

EGYPT



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The Permanent Mission of Egypt
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STATEMENT

By

H.E Mr . Hassan Younes
Minister of Electricity and Energy

Egypt

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on Sustainable Development

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**Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Chairman and the Members of the Bureau for being elected to this important event. I join my colleagues in wishing all success to them.

I am honored to participate in this international meeting with this distinguished gathering to discuss one of the most important subjects for all of us -- energy for sustainable development. In particular, I am emphasizing the three primary dimensions of this issue: economic development, social justice, and environmental protection. If these factors are taken into account throughout our planning and implementation efforts, we can be assured that the development will be sustainable. The international society, governments and scientists have to work to achieve these objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Egypt in its quest for sustainable development and environment protection has secured electrical energy to 99% of its population. Currently 21 GW are installed and 33 GW are to be added up to 2022. In realizing that Egypt is conducting aggressive measures to mitigate the effect of electrical energy development on the environment, by:

- Almost fully utilize the available hydropower resources.

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- Maximize the use of natural gas in thermal power plants.
- Optimize the share of the combined cycle power plants.
- Rehabilitate old power stations.
- Optimal operation of the electrical power system.

The aforementioned measures led to several improvements during the last two decades, such as:

- Improving fuel consumption rate by 36%.
- Reducing losses in transmission and distribution networks by 33%.
- Cutting CO₂ emission rate per kWh by 50%.

In the field of renewable energy utilization and within the framework of sustainable development, Egypt has achieved considerable progress in Wind energy. 145 MW wind farms are currently in operation, 205 MW are under implementation, and it is planned to reach 850 MW by year 2010. So, the renewable energy share, including hydro, will reach about 13% by that year.

The potential of solar energy in Egypt is very high since it lies in the solar belt, but its use is still very limited due to the well known barriers especially its high cost. Nevertheless the first solar thermal integrated power plant with a capacity of 150 MW is planned to be in operation by 2009.

It is worth to mention that Egypt has ratified the Kyoto protocol in January 2005, since then several projects have been submitted to make use of the Clean Development Mechanism incentives. These projects include; the solar thermal, four wind and three hydro power plants; in addition to many projects covering energy efficiency improvement and transformation to the use of natural gas.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Looking for sustainability on the regional level, Egypt, since 1987 cooperated with neighboring countries to implement interconnection projects. Egypt is a part of the interconnection project to the east with Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey, as well as to the west with Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Spain. Most parts of these interconnections are in operation and the electric Mediterranean ring will be a reality when all these interconnections are fully operated in the near future.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia agreed to study the interconnection between their electrical systems as a step to integrate the Gulf Cooperation Council Grids with the electric Mediterranean ring.

The interconnection of the Democratic Republic of Congo with Egypt has been studied and its feasibility has been proved. Moreover, in the frame of the Nile Basin Initiative, studies to interconnect the 10 member countries of the Nile Basin are in the pipeline. The study of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia interconnection has started.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The assessment of the current situation globally shows the need for further work to:

- Activate strategies, policies, and regulatory frameworks to provide energy services in a sustainable manner, especially in rural areas.
- Facilitate the international and private financing to energy sectors.
- Motivate the regional integration activities in energy projects.
- Increase the exchange of experience and technology transfer.
- Build the capacities in the fields of energy and environment.
- Encourage diversification of energy resources.

In this respect, I would like to emphasize that we must work together to reach the best solutions for sustainable energy development for our nations to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Thank you,