



Towards an Integrated Energy Agenda Beyond 2020: Securing Sustainable Policies and Investments

International Energy Conference

22 – 24 June 2009

Hofburg, Vienna, Austria

SUMMARY

The Government of Austria (Austrian Development Co-operation; Global Forum on Sustainable Energy), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and UNIDO with co-operation from UN-Energy, International Energy Agency (IEA), Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Foundation (UNF), OPEC Fund, Earth Institute are organizing an international energy conference from 22-24 June 2009 in Vienna, Austria at the Hofburg.

The objective of the Conference is to provide an opportunity for policy makers, private sector and civil society representatives from developing and industrialized countries to discuss energy issues and related development challenges in the context of the current global financial and economic crisis, stressing the need for more international cooperation and demonstrating the role which the UN can play in the field of energy.

The conference programme will feature the following sessions:

1. Global Energy Challenges of the 21st Century;
2. Energy Strategies to Combat Climate Change;
3. Towards a Sustainable, Low-Carbon Path to Development;
4. Financing Energy in Times of Crisis

Parallel working groups are organised as part of plenary session 3: Three thematic discussions on Renewable Energy; Energy Efficiency and Energy Access for Productive Use will be held in addition to three fora with geographical focus on Central and Eastern Europe; West Africa; and Small Island Developing States.

The Government of Austria, as the host, will be responsible for substantive coverage of a plenary and some parallel sessions as well as providing the venue including all related logistics (technical and personnel infrastructure, interpretation, meals and general media coverage), IIASA will be responsible for high-level presentation of highlights of the Global Energy Assessment. UNIDO is responsible for the overall substantive coordination of the event, a comprehensive media strategy and the participation of 50 developing country speakers and policy and opinion-makers.

In addition to these contributions by the organisers, which will ensure that basic requirements are met to organise the Conference, **additional efforts are made to mobilise resources in order to increase the impact of the Conference by ensuring:**

- Wide outreach with a higher number of participants from developing countries;
- High quality papers and statements delivered by renowned panellists in plenary and parallel sessions as well as side events;
- Full media coverage and publication of outcomes and key messages;
- A comprehensive and in-depth coverage of debates in the final Conference summary publication.

CONTEXT

a) Background

A sustainable, long-term solution to the world's energy needs is a defining issue of our time. Energy lies at the core of the key global challenges of the 21st century – poverty, sustainable development, climate change and global, environmental and food security. Addressing global energy needs in a sound and sustainable manner will contribute to addressing these pressing challenges.

Today's convergence of crises – economic slowdown and financial squeeze compounded by continuing volatile food and fuel prices – offers a unique opportunity to re-shape policies and re-direct investments towards a more secure and sustainable path to development. The UN Secretary General has called for a transition to a “green economy” to address the current crises and transform the way in which the world produces and uses energy. It is a call for countries to adopt low carbon paths in their development goals.

Energy Financing in Times of Crisis

The global economic and financial crisis could have a major impact on infrastructure financing in general and energy financing in particular. Some sources suggest that the financing for energy infrastructure will be severely affected – a view that is somewhat moderated by a more optimistic outlook from the renewable energy market. However, some shortfall in the financing for the entire energy sector could be expected.

For regions such as Africa, where the provision of electricity is one of the great infrastructure challenges,¹ this is indeed bad news. Compared to other regions of the world, Sub-Saharan Africa has one of the lowest rates of energy access, capacity per capita and electricity consumption per year. But Africa will not be the only region affected. Immense investment requirements still exist in most developing countries to build additional generation capacity, extension of electricity grids in urban areas, mini-grids in medium-sized settlements, and decentralized installations providing energy services to remote and rural areas. Given the prominent role that foreign banks play in developing countries, scaling back on financing will likely decrease energy financing. According to the World Bank, private capital flows in the energy sector are also expected to decline².

On the other hand, the economies of the Asia-Pacific region, despite the financial crisis, will continue to have economic growth and high-energy demand. This, in turn, may have a negative effect on climate change. Widening access to energy services will continue to be a major challenge to the region while at the same time addressing the topic of climate change. In Asia and the Pacific, a low carbon development path would effectively meet the region's development needs while addressing the challenges of climate change and local pollution.

