

London 16th August 2006

Dear Federica,

We (REEEP, the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, GVEP the Global Village Energy Partnership, REN21 the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, JREC the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition, MEDREP the Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme and GBEP the Global Bio-Energy Partnership) are writing to you in response to your call for major group's inputs to the Secretary-General's reports for CSD15. Under cover of this letter we enclose a range of material from our different organisations that we believe you should consider when drafting the Secretary-General's reports. You asked in your email of 24th July that we provide you with discussion pieces for your consideration. Due to the late nature of the request and the consequently short time available, much of which falls during peak holiday season, we regret that at this stage we are unable to provide you with a fully considered and co-ordinated input in the format you requested. However we hope that the material enclosed and this letter enable you to incorporate our positions into the reports.

We are submitting our material to you jointly to demonstrate that, although as separate partnerships, networks and other organisations we address different aspects of energy and sustainable development, we believe that in seeking to achieve the sustainability of energy supplies and services and eradicating the causes and conditions of poverty, we face a common challenge. This must be addressed in a holistic way, through action across the whole energy spectrum; there is no single approach that will be successful and no 'silver bullet'. This is already evidenced in the high degree of co-operation between us.

It is important to note that we six do not represent the entire field of those active in sustainable energy. There are many other partnerships and initiatives who play an equally important role but are not included in this letter for reasons of expediency. The six represented here have existing close ties that enabled quick co-ordination to respond to this request for input, but we trust that you will seek input from those we have not been able to include.

We believe that partnerships and international networks provide part of the solution through cooperation, building capacity and the sharing of experience, adding greatly to the efforts of individual states and regions. We encourage you to recognise and promote the role and contribution of partnerships and networks in the follow up to CSD15, including the delivery of agreed commitments and undertakings with tangible and measurable impacts.

The Chairman's Summary of CSD14 provides an excellent basis for future action by identifying many of the difficult issues and challenges facing the world. CSD15

must define how these are to be addressed and set out a clear roadmap for action. In our discussions we have identified 3 themes we see as crucial for success.

Firstly, especially as the MDG framework does not include energy for development, there is a 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 will emerge from CSD15. This is essential to ensure steady progress and identify gaps in capacity going forward. REN21 has carried out a follow-up of the Bonn International Action Programme to which a large majority of actors have reported. This voluntary model of reporting could form the basis of a means for CSD to track countries commitments under sustainable energy. It is highly desirable, that CSD 15 itself would produce an “action oriented outcome” for sustainable energy. This could be a Programme of voluntary actions and commitments, compiled at CSD 15, that would then be the subject of review. JREC is conducting work to consult globally on the options for such a review mechanism. The JREC study outlined in the attached document will report to the CSD early in 2007 and we ask you to anticipate this input in your reports and planning.

Secondly we should ensure the debate on energy for poverty reduction and the environmental consequences of energy use does not become polarised. Poverty eradication and defence of the global environment are both non-negotiable; they must be achieved together. In fact, the permanent eradication of poverty cannot be achieved unless the environment is protected. A new paradigm that allows new solutions and approaches to be taken needs to be adopted. Basic energy services are needed for minimum acceptable living conditions and to support the delivery of essential social services, including in rural areas. High volume energy is needed to meet the needs of industry, commerce and urban services. Economic and infrastructure planning must take into account these differing requirements, with action on poverty reduction and action on environmental protection taken where these have the greatest impacts. The greatest opportunities exist in developing countries where energy access is lowest and potential demand growth the highest.

Thirdly is the need, often articulated but seldom act upon, for a long term predictable policy framework to allow the massive investment in energy from the private sector (the IEA's estimate for global investment in the energy sector is \$16 trillion by 2030) to flow into sustainable energy choices. Current policy, regulatory and investment frameworks will set us globally on an unsustainable path from which we will not be able to deviate for many years. Current high rates of growth of energy consumption mean higher than ever rates of investment in energy infrastructure that will be in place for many decades. Choices made now and in the short to medium term will have impacts that reach far into the future. The technologies exist and the business, investment and finance community has clearly indicated that investment is possible in sustainable energy, but there must

be a framework under which investment can be made in sustainable energy and this framework needs to be 'long, loud and legal'.

Thank you for considering our input. We are very grateful for the work that UNDESA undertakes in preparing for CSD and look forward to continuing to work with you in the run up to and during CSD15.

Yours truly,

The secretariats of...



Enclosures:

REEEP annual report
GVEP Future Business Plan
REN21 Renewables Global Status Report 2006 update *and* Report on International Action Programme Follow Up

GBEP Explanatory note
JREC Terms of reference for Review Options study
MEDREP Case study *and* Selected case studies from the above