

Ninth Meeting of the REN21 Steering Committee at Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 10-11 September 2009

10th September 2009 Opening and Welcome

Steering Committee (SC) Chair Mohamed El-Ashry opened the meeting, which took place in New Delhi and was hosted by the India Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). MNRE Secretary and SC member Deepak Gupta welcomed all participants and outlined the current renewable energy deployment status and targets in India, emphasising the issue of energy access for the poor in the country. The SC members, REN21 Secretariat staff and other participants introduced themselves. Ms Helene Pelosse, interim Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), expressed her gratitude to REN21 for its support for the establishment of IRENA. The SC adopted the agenda, which had been prepared by the Secretariat and the Bureau.

REN21 Strategy

The Secretariat presented the REN21 Strategy and Work Programme 2009-2011¹. The document was drafted based on the one-day meeting of the SC Ad-Hoc Committee in Bonn in April 2009 and subsequent conference calls with the Bureau. It was agreed that given the dramatic increase in renewables over the last five years, it was now time for REN21 to step up its level of ambition and be more strategic and pro-active in enabling a more rapid transition to a low carbon energy mix that includes a substantial share of renewables. The strategy should include the needs that are driven by climate change, energy security, economic development and poverty alleviation, and REN21's mission statement should be adapted to reflect that distinction. Recognising REN21's independence of government interests, many stressed its advocacy role, which would take it from providing information (as with the Global Status Report) to providing and positioning information and messages. This should also entail conducting analytical work that both dispels long-held myths about RE and identifies the values of RE and its multiple benefits (with regard to jobs, CO₂ reduction, water use...). As a first effort, it was agreed that REN21 will conduct a study on the economics of renewable energy electricity generation that would challenge the 'levelised generation cost' model of assessing the cost to society of the choice of generation technologies, as well as seek to quantify 'externalities' associated with such factors as CO₂ emissions; air pollutants; fuel-price volatility; energy security issues; and a metric around discount rates and possibly on speed of deployment / investment / employment.

It was agreed that the success of this new strategic direction depended on having a strengthened REN21 Secretariat, Bureau and SC. SC membership should be inclusive, with representation of all stakeholder groups, even if that would result in an increase in the size of SC membership. There is also a need for stronger engagement on the part of all members. To strengthen the Secretariat, additional resources are required.

Cooperation between IRENA and REN21 was discussed, with both institutions recognising the opportunity for mutual benefit. There is much room for complementarity between IRENA as an

¹ Cf. document: "Draft REN21 Strategy and Work Programme 2009-2011".

inter-governmental organisation and REN21 as a multistakeholder network. IRENA will be able to use and build upon the findings from the REN21 studies. SC members from governments noted the value of their being involved in REN21 and again pointed out the benefit of REN21's independence and flexibility. All agreed that IRENA and REN21 should cooperate closely and maintain close and frequent communication.

Financial Report

The Secretariat presented the 2009 Financial Report² with an explanation of the current funding structure and contractual arrangements, as well as the budget line of specific activity expenditures for 2009. It was agreed that the Secretariat should be strengthened through additional staff support. Funding should be secured for both core Secretariat activities, as well as for concrete projects and products. The Chair urged SC members to come forward with interest to provide funding for the Secretariat activities. The German Ministries of Environment and Development Cooperation as the current main funding partners expressed their commitment to continuing support for REN21. UNEP, who together with GTZ provides the Secretariat, said that UNEP remains committed to providing and strengthening in-kind support for the Secretariat. Denmark and European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) indicated interest in seeking support for the "economics" work which the Chair said would shift some resources toward strengthening the Secretariat. The SC expressed its thanks to all current and future funders.

Current REN21 Activities

The Secretariat gave a review of the activities REN21 is undertaking. The SC welcomed the ongoing work and proposals as presented by the Secretariat, and provided some specific guidance as described below.

(1) Renewables Global Status Report

The Secretariat and lead author Eric Martinot presented the ongoing work on the Renewables Global Status Report³. For the 2009 Global Status Report, Janet Sawin from the Worldwatch Institute was contracted as a second lead author (focusing on data research) in addition to Eric Martinot (who focused on writing the report and providing advice). About 100 correspondents have contributed to the report preparation in various ways. The involvement of the Secretariat was stepped up in terms of overall project management, communication, and data collection. The final report was well received by the renewable energy community.

The SC members and the Global Status Report team discussed possible improvements to the report, including:

- need for a more comprehensive chapter on rural / off-grid energy;
- possibility to include or link scenario work (e.g. a synthesis review of the existing scenario studies);
- information on jobs to be included in every edition;

² Cf. document: "REN21 Financial Report 2009".

³ Cf. presentation by Philippe Lempp: "REN21 Global Status Report" and Cf. presentation by Eric Martinot: "Global Status Report".

- possibility to focus on specific topics (e.g. policy issues, to provide more guidance to decision-makers) or regions (e.g. India, since report will be produced ahead of Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference, DIREC), or link to separate reports / modules.

