



Global Renewable Energy Forum

Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil

18-21 MAY 2008



Background

In September 2006 the Iberoamerican Ministerial Meeting on “Energy Security In Latin America: Renewable Energy as a Viable Alternative” took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, with promising outcomes. The meeting was jointly organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the General Secretariat for the Iberoamerican Summit (SEGIB) and the Ministry of Mining, Energy and Industry of the Government of Uruguay (MIEM). The meeting was convened to provide a forum for Ministers of Energy from the region to discuss energy security matters and agree on specific actions to harness the potential of renewable energy technologies in meeting the region’s growing energy needs, especially within the framework of the economic and social realities of Latin-America.

The event featured 40 speakers and more than 300 participants. It included panel presentations and round tables, and counted with the participation of the Ministers of Energy and Government representatives from 13 countries; as well as business, private industrial sector, international and intergovernmental organizations, academia, research institutes and nongovernmental organizations.

One of the main achievements of the meeting was a Ministerial Declaration, which highlighted the need to increase the supply and utilization of renewable energy in Latin America and the Caribbean. This Declaration encouraged governments to study the establishment of a Regional Observatory on Renewable Energy to be proposed by UNIDO.

The other fundamental outcome of the meeting in Montevideo was the proposal to organize a Global Renewable Energy Forum jointly by the Ministry of Mining and Energy of Brazil and UNIDO in 2008, that could serve as a platform to build on the discussions started in Montevideo concerning the potential of renewable energy sources in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region, and to share them with other regions in order to establish strong linkages oriented to increase specific joint actions for enhancing the use of renewable energy world wide.

It is also important to mention that this Global Forum is in line with other fora that UNIDO is organizing in the international arena, such as:

- *International Conference on Renewable Energy in Africa, Dakar, Senegal, 16-18 April 2008*
- *Regional Meeting on Biofuels production and use within the context of Central and Eastern Europe, Zagreb, Croatia, October 2007.*
- *The First High-Level Biofuels Conference in Africa (UNIDO-African Union), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 30 July – 1 August 2007*
- *International Conference on Biofuels in Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 5-7 July 2007: Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) - Malaysia Palm Oil Board (MPOB) - UNIDO*

I. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The **overall objective** of the Global Renewable Energy Forum is to create a suitable environment for the promotion of a proactive dialogue that can strengthen interregional bonds and set up joint actions between countries and regions oriented to reduce poverty and enhance energy security through the use of renewable sources of energy.

The proposed Global Forum is expected to start joining efforts and initiatives in order to facilitate access to a stable, modern and environmentally sustainable energy service not only for poor communities in the LAC region, but also for other regions of the world. These actions will undoubtedly contribute to the establishment and consolidation of a range of income generating productive industrial activities, which, without adequate supply of energy, would not be able to arise.

The Global Forum will also pursue the twin objectives of promoting business and commercial networking and relationships at the intra and inter regional level, and promoting development of renewable energy sources and related infrastructure within the regions. In recent times, the LAC region (Brazil in particular) has shown to be a depository of valuable experiences in this context. Brazil's successful experience with the development of biofuels for its transport sector is a good example of those business opportunities that have a multiplier effect and reach a global extent.

More specifically the **expected outcomes** of the Global Forum are as follows:

- *South-South* and *North-South* Cooperation Frameworks between countries and regions
- Commitments and opportunities for the development of Technical Cooperation activities.
- Organization of global and regional forums and networks.

II. Participants of the Venue

The participants to be invited to attend the Global Forum can be divided into several groups:

- High-Level government representatives of all world regions
- CEOs from utilities and other private sector enterprises (e.g. financial entities, multinationals, enterprises using *Renewables*)
- Multi / bilateral partners and regional agencies
- Experts and academia
- NGOs

The attendance expected will amount to between 1,000 and 2,000 participants.

III. Structure and Methodology of the Global Renewable Energy Forum

The Renewable Energy Global Forum will have a duration of four days including a field visit to *Itaipu Binacional*.

Methodology:

Seven round tables will be organized to promote constructive discussions on the key issues related to the renewable energy technologies.

Each round table will consist of a moderator and various keynote speakers. The keynote speakers will deliver a presentation/speech, providing an in-depth analysis of the applications of the different renewable energy options, from a technical, social, economic, environmental and political point of view. One of the key issues to be covered will be the one of industrial and productive applications of those technologies, which represents UNIDO's main field of activity.

After the presentations and speeches, the floor will be given to the audience. The moderator will analyze the questions and comments and also make a brief conclusion at the end of each round table.

One specialized paper per round table will be distributed in order to focus the debate on the selected topics.

A report summarizing the major points of discussion, as well as the conclusions of the debates held in the round tables, will also be prepared and distributed. Thus, the recommendations could be once more resumed and the development and implementation of joint initiatives considered.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE GLOBAL RENEWABLE ENERGY FORUM

A. Date and Venue

The Global Renewable Energy Forum will be held from 18-21 May 2008 in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil.

B. Organization of work

The Global Renewable Energy Forum will comprise between 1,000 and 2,000 participants, including high-level government representatives of all the regions of the world, CEOs from utilities and other private sector enterprises, multi / bilateral partners, regional agencies, national and international experts in the field of renewable energies, academia and NGOs.

Before the beginning of the Global Forum, the participants will be provided with the agenda. Furthermore, in order to set off a constructive debate, discussion papers focusing on the key issues will be prepared and distributed to establish the basis of the discussions of the seven round tables that will be organized, dealing with core renewable energy issues. Experts from the leading institutions as well as representatives from the private sector will be invited as moderators and keynote speakers.

During the first day of the Global Forum, key political representatives from the regions will inaugurate the ceremony and present their views on the current trends in the global energy scenario. On the second and third day, technical sessions including conferences, debates and round tables will take place.

C. Attendance and confirmation of participation

As already mentioned, the high-level participants to be invited to attend the Global Forum can be divided into various groups:

- High-Level government representatives of all world regions
- CEOs from utilities and other private sector enterprises (e.g. financial entities, multinationals, enterprises using *Renewables*)
- Multi / bilateral partners and regional agencies
- Experts and academia
- NGOs

Each participant invited will be requested to confirm its participation by fax and/or e-mail to a focal point designated by the organizers. The full name, organization, title and contact address of each participant should be clearly indicated in the confirmation message.

D. Working languages

The deliberations at the Global Renewable Energy Forum will be conducted with simultaneous translation into Portuguese, Spanish and English.

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