



**General Assembly
Economic and Social Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/175
E/1997/75
18 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Item 12 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1997
Geneva, 30 June-25 July 1997
Item 6 (d) of the provisional
agenda**
COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND
OTHER QUESTIONS: COORDINATION
OF THE ACTIVITIES OF
ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED
NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD
OF ENERGY

Possibilities of strengthening the coordination of the
organizations and bodies of the United Nations system
in the field of energy within the framework of the
Administrative Committee on Coordination

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	3
II. ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	4 - 10	4
III. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY	11 - 22	5

* A/52/50.

** E/1997/100.

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
A. Mandates and policies	11 - 13	5
B. Overview of programmes and activities	14 - 17	6
C. Assessment of the linkage between energy activities within the United Nations system and sustainable development	18 - 22	7
IV. STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY	23 - 31	9
V. RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ENHANCING THE CAPABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	32 - 36	11
VI. OPTIONS FOR HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION ON ENERGY	37 - 42	12

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, at its second session (12-23 February 1996), requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of energy for consideration by the Committee at its third session in 1998.¹ The Economic and Social Council, when considering the report of the Committee at its substantive session in 1996, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report, taking into account, as appropriate, the views of the Committee, on the possibilities of strengthening the coordination of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of energy within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and to submit the report, through the Council, to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-second session. The Council further requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with regional commissions and other entities within the United Nations system, to address in the same report the need to enhance the capability of the system in the field of energy for sustainable development and to explore all possible options for a high-level discussion in this context, taking into account the results of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (7-25 April 1997) and of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly (23-27 June 1997).²

2. The present report has been prepared in response to that request. It is based on information compiled in-house as well as that provided by the relevant entities within the United Nations system. It draws heavily on the report of the Secretary-General to the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, entitled "Inventory of ongoing energy-related programmes and activities of entities within the United Nations system, on coordination of such activities and on arrangements needed to foster the linkage between energy and sustainable development within the system",³ requested by the Commission on at its fourth session, in 1996. The present report benefited from inputs by the entities within the United Nations system concerned with energy; discussions at and the report of the Expert Workshop on fostering the linkage between energy and sustainable development within the international institutions, which was hosted by the Austrian Ministry for the Environment, Youth and Family Affairs and held at Vienna from 22 to 24 January 1997;⁴ the report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Energy after Rio: prospects and challenges,⁵ as well as the discussions on the subject at the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (7-25 April 1997). Comments on the outline of the report were also received from members of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development.

3. The report consists of a description of activities, assessments, recommendations and proposals. Section II contains a brief discussion on the relationship between energy and sustainable development. Section III provides an overview of mandates and the activities of the organizations in the field of energy as well as an assessment of the linkage of those activities to sustainable development. Section IV deals with cooperation and coordination of energy activities within the system. Section V presents recommendations and proposals on enhancing the capability of the United Nations system in the field

/...

of energy for sustainable development. Section VI contains options for a high-level discussion on energy.

II. ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4. A more detailed discussion on the topic of energy and sustainable development is contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session on energy-related programmes and activities.³

5. Energy plays a key role in achieving environmentally sound economic and social objectives that lead to sustainable development, a point which has been underscored by the Commission on Sustainable Development. Agenda 21⁶ and other internationally agreed plans of action adopted at major United Nations conferences, as well as relevant conventions, provide a global framework containing goals and objectives for sustainable socio-economic development and specified actions related to energy production, transmission, conversion and use to realize those goals and objectives.

6. The development and use of energy resources and technologies should be realized in a socially acceptable manner. It should be clean and safe, should not exceed the carrying capacity of existing ecosystems and thus should not endanger the quality of life of the present and future generations. The use of scarce resources to meet current energy service requirements should not jeopardize the ability of future generations to meet their needs for the same services.⁴ It is critically important that short-term options for the development and use of energy resources be in harmony with those options that, in the longer term, better contribute to sustainable development. The supply of energy should be reliable and secure - at reasonable costs. Access to and therefore adequate availability of energy service is a prerequisite to achieving the socio-economic development required to improve quality of life and satisfy basic human needs. An adequate supply of energy services is urgently needed in many developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, remote rural areas and small island developing States, where more than two billion people have little or no access to commercial energy services.¹

7. The current policies for and patterns of production, conversion, distribution and use of energy are, in general, unsustainable, characterized as they are by a strong emphasis on energy supply rather than demand, including demand-side management, and lack due regard to the social, economic and environmental consequences of such approaches. As was affirmed by the Commission on Sustainable Development, advances towards sustainable energy use are taking place. The Commission also underscored that it is necessary to ensure international cooperation for promoting energy conservation and the improvement of energy efficiency.⁷

8. The development and use of energy are highly capital-intensive activities. Estimates of capital investment requirements for the development and use of energy resources in developing countries, while not exhaustive, are nevertheless enormous. Substantial investments will also be required to replace ageing plants to improve efficiency and to reduce environmental impacts of the

/...

development and use of energy, in particular, fossil fuels. There are also many other competing requirements for financial resources.³

9. Current energy prices favour the development and use of conventional energy sources over renewable ones. At the same time, current practices in fuel pricing do not encourage energy efficiency. In most cases there is little or no regard for the external social and environmental costs of energy supply. Subsidies in the energy sector for conventional energy sources and nuclear power tend to hamper widespread development and application of renewable energy sources. Policy changes leading to the full internalization of environmental costs in prices through the use of economic and fiscal instruments and to the removal of permanent subsidies are required in order to establish an enabling policy environment and to achieve a sustainable energy future.³

10. It is evident that the challenges of achieving a sustainable energy future are enormous and that they require the contribution of all concerned parties. It is imperative that all of those concerned - governments, the international community, the private sector and non-governmental organizations - develop strategies that include increased efficiency in energy production, transmission, distribution and, in particular, energy end-use; a shift towards environmentally sound energy sources and technologies, including expanded use of renewable sources of energy; and a shift towards environmentally sound, safe and cost-effective production, conversion and use of depletable sources of energy, making full use of advances in technology in those areas. All concerned parties should pursue the promotion, development and implementation of policies and programmes, as appropriate, designed to ensure that such strategies achieve the desired goals.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

A. Mandates and policies

11. The policies and programmes of the entities within the United Nations system in the energy field form an integral part of the overall objectives of the United Nations organization. The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held at Nairobi in 1981, provided explicit energy-related policies and programmes. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, also discussed energy and concluded that energy was essential to economic and social development and improved quality of life. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change relates its implementation to the energy policies of the parties to the Convention. In the subsequent major conferences, energy received attention as one of the key factors for furthering sustainable development. The United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in 1994, adopted the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which includes a chapter on energy resources that identifies issues, problems and constraints facing the States and recommends ways and means of ensuring adequate, environmentally sound energy supplies for meeting their social and economic development objectives.

/...

12. Policy discussions on energy take place in various intergovernmental bodies. The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development addresses a wide range of issues on energy and sustainable development, including the development of energy resources in developing countries, the development and use of renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency improvement, environmentally sound development and use of fossil fuels, the development and implementation of rural energy policies, energy and transportation and coordination of energy activities within the United Nations system. For its deliberations, it is provided with in-depth reports by the Secretary-General. The Committee reports to the Economic and Social Council.

13. General discussions on energy also take place among other intergovernmental bodies, such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (in relation to energy and environment issues), the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (in relation to nuclear energy and related environmental issues), the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (in relation to the emission of greenhouse gases), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Executive Board of UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (energy for sustainable human development) and the Statistical Commission (energy statistics). The World Bank's energy activities are based on the objectives approved by the Bank's Board of Executive Directors. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has produced an operational strategy. Policy discussions on energy also take place in the regional commissions, which have standing committees on energy or on energy and natural resources. The High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development addressed energy policy issues in its report to the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development entitled "Critical issues and policies for sustainable development: energy, transport and water".⁸

B. Overview of programmes and activities

14. A wide range of activities has been reported, reflecting, as they do, the mandates, policies and programmes of the respective entities. For more details see the annex to the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Sustainable Development entitled "Inventory of ongoing energy-related programmes and activities of entities within the United Nations system, on coordination of such activities and on arrangements needed to foster the linkage between energy and sustainable development within the system".³ The means of implementing the programmes and activities have varied widely and have, on the whole, involved the preparation of studies and reports; technical assistance, including advisory services by experts in specific fields; the organization of training workshops, seminars, meetings and conferences; institution- and capacity-building for assessment of resources, planning, analysis and data management, policy formulation and implementation; and provision of financial assistance. The magnitude of the financial resources allocated to each project varies widely, from millions of dollars for financial assistance projects to a few hundred dollars for specific studies or expert services. The World Bank, UNDP, GEF and IAEA are the main sources of funds for energy projects. The regional development banks also have substantial lending programmes in support of energy sector development.

/...

15. The entities within the United Nations system are active in all the stages of the energy cycle at the national, regional and global levels. There are activities in energy development and supply, including assessment exploration, production, conversion and distribution of energy resources; promoting the development of renewable sources of energy; and electricity generation and distribution, including rural electrification.

16. Activities and programmes related to energy use include energy conservation, improved energy efficiency and demand-side management and improved management techniques for energy institutions and enterprises. Associated activities include energy planning encompassing policy development, energy analysis and projections, development of methodologies and analytical techniques including models for energy studies and evaluation, and environmental impact assessment. Energy planning has in most cases been taken up as a sectoral activity; however in some instances a more integrated approach is taken, for example, through the integration of energy policies into overall socio-economic development, the integrated assessment of energy and sustainable rural development, the integration of environmental, social and health concerns into energy planning and analysis, energy and environmental planning in urban areas and as part of an integrated resource planning approach.³

17. Activities in capacity- and institution-building, awareness-raising, education and training have been pursued through workshops, seminars and dissemination of information (publications and field surveys). Those in technology transfer have been mainly related to the development and commercial application of renewable sources of energy, promotion of energy efficiency and demonstration projects.⁹

