Renewable Energy in the International Policy Process

The topic of "energy" has gradually moved over the last decades to the very top of the international political agenda. Renewable energy, in particular, has received high attention as a potential win-win option in both the environment and development arenas. Its position has been significantly strengthened lately by increased geopolitical concerns about the security of energy supplies and the related increase in oil prices to some of their highest historical levels.

The UN programmes, conventions and processes most concerned are the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the UN Summits of 2000 (Millennium Summit) and of 2005 (World Summit), as well as the 'Rio Process' with the 1992 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), in which environment and development issues are dealt with in combination, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a specialised fund.

The issue of (renewable) energy is also taken on by the G8 process, and in particular the Gleneagles Dialogue, in which, apart from the G8 countries, large developing countries are also taking part, and to which the World Bank, the International Energy Agency (IEA) as well as the UK Treasury (Stern Review) are contributing.

Furthermore, the specialised series of the International Renewable Energy Conferences which started in 2004 with the Bonn Renewables 2004 Conference, creates additional momentum to advance renewable energy policies and technologies through an innovative and high-level dialogue of governments and stakeholders outside the UN system.

Lastly, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), an intergovernmental organisation, was established in January 2009 to provide advice and support to governments worldwide in promoting a transition towards the widespread use of renewable energy.

Recommended Reading:

International Institutional Arrangements in Support of Renewable Energy, by Achim Steiner, Thomas Wälde, Adrian Bradbrook and Frederik Schutyser
(provided through kind permission by Earthscan).

The Multifaceted Institutional Landscape and Processes of International Renewable Energy Policy, by Paul Suding and Philippe Lempp, published in the Newsletter for the International Association of Energy Economists. Chinese version (thanks to Pengyi for translation).

Renewable Energy in United Nations' Processes

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) - or Earth Summit - in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 not only assembled an unprecedented amount of participants, but also initiated several processes that continue until today. The Earth Summit's Agenda 21 plan of action included major programme areas, such as promoting transitions to different energy sources, increasing energy efficiency, promoting renewable energy sources, and promoting sustainable transport systems. Though energy did not receive its own specific chapter, energy aspects were included in connection to other topics, especially in chapter 9 with relation to climate change, but also in chapters 14 and 16 in relation to sustainable agriculture and biofuels.

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established as the formal mechanism to follow-up on the implementation of Agenda 21. The CSD-9 cycle in 2000-2001 was dedicated to energy, atmosphere and transport. This was the first time a high-level body under the UN comprehensively discussed the entire energy agenda - the result of the increasing recognition of the importance of energy issues to all aspects of sustainable development. CSD-9 was also a stepping-stone to include energy as a priority area for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Energy was also the central issue of CSD-14/15 in 2006-2007, in connection with sustainable development, climate change, and air pollution.

One of the three conventions adopted in Rio was the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which later developed its own life. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was created as a financial mechanism for the UNFCCC, supporting developing countries to meet their obligations under the Convention.

The Millennium Summit in the year 2000 defined the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), most of which require energy access as an indispensable prerequisite.

UNEP PROCESS

IPCC, UNFCCC, GEF and Carbon Markets

In 1988, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organisation jointly established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) with a mandate to assess the best scientific efforts on climate change, its potential impacts, and possible response strategies. Since then, the IPCC has produced four comprehensive assessments - the latest of which was relased in November 2007 - and a number of special and technical reports.

As a political response to increased concerns about climate change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was negotiated on the basis of initial IPCC findings. The UNFCCC was established and signed by almost all countries in 1992 at the Rio Summit.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was created as a financial mechanism for the UNFCCC, supporting developing countries to meet their obligations under the Convention. It finances incremental cost to make environmental friendly options of projects economic, and has become a major source also for renewable energy

financing in developing countries. The fourth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, which was agreed in August 2006 for 2006 to 2010 amounts to US$ 3.1 billion, of which about US$365 million are earmarked for renewable energy. It concentrates on renewable energy for grid electricity and for rural energy services. Expected outcomes are favourable conditions for market development.

