

Plenary Session II/Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD)

Tuesday, 1 June, 11.00 – 13.00 h

Venue: Plenary Hall IKBB

Internationale Konferenz
für Erneuerbare Energien, Bonn
International Conference
for Renewable Energies, Bonn



Chair's Summary

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I think this had been indeed a lively discussion with all the controversies that exist in the field.

Listening to the discussion I felt that the arguments in favour of the Renewables are more or less those we all share. There is **consensus** on reasons and motivation for renewables, such as:

- access to energy for poverty eradication,
- climate change,
- jobs and economic development,
- reduce the burden of oil bills on poor countries,
- peace, conflict reduction, decentralisation

The consensus is strong but of course the priorities vary.

When I listened to **African Speakers** I heard a focus on technologies that are affordable: hydropower, biomass, or others. Many speakers stressed that renewable energy technologies can be used in a decentralised way.

Some speakers from **industrialised countries**, but also others, focussed on advanced technologies, and the issue is how to realise the technology transfer and the research which is necessary.

The calls for **financial assistance** and the request for more resources from development finance institutions are evident. If the incremental costs are not financed, the interest in developing countries is weak. That is why the World Bank and the regional banks have to play a special role in this field. All speakers from developing countries stress this need for financing the incremental costs and they point to the international financing institutions.

On the issue of **policy frameworks** the aspect of empowering people, involving people in decisions, was discussed. Some colleagues mentioned the importance to strengthen and empower especially women. From my experience as a development minister I think including the energy strategy into the poverty reduction strategy is very important. And also the participation of the people in this process is important.

The role of **targets** has been discussed, and this always tends to be a controversial discussion. Correct me if I am mistaken - I had the feeling that the stress has been on local and regional targets which have to be adapted to regional and local needs. No one has called for a global target. But all share a vision giving a much stronger role for renewables in the future. The targets for developing countries should aim for better access; everyone agrees on this. Business calls for strong regulatory framework in order to ensure a fair competition and for a strong regulatory framework to enable private sector.

There is the need to change **subsidy policies** and to **internalise external costs**. I think everyone agrees to this. Since reference was made to the situation in Germany: Could I mention that in Germany the subsidies for coal have been reduced since 1998; they have been halved and they will be reduced further. Furthermore, local authorities stressed the role of procurement for buying energy on renewables.