

# International Conference for Renewable Energies, Bonn 2004

## 3rd Meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC)

1 - 2 April 2004, Eltville



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

## Summary

### Introduction

The International Steering Committee for International Conference for Renewable Energies, Bonn 2004 held its third meeting on 1-2 April December 2004 at Schloss Reinhartshausen, Eltville, Germany.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Michael Hofmann, Director General, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Mr. Hinrichs-Rahlwes, Director General, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

### Welcome

The Co-Chairs welcomed all ISC members to the meeting and gave a brief update on the preparations for *renewables 2004*. An important preparatory meeting for the Asia-Pacific region was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 25-26 March 2004. Participants from more than 20 countries joined the meeting. In the "Bangkok Statement on Renewable Energies" they welcome the initiative of the German Government to host *renewables 2004* and agree to take a series of steps for the promotion of renewable energies (see: [www.renewables2004.de/pdf/Bangkok\\_Statement.pdf](http://www.renewables2004.de/pdf/Bangkok_Statement.pdf)).

Furthermore, the Co-Chairs also informed that the Second Announcement for the conference is now available in four languages (English, French, Spanish, German). A Draft Conference Programme will be available soon in English and German.

The Third ISC meeting was mainly devoted to a discussion of the **conference outcomes**, namely:

1. A Political Declaration
2. Recommendations for Good Policy
3. An International Action Plan,

as well as the **follow-up process**.

### State of Preparation

The Head of the Conference Secretariat, Franz-Josef Batz, presented the state of the conference preparations, including the thematic preparations, the conference programme, the accreditation of conference delegates and observers. Moreover, he described the current situation concerning side events, exhibitions, the Business Forum and the various related (parallel) events.

The conference facility in Bonn will have limited capacity. The Chairs also informed the ISC members that a Trust Fund for participants from Least Developed Countries is being set up.

With reference to the regional preparatory meetings, which are being organised in the run up to the Bonn conference, Mahmood Shidiwah of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources in Yemen

gave a brief presentation about the planned regional meeting for the Middle East. It will take place on 21-22 April 2004 in Sanaa, Yemen.

### **International Action Plan (IAP)**

Norbert Gorißen of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety presented to the ISC the development status of the International Action Plan.

During the following discussion many ISC members elaborated on potential contributions to the IAP from their respective countries or organisations.

While the general concept of the International Action Plan was widely accepted some ISC members expressed reservation calling it an “Action Plan”. In some countries there are simply too many action plans that are lying idle and the word has gathered a negative connotation. Others felt that the terminology “Action Plan” has a very specific meaning in the UN context while *renewables 2004* is not a UN conference. The term “Action Programme” or “Action Agenda” might be more appropriate.

Some ISC members proposed to include in the Action Plan such actions and commitments that have so far not been focused on renewables and now aim at developing a specific renewable energy component.

Many ISC members highlighted the importance of some form of a monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan. This would be of particular relevance if the progress after Bonn were supposed to be reported to the CSD. Many stated that monitoring should become an integral part of the international follow-up process to *renewables 2004*. Some, however, expressed concern and pointed out that every actor herself should do the monitoring. Moreover, the development of renewable energy should be viewed in the long term.

Some questions were raised about the treatment of the Action Plan at the conference. A few ISC members urged the conveners to provide room for negotiating the Action Plan. This would be important for creating ownership. The Chairs pointed out that due to the nature of the envisaged Action Plan (“Portfolio of Actions”) sponsors of contributions can be responsible only for their contributions and the sponsors only are responsible for their contributions. A negotiation of the Action Plan is hence not envisaged.

There was some discussion about a “rolling Action Plan”, i.e. one to which contributions can be made after the Bonn conference.

The Chair summarised the following recommendations that came from the ISC with regard to the International Action Plan:

- New title will be International Action Programme
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- Contributions have to have a solid base
- It is desirable to attract more contributions from business, utilities, private sector, etc.
- A follow-up is important
- Contributions should be disseminated as early as possible

### **Political Declaration**

Manfred Konukiewitz of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development presented proposed elements for the Political Declaration. In the following discussion many ISC members welcomed the emphasis that the conveners put on issues relevant to developing countries (e.g. improved access to energy services), others proposed to have a similarly strong emphasis on the objective of climate protection and energy security. Some also expressed the need for a more differentiated approach, even among developing countries.

Many ISC members remarked that the document should be kept as short and as concise as possible.

Many ISC members put forward a variety of more detailed comments on the treatment of important issues in the Political Declaration, such as:

- The relationship with existing international agreements, e.g. in the field of climate change or the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- The role of renewable energy vis-à-vis other energy sources
- The cost of renewable energy and opportunities for cost reductions
- The need to explicitly address issues of transport and heat energy
- Level playing field for renewables; external costs and benefits; (smart) subsidies
- The relationship between development and technology targets
- The need for capacity development in the area of renewable energy
- International institutional arrangements and the follow-up process
- Integration of renewables in grids; renewable energy in decentralising energy systems
- Etc.