One of the major political tools of the Convention is the Kyoto Protocol, which was negotiated and signed in 1997. The Protocol establishes specific and binding greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets for all ratifying industrialised countries. The Protocol also sets a timetable for the achievement of these targets, i.e. 2008-2012, as well as a process to negotiate later commitments. Due to the strict rules for ratification by major GHG emitters, the Protocol only entered into force on 16 February, 2005. Although major GHG emitters from among the industrialised countries, such as the US and Australia, did not ratify the Protocol, it has been ratified by 163 states and regional economic integration organisations (as of April 2006). The Kyoto Protocol is the one of the rare examples of successfully introducing a binding multilateral regime.

The Kyoto Protocol creates three mechanisms: the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Joint Implementation (JI) and Emissions Trading (ET). These mechanisms have an elaborate set of rules and regulations, but in simple terms CDM and JI are project-based mechanisms by which projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition (both country groups are exempted from binding GHG reduction commitments) can be undertaken to generate carbon credits (CERs). Industrialised countries can purchase these credits in order to meet their own targets. Emissions trading, on the other hand, facilitates trade in carbon emissions among countries that have reduction commitments. Renewable energy sources, including landfill gas, were responsible for the largest share of CERs to be generated annually from the current global portfolio of CDM projects.

This is not surprising, as energy activities are by far the largest source of GHG, contributing 78% of total GHG emissions from industrialised countries. This can be concluded from the data by the UNFCCC Secretariat which is based on national emission inventories from Annex 1 countries. For developing countries (called 'non-Annex I countries' under the Convention) estimates of GHG emissions, which are less than for developed countries but quickly increasing, indicate a similar dominance by the energy sector.

Within IPCC, emission scenarios are elaborated in the framework of the comprehensive assessments, which deliver a range of alternative global energy development paths and resulting emissions up to the year 2100. New scenarios were published in May 2007 by IPCC's Working Group III as part of the 4th Assessment Report (4AR): Climate Change 2007: Mitigation of Climate Change. These stabilisation scenarios also give an idea of the expected contribution of renewable energy under different assumptions (see Renewable Energy Prospects page).

Carbon funds set up by governments and the World Bank have served as pilot operations for trying various innovations in the mechanisms. In parallel with the formal Protocol mechanisms, a number of countries have initiated domestic carbon emissions trading schemes. In early 2005, for example, a regional emissions trading scheme (ETS) was started by the EU. This combination of mechanisms including the Carbon Funds has led to the gradual emergence of a global carbon market, which has the potential to leverage additional financial resources for clean energy, and particularly renewable energy projects.

Another important area of the UNFCCC with relevance to renewable energies is technology transfer. Renewable energy constitutes one set of the pivotal technologies, within the group of alternative energy sources. An expert group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) reporting to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) is preparing its recommendations to facilitate and advance technology transfer activities relevant for mitigation of climate change, to be presented to the Conference of Parties (COP).

At the occasion of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP11), in Montreal 2005 REN21 presented a first version of

the report on the Role of Renewable Energy in a Carbon-Constrained World, which was launched at UNEP's Dubai Environment Ministers Conference in 2006.

Ahead of the COP 13 Climate Conference in Bali in December 2007, the REN21 Secretariat analysed the relevance of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol for renewable energy.

At the Bali COP itself, a roadmap for the post-2012 negotiations was agreed that includes the following features: a) Finalisation of negotiations at COP 15 in December 2009, with two additional negotiation rounds each year, and b) Two linked negotiation tracks for UNFCCC parties and Kyoto Protocol parties, both run as "Ad Hoc Working Groups".

