



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

June 4 2004

POLITICAL DECLARATION

1. Ministers and Government Representatives from 154 countries gathered in Bonn, Germany, June 1-4, 2004, for the International Conference for Renewable Energies¹, acknowledge that renewable energies combined with enhanced energy efficiency, can significantly contribute to sustainable development, to providing access to energy, especially for the poor, to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, reducing harmful air pollutants, thereby creating new economic opportunities, and enhancing energy security through cooperation and collaboration.
2. Ministers and Government Representatives agree to build upon the results and agreements reached at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992), the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (2000), and the World Summit for Sustainable Development (2002). They reaffirm their commitment to substantially increase with a sense of urgency the global share of renewable energy in the total energy supply. They share the vision that renewable energies, combined with increased energy efficiency, will become a most important and widely available source of energy and will offer new opportunities for cooperation among all countries.
3. Ministers and government representatives also reaffirm their commitment to achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goals to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and to achieve environmental sustainability by 2015. Reaching these goals will require significantly expanded access to and supply of energy in developing countries. It is estimated that up to 1 billion people can be given access to energy services from renewable sources, provided that market development and financing arrangements can be enhanced as intended through the Conference's "International Action Programme".
4. Recognizing the diversity of circumstances among regions and countries as well as their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, Ministers and Government Representatives underline the need for coherent regulatory and policy frameworks that support the development of thriving markets for renewable energy technologies and recognize the important role of the private sector. This includes removing barriers and allowing for fair competition in energy markets and taking into account the concept of internalizing external costs for all energy sources. Such frameworks are essential to realizing the potentials for renewable energy technologies in an effective and efficient manner, to creating favorable conditions for public and private investments in renewable energies, and to extend modern energy services to populations currently without access. Ministers and Government Representatives take note of countries who have adopted, and others who will adopt, targets for enhancing the share of renewables in their national energy mix and also take note of the conference's "Policy Recommendations for Renewable Energies" which provide an optional menu of policies to decision-makers.

¹In the context of Renewables 2004, renewable energy sources and technologies include: solar energy, wind energy, hydropower, biomass energy including biofuels, and geothermal energy.

5. Ministers and Government Representatives view enhanced international cooperation for capacity building and technology transfer, effective institutional arrangements at all levels, corporate responsibility, microfinance, public-private partnerships, and advanced policies by Export Credit Agencies as crucial to expanding finance for renewable energies. Financial incentives and higher shares of ODA as catalytic funding should also be considered. International Financial Institutions, including the World Bank and the Regional Development Banks should significantly expand their investments in renewables and energy efficiency and should establish clear objectives for renewable energies in their portfolios.
6. Ministers and Government Representatives support the strengthening of human and institutional capacities for renewable energies. This includes: (a) building capacity for policy analysis and technology assessment and strengthening educational efforts, gender mainstreaming and the role of women; (b) raising awareness of government decision-makers and financiers of renewables' benefits; (c) promoting consumer demand for renewable energy technologies, (d) supporting development of marketing, maintenance, and other service capacities; and (e) strengthening regional and international collaboration and stakeholder participation, including women's groups, to facilitate access to, and sharing of, relevant information and good practice.
7. Ministers and Government Representatives emphasize the need for additional targeted research and development, especially by developed countries, including indigenous research and technology development in developing countries and economies in transition, with particular emphasis on affordability and reducing cost, on innovative business and financing models and on cost-effective, consumer-friendly cost-recovery models, recognizing that different renewable technologies offer different opportunities and face different constraints.
8. Ministers and Government Representatives commit to work toward these objectives, individually and jointly, by undertaking the actions they have submitted for inclusion in the "International Action Programme" and through other voluntary measures. They agree that these measurable steps should be reported to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and that progress should be reviewed as foreseen in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. An appropriate arrangement for follow-up should be identified in a future meeting in preparation for CSD 14/15.
9. Ministers and Government Representatives agree to work within a "global policy network" together with representatives from parliaments, local and regional authorities, academia, the private sector, international institutions, international industry associations, consumers, civil society, women's groups, and relevant partnerships worldwide. This informal network should take into account the work already being undertaken by existing partnerships and should promote a comprehensive and open exchange of diverse perspectives, lessons, and experiences in the development and application of renewable energies.
10. Finally, Ministers and Government Representatives are committed to achieving tangible progress, as well as substantive follow-up, at CSD 14/15 and therefore resolve to continue the high-level political dialogue begun in Bonn.