

## **Fourth Meeting of the REN21 Steering Committee 6-7 May 2006, New York**

### **Opening of Meeting and Welcome Address by Mr Edwin Piñero, White House**

Mr Paul Suding, Head of REN21 Secretariat, welcomed the participants to the fourth meeting of the REN21 Steering Committee (SC) which took place in New York from 6-7 May 2006 – in between the two weeks of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14), held in New York 1-12 May.

Mr Edwin Piñero, Federal Environmental Executive in the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, and chair of the White House Task Force on Waste Prevention and Recycling, welcomed the meeting participants to New York. In his opening speech, he spoke to the role of renewable energies (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) as key components of economically and ecologically sound energy systems, going beyond electricity production. The United States of America (US) strive to promote RE by applying market forces, public-private-partnerships, and locally-led efforts. RE investment requires incentives for research and development, then demonstration, and finally commercialisation of new technologies. He stressed the importance of information exchange on regional, national and local levels, rather than mutually enforced action, and shared some specific examples of recent RE deployment in the US.

### **Debate on Renewable Energy and Energy Security – Paper presented by IEA**

Mr Antonio Pflüger presented Ms Samantha Ölz as a new staff member linking IEA with the REN21 Secretariat, and Mr Peter Tulej, new head of IEA's RE unit. Mr Pflüger also mentioned some of the current work IEA is doing, in particular the IEA contribution to a RE and Energy Security (ES) Paper, which was envisaged at the REN21 SC meeting in Beijing.

Mr Pflüger and Ms Ölz presented the outline and draft key findings of this paper, the current status of which was noted was work in progress presented for comments. Given the current background of IEA's activities, it is limited to OECD member countries (i.e. industrialised economies).

The presentation approached the topic of "secure energy" as "adequate, affordable, and reliable" energy, and addressed the main risk-mitigation opportunities of RE today and in the future in the electricity, heat, and transport sectors. Those risks range from geopolitical (e.g. supply disruption) to technical (e.g. infrastructure failure or sabotage), environmental (e.g. degradation and scarcity), and market/competition (e.g. price volatility) risks, which differ according to energy end-use sector and country. The presentation raised areas in which RE may enhance ES, thereby complementing other mechanisms (e.g. emergency response systems and oil and gas stocks). The presentation also addressed RE technologies' own challenges.

In the subsequent discussion, SC members welcomed that the IEA has started to develop this paper as an input to REN21. As to the envisaged concept and contents, however, some important proposals for changes were raised:

Several SC members held that the paper's value would be improved if it did take into account developing countries (DC's) and their specific issues with regard to ES. It was suggested that this may be undertaken by including a limited number of exemplary cases, which the IEA – albeit an OECD country organisation – was believed to have the capacity of doing.

Several SC members also suggested that the paper would present a more convincing case for RE if it confronted the IEA's "reference scenario" to its "alternative scenario" with regard to the respective contribution that RE can make to ES. Such an analysis would also permit to illustrate the new ES challenges caused by considerably higher shares of RE, such as the effects of climate change on hydropower, and environmental impacts of large-scale biomass production. The IEA pointed out that the current paper did not intend to go into scenario analysis, which was covered by the World Energy Outlook Scenarios and other IEA publications.

Some participants felt that energy efficiency (EE) should be given more attention as a means of improving ES by reducing demand. The IEA highlighted that the current version of the paper does recognise EE as a necessary and valuable complement to RE for mitigating ES risks.

One proposal made was that REN21 should develop a *scoping paper* that raises issues and asks questions about the contributions of RE to ES, rather than striving for an exhaustive analysis of the subject.

Mr Pflüger and Mr Tulej agreed to several suggestions made and thanked the SC members for sharing their thoughts.