International Co-operation and the Role of the UN

Enhanced international cooperation is central to achieving a transition to a “green economy” and “green industry”. Energy will constitute one of the core issue. Despite its unmatched capacity to raise awareness, its unparalleled convening power and unrivalled ability to galvanize international action, the United Nations has yet to fully leverage its strengths and exercise a leadership role in the field of energy. UN-Energy, an inter-agency mechanism composed of 20 UN system organizations, was established to promote coherence in the UN system's multidisciplinary response to the energy-related decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and to effectively engage with non-UN stakeholders. It is making a major effort to ensure that the UN system, together with the World Bank, contributes in areas where strategic interventions would have a major impact. More recently, it has sought to use this excellent platform to support the efforts of countries to reach the MDGs and to address the challenges of climate change. While UN-Energy will continue to play a key role, additional efforts are required to elevate the role of the UN system in the global energy scene and to galvanize international action towards a low carbon economy.

¹ The World Bank estimates that Sub-Saharan Africa needs an annual addition of 4 GW in order to power its economic growth and keep up with the demand for electricity, which is growing at about 5 per cent per year or more in many countries in the region. Only 1 GW is being added annually!

² While private investment in electricity projects in the developing world increased through most of the 1990s, it fell off sharply after the Asian Financial crisis, from US\$46 billion in 1997 to less than US\$15 billion in 1999, recovering only to US\$30 billion in 2000.

It is in this context that the Director-General of UNIDO, in his capacity as Chairman of UN-Energy, together with the Government of Austria and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) have decided that the organization of an international energy conference would be timely and sensible. The purpose of the conference is to address the most pressing global challenges such as energy and climate change in an increasingly more fragile macroeconomic context, especially in developing countries.

Conference co-organizers

All three co-organizing agencies have a lot to bring to the table in the global energy discussions. The Austrian Foreign Affairs Ministry (BMeiA) represents the host government to IIASA as well as UNIDO. During the past ten years BMeiA has supported the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE), which grew from the outreach efforts of the World Energy Assessment. GFSE is an established multi-stakeholder platform and a partner in the field of international energy-for-sustainable-development. It contributes to both international discourse and information dissemination on sustainable energy. Since 1999 the GFSE has been hosting annual meetings on energy-related issues. During the Conference GFSE will host an event to celebrate its ten year anniversary.

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) is an international research organization. It conducts inter-disciplinary scientific studies on environmental, economic, technological, and social issues in the context of human dimensions of global change. One of the major initiatives established by IIASA in 2005 is the Global Energy Assessment (GEA). The GEA's objective is to help decision makers address the challenges of providing energy services for sustainable development, whilst addressing existing and emerging threats associated with: security of supply; access to modern forms of energy for development and poverty alleviation; local, regional and global environmental impacts; and securing sufficient investment. Well renowned scientists will present highlights of the GEA during the Conference.

Following the lead of the UN Secretary-General, UNIDO strongly supports the efforts to combat climate change, promote industrial energy efficiency, support cleaner production techniques and promote renewable sources of energy. In this respect, UN-Energy is an important mechanism to bring together all forces of the United Nations to achieve these goals and UNIDO is playing an active role in promoting the global energy discussion. In this context, UNIDO has in the past two years organised, in co-operation with national and international partners, energy meetings in Uruguay (on renewables), Malaysia (on biofuels), Ethiopia (on biofuels), Brazil (on renewables), Croatia (on biofuels), and Senegal (on renewables).

b) Target beneficiaries

It is anticipated that some 500 policy and opinion-makers will come to Vienna to participate in this Conference and directly benefit by learning from experts, sharing multi-sectoral perspectives and exchanging know-how on energy-related issues. Those policy and opinion-makers will leave the Conference with assessed information on many policy issues, which in turn will benefit industry, academia and civil society in their home countries and regions.

THE CONFERENCE

a) Objective of the Conference

The objective of the Conference is to provide an opportunity for policy makers, private sector and civil society representatives from developing and industrialized countries to discuss energy issues and related development challenges in the context of the current global financial and economic crisis, stressing the need for more international cooperation and demonstrating the role which the UN can play in the field of energy.

b) The Approach

UNIDO and its co-organising partners are of the opinion that there is a need to address all facets of the energy discussion in a holistic manner and by emphasising the key role that international co-operation can play in securing sustainable policies and investments. It is therefore envisaged that this energy conference should:

