



WCRE

World Council for Renewable Energy

World Renewable Energy Assembly (WREA) 2005
November 26th to 30th, 2005, Bonn/Germany

3rd World Renewable Energy Forum
November 30th, 2005

Final Communiqué

The Human Right to Renewable Energy

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” This first sentence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights articulates a basic human commitment. Only by respecting this commitment, a humane life in peace can be assured durably.

Energy is the fundamental prerequisite of every life. Availability of energy is a fundamental and indivisible human right.

In the 20th century we have gained the experience that the established system of energy supply - mainly based on fossil energies, and partly nuclear energy - is not in a position to assure this human right for everybody. It is violated billion fold. Due to the imminent depletion of conventional energy sources and their dramatic impact on the environment and climate, this right can be assured even less for an ever-increasing number of people. The human right to energy can only be fulfilled by renewable energy.

There is no more time to waste for the mobilisation of renewable energy. Until now, international efforts are clearly lagging behind the essential requirements and the opportunities given. The large number of UN conferences promises more than they can keep, because they are committed to consensual decision-making in every step. So far, UN organisations and multilateral development banks either have not been willing to clearly shift their priorities towards renewable energy, or have been prevented from doing so. The Kyoto Protocol is falling short of its requirements still. Its main problem lies in its focus on emissions trading and marketable rights, instead of emissions prevention by a paradigm shift towards renewables. The promotion of nuclear power is fixed in international law, while renewable energy is not. The fossil and nuclear energy system still receives around US\$ 500 billion of subsidies annually, fifty times more than is spent on renewable energy.

International government institutions reflect the renewable energy discrimination in their system. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is promoting the proliferation of nuclear technology; the International Energy Agency (IEA) is operating as a satellite of the fossil energy industry. Both have misled the governments and the public for years, by playing down risks of nuclear and fossil energy, and by negating the potentials of renewable energy.

These agencies are leading their governments to an energy policy that is blind to the future. We must not remain silent and ignore these facts any longer; the persons in charge have to be named. We are not only accountable for our actions, but also for our inaction.

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The prices for conventional energies are rising in the course of their depletion and their increasing disastrous damage. Renewable energy is steadily becoming cheaper, due to the growing recognition of technology and industrial mass production. Humanity now is at the crossroads.

Today and in future, the costs for renewables enable a sustainable, cheap and sufficient energy supply for everybody.

Any further postponing is irresponsible. Reasons of economy, ecology and peace policy are speaking for renewable energy. All things considered, a basic ethical decision in favour of renewable energy is the conclusion.

1. The World Renewable Energy Assembly (WREA) welcomes the official plan of the new German government to take the initiative for an International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). This initiative will be successful, if its creation is not made subject to the consensus rule, but is carried out by a group of like-minded governments, calling upon all governments to join the agency any time they like.
2. It is of utmost importance to launch a strategy for phasing out fossil fuels by mobilising biofuels, in order to escape from the widening trap of shortage and price increase of oil and gas. It is therefore necessary to suitably organise the regime of world trade as not to counteract the development of domestic biofuel economies and associated agriculture.
3. The World Renewable Energy Assembly (WREA) reaffirms the proposals of the 2nd World Renewable Energy Forum 2004 and its "World Renewable Energy Agenda":
 - A Renewable Energy Proliferation Protocol to be added to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
 - A renewable energy priority for financing renewables in development aid and development banks, focussing on micro-finance following the model of the Grameen Shakti Bank.
 - Global industrial norms and standards for renewables.
 - An international university for renewable energy under the auspices of UNESCO.

Our leitmotif is the stimulation and promotion of local initiatives instead of further waiting for international agreements any further. Mobilising renewable energy is a unique new chance, and not an economic burden, as it may seem.

The World Renewable Energy Assembly 2006 motto will be

"Energy Independence for all."