



The Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition

Information Note

Conclusions from the Consultation Meeting Preparing for the World Conference for Renewable Energy in Bonn, June 2004)

April 28th 2004 8-9:30 PM
871 UN Plaza, NY

Introduction

- 1) A group of JREC Members met in New York on March 26, 2004 to discuss the JREC contribution to the Bonn Conference. The meeting took place in the margin of the 13th Commission for Sustainable Development.
- 2) The meeting was called by the JREC Secretariat hosted by the European Commission upon the request of JREC members represented in the Renewables 2004 International Steering Committee
- 3) The following countries attended: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Italy, France, Germany, Luxembourg, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.
- 4) A paper was prepared by Ms Freudenschuss-Reichl on request of the JREC secretariat to serve as a basis for discussion (attached).
- 5) This note summarizes the key conclusions in view of further preparations for the Bonn Conference.

General Comments

- 6) JREC process continues to serve the need for global informal dialogue at senior official and Ministerial level. It has contributed to bring together decision makers across countries, regions as well as from various policy areas including environment, energy and economic development.
- 7) This high-level process should be further consolidated as its added value is expected to further increase as a follow-up from the Bonn Conference.
- 8) The informal political process should be matched with concrete actions on the ground where possible.
- 9) JREC should continue to focus on those areas where it add value to related initiatives such as MEDREP, EU EI, REEEP, i.e., by providing a high-level informal platform for

informing Members about progress on the ground and to promote the global exchange of experiences.

- 10) The JREC Secretariat should explore ways and means for more actively supporting the involvement of high-level representatives from Developing Countries in the JREC process
- 11) Whilst the JREC should not become institutionalized, the JREC secretariat should explore options to further consolidate the JREC process, in particular to strengthening the technical capacity underpinning the JREC process.

JREC at Bonn

- 12) The expected outcome of the Bonn Conference includes:
 - a. A joint Political Declaration supported by all participating governments and stakeholders
 - b. An ambitious Programme of Action consisting of the sum of actions proposed by stakeholders and committed to by those specific stakeholders
 - c. A set of good practice guidelines
- 13) JREC members should individually and as a group strive to ensure a successful outcome of the Bonn Conference by ensuring that the outcome offers progress compared to the agreement reached at the WSSD.
 - a. JREC Members should be pro-active to ensure a highly ambitious political declaration;
 - b. It is premature to establish a separate JREC Political Declaration as this could be counterproductive;
 - c. JREC Members should focus in the first place on making ambitious and concrete contributions to the International Programme of action plan
- 14) The two initiatives proposed by the European Commission are seen as concrete examples of ambitious and concrete actions supporting policy and market development therefore meriting JREC support, i.e.
 - a. The database on the renewable energy policy and measures
 - b. The proposal for a patient capital fund;
- 15) Other areas for concrete action that could be explored include networking co-financing mechanism of multilateral regional banks and interested donor countries (comparable to the PPC at the EBRD).
- 16) Consultation meetings should be held ahead of the High-Level Session of the Bonn Conference to foster concrete individual and concerted JREC actions
- 17) JREC members should consider the need for a high-level follow-up Conference from Bonn to CSD 14/15, to be held preferably in a developing country.

Further Information

For additional information, please contact the JREC Secretariat at the European Commission: Thomas.Verheye@cec.eu.int; Tel: ++32 (2) 295 96 39; Fax: ++32 (2) 296 99 70) or visit <http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/ctf/home>.

Informal Background Paper

for the

JREC Consultation

New York, 26/28 April 2004

Draft Prepared by Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl
In support of the JREC- Secretariat
and for Consultation with JREC-Members
(15 April 2004)

Background

Para.20 (e) of the WSSD Plan of Implementation states that there is a *need to substantially increase with a sense of urgency, the global share of renewable energy sources with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply* and recognizes *the role of national and voluntary regional targets as well as initiatives*. Building on this negotiated outcome, 66 countries affirmed their desire in Johannesburg to move forward on renewable energies by forming the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC). Since then, JREC has grown to include 87 members.

In their Johannesburg-Declaration, JREC-members underline that time-bound targets are important instruments to express a government's vision and to develop and implement integrated policies. JREC acknowledges that the individual governments are best placed to develop and adopt national or regional time-bound targets and to choose the policy instruments most suited.

Policy instruments that have proved to be successful in other countries include feed-in and pricing systems, portfolio standards, tradable certificate systems, education, stake-holder involvement, and incentives to bring down the initial costs of investment and reduce risk, whether perceived or real.

Renewables2004 presents a highly visible opportunity for JREC Members to take another step forward in their shared commitment to promote renewables. The German hosts of Renewables2004 envisage three main outcomes for the Conference:

- a negotiated Political Declaration;
- a portfolio of pledges to undertake actions to promote renewables (currently named "International Action Plan");
- Recommendations for Good Policy.

The consultation in the margins of CSD-12 in New York is intended to provide JREC-members with up-dates on initiatives under preparation and to consult each other in preparation of Renewables2004.

Questions for discussion

1) On the current status of national/regional considerations among JREC members regarding the promotion of renewable energies, including time-bound targets :

- a) Have there been regional developments JREC-members would like to share with other partners outside their regions?
- b) Do members generally support the initiatives currently been undertaken by the JREC secretariat, i.e. The Patient Capital Initiative and the JREC Policies & Measures Database.
- c) How could collaborative arrangements, including through partnerships (such as REEEP, MEDREP) between industrialized and developing country partners assist with domestic decision-making?

2) How can JREC Members, individually and/or as a group contribute to the success of Renewables 2004 (between now and June, but especially at the conference itself)?

At the moment of the consultation, the Bonn Conferences Renewables2004 will only be one month away.

a) Do JREC-members consider it desirable to envisage possibilities for **caucusing prior to or at** the conference in order to enhance their collective impact at the conference?

b) Regarding the “**Political Declaration**”: all efforts should be made to move the consensus on renewables beyond what was reached at Johannesburg.

Which elements (of the draft provided by the hosts of Renewables2004) seem particularly important for JREC-members and should hence be “fought for” by all JREC-members and with insistence ?

c) Regarding the “**Portfolio of International Actions**”:

- which actions are JREC-members planning to include in this portfolio?
- Will there be indications of time-bound targets and specific initiatives?

3) How could JREC become a more effective tool for its members to promote renewables in their own countries/regions beyond Renewables2004?

Looking ahead, and beyond Renewables2004:

a) Would there be benefit in a **follow-up event** to the Bonn conference, prior to the review/policy year of the Commission on Sustainable Development dealing with energy, industry, climate change (2006/7)?

b) How could JREC ensure that between Renewables2004 and CSD 2006/7 at least ten **additional** JREC-members have adopted **national strategies** for the promotion of renewable energies?

c) What kind of support might JREC-members need in the lead-up to CSD 2006/7 in order to strengthen their voice within the G-77 coordination and to engage with the non-EU-OECD-countries in constructive, result-oriented dialogue?