- Provide a platform to discuss the current energy related challenges with world-renowned experts, high-level policymakers representing the private and public sector as well as civil society;
- Bring together some 500 participants from all corners of the world providing an overview of very different opinions and an opportunity to find common ground for solutions;
- Shift the debate on energy and development in times of economic and financial crisis beyond generalities and identify specific courses of action;
- Initiate and advance regional and international co-operation in dedicated result-oriented working sessions;
- Unveil the landmark Global Energy Assessment by IIASA;
- Celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE);
- Contribute to the shaping of global climate policy by providing inputs to the UN climate conference (COP15) in Copenhagen;
- Present new international energy initiatives such as e.g. the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

A conference programme is currently being finalised by a team consisting of representatives of the three co-organizers.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

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| 22 June | MORNING | Opening Session Keynote Address | |
| | | High-level panel: “An Integrated Energy Agenda Beyond 2020” | |
| | | Plenary Session 1: The Global Energy Challenges of the 21st Century | |
| | AFTERNOON | Plenary Session 1 cont.: The Global Energy Challenges of the 21st Century | |
| Plenary Session 2: Energy Strategies to Combat Climate Change | | | |
| 23 June | MORNING | Summary of the previous day | |
| | | Plenary Session 3: Towards a Sustainable, Low-Carbon Path to Development | |
| | | Parallel Session 1: Renewable Energy | Parallel Session 2: Energy Access for Productive Uses |
| | AFTERNOON | Parallel Session 3: Energy Efficiency in Industry | Parallel Session 4: Towards a Renewable Energy Vision for West Africa |
| | | Plenary Session 4: Financing Energy in Times of Crisis | |
| 24 June | MORNING | Parallel Session 5: Energy in Central and Easter Europe | Parallel Session 6: Strengthening Sustainability and Energy Security in Small Island Developing States |
| | | Closing Plenary: Major Messages and Findings | |
| | AFTERNOON | Field Trip | |

It should be noted that some renowned experts such as Dr. Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), honoured with the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, have confirmed their participation. UN-Energy partners have been contacted to assist the co-organizers with fine-tuning different programme sessions in line with their mandate and expertise. In order to involve key international stakeholders the following organizations have been contacted for substantive support to the Conference: International Energy Agency (IEA), Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme (REEEP), OPEC Fund, and Earth Institute.

As preparations for the conference proceed a number of NGOs and international agencies approach UNIDO to become an active part. At this stage UNFCCC, UNEP, UNDP, FAO and the World Bank have already confirmed their active support and participation in the Conference. Other external parties such as the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs have indicated strong interest in co-operating by providing speakers and participants in the different sessions.

A coordination committee has been established by the implementing partners and meets on a weekly basis to discuss substantive issues with regard to the conference programme, speakers, presentation structure and media coverage. Internally, UNIDO has set up a steering committee consisting of representatives from all concerned structural units of the house to ensure coordination with other important events such as the Industrial Development Board as well as the forthcoming Mexico Conference on Renewable Energy and the Green Industry Conference in the Philippines.

c) Expected Outcomes

The conference creates a viable and far-reaching network for knowledge and experience exchange amongst policy and opinion makers on complex energy issues. The direct beneficiaries will have been put in a position where they can better address energy-related policy decisions in their countries and benefit from international initiatives and programmes, thereby enabling end beneficiaries such as industry, civil society and academia to operate in a favourable environment.

d) Output

OUTPUT: High-level conference for policy dialogue on all aspects of energy.

Indicators:

- At least 500 policy and opinion-makers from developing and industrialized countries participate and gain increased knowledge on energy issues.
- At least 25 papers/statements are delivered by speakers in plenary and parallel sessions or side events.
- Media coverage is ensured through press releases, interviews, video clips, etc.
- At least 10 technical papers presented in the final Conference summary publication. The papers should reflect key issues raised at the Conference, particularly with a view to measure the impact of the current financial and economic crisis on energy investments. The publication will serve to facilitate follow-up action.

ADDITIONAL DONOR INPUTS REQUIRED

Additional efforts are made by UNIDO to mobilise resources in order to increase the impact of the Conference by:

- Increasing the outreach with a higher number of participants from developing countries;
- Increasing the number of high quality papers and statements delivered by renowned panellists in plenary and parallel sessions as well as side events;
- Improving media coverage and publication of outcomes and key messages; and
- Improving the depth and detail of technical reports presented in the final Conference summary publication.

Co-sponsored by:

