

Presse- mitteilung

Entwicklungspolitik

DIENSTSITZ BERLIN Stresemannstraße 94, 10963 Berlin

DIENSTSITZ BONN Adenauerallee 139, 53113 Bonn

TEL +49 (0) 1888 535-2450

FAX +49 (0) 1888 535-2595

INTERNET www.bmz.de

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Wieczorek-Zeul and Gabriel: "No future without renewable energies"

Two years after the Bonn International Conference for Renewable Energies (renewables2004) implementation of measures making good progress

"Since the Bonn conference we have made excellent progress and therefore successfully continued the transformation of energy systems that was introduced then," stated Federal Development Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul on the occasion of the second anniversary of the International Conference for Renewable Energies, renewables2004. The conference took place in Bonn in June 2004 and was the largest ever international conference on renewable energies. A major outcome of the conference was the International Action Programme for renewable energies. It includes approximately 200 concrete commitments to promote the increased generation of wind, solar and hydropower, biomass and geothermal energy worldwide.

"Two years after the Bonn Conference we are well on the way to successfully implementing the Action Programme," said Federal Environment Minister Gabriel.

The Interim Report on the Implementation of the International Action Programme prepared by the Renewable Energy Policy Network - REN21 is proof of that: almost 80 percent of the responses reported that projects had been launched or already fully implemented. A number of countries announced that they would significantly raise the share of renewable energies in electricity production. China's target, for example, is to generate 15 percent of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020. Turkey has introduced a law granting priority to renewable energies modelled on German legislation and has already approved the construction of wind and hydroelectric power plants with a capacity of 3,000 MW. Pakistan plans to supply approximately 30,000 households especially in remote areas with wind and solar power. With German support small hydroelectric power

plants with a capacity of up to 10 MW will be built in Armenia in the period up to 2010.

"We want to put greater emphasis on promoting cooperation between those countries that have new energy technology and those that want to use it," said Federal Environment Minister Gabriel. "In Germany we were able to more than double the share of renewable energies within a few years. Within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism the international use of renewable energies is an excellent, cost-efficient instrument. Germany will strongly increase the use of this instrument so that climate gases will be quickly cut down worldwide in as many regions as possible - for an energy supply that meets future demands and for sustainable economic growth."

Some measures in developing countries will be supported by the Special Facility for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency provided by Germany.

"The Special Facility is a huge success, as about one third of the 500 million euros for the years 2005 to 2009 has already been allocated due to the great demand from developing countries," explained Minister Wieczorek-Zeul. "Especially for developing countries it is important that sustainable energy sources are made use of and energy efficiency is improved", she emphasised, noting that sustainable energy sources save resources and support countries' growth. "Both are important prerequisites for fulfilling the millennium goal of eradicating poverty. The Federal Government therefore made the promotion of renewable energies a key issue of international cooperation," said Ms Wieczorek-Zeul.

The complete implementation of the International Action Programme will reduce global CO₂ emissions by 1.2 billion tonnes every year in the period up to 2015. That is approximately 5 percent of today's global CO₂ emissions. The implementation of the International Action Programme will lead to investments in renewable energies of approximately US \$ 320 billion.