The Kyoto track is based on a target corridor of 25-40% emission reduction from 1990 to 2020. The UNFCCC track contains no numerical target values, but a reference to the part of the IPCC report discussing necessary reduction levels. It contains the four “building blocks” adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer, and financing. The critical text now acknowledges mitigation commitments by developing countries: *"nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country parties in the context of sustainable development, supported by technology and enabled by finance and capacity building in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.*

This is mirrored by *"measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives by all developed countries, taking into account differences in their national circumstances"*.

Recommended Reading:
Renewable Energy and the Climate Change Regime, REN21 Secretariat, 2007

UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Sustainable Energy was one of the topics of the 9th Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environmental Programme (GCSS/GMEF of UNEP) in February 2006, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The summary of the UNEP energy programme, provided by Executive Director Klaus Töpfer underlines UNEP's growing involvement in renewable energy and also gives an overview of the present status of and future prospects for renewable energy, based on the REN21 Global Renewable Energy Status Report.

Climate change mitigation, but also energy for development and energy security were highlighted as the most important challenges on the energy agenda. Besides renewables - among which bio energy received most attention - energy efficiency but also other clean energy technologies were considered important options.

International processes and events such as WSSD, CSD, Bonn renewables 2004 Conference, as well as international initiatives and partnerships were commended as useful. Capacity-building, technology transfer and market mechanisms that engage the private sector were considered instrumental in assisting and supporting developing countries in addressing climate change. Positions were divided on how vigorously new technologies should be implemented also in developing countries.

UN Millennium Summit and World Summit

The United Nations Millennium Summit was organised at the turn of the century in order to use this remarkable point in time to focus worldwide development efforts and to improve the living conditions of the worlds poorest as soon as possible in the new millennium. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) were adopted by the international community, with specific objectives to be achieved by 2015, including halving the proportion of the

worldwide amount of people living on less than $1 a day.

The Monterrey Consensus which was reached during the International Conference on Financing for Development in March 2002 was an important step towards the achievement of the MDGs. Among other national and multilateral commitments, it includes the pledge of the industrialised countries to increase official development aid (ODA) to the level of 0.7% of their respective GDP as well as continued efforts towards debt relief.

In September 2005, a High Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th session of the General Assembly brought together more than 100 Heads of State and Government, and was coined the 2005 World Summit. At this summit, the Millenium Declaration and the MDGs were reaffirmed, including the commitment to the global partnership for development. The Monterey Consensus and the need for financial means were also reconfirmed, as was the implementation of Rio's Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation from WSSD in 2002.

At the occasion of the World Summit 2005, REN21 launched its issue paper Energy for Development, which explores the potential role of renewable energy in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Although energy is not explicitly mentioned in any of the MDGs, there is a growing recognition that energy services play a crucial role as a cross-cutting prerequisite for development and improved living conditions around the world.

World Summit on Sustainable Development

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002 was organised with the intention to take stock and give new impetus to sustainable development ten years after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. At the WSSD, energy was one of the major topics on the global agenda for the first time.

Paragraph 18 of the Political Declaration set the stage for the issues to be focussed "on targets, timetables and partnerships, to speedily increase access to such basic requirements as clean water, sanitation, adequate shelter, energy, health care, food security and the protection of biodiversity."

Renewable energy, too, has figured prominently on the agenda of the WSSD, and the global community agreed that it must be part of the solution. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), adopted at the Summit, addresses renewable energy in several of its chapters. In Chapter II on poverty eradication, governments agree to improve access to reliable and affordable energy services for sustainable development, so as to facilitate the achievement of the MDGs. This includes actions to increase the use of renewables. In Chapter III on sustainable consumption and production patterns, governments agree to boost substantially the global share of renewable energy sources, with the objective of increasing the contribution of renewable energy to total energy supply. They recognise the role of national and voluntary regional targets and initiatives, and the need to ensure that energy policies support developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty.

However, renewable energies were also a subject of disagreement, and the conclusions stopped short of setting time-bound targets and subsidies for renewable energy, which some participants had hoped for. A number of countries, including host South Africa, had pushed strongly for agreement on some form of energy targets whereby countries would commit themselves to move towards more sustainable and renewable energy systems.