Over the past months, the Global Status Report team had also received numerous suggestions from many of the contributors regarding the future of the Report. For instance, to establish an advisory group and to take a medium-term outlook approach as currently used in IEA studies to allow a meaningful forecast. The Global Status Report team invited SC members to provide more in-depth guidance for the next edition. It was suggested that a Steering Committee Sub-Committee⁴ be created to provide expert knowledge to help structure next year's report. Some SC members offered to contribute data.

Other members raised the important role the Global Status Report can play in influencing policy and investment decisions among the private sector and the international development institutions. Since renewable energy will form a major part of the current climate change negotiations and the low-carbon economy in the near future, it is essential to ensure a strong message is delivered from the Global Status Report.

(2) Renewable Energy Policy Mapping System

The Secretariat presented the current development of the "Renewables Interactive Map" on the REN21 website to provide the data collected for the Global Status Report and for other reports and activities in a disaggregated and user-friendly way⁵. The system constitutes a useful tool to the teams working on the reports and other knowledge-management activities in and outside the Secretariat: the gathered data (on policies, targets, potentials, existing RE shares, installed capacity, pledges, events, and authoritative publications) can be efficiently archived and shared widely with the community. The data sources consist of the existing databases and further research from various channels.

(3) International Action Programme and Local Pledges

The Secretariat presented the International Action Programme, which has been running since the 2004 Bonn Conference⁶. The Secretariat underlined that voluntary action programmes are of special value for REN21 as they are a perfect illustration of the nature of the network. Currently, the Secretariat maintains a database of about 350 pledges from the Bonn and Washington Conferences. REN21 will continue the pledge process and encourages all SC members to disseminate the pledge submission information among their networks.

In conjunction with the Delhi Conference, REN21 is working with Indian government on a call for the submission of pledges. In conjunction with the local RE conference taking place in Tokyo in October 2009, a call will be made for the submission of pledges at the local level. Pledges on the local level, like on the other levels, would ideally establish a target / goal, but also a proposed implementation plan. It is expected that increased focus on the local level will lead to a considerable increase of pledges on the local level – at present REN21 has some 20 pledges from local governments in its programme.

(4) Report on Local Renewables

⁴ Paolo Frankl, Ernesto Macias Galan and Steve Sawyer have volunteered.

⁵ Cf. presentation by Philippe Lempp: "REN21 Interactive Renewables Map".

⁶ Cf. presentation by Philippe Lempp: "REN21 Renewables International Action Programme".

A collaborative effort of the Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) and REN21, this report (still in draft form) is linked to the Global Status Report and to the web portal on local renewables being developed by ICLEI for REN21. It presents 210 cities with detailed case studies⁷.

(5) Chinese Renewable Energy Study

The Chinese Renewable Energy Study funded by the US State Department Asia Pacific Partnership and contracted to the Chinese Renewable Energy Industry Association (CREIA) has completed two draft reports⁸. One is the background paper followed the structure of the Global Status Report in seven selected technologies in reviewing the Chinese Renewable Energy Status. The second one is the policy recommendation paper based on the previous background paper and more emphasis on the policy aspect of renewable energy. It was agreed the report should be circulated among SC members and wider network for comments and review.

(6) Africa Study and Concept for Follow-up

The Secretariat presented⁹ the status of the report “Renewable Energy for Africa: Potential, Markets, and Strategies”, commissioned by REN21 through GTZ and prepared by AFREPREN. The Secretariat made some specific proposals for follow-up in terms of:

- Continued knowledge creation (further editions, larger scope, connection with existing knowledge-management systems of REN21);
- Activities to be built on the analysis (develop and position transformational analysis for selected countries – using true-cost approach – to inform decision-making processes and involved stakeholder groups in a targeted and strategic way). For this, SC members will be asked to lead regional or thematic issue groups.

SC members made several suggestions regarding communication and follow-up activities.

Tour de Table

SC members exchanged information on their activities. Members from governments reported on activities and measures being undertaken to promote renewable energy. Other institutions reported on their work programmes including research undertaken, publications being prepared, specific projects and conferences, and development strategies being carried out. The potential for collaboration among the organizations was evident and stressed by many.

11th September

Discussion on the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference 2010 (DIREC)

MNRE Joint Secretary Ms Gauri Singh gave a presentation on MNRE’s outline for the DIREC 2010¹⁰ (26-29 October) and asked for guidance and input from the SC members. It is estimated that 7,000-9,000 participants from 125 countries will attend the meeting, with 60 percent from abroad. A professional conference organiser has been contracted to deal with the logistics.

⁷ Cf. presentation by Eric Martinot: “Global Status Report on Local Renewables Policies”.

⁸ Cf. presentation by Shannon Wang: “REN21 Chinese Renewable Energy Study”.

⁹ Cf. presentation by Philippe Lempp: “Renewables in Africa: Report and Follow-up”.

¹⁰ Cf. presentation by Gauri Singh: “Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference 2010”.

