Cooperation and Development

**Sigmar Gabriel**

Minister for the Environment,  
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

## 7.2 Appendix B: Follow-up Submission Form

Information on Actions and Commitments									
<b>Part A: References to Action</b>									
Title of Action committed	<i>...as referred to in the IAP</i>								
Leading Actor(s)	<i>...as laid down in your IAP commitment (if changed, please note this here)</i>								
Contact person/responding office	<i>...as laid down in your IAP commitment (if changed, please note this here)</i>								
<b>Part B: Status and Impacts</b>									
Report on the status of implementation of Action (please tick appropriate boxes)	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action pursued as is (i.e. as laid down in IAP)</i></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action concluded</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action modified since IAP (i.e. extended / scaled back)</i></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action underway</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action abandoned</i></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action in preparatory phase</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action not yet begun</i></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action pursued as is (i.e. as laid down in IAP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action concluded</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action modified since IAP (i.e. extended / scaled back)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action underway</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action abandoned</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action in preparatory phase</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action not yet begun</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action pursued as is (i.e. as laid down in IAP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action concluded</i>								
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action modified since IAP (i.e. extended / scaled back)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action underway</i>								
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action abandoned</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action in preparatory phase</i>								
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Action not yet begun</i>								
Brief report on status of Action	<i>Please indicate concrete steps that have been taken to implement the Action. It is advised that you refer to the "Contents" as stated in your Action in the IAP. Please state any modifications to Action since laid down in the IAP.</i>								
Impacts of Action so far in the following areas (please indicate as of month/year):	<i>For all of the impacts below, it is advised that you refer to the "Expected results" as stated in your Action in the IAP.</i>								
➤ Investment involved, so far (in \$ USD)									
➤ Renewable Energy capacity increase, so far (in kW / MW)									

➤ Renewable Energy production increase, so far (in MWh / GWh)	
➤ Benefits / Energy for the poor, so far	<i>e.g. additional number of people who gained access to electricity</i>
➤ CO2 reduction, so far (in metric tons)	
General progress or other impacts/dividends	<i>e.g. policy development, legal frameworks, institutional arrangements, awareness,...</i>
Impacts expected as of end of 2010	
Next steps envisaged for implementation of Action	<i>Please also indicate expected time horizon</i>
<b>Part C: Further information</b>	
Lessons learnt	
General comments	<i>e.g. unforeseen obstacles encountered</i>

### 7.3 Appendix C: Statistical Appendices for Figures A-H

Statistical Appendix Figure A – Respondents by Region of Origin

Region of Origin	Number of Actions in the IAP	Number of responses received	Response Rate
Europe	88	64	73%
Africa	38	24	63%
Global	22	15	68%
Latin America & Caribbean	17	9	53%
Asia	10	8	80%
North America	10	4	40%
Australia & Pacific	7	7	100%
Middle East	5	4	80%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>69%</b>

Statistical Appendix Figure B – Respondents by Target Region

Target Region	Number of Actions in the IAP	Number of responses received	Response Rate
Global	56	43	77%
Europe	50	36	72%
Africa	40	24	60%
Latin America & Caribbean	20	9	45%
Asia	13	11	85%
North America	9	4	44%
Middle East	5	4	80%
Australia & Pacific	4	4	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>69%</b>

Statistical Appendix Figure C – Respondents by Lead Actor Type

Lead Actor Type	Number of Actions in the IAP	Number of responses received	Response Rate
Own government	109	68	62%
<i>(National)</i>	<i>(96)</i>	<i>(60)</i>	<i>(63%)</i>
<i>(Local &amp; regional)</i>	<i>(13)</i>	<i>(8)</i>	<i>(62%)</i>
International organisation	35	30	86%
NGO	24	14	58%
Private Sector	20	15	75%
Development agency	9	8	89%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>69%</b>

### Statistical Appendix for Figure D – Respondents by Action Type

Action Type	Number of Actions in the IAP	Number of responses received	Response Rate
Policies	56	37	66%
<i>(Regulation)</i>	(45)	(32)	(71%)
<i>(Incentives)</i>	(11)	(5)	(45%)
Capacity development	51	32	64%
Research & development	33	29	88%
Deployment	20	10	50%
Multiple	20	12	60%
Financing	17	15	88%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>69%</b>

### Statistical Appendix for Figure E – Implementation by Region of Origin

Region of Origin	Number of responses	Implement. complete	Completion rate	Implement. underway	Underway rate	Total rate of implement.
Europe	64	15	23%	42	66%	89%
Africa	24	2	8%	18	75%	83%
Global	15	2	13%	8	53%	67%
Lat. Am. & Caribbean	9	0	0%	3	33%	33%
Asia	8	1	9%	5	64%	73%
Australia & Pacific	7	1	14%	4	57%	71%
Middle East	4	0	0%	3	75%	75%
North America	4	0	0%	3	75%	75%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>79%</b>

### Statistical Appendix for Figure F – Implementation by Target Region

Target Region	Number of responses	Implement. complete	Completion rate	Implement. underway	Underway rate	Total rate of Implement.
Global	43	9	21%	26	60%	79%
Europe	36	9	25%	22	61%	86%
Africa	24	2	8%	18	75%	83%
Asia	11	1	9%	7	64%	73%
Lat. Am. & Caribbean	9	0	0%	4	44%	44%
Australia & Pacific	4	0	0%	3	75%	75%
Middle East	4	0	0%	3	75%	75%
North America	4	0	0%	3	75%	75%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>79%</b>

### Statistical Appendix for Figure G – Implementation by Lead Actor Type

Lead Actor Type	Number of responses	Implement. complete	Completion rate	Implement. underway	Underway rate	Total rate of implement.
Government	68	12	18%	46	68%	85%
<i>(National)</i>	<i>(60)</i>	<i>(12)</i>	<i>(20%)</i>	<i>(40)</i>	<i>(67%)</i>	<i>(87%)</i>
<i>(Local &amp; regional)</i>	<i>(8)</i>	<i>(0)</i>	<i>(0%)</i>	<i>(6)</i>	<i>(75%)</i>	<i>(75%)</i>
Intern. Organisation	30	4	13%	17	57%	70%
Private Sector	15	0	0%	11	73%	73%
NGO	14	5	36%	6	43%	79%
Development agency	8	0	0%	6	75%	75%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>79%</b>

### Statistical Appendix for Figure H – Implementation by Action Type

Action Type	Number of responses	Implement. complete	Completion rate	Implement. underway	Underway rate	Total rate of implement.
Policies	37	4	11%	24	65%	76%
<i>(Regulation)</i>	<i>(32)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(9%)</i>	<i>(22)</i>	<i>(69%)</i>	<i>(78%)</i>
<i>(Incentives)</i>	<i>(5)</i>	<i>(1)</i>	<i>(20%)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(40%)</i>	<i>(60%)</i>
Capacity developm.	32	9	28%	16	50%	78%
Research & develop.	29	3	10%	19	66%	76%
Financing	15	2	13%	12	80%	93%
Multiple	12	2	17%	8	67%	83%
Deployment	10	1	10%	7	70%	80%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>79%</b>