Instead, paragraph 20 of the JPOI calls all stakeholders to implement the recommendations of CSD-9 concerning energy for sustainable development, and highlights some issues referring also to renewable energy.

As a reaction to the - perceived or real - failure of the entirety of governments to achieve meaningful action with regard to renewable energy, many independent initiatives and commitments were triggered that may otherwise never have come about. In the long run, these dynamic activities may arguably prove to be more important than the

conference itself:

- In the absence of a general agreement on targets and timetables, some countries committed themselves to increasing access to modern energy services, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, and to phasing out - where appropriate - energy subsidies.

- The European Community and the EU member states launched the "coalition of like-minded countries on the way forward on renewable energies", which was later to become the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC). This coalition favours time-bound targets for a rapid increase in renewable energies. JREC is steadily growing and today counts 94 member countries (as of June 2006).

- The European Union also announced a USD 700m partnership, the EU Energy Initiative (EUEI).

- Germany pledged to contribute USD 500m to support renewable energy development in the next five years. Part of this money was to hold an International Renewable Energy Conference in Bonn in June 2004, to which German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder invited all the stakeholders at the WSSD.

- The United States pledged a USD 43m investment in 2003. The United States joined a number of gobal partnerships, including GVEP, REEEP, REN21. Later on, the US created the Asia Pacific Partnership (APP)

- Regional pledges of targets and timetables were announced and reaffirmed by the European Union as well as Latin America and Caribbean countries.

- Sustainable and renewable energy also became the subject of a number of so-called "Type 2 partnerships". In contrast to the Type 1 outcomes that require negotiation and agreement by all governments (i.e. JPOI and the Political Declaration, which failed to entail binding targets and an international regime), "Type 2" outcomes are voluntary partnerships between stakeholders from business, civil society, and governments.

  The UN received a total of 32 partnership submissions for energy projects, worth over USD 26m in resources. Relevant to renewable energy are:

  - The Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD) for the research, transfer and deployment of cleaner energy technologies to the developing world was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme.
  - The Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) is charged with improving energy access and is spearheaded by the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States
  - The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) was initiated by the United Kingdom with the mission to accelerate the global market and financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.
  - The Global Policy Network REN21 is an outcome of the Bonn Renewable Energy Conference (mentioned above), and thereby is also rooted in WSSD. REN21 is included as a Type 2 partnership under the JPOI.

- Important for renewable energy are also general development partnerships like the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which strives to ensure energy access for at least 35% within 20 years.

United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) 14 and 15

The intergovernmental process and the JPOI of WSSD reconfirmed the role of the CSD as the high-level forum for sustainable development within the UN system. It was decided that the CSD should address energy for sustainable development and climate change as part of its thematic cluster during its two-year cycle from 2006-2007, i.e. CSD-14/15. The first year - with the CSD-14 review session in May 2006 in New York - was conceived to review progress in preparation of the CSD-15 policy session, held in 2007.

During the first segment of the **CSD-14** conference, the participating groups lead thematic and regional discussions on the progress on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and other agreements. According to paragraph 7 of the Chairman's Summary of part 1 "the importance of an integrated but balanced consideration of the issues was recognized by all delegations". Energy was the major overarching issue which penetrated all the discussions, also those in the other areas: industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

The discussions in the second part, the high-level segment, of CSD-14 are captured in the Chairman's Summary of part 2. The cross-cutting importance of energy remained evident during the high-level segment, too.

Renewable energy was very frequently mentioned as an option for a number of objectives like energy access, energy security, clean energy, industrial development and climate change mitigation. It was recognized that renewable energy had come a long way since CSD-9 and WSSD in 2002, and had become a significant source of energy, in particular for electricity supply, transport, and buildings.

