



Informal Briefing to Delegations on Renewable Energy

Date and Venue:

- ***Thursday, 29 October 2009, 3:00-4:30pm; Henry Labouisse Hall, UNICEF House, New York***

Objective:

- ***To brief delegations on renewable energy in the context of climate change and sustainable development, especially on the Secretary-General's Report on New and Renewable Sources of Energy that was just recently submitted to the General Assembly and the outcome of the Global Renewable Energy Forum that was just concluded in Leon, Mexico***
- ***To facilitate the negotiations on the Resolution on the Promotion of New and Renewable Sources of Energy that will officially start in the first week of November 2009***

Speakers:

- ***Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director General of UNIDO; Chairman of UN-Energy***
- ***Mr. K.V. Ramani, Senior Advisor on Energy Issues to Noeleen Heyzer, UN-ESCAP***
- ***Tariq Banuri, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA***

Summary of the SG's Report Promotion of New and Renewable Sources of Energy

- ***Access to affordable, modern energy is a prerequisite for the achievement of sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals and there is still an urgent need to provide energy access to developing countries.***
- ***Renewable energy plays a crucial role in providing the needed energy access as well as in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring energy security, and accelerating economic growth and employment.***
- ***The world is facing the challenges of global warming and at the same time global energy demand is rising. This requires greater energy diversification and an increase in the share of renewable energy in the global future energy supply. Yet, the total share of energy derived from renewable sources remains far below its vast potential.***

- *This is mainly due to the still high costs of many renewable energy technologies. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to increase their cost-competiveness, as renewable energy may provide the most cost-effective source of energy in the long run.*
- *To lower the costs of renewable energy technologies, adequate national policies and programmes must create an enabling regulatory framework that ensures enhanced research, development, deployment as well as capacity building and transfer of renewable energy technologies, especially to developing countries.*
- *Considerable market growth of renewable energy has resulted mostly from a combination of different policy options that are stable, consistent, predictable and tailored to suit technology maturity.*
- *A possible future international policy tool could be a global feed-in-tariff programme supported by a global fund, providing guaranteed purchase prices to producers of energy generated from renewable sources in developing countries. This global programme should aim at both inducing a shift to renewable energy without compromising development in developing countries, and achieving economies of scale and a sustained reduction in the costs of generating renewable energy.*
- *Financial resources and public and private investments at national and international levels play a key role and must be substantially increased.*
- *There is an urgent need for a binding international agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen that can stimulate a more rapid expansion of low-carbon technologies, like renewable energy technologies.*
- *A paradigm shift in the global energy system towards renewable energy is needed in order to ensure sustainable energy development, thereby creating an opportunity to tackle simultaneously the challenges of economic recovery and job creation, climate change, energy security and poverty eradication.*