



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

P.O. BOX 300, A-1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA

TELEPHONE: (+43 1) 260 26-0

FAX: (+43 1) 269 26 69

www.unido.org

unido@unido.org

PRESS RELEASE 17/07
FOR INFORMATION ONLY
NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD

UNIDO Director-General selected Chairman of UN-Energy

Vienna, 30 October 2007 - The Director-General of UNIDO, Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, was confirmed as the next Chairman of UN-Energy by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) led by the United Nations Secretary General, during its meeting in New York on 26-27 October. As Chairman of UN-Energy beginning on 1 January 2008, Mr. Yumkella will take the leadership role in guiding the work of the UN system in the field of energy. Mr. Yumkella's selection as Chairman of this important inter-agency body comes at a time when energy-related issues are assuming a central place in the climate change agenda. As the first head of a UN specialized agency to become Chairman of UN-Energy, Mr. Yumkella is expected to bring greater dynamism into the work of this body and a higher level of engagement by its member organizations.

UN-Energy brings together senior officials and experts on energy from various organizations in the UN family: IAEA, FAO, UNIDO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO, World Bank, UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD, UN-DESA, UN Habitat, UNFCCC Secretariat, UN Regional Commissions (ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA) and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. Its chief purpose is to help ensure a coordinated and coherent response by the UN system to the energy-related aspects of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) adopted at the 2003 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). It is also mandated to promote the effective engagement of non-UN stakeholders in advancing the energy-related decisions at the WSSD.

UN-Energy facilitates the sharing of information, knowledge, experiences and good practices on energy-related initiatives and activities in the UN system. It keeps an overview of ongoing and planned energy-related activities within the UN system and helps build and strengthen synergies among them. It also promotes common and complementary approaches to energy policy issues and coordinated support to intergovernmental bodies such as the UN Commission for Sustainable Development.

A recent publication of UN-Energy, "Sustainable Bioenergy: A Framework for Decision Makers" attracts wide public interest. It highlights key issues relating to bioenergy that require further attention and analysis so that the appropriate trade-offs could be made among the competing uses of food crops, so that the energy needs of people are met and the local and global environment are adequately protected. An upcoming publication is, "Mainstreaming Energy Considerations into MDG-based National Development Strategies for Poverty Reduction".

Note to Editor:

UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that works towards improving the quality of life of the world's poor by helping countries achieve sustainable industrial development. UNIDO views industrial development as a means of creating employment and income in order to overcome poverty. It helps developing countries produce goods they can trade on the global market, and helps provide the tools – training, technology, and investment – to make them competitive. At the same time, it encourages production processes that will neither harm the environment nor place too heavy a burden on a country's limited energy resources. UNIDO has 172 Member States and has its headquarters in Vienna, Austria (please visit www.unido.org)

For more information contact:

A. Lacanlale

Director, Strategic Planning and Coordination, UNIDO

Tel.: +43-1-26026-3690

A.Lacanlale@unido.org

Cristina Stricker

UNIDO Information Officer

Tel.: +43-1-26026-3034

C.Stricker@unido.org

www.unido.org