Relatively much emphasis was laid on energy efficiency, too, as well as on some non-renewable energy supply options. With respect to traditional household fuel, improved stoves and modern energy received much attenion over concerns about unhealthy air pollution and the burden for women and children collecting scarce firewood. Further technological development of cleaner energy was considered the task of the industrialised countries, while financing mechanisms (inlcuding ODA and CDM), technology transfer measures, and capacity building was demanded for developing economies. The importance of the private sector and civil society, including partnerships, was recognised thoughout the discussions.

Looking ahead to commitments for the policy year, the Chairman's summary remained rather short. Among the challenges, it mentions in paragraph 35(p) the need to consider "effective follow-up of the thematic issues discussed at CSD-14".

REN21 - registered as a UN partnership - contributed with preliminary results of the International Action Programme (IAP) of the Bonn RE Conference, and its Global Status Report. The IAP follow-up undertaken by REN21 and presented at a side event, served as an example for reporting on self-imposed commitments, which can be a way to achieve progress by sidestepping the barriers that more binding agreements often face in particular, if they are followed by a monitoring and reporting process, whose feasibility was demonstrated.

The REN21 Steering Committe agreed on a common position in order to take forward a coherent message for a suitable review arrangement to CSD-14/15. Based on this, REN21 offered to cooperate with UN-DESA and other partners to review progress made, as called for in the Beijing Declaration.

In preparation to the CSD-15, REN21 together with REEEP the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, GVEP the Global Village Energy Partnership, JREC the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition, MEDREP the Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme and GBEP the Global Bio-Energy Partnership wrote a joint letter in response to UNDESA's call for major group's inputs to the Secretary-General's reports for CSD-15, evidencing the high degree of co-operation between the partnerships. Among others, the partnerships underlined the need for a

solid mechanism to follow up the implementation of the energy elements of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and any further commitments that would emerge from CSD-15.

The policy session of **CSD-15** in May 2007 proved to be a sobering reminder that fundamental disagreements exist between states on the nature, scope and ambition of the sustainable development agenda, particularly regarding energy and climate change. On the afternoon of the last day of the sessions, the Chair presented a compromise document and offered it on a "take it or leave it" basis. After rather short consultations, the delegations from the European Union and Switzerland refused to sign the document - on the grounds of its too weak message - leaving the conference without a negotiated outcome. The Chairman's Summary gives an account of the status of the negotiations during the final moments and presents his compromise proposal.

REN21 was present at CSD-15 as well as in the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting in March 2007 with a high level side event and a technical side event on *Benefitting from Renewables: Investment and Deplyoment.*

Renewable Energy in the G8 Process

At the **Gleneagles Summit in July 2005**, the G8 under the UK presidency, started a fresh initiative to take urgent action to meet the challenges of climate change. The G8 were joined in that initiative by leaders of Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Africa, as well as by the heads of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations (UN), the World Bank, and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

In a joint statement, the Heads of State and Heads of Government set out the common purpose in tackling climate change, promoting clean energy and achieving sustainable development. In the statement, the areas of further action are defined, and a global dialogue on climate change, clean energy and sustainable development is announced, the results of which shall be reported to the G8 during the Japanese presidency in 2008. The IEA and the World Bank are given specific tasks, and the consistency with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is assured.

More concretely, the leaders agreed to the Gleneagles Plan of Action. The leaders will take forward action towards transforming the way we use energy, powering a cleaner future, promoting research and development, financing the transition to cleaner energy, managing the impact of climate change, and tackling illegal logging. Renewable energy receives special attention within the area of powering a cleaner future. Paragraph 16 of the Gleneagles Plan of Action highlights the initiative started in Bonn 2004:

"We will promote the continued development and commercialisation of renewable energy by: (a) promoting the International Action Programme of the Renewables 2004 conference in Bonn, starting with a Conference at the end of 2005, hosted by the Chinese government, and supporting the goals of the Renewable Energy Policy Network (REN 21)…"

With respect to electricity grids, the G8 give special attention to integrating renewable energy sources, pledging to "work with the IEA to (a) draw together research into the challenges of integrating renewable energy sources into networks and optimising the efficiency of grids".

