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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 12 of its resolution 34/190 of 18 December 1979, requested the Secretary-General and the organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system to provide appropriate assistance, including technical assistance, to developing countries, at their request and in accordance with established procedures, in their preparations for the Conference at the national level through their national focal points and at the subregional, regional, interregional and global levels, using, *inter alia*, existing resources to the greatest extent possible. The Assembly, in paragraph 15 of the same resolution, further requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its thirty-fifth session a report on the preparations for the Conference.

2. Subsequently, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, at its first session, requested the Secretary-General (decision 1 (I)) to submit to it, at its second session, a progress report on the state of preparations for the Conference, which would include information on the implementation of paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 34/190 relating to the vital question of the provision of technical assistance to interested developing countries, in the preparation of the Conference, and information on the requests received from countries and the assistance provided in response to those requests.

3. In response to these requests, the Preparatory Committee, at its second session, held at Geneva from 21 July to 1 August 1980, had before it a report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Conference (A/35/321), which contained in annex I, information on the provision of technical assistance to interested developing countries. The Preparatory Committee's discussion of this issue is reflected in paragraphs 25 to 27 of the report on its second session (A/35/43, (part II)). 1/

4. The Preparatory Committee adopted decision 7 (II) on preparatory work for the Conference, in paragraph (d) of which it reiterated the need to implement speedily paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 34/190 regarding the vital question of providing technical assistance to interested developing countries on the preparation for the Conference, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on the state of the implementation of paragraph 12 of that resolution and the contributory activities of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and other organizations concerned, in that regard. The Preparatory Committee also recommended, in paragraph (f) of the same decision, that the regional commissions should strengthen their participation in the preparatory process for the Conference, and, *inter alia*, assist and encourage in organizing national, regional and interregional seminars for detailed discussions at policy-making levels of the preparations being undertaken for the Conference.

1/ To be subsequently incorporated in Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/35/43).

II. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

5. The response by developing countries for the provision of technical assistance, in pursuance of paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 34/190, has been quite modest. Many technical assistance requirements have been fulfilled directly by the regional commissions' advisers through working sessions in the countries. In several other cases, assistance is also being provided through the regional advisers to carry out the initial phases of projects, i.e., detailed formulation of the project requirements, technical information, costing, etc. The Conference secretariat has received only a total of 12 formal requests for technical assistance. Four of these requests are for assistance to Governments in the preparation of national papers (Dominica, Ethiopia, Kenya and Viet Nam). Eight other requests, which are project oriented, were received from the Bahamas, Barbados, Burundi, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Kenya and Peru.

6. The Conference secretariat is submitting to the four countries listed in paragraph 5 names of experts who would provide assistance in the preparation of national papers. The remaining requests not falling within the legislative mandate of the Conference secretariat will be processed in accordance with the modalities agreed upon between the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Administrator of UNDP and approved at an interagency meeting, held at Geneva from 8 to 10 October 1980. These modalities are outlined in section III below.

7. At its second session, the Preparatory Committee recommended that national papers should be prepared by interested Governments. In notifying Governments of this decision the Conference secretariat also informed them again of the possibility of receiving appropriate assistance, including technical assistance, in their preparations for the Conference. In addition, the Conference secretariat drew to the attention of the regional commissions paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 34/190 and re-emphasized the important role they have to play in this regard. In pursuance of paragraph 12 of resolution 34/190, ESCAP, ECLA, ECA and ECWA have appointed regional advisers to provide assistance to the Governments of the region on an ongoing basis.

III. MODALITIES FOR RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

A. Conference secretariat

8. In consultations with Member Governments, senior staff members of the Secretariat and regional advisers visited various countries to discuss with Governments the thrust of preparations for the Conference as well as their technical assistance requirements in regard to national preparations for the Conference.

9. In order for the Conference secretariat to respond in the best possible way to requests received from Governments for their national preparation, the Secretary-General of the Conference, after consultations with the Administrator of UNDP, agreed that the following procedures be used for dealing with requests:

"The staff assigned to the regional commissions for the purpose and duration of the Conference preparations and the staff of the appropriate divisions of the regional commissions, in co-operation with the Resident Representative of UNDP, should be assigned the task of defining the nature and scope of the assistance sought by particular developing countries.

"The Administrator of UNDP has agreed that the Resident Representatives of UNDP may assist in the processing of these requests for assistance, and use their good offices in liaising with the governmental authorities.

"Once the nature and scope of these requests have been adequately defined it becomes necessary to classify them along the following lines:

"1. Requests falling totally within the legislative mandate of the Conference secretariat, e.g., assistance for the preparation of national papers and other activities relating to the countries' preparations for the Conference.

"2. Requests that will require consultation with the relevant specialized agencies and organizations which would enable a (further) classification of the requests as follows:

(a) those that basically involve the utilization of existing resources of projects currently being undertaken by UNDP, specialized agencies and organs and organizations of the United Nations system:

(b) those requiring the identification of an appropriate organ, organization or specialized agency within the United Nations system that has the competence and capacity to respond to these requests, using funds made available to the Conference secretariat.

"3. For projects coming under category 2 (a), it is suggested that the specialized agency, organ or organization concerned, be invited to consider incorporating such a request in the ongoing project.

"4. For projects falling under category 2 (b), it is suggested that the Resident Representatives of UNDP with the assistance, as appropriate, of regional commissions, serve as the mechanism to facilitate a collaborative effort between the Conference secretariat and the organ, organization or specialized agency of the United Nations system considered as having the competence to implement the projects."

10. These procedures were discussed and approved at the fourth interagency meeting in preparation for the Conference. They have also been communicated by the Administrator of UNDP to all resident representatives.

B. Regional commissions

11. The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) has identified four major areas of new and renewable sources of energy where a major contribution could be made for its member States. These areas are: solar, geothermal, wind and biomass. ECWA commissioned four consultants to survey and identify the potential use of new and renewable sources of energy in the Arab region. A consultant on solar energy, with the co-operation of OPEC, visited all countries of the region and prepared a solar map for the region as a whole. He identified the institutional arrangements in the countries. A consultant on wind energy visited Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Qatar, Oman, Yemen and Democratic Yemen. A consultant on geothermal energy surveyed the potential of this source in Djibouti, Yemen, Democratic Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Algeria. A consultant on biomass visited Egypt and other countries of the region for the same purpose.

12. In survey and visits undertaken by consultants to countries in the region, ECWA received preliminary indication for technical assistance in many areas. In particular, Yemen and Democratic Yemen were assisted in the preparation of national papers. ECWA is in constant communication with its member States to enhance their preparations for the Conference and also to help assess their potential in the field of new and renewable sources of energy.

13. The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), as part of the preparatory activities for the Conference, has promoted the establishment of National Working Groups. Of the 31 countries in the region, 30 have been visited by regional advisers and many working sessions have taken place related to national and regional preparations for the Conference. In close collaboration with the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), a series of regional activities are being organized. Technical assistance is being provided by ECLA personnel in relation to policy making, planning and development of new and renewable sources of energy, which will help not only in the preparation of national and regional papers, but in the strengthening of countries' positions for the Conference and in the identification of regional proposals for future action. Various types of technical assistance requirements have been identified, many of which are project-oriented and therefore action is being taken in accordance with procedures and modalities described in paragraph 8 above. In many cases, assistance is being provided in order to carry out the initial phases of such requirements, such as project formulation, technical information, economic assessment, etc. Assistance for the preparation of national papers is also being provided to some countries. A clear knowledge of the status, at regional level, of the energy sources considered by the Conference and an analysis of the evaluation criteria of energy projects used by financing bodies were identified as high priorities in countries of the region. The technical meetings and documents being prepared are geared to help fulfil these requirements. These documents will be prepared by regional consultants identified by ECLA and OLADE.

14. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has initiated a number of activities, including visits by the regional advisers to countries of the region, as part of the preparatory process for the Conference. Assistance has been provided to Ethiopia in the implementation of a project for the development and

utilization of solar, wind and biomass energy for agricultural projects. Missions were undertaken to Egypt, Ethiopia, the Republic of Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Zaire, the Ivory Coast, the Central African Republic and the Congo to assist in over-all national preparations for the Conference, and missions have been planned to other countries. ECA received preliminary indications of the need for technical assistance from Zaire and Ethiopia for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy.

15. Governments were also informed of the state of preparations for the Conference, and discussions were held with them concerning their technical assistance requirements as part of the preparatory process for the Conference.

16. The past, current and new activities in the 1980-1981 programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) are expected to help member States in the assessment and development of their new and renewable sources of energy. A regional adviser on solar energy has been visiting countries to assist in their solar energy programmes. Future ESCAP activities, such as meetings on fuelwood and charcoal and planning, management and economics for rural areas, will also assist countries in the region in strengthening their national preparations for the Conference. Similarly, meetings on geothermal energy and solar science and technology are expected to contribute to the transfer of technology in the countries of the region.

C. Contributory activities of the United Nations system

17. As indicated above, relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system were consulted on the modalities for the provision of technical assistance and will assist in their implementation. Information on ways in which the United Nations system can more effectively assist member States in the area of new and renewable sources of energy, including the provision of technical assistance, has also been provided in the report of the Secretary-General submitted in response to paragraph 11 of resolution 34/190 (A/35/531).