The discussion brought to light that there exists a trade off between a document that is highly ambitious and one that reflects a consensus of all governments and actors. While some ISC members would not like to dilute the conference results too much in the name of consensus, others felt that it is essential to have as many important actors on board as possible.

A variety of views was expressed concerning the expression of a common vision as part of the political declaration. Some argued for an ambitious, time-bound and quantifiable vision of a sustainable energy future; others felt that long-term visions are not very helpful and that the conference should focus on more concrete objectives. Some said that any type of quantified target or objective would not be acceptable.

Most ISC members supported the idea to feed the results of the Bonn conference into multilateral forums, in particular the CSD process.

On procedural questions a number of ISC members urged the conveners to seek active consultations with governments as soon as possible on the basis of a first draft of the Declaration. The Chair clarified that the Political Declaration would be “owned” by government delegations.

In summing up the discussion the Chair repeated that the conveners aim for a “good consensual political declaration” and that a first draft for active consultation should be available soon.

### **Follow-up**

The Conveners invited the ISC members to express their views on the follow up process to *renewables 2004*. In the course of the ensuing discussion, many ISC-members noted that any follow-up would have to be based on a detailed analysis of the functional deficits of current institutional structures that support renewable energies. As a next step, one should examine whether the existing deficits and gaps can be filled by creating new institutions or by strengthening existing ones.

Many ISC members supported the idea that the follow-up process to *renewables 2004* should be integrated into other multilateral processes, such as the CSD. Other members claimed that multilateral processes move too slowly to achieve significant outcomes in a short period of time. It was also proposed by many to link the discussion on renewable energy with processes and institutions in the field of climate protection.

Different opinions were voiced on the question whether the process should focus on renewable energy or whether energy efficiency – or other energy technologies – should be included. While some ISC members supported an emphasis on renewable energy, others stated that consideration should be given to a broader menu of energy technologies. Reference was made to the four pillars of energy (access to energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean fossil fuels) that were put forward during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The Chair made clear that *renewables2004* will address the crucial element of renewable energies.

An idea that was discussed during the ISC meeting was the notion of a global issue network in the field of sustainable energy. This network would correspond more to a dialogue mechanism rather than a new institution. It was argued that the ISC could be maintained after the *renewables 2004* conference in order to serve as the core for such a network. The network could then start working on the functional deficits in the field of institutional arrangements, among other aspects.

Furthermore, the creation of an International Political Ministerial Dialogue Forum for Sustainable Energy was discussed. A proposal was made to build a global public policy network in the field of sustainable energy. This network would correspond more to a dialogue mechanism rather than a new institution.

There was broad agreement, that currently there is no international forum where stakeholders in the field of renewable energy can meet and discuss. Many ISC members called for a follow up conference to *renewables 2004*. It was proposed that this conference could also act as a preparatory meeting for the CSD session in 2006.

Reference was made to the importance of capacity in the field of renewable energy and the importance of cooperation between developed and developing countries, including an increase in technology and knowledge transfer. Some ISC members pointed out that energy issues are not sufficiently reflected in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and that developing countries should be assisted in integrating renewable energy in their efforts to reduce poverty.

### **Recommendations for Good Policy**

After a presentation of the draft document on Recommendations for Good Policy by Tilman Herberg from the conference secretariat, the Chair informed the ISC members that this document represented a menu of options and that it would not be negotiated. He then invited the ISC members to express their opinions on the draft document.

Most ISC members agreed that the Recommendations paper should establish a clearer taxonomy of countries. These members argued that in the current version, the same recommendations are given to all countries with too little consideration of their social, economic and cultural situation. Instead, the recommendations should differentiate more between different groups of countries.

Other aspects that were mentioned were the lack of prioritisation of the different recommendations and the need to include a reference on gender and the gender impacts of different energy services. Furthermore, the role of private sector financial institutions for the dissemination of renewable energy should be mentioned.

With regard to developing countries, ISC members agreed that the document should point out the importance of increased North-South cooperation, including capacity building, technology transfer and R&D cooperation. Some ISC participants stated that the paper should include clear recommendations on how to strengthen international cooperation and how to mobilise additional resources for this.

A number of ISC members were of the opinion that the current version of the Recommendations paper places too large a focus on national governments and that it should more reflect on the role of other actors. For example, some ISC members pointed to the importance of local authorities for the promotion of renewable energy.

### **Statement by Heidmarie Wieczorek-Zeul, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development**

In the last part of the ISC meeting, Heidmarie Wieczorek-Zeul, the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, addressed the participants. The Minister thanked the ISC members and the organisers of the regional meetings for their important contribution to the preparation of the conference. She emphasized the fact that the Millennium Development Goals can not be achieved without increased access to energy services and that renewable energy has an important role

to play in this field. The Minister also recognised the role of energy efficiency and of conventional energy resources.

With regard to the conference she expressed the hope for a presence of ministers from different government departments. She emphasised her strong support for the multilateral system, which would receive additional dynamics from *renewables 2004*. The conference could give a dynamic impulse for an enhanced global promotion of renewable energy.

The ISC meeting was concluded with a presentation by Trevor Rees from the Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future, who informed the ISC members on the state of preparations of the Multi-Stakeholder-Dialogue (MSD).