During the Russian Presidency in 2006, the focus of the G8 with respect to energy turned to energy security. During the **St Petersburg Summit in July 2006**, the G8 leaders agreed to the St. Petersburg Plan of Action on Global Energy Security. In this plan of action, renewable energy is recognised as one of the key ingredients of a more secure energy mix.

The **Heiligendamm Summit in 2007** during the German Presidency made climate change, energy efficiency and energy security a major subject, and reached what many consider a breakthrough. The Chair's summary states: "In setting a global goal for emissions reductions in the process we have agreed in Heiligendamm involving all major emitters, we will consider seriously the decisions made by the European Union, Canada and Japan which include at least a halving of global emissions by 2050." Also, the Heads of G8 States with the counterparts from the plus 5 countries declared their firm committment to work for solutions in the UNFCCC. In the latter declaration, a special section on energy cooperation was included, in which renewable energy is specified. Under the heading of "fighting climate change", the wider term 'technology' is used.

Taking up the **Global Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development (Gleneagles Dialogue),** the UK with other partners has organised two ministerial meetings - in London in November 2005 and in Mexico City in October 2006.

At the second ministerial meeting (Chair's Summary), the representatives from the G8 and from Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, and Spain, joined by senior officials from organisations including the World Bank, Regional Development Banks, the UNFCCC, the IEA, and the World Economic Forum (WEF) business group, as well as legislators from the Globe organisation discussed

- economics of actions to tackle climate change and politics of climate change,
- new approaches to research, development and deployment of low carbon and adaptation technologies, on the basis of a quantitative framework for greenhouse gas emissions and technology options based on a new 2050 scenario by the IEA
- investment and financing requirements and instruments to deal with development needs and climate change, based on presentations from Worldbank of the Investment Framework.

The importance of advancing the process in the general UNFCCC framework was underlined (see also the proposal made by REN21 Chair Mohamed El-Ashry). The **Global Leadership for Climate Action** developed a proposal for a Framework for a Post-2012 Agreement on Climate Change which received very favourable recognition by several participants in the Gleneagles Dialogue.

In support of the Dialogue and following the request from Gleneagles, the IEA has in 2006 published two sets of scenarios based on different assumptions and time frames. In World Energy Outlook 2006, the IEA describes different energy 'futures' evolving until 2030 from today's situation, whereas Energy Technology Perspectives explores technical possibilities for a more sustainable energy path and shows how energy-related CO2 emissions could be taken back to their current levels by 2050.

Asked by the G8 and under mandate of its Development Committee, the World Bank is developing a framework to accelerate worldwide investment in clean energy, entitled Clean Energy and Development: Towards an Investment Framework (CEDIF). The World Bank highlights the key role of policies in bringing about the necessary change and creating the conditions for investment.

On request by the UK government, a team within the UK Treasury under the leadership of Sir Nicholas Stern has studied the economics of climate change, in particular the cost of action and the cost of non-action. The Stern Review - presented ahead of the COP12 climate conference in Narobi in November 2006 - received great attention also beyond the community habitually concerned about climate change.

Under the German Presidency in 2007, the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the Gleneagles Dialogue was organised in Berlin in September 2007. Together with other institutions, REN21 was invited to present the Renewable Energy

Potentials in the countries participating in the Dialogue. The conclusions of the Chair include the recommendation that REN21 should continue the work on the Renewable Energy Potentials in collaboration with the Dialogue countries.

During the **Japanese Presidency in 2008**, the Gleneagles Dialogue will be brought to a close with a 4th Ministerial Meeting in March 2008.

For reference to earlier efforts to include Renewables into the G8 process, see also the 2001 G8 Renewable Energy Task Force Chairmen's Report.