

SANA'A FINAL STATEMENT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The participants from countries of the Middle East and North Africa Region, namely, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kingdom of Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Djibouti, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar, State of Kuwait, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, State of Palestine, and Yemen), in the MENA Regional Conference on Renewable Energies and Sustainable Development held in Sana'a from 21-22 April 2004,

Affirming the need for the sustainable development in the participating countries and world wide, in accordance with the national needs and the initiatives issued by the participating countries and the Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, 2002, which called upon governments, regional and international organizations and other interest parties to apply the recommendations and results of the Sustainable Development Committee regarding contribution of energy sector in achieving sustainable development.

Recognizing the importance of the contribution of the energy sector in achieving sustainable development in the participating countries, and the potential capabilities offered by renewable energy resources in the participating countries that could be readily utilized.

Recalling the recommendation in the Arab statement on environment presented to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg 2002, and the initiatives and contributions committed by the donor governments.

Calling upon the industrialized countries to fulfill their obligations towards developing countries, especially the financial commitments, to support and facilitate transfer of environmentally safe and sound technology for energy production, distribution and usage in accordance with international treaties and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Reasserting the significance of Abu Dhabi Declaration on the future of the Arab Environmental Action 2001, the Arab Declaration on Sustainable Development 2002, the Sustainable Development Initiative in the participating Arab countries 2002, Abu Dhabi Declaration on Environment and Energy 2003, Dubai Declaration on the Trans-boundary Atmospheric Pollution 2004, and the essence of translating the regional priorities included in these declarations into achievable programmes and projects.

Further recalling that one of the principal objectives of the Johannesburg Declaration for Sustainable Development was to provide a practical guidance to the process that would culminate in the World Summit on Sustainable Development so that it would reflect the region's unique characteristics, visions and goals of the participating countries according to the seventh principle of Rio Summit, while being particularly cognizant of the validity of the principle of States' common but differentiated responsibilities,

Evaluating the contribution made by the German government (500 million Euro) allocated for the development of the renewable energy in the developing countries and requesting that the participating countries have to obtain a big portion of this contribution, and urging the other developed and industrial countries to follow the initiative of the German Government,

Welcoming the initiative of the German government to host in June 2004 an International Conference for Renewable Energies,

Recognize the great potential of the energy resources in the participating countries such as petroleum and gas and the renewable energy,

Underlining the positive contribution that the productive use of renewable energy sources can make to the sustainable development of the participating countries, especially in the following areas:

- (a) Poverty alleviation and providing energy for the rural and remote areas,
- (b) Increased energy availability, efficiency and the diversification of national and regional energy matrices,
- (c) Potential of renewable energy utilization for water desalination,
- (d) Enhancement of the countries' cleaner technological and industrial bases.

Stressing the importance of suitable coordination and cooperation among the participating countries for enhancing their ability towards the sustainable development as laid down in the Eighth Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations, proclaimed by the Heads of States at the Millennium Summit.

The participants hereby recommend

1. calling the industrial and developed countries to establish a regional centre for renewable energy and sustainable development in the Republic of Yemen that specialized in researches on technologies of renewable energy.

2. the viably existing potentials of sources of renewable energy in the participating countries require from the developed and industrial countries to perform their obligations especially the financial supports and technical collaboration towards the initiatives of the participating countries related to the use of sun and wind energy;
3. the growing need for power and desalinated water on large scale, as resources for economic development and increased food production in the participating countries;
4. making use of the successful and reliable practices of the technologies of energy including the renewable energy and the necessity of extending their use;
5. calling the industrial and developed countries to fulfill their material and technological obligations in respect of the continuously development of the national capabilities of the participating countries regarding the production of energy and water desalination from the existing energy resources including the renewable energy for the sustainable development;
6. encouraging the participation of the private sector and the scientific research centers in the participating countries to develop the requirements of sustainable development of technology of energy including the renewable energy and rationalization in energy consumption and raise the efficiency of use.
7. calling the developed and industrial countries to provide the participating countries with financial grants and obtainable loans to enable them to import the clean energy from the locations of its production in these countries;
8. activation of the implementation of the outputs of Johannesburg and Marrakech conferences as follows:
 - a. acceleration of development, spreading and expansion of technologies of energy efficiency and saving of obtainable energy and cleaner technology as well as transfer of these technologies especially to the developing countries under suitable conditions including the lenient and preferential conditions;
 - b. encouraging the increasing of the scientific researches in the field of the different technologies of energy including the technologies of renewable energy and realizing of the efficiency in the use of energy and the advanced technology of energy including the advanced and cleaner fossil fuels on the national level as well as the international collaboration and strengthening the activities of the regional and national research centers and institutions in the field of the production of reliable and obtainable energy which is acceptable socially, profitable economically and safe environmentally for the realization of sustainable development.
9. requesting the developed and industrial countries to fulfill their obligations in respect of the support of the developing countries which are depending strongly on the export and consumption of the fossil fuels in order to vary their economies.

10. the Arabic text is the original one and has to be referred to in case of contradiction.

The participants of the conference have to thank the government of the Republic of Yemen for the hosting of the conference and to thank the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Electricity for their efforts to make the conference successful and fruitful. The participants of the conference have also to thank the Minister of Environment and Nuclear Protection in Germany for his positive participating during the sessions of the conference as well as the German Government for its great support towards of the success of the conference.