UNITED NATIONS

A

United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy

Nairobi, Kenya
10-21 August 1981

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.100/NR/28 (SUMMARY)
3 April 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL REPORT SUBMITTED BY IRELAND*

* The designations employed, the presentation of material and the views expressed in this paper are those of the submitting Government and do not necessarily reflect the practices and views of the Secretariat of the United Nations in any of these respects.

IRELAND AND NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

SUMMARY

Ireland has a maritime temperate climate with well-distributed rainfall, and no extremes of terrain.

Ireland is deficient in conventional energy sources with over 80 per cent of its energy requirements having to be imported. As Ireland has not yet achieved its full industrial potential, the national consumption of TPE (total primary energy) is very low when compared to other West European countries, as is per capita consumption. Like most rapidly industrializing countries, Ireland's energy requirements must grow to meet the needs of industrial development.

As the sources of renewable energy which have been identified as having most potential for Ireland are wind, biomass and wave, national research and development effort has concentrated on these. The national effort is complemented and maximized by Irish participation in projects of the European Economic Community and the International Energy Agency.

Recent studies have indicated that renewable sources of energy could provide 8 per cent (1.76 MTOE) of national energy requirements by the year 2010.

Ireland is currently a leader in short-rotation forestry biomass research and development and forestry biomass is expected to be its earliest accessible large-scale renewable technology, largely because existing peat technology can be readily adopted for use with biomass.

Ireland has a long tradition of utilizing its peat deposits to offset its lack of other fossil fuels. The national Peat Authority, Bord na Mona (BnM), pioneered the development of industrial-scale peat production and has acquired very considerable expertise in the exploitation of this resource.

Many developing countries have unexploited deposits of peat and several such countries, principally in Africa, are already availing themselves of BnM's expertise both in evaluating the potential and training in the exploitation of these resources. Burundi and Rwanda, in particular, are undertaking considerable peat development programmes with Irish assistance.

In the important field of education and training, the Irish Industrial Development Authority is preparing a series of specialized courses in energy. The first of these, aimed particularly at administrators, will commence in August 1981.

At present, the main constraints faced by Ireland in realizing the enormous potential of renewable sources of energy are technological in nature and prevail world-wide. Ireland is most anxious to co-operate in international initiatives to resolve the problem presented by those constraints, and to make the new technologies accessible.