Indian Government is seeking support from REN21 for the following elements: (1) identifying speakers and moderators, (2) evaluating applications for side events, (3) international outreach, (4) pledge process, and (5) structuring and obtaining pledges for the creation of a renewable energy access fund (see below). Hans-Jorgen Koch expressed willingness to help organise DIREC.

In terms of conference themes, SC members pointed out the important role renewable energy can play in helping with economic recovery and that economic development should be a main theme, along with energy security and climate change. It was suggested to structure the conference according to the different RE applications: power, heating / cooling and transportation.

It was proposed that an international preparatory committee be created to support Indian Government, which should include SC members. A summary of background work should also be issued for the DIREC from various sources such as IEA, IPCC, Global Energy Assessment, industrial associations, national government, think tanks, etc on scenarios, potentials / forecast, cost of generation issues, the status of deployment in different countries, and lessons learned. The newest REN21 Global Status Report will have been prepared in advance of the DIREC.

The outcome of COP15 in Copenhagen in December will be important for the direction DIREC takes. It was suggested that a preliminary vision for the conference be agreed upon and that high-level figures and policy makers set the tone at the outset of the meeting. The multistakeholder component should be very strong at DIREC, in particular, the participation from the civil society. The interaction between government and industry and between different parts of the conference should be assured.

MNRE envisages the creation of a renewable energy fund as an outcome of the DIREC. Recognising that numerous funds are being established in conjunction with the financing architecture for climate mitigation and adaptation, this RE fund should set itself apart to avoid competition and duplication. This could be achieved by focusing the fund on financing for the rural poor. It was proposed that the fund be linked to the Millennium Development Goals and provide small grants or loans that are easy to access. The Netherlands expressed interest to be involved in designing the fund mechanism. A small committee should be created to explore how such a fund could be set up, how to raise the funding, how the funds should be spent. Bilateral discussions between Indian government and other governments, agencies and organizations will also be conducted.

Indian government would like to continue the pledge programme and learn from the Bonn and Washington experiences. It was pointed out that continuous communication before, during and after the conference is the key to get more involvement from all stakeholders.

Indian government will prepare a short DIREC power point presentation that the SC members can include in their own presentations at conferences and meetings.

Process for selecting next IREC host

It was suggested that there should be a certain degree of transparency in the process for selecting the hosts for the IRECs. Aside from the “unwritten” policy of alternating between developed and developing countries, there are no guidelines for host selection. At the same

time, it was agreed that the process should not be made too complicated. The Secretariat will prepare a guideline.

Final words

Secretary Gupta closed the DIREC discussion by indicating the great help all SC members could contribute to the organization of DIREC by providing input on the content and speakers, undertaking outreach to encouraging international participation from all stakeholders groups, and ensuring a strong outcome of the he conference.

In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked the Indian Government for its gracious hospitality and for contributing to the meeting's success. He also thanked the Secretariat for organising the meeting and the SC members for their active participation and substantive contributions.

MNRE organized a visit to the Indian President's House in the afternoon of the 11th September to view the renewable energy technology applications.

List of Participants

(First / Last) Name	Affiliation
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS WITH ALTERNATES	
Arthouros Zervos	European Renewable Energy Council
Athena Ronquillo Ballesteros	World Resources Institute / Green Independent Power Producers Network
Deepak Gupta	India, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Eric Martinot	Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies
Ernesto Macias Galan	Alliance for Rural Electrification / European Photovoltaic Industry Association
Griff Thompson	United States, State Department
Hans-Jorgen Koch	Denmark, Danish Energy Agency
Jan Cloin	Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Karsten Sach	Germany, The Federal Environment Ministry
Kevin Nassiep	South Africa, National Energy Research Institute
Lincoln Bernardes	Brazil, Ministry of External Relations
Lingjuan Ma	China, NDRC Energy Research Institute / CREIA
Mark Radka	UNEP, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
Mohamed El-Ashry	UN Foundation
Paolo Frankl	IEA, Renewable Energy Division
Paul Mubiru	Uganda, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
Peter Rae	World Wind Energy Association / International Renewable Energy Alliance
Philip Douglas	British High Commission
Pradeep Monga	UNIDO, Energy and Climate Change Branch
Preeti Soni	UNDP India Country Office
Steve Sawyer	Global Wind Energy Council

OBSERVERS	
Anil Kane	World Wind Energy Association
Annette Schou	Denmark, Danish Energy Agency
Christine Lins	European Renewable Energy Council
Emani Kumar	Local Governments for Sustainability - ICLEI
Eric Sogocio	Embassy of Brazil
Franz Marre	Germany, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
Gauri Singh	India, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Jan-Axel Voss	German Embassy
Nicolas Ferrari	French Embassy
Rajiv Arora	India, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Stefan Gsanger	World Wind Energy Association
Tony Adam	Germany, The Federal Environment Ministry

REN21 SECRETARIAT	
Philippe Lempp	REN21 Secretariat
Shannon Wang	REN21 Secretariat
Virginia Sonntag-O'Brien	REN21 Secretariat