C. Assessment of the linkage between energy activities within the United Nations system and sustainable development

18. The activities of many organizations within the United Nations system have over the past years underscored the relation between energy and sustainable development. The policies and mandates of the respective entities, both before and especially since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, have espoused this trend. The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which adopted the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, has had an impact on the programmes and activities of many organizations: several have introduced or expanded their programmes and projects in the field of new and renewable sources of energy.³

19. More recently, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 establishing the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, indicated that in addition to implementing the Nairobi Programme of Action, the Committee would consider energy in relation to the environment. Many entities have been pursuing that mandate. With the adoption of resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which the Assembly endorsed Agenda 21 and urged the adoption and entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the stage was set for linking energy and sustainable development. Entities within the United Nations system

/...

have, as a result, adjusted their programmes and projects in varying degrees to reflect the objectives of Agenda 21.

20. Achieving a sustainable energy future demands a concerted effort by all actors concerned, including the United Nations system. In response to the demands and priorities of the countries that they support, the organizations of the United Nations are involved in a broad range of activities, which in general terms are commensurate with the goals of realizing a sustainable energy future. Increasing attention is being given by a number of entities to energy efficiency, conservation, demand-side management and pricing policies. Several organizations contribute to the promotion and dissemination of clean energy technologies, including clean coal technologies. Support for the further introduction and application of renewable energy sources is increasing, with a special emphasis on improving access of the rural population to energy services. In the area of capacity-building and institutional development, energy-planning activities are increasingly linked to the broader context of socioeconomic or environmental planning and plan implementation.³

21. The nature and level of energy activities linked to sustainable development by entities within the United Nations system vary widely. The following developments are of special importance. GEF places strong emphasis on environmentally sound technologies, which tends to favour the development of renewable sources of energy. The World Bank is by far the largest source of funding for environmental programmes and projects, including those related to energy. It is integrating social and environmental dimensions into all its operations, including energy, and all energy projects are screened for social and environmental impacts. UNDP places special emphasis on sustainable energy through the pursuit of more efficient energy patterns and support for major shifts towards renewable sources of energy; it links its energy projects to the overall objectives of the programmes related to poverty alleviation, gender equality and environmental sustainability. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to stress the need to mobilize energy to fulfil the needs of the food production chain as a means of achieving sustainable rural development. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is providing assistance to developing countries in capacity-building in the use of oil futures markets; it has also undertaken a study on the tradeable carbon emission entitlements scheme. The World Solar Summit, initiated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and held at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996, attracted considerable political attention to the potential of renewable sources of energy, and follow-up activities have been initiated on the development of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, including a review of the structure and funding of projects.

22. The activities of the United Nations and its organizations while modest compared to the overall investment in the energy sector, nevertheless have an important role to play as catalysts or models for new developments aimed at achieving a sustainable energy future. The United Nations system has a significant interdisciplinary potential in the energy field that can be effectively used to support sustainable energy development in developing countries and economies in transition.

IV. STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

23. The merger of the three United Nations Departments working in the economic and social fields the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development provides a good opportunity to bring together the United Nations Secretariat's analytical, normative and technical capacities. The resulting synergies will enrich both the policy and the technical-cooperation dimensions of United Nations activities in those fields.

24. Through the Statistical Commission Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, the United Nations Secretariat has continued to cooperate and coordinate with entities in the United Nations system in the collection, analysis and application of energy data and information. The Secretariat also addresses energy issues in the context of the World Economic and Social Survey. The Secretariat and other entities of the United Nations system are cooperating in the preparation of reports for the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other intergovernmental bodies.

25. The Secretariat, the World Bank and UNDP are cooperating in the implementation of GEF-funded projects at the national, regional and global levels. The United Nations Secretariat, UNDP and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) are also cooperating in the implementation of sustainable energy projects, such as one on the enhancement of capacity for sustainable energy services for rural development in Asia. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women closely cooperates and coordinates its efforts with the regional commissions, the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Secretariat and other entities within and outside the United Nations system in its research and training activities related to energy.

26. UNDP and the World Bank have over the years been cooperating in the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme, with the latter implementing the projects. UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank are the implementing agencies for GEF, which has been providing incremental costs for projects having global environmental benefits. The World Bank, UNDP and a number of other entities within and outside the United Nations system are jointly funding the Financing Energy Services for Small-scale Energy-Users programme. UNDP and the World Bank's Asia Alternative Energy Unit are also cooperating in a project to mainstream renewable energy and energy efficiency activities into the lending operations of the World Bank in the Asia and Pacific region.

27. UNESCO, with the active support of Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and IAEA, initiated the high-level World Solar Summit Process with the objective of promoting the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies as a contribution to sustainable development. Summit participants adopted the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development and the outline of the

/...

World Solar Programme, 1996-2005. Follow-up activities have been initiated in consultation with other entities of the United Nations system on the development and implementation of the World Solar Programme. The Programme could constitute an important element of a broader system-wide programme on renewable sources of energy, in which other entities outside the United Nations may