## **Governance Issues of REN21**

The Steering Committee (SC) thanked Mr Rajendra Pachauri for his leadership as Chairman during the Network's first year of existence. Upon invitation by the Bureau, Mr Mohamed El-Ashry had agreed in February 2006 to be candidate for the Chair, and expressed his willingness to invest a lot of time and effort to advance the Network. The SC thanked Mr El-Ashry for his acceptance and elected him unanimously as the new Chair. The SC also confirmed the Vice-Chairs, noting however that roll-over on the Bureau would be desirable in the future to bring about change.

Mr Martin Devine and Mr Paul Suding presented the work undertaken by the Nominating Committee (NC) with the Secretariat concerning changes to the SC set-up and terms for procedure, as laid down in the background document "REN21 Nominating Committee: role, mandate and tasks".

The SC thanked the NC and agreed to the procedures to be applied by the NC and the Secretariat in renewing SC membership. The SC reconfirmed the membership renewal it had decided prior to this meeting, welcoming the new members present. The SC asked the NC and the government members to strive for a better-balanced SC with regard to gender and member categories.

The SC endorsed the idea of honouring outstanding contributions of SC members or other participants to REN21 by means of certificates of appreciation. In particular, the SC wishes to thank Mr. Rainer Hinrichs-Rahlwes and Mr Norbert Gorißen for their important contributions.

## **Current and Future Core Activities of REN21**

### **INTERIM REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IAP**

Mr Suding presented the Interim Report on the Implementation of the International Action Programme of the Bonn renewables 2004 Conference. This follow-up activity had been agreed in earlier SC meetings. After one month of effective reporting, the Secretariat has received feedback on over 80 of the 197 Actions made in June 2004, relatively evenly distributed over all the categories and types of Actions. 75% of the Actions reported upon are currently being implemented or have been completed already. Only 2% have been abandoned.

The SC thanked and congratulated the Secretariat for their follow-up work, which some of them stressed was the first time that RE commitments were actually being followed-up on in a meaningful way. The SC members suggested that REN21 should produce an updated interim report for the 2-year anniversary of the Bonn Conference, thereby concluding this specific follow-up exercise for the time being. The follow-up should then advance from tracking the commitments itself to assessing their *impacts* (such as CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and the number of people having received access to energy) and maybe also reasons for success or failure. A final report including such analysis should be envisaged for 2007/2008.

The SC further agreed that after this successful work, REN21 should be open to showcase on an ongoing basis *new* commitments (such as the above-mentioned proposal by UAE) and other existing commitments made outside the IAP. A new round of Action commitments should be linked to another major event.

Some SC members emphasised the value of sharing best practices and case studies, especially between countries within the same region, and to support countries in reaching their commitments.

## ROLE OF REN21 WITH REGARD TO REVIEW OF RE ACTIVITIES IN THE CSD CONTEXT

The SC members discussed ways of taking this review activity into the multilateral process. As called for by the declarations from Bonn and Beijing, a review arrangement should be identified to frame voluntary reporting and assess progress towards increasing RE worldwide. The SC agreed that REN21 should substantially contribute to this task by cooperating with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Participants noted that REN21 should contribute with both the Renewable Energy Status Reports (to the progress assessment), and with the follow-up of the IAP and other commitments (to the voluntary reporting).

The SC therefore agreed on a common position<sup>1</sup> in order to take a coherent message for a suitable review arrangement to CSD-14/15. Based on this, REN21 would then offer to cooperate with UN-DESA and other Partners, especially the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC), the IEA, and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) to review progress made, as called for in the Beijing Declaration.

## REEGLE INFORMATION GATEWAY

Mr Robert Klump and Ms Sidse Kristensen presented the new “reegle” information gateway, a common project of REN21 and REEEP. The one-stop-shop website for high quality information on renewable energy and energy efficiency was launched on May 10 in the margins of the CSD-14 Conference. The Steering Committee expressed its approval and thanks for the achieved progress.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT REPORT

Ms Virginia Sonntag-O'Brien presented a UNEP-SEFI proposal to publish a regular summary of global trends in renewable energy investment in collaboration with REN21. The publication would provide an updated accounting of the state of RE investment in OECD and developing countries, serving both the policy and the finance communities. Prepared and financed through SEFI, the report is proposed as a joint REN21/SEFI publication, to be cleared by the REN21 SC, and complementing the Global Status Report. The SC welcomed the project.

## OTHER CORE ACTIVITIES OF REN21

Mr Suding presented a proposed list of priority activities for REN21 for 2006-2007 in the areas of policy, advocacy, and exchange. Besides the above-mentioned tasks of following up on the IAP and International Renewables Conferences, and making use of the opportunities in the CSD context, the list also reconfirms the Renewable Energy Status Reports and further RE Issue Papers as continuous efforts of REN21. As new suggestions the list features “RE Policy Assessment” (i.e.: conclusive assessment and exchange on RE policies as a reaction to the demand for authoritative information and consultancy), and “RE Potentials Assessment” (i.e. identifying technically and economically recoverable RE potentials).

The SC members agreed to this set of activities, which some commended for their consistency with the discussions held at previous SC meetings. Some SC members cautioned the need to avoid duplication with relevant activities that are already going and to involve the larger RE community that goes beyond the SC. It was also suggested that the expansion and strengthening of the Network should be the first priority of REN21 and that the Network should not evolve into an agency. It was further noted that the classification into the three categories may lead to confusion as their separation is not clear-cut.

## **Affiliated Activities**

Mr Peter Rae shared with the SC members industry guideline documents from the International Hydropower Association and the World Wind Energy Association, respectively. Mr Rae invited the SC members to provide comments on these documents to be taken back to the developers, as the establishment and utilization of industry-based guidelines is an ongoing activity with relevance to REN21. The SC welcomed the work and thanked Mr Rae for this initiative.

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<sup>1</sup> The position was drafted by Mr Peter Rae on behalf of the SC after the meeting.

## **Exchange on International Policy Processes**

### **GEF: GRID-CONNECTED RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY FORUM, MEXICO**

Ms Christine Woerlen and Mr Jamal Saghir reported on the International Grid-Connected Renewable Energy Policy Forum, held in Mexico City from 1-3 February 2006, and presented the policy conclusions. A number of REN21 SC members had been present at that Conference and a REN21 stand had been organised. The Conference was perceived as a success in terms of a good and solution-focussed debate by the SC, who expressed the need for the REN21 Network to be strongly involved in such kind of activities.

### **UNEP: GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM, DUBAI**

Mr Mark Radka spoke to the Global Ministerial Environment Forum held in Dubai, 6-9 February 2006, as well as to the press briefing organised with the REN21 Secretariat on the launch of the "Changing Climates" issue paper. REN21 was also mentioned in the official outcome document as instrumental in taking forward policy dialogue on renewable energy.

### **UN HIGH-LEVEL PANEL FOR COHERENCY IN DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT WORK**

Mr El-Ashry reported on the newly formed UN High-Level Panel on Coherence in the Areas of Development, Environment, and Humanitarian Assistance. The 15-member panel which is co-chaired by three Prime Ministers and includes also Mr El-Ashry will prepare a study. Mr El-Ashry invited SC members to send him their thoughts on this issue by email, and suggested that REN21 should share relevant information in the framework of the envisaged fundamental restructuring of the UN.

### **ASIA-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP**

Mr Michael Eckhart and Mr Griffin Thompson spoke about the Asia-Pacific-Partnership (APP) on Clean Development and Climate. While SC members' opinions differed as to the commitment of some of the founding countries, the SC felt it was important for REN21 to track the work undertaken by the APP and to seek to ensure that RE receive high recognition. Specifically, REN21 should liaise with the RE task force of the APP, a member-list of which Mr Thompson offered to provide to the SC.

### **UPCOMING THIRD MENAREC CONFERENCE, CAIRO**

Ms Sonntag-O'Brien called to the SC's attention the upcoming Third Middle East - North Africa Renewable Energy Conference, to be held in Cairo, 12-14 June 2006, and offered to report back to the SC from that event.

### **PROPOSAL FOR A RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE IN USA**

Mr Eckhart presented to the SC a proposal from ACORE to the US Department of State for a "Washington International Renewable Energy Conference" (WIREC 2008). The suggested high-level conference would be in the follow-up of the Conferences held in Bonn in June 2004, and in Beijing in November 2005. Addressing the issues of energy supply/security, environment, and economic growth/poverty alleviation, the US government-organised conference could – similar to the Bonn Conference – consist of three parts, i.e. an intergovernmental meeting, official side events, and a business conference and exhibition.

The SC expressed its strong support to the proposal<sup>2</sup>, which some SC members noted could spur and showcase US action for renewables. Referring to the Bonn experience, several SC members pointed out to the value of an International Steering Committee in preparing the conference and building momentum during the relatively long run-up to the envisaged US conference in 2008. The REN21 SC offered the US its support in the preparation and implementation of the conference. Some SC members suggested it might also be a good idea to hold the conference not in Washington but in another Federal State, such as California, to reflect state-driven action with regard to renewables.

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<sup>2</sup> "The REN21 Steering Committee endorses the concept of a process to follow up on the initiatives and progress of Bonn and Beijing, and expresses willingness to be an important partner in future conferences."

Mr Thompson, who also welcomed the conference proposal personally, informed the SC that the US State Department will respond to the proposal after an internal discussion, but that no date for a definite decision can be given.

## **New Initiatives Relevant to REN21**

### **IEA/REEEP: REILP AND NEET**

Mr Pflüger informed participants about an MoU signed between IEA and REEEP. Cooperation includes the Renewable Energy and International Law (REIL) Project, and the work IEA is doing in the framework of the G8 Gleneagles Plan of Action, in particular the “Networks of Expertise in Energy Technology” (NEET) initiative that was launched in the margins of CSD-14 and that will consist of a series of events and workshops, many of them in major emerging economies. IEA is also linking up with the International Science Panel on Renewable Energy (ISPRES).

### **MASDAR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, ABU DHABI**

Mr Ziad Tassabehji presented the planned Abu Dhabi government-funded economic development programme “Masdar”. Masdar is a major programme focused on fostering advanced energy technologies and sustainability by bringing together the communities of finance/consulting, academic/research, and business. A special economic zone in Abu Dhabi is envisaged to build a favourable business environment. An innovation centre is also planned to catalyse demonstration, commercialization and promotion of advanced energy technologies. A clean development company is set to improve regional carbon management and CDM project development. Links with internationally leading universities and research institutes and local academic programmes will provide a talent pool of knowledge workers. The government-owned Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company will oversee and market the programme and its various components.

The SC welcomed and congratulated this project, and asked to be informed about its progress. Some SC members confirmed specifically the value of linking up top universities around the world.

### **INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE PANEL ON RENEWABLE ENERGIES**

Mr Joachim Luther presented the formation of the International Science Panel on Renewable Energies (ISPRES). ISPRES is to provide strategic guidance for RE research and development R&D efforts worldwide, identifying gaps in existing efforts, and recommend future R&D priorities and strategies to improve effectiveness of national, regional and global R&D efforts. The International Council for Science (ICSU) will be the scientific home for ISPRES and act as the guarantor for its scientific quality. The proposal of ICSU and ISPRES is to integrate ISPRES into the REN21 Network, with REN21 being a “receiving partner” for ISPRES’s work, which will focus strictly on science and technology (e.g. assessments, reports). A liaison person might be identified within the REN21 Network for this. ICSU, REN21 and (later) an engineering organisation would jointly appoint the members of the ISPRES panel. Mr Luther noted that the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between REN21, ICSU and ISPRES would be helpful for the cooperation.<sup>3</sup>

The SC echoed the wish for close cooperation and very much welcomed this project, which should complement REN21 by providing a scientific and academic basis anchored in developed and developing countries on which to build RE policies.

## **Functioning of REN21**

### **PARTICIPATION IN THE NETWORK:**

The SC asked the Secretariat to step up its efforts to intensify networking between REN21 participants, paying special attention to reaching out to non-SC actors and other networks in the work of REN21. Website-based cooperation and communication within task-specific issue groups were reconfirmed as key instrument to this end, the Global Status Report update and IAP follow-up providing examples of how participation shall be encouraged by specific activities.

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<sup>3</sup> The discussion of REN21’s policies on MoU’ was also debated at the meeting (see below).

It was further suggested that the Secretariat might seek legal advice to clarify the question of liability of REN21 participants vis-à-vis information provided on the REN21 website.

#### BUDGET INFORMATION

Mr Suding spoke to the budget of REN21, explaining that financing until 2007 is enough to cover Secretariat staff and the activities of the next Global Status Report update as well as the basic IAP follow-up work. However, he noted that further activities would have to come with further financing.

It was suggested that the Secretariat might seek legal advice to clarify the role of the SC with regard to budget approval.

#### POLICY FOR COOPERATION AND MoU's WITH PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Mr Suding informed the SC about proposals carried to the Secretariat from ISPRES and REEEP to sign MoU's with REN21. The Bureau had decided that before signing any specific MoU, a general policy should be agreed which REN21 would apply vis-à-vis MoU's and cooperation with partners.

The SC decided that as a general policy REN21 should not sign MoU's with anyone, as the legal implications were unclear even with informal MoU's. In order to frame cooperation and demonstrate complementarity with Partners, exchanges of letters or statements were agreed as suitable alternatives.

#### **Closure and Next Meeting**

Mr Arthouros Zervos suggested to hold the next SC meeting in the margins of the 2007 European Renewable Energy Policy Conference, to be held 29-31 January 2007 in Brussels. The Renewable Energy House would be a suitable location. The SC responded positively to this suggestion, though noting that an IPCC event will be taking place at the same time.

Mr El-Ashry thanked Mr Suding and the Secretariat for the good job they did in organising the meeting. He also thanked the participants for their valuable contributions.

## REN21 Steering Committee

<b>GOVERNMENTS (13)</b>		
<b>Mr Paulo José Chiarelli Vicente de Azevedo</b>	Brazil Ministry of External Relations	absent
<b>Mr Li Junfeng</b>	China Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association	present
<b>Mr Hans-Jorgen Koch</b>	Denmark Danish Energy Authority	repr. by alternate
<b>Mr Artur Runge-Metzger</b>	European Commission DG Environment: Climate, Ozone and Energy	absent
<b>Mr Michael Hofmann</b>	Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	repr. by alternate
<b>[tbd]</b>	<i>India</i>	
<b>Mr Corrado Clini</b>	Italy Ministry for the Environment and Territory	repr. by alternate
<b>Ms Amal Haddouche</b>	Morocco Centre de Développement des Energies Renouvelables	absent
<b>Mr Ton van der Zon</b>	Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs	present
<b>Mr Paul Mubiru</b>	Uganda Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development	present
<b>Mr Sultan Al-Jaber</b>	United Arab Emirates Mubadala Development Co. - Energy & Utilities Unit	present
<b>Ms Jackie Jones</b>	United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	present
<b>Mr Griffin Thompson</b>	United States State Department	present
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (5)</b>		
<b>Mr Neil Hirst</b>	IEA Energy Technology Collaboration Division	repr. by alternate
<b>Mr Richard Hosier</b>	GEF Global Environment Facility	repr. by alternate
<b>Mr Olav Kjørven</b>	UNDP Energy and Environment Group	repr. by alternate
<b>Mr Mark Radka</b>	UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics	present
<b>Mr Jamal Saghir</b>	World Bank Energy and Water	present

<b>NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (5)</b>		
<b>Mr Stephen Karekezi</b>	AFREPREN African Energy Policy Research Network	absent
<b>Ms Jennifer Morgan</b>	WWF Climate Change Programme	present
<b>Mr Wolfgang Palz</b>	WCRE World Council for Renewable Energy	absent
<b>Mr Steve Sawyer</b>	Greenpeace Climate and Energy	present
<b>Mr Ibrahim Togola</b>	MFC / CURES Network Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability	present
<b>INDUSTRY (3)</b>		
<b>Mr Michael Eckhart</b>	ACORE American Council on Renewable Energy	present
<b>Mr Peter Rae</b>	WWEA World Wind Energy Association	present
<b>Mr Arthouros Zervos</b>	EREC / GWEC European Renewable Energy Council / Global Wind Energy Council	present
<b>FINANCE (2)</b>		
<b>Mr Richard Burrett</b>	ABN AMRO Sustainable Development	absent
<b>Mr James Cameron</b>	CCC Climate Change Capital	absent
<b>REGIONAL (1)</b>		
<b>Mr Ernst-Christoph Stolper</b>	nrg4SD Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development	present
<b>LOCAL (1)</b>		
<b>[tbd]</b>	<i>UCLG</i> <i>United Cities and Local Governments</i>	absent
<b>MEMBERS AT-LARGE (4)</b>		
<b>Mr Mohamed El-Ashry</b>	UN Foundation United Nations Foundation	present
<b>Mr David Hales</b>	College of the Atlantic USA	present
<b>Mr Rajendra Pachauri</b>	TERI The Energy and Resource Institute, India	absent
<b>Ms Virginia Sonntag-O'Brien</b>	BASE Basel Agency for Sustainable Energy	present

## Other Participants

<b>SC MEMBER ALTERNATES</b>	
<b>Mr Aldo Iacomelli</b>	Ministry for Environment and Territory, Italy
<b>Mr Manfred Konukiewitz</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>Mr Antonio Pflüger</b>	International Energy Agency
<b>Ms Annette Schou</b>	Danish Energy Authority
<b>Mr Minoru Takada</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>Ms Christine Woerlen</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>SECRETARIAT</b>	
<b>Mr Philippe Lempp</b>	REN21 Secretariat
<b>Mr Paul Suding</b>	REN21 Secretariat
<b>OBSERVERS</b>	
<b>Mr Marc Berthold</b>	Heinrich Böll Foundation
<b>Mr Martin Devine</b>	UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Ms Meera Eneland</b>	Global Wind Energy Council
<b>Mr Mike Enskat</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
<b>Mr Josef Herkendell</b>	Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development
<b>Ms Kerstin Linden</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>Mr Joachim Luther</b>	Fraunhofer Institut für Solare Energiesysteme
<b>Mr Duncan Marsh</b>	Consultant on Energy, Environment and Sustainability
<b>Ms Samantha Ölz</b>	International Energy Agency
<b>Mr Edwin Piñero (opening session)</b>	Federal Environmental Executive, White House Task Force on Waste Prevention and Recycling, USA
<b>Mr Tom Roper</b>	Climate Institute, Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative
<b>Ms Jodie Roussel</b>	American Council on Renewable Energy
<b>Mr Thomas Schlegl</b>	Fraunhofer Institut für Solare Energiesysteme, Germany
<b>Mr Martin Schöpe</b>	German Fed. Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservat. and Nuclear Safety
<b>Ms Alona Sheaffer Karo</b>	Life & Environment, Israel
<b>Mr Ziad Tassabehji</b>	Mubadala Development Co. - Energy & Utilities Unit, UAE
<b>Mr Piotr Tulej</b>	International Energy Agency
<b>Mr Sebastian Wienges</b>	PhD Student International Politics, University of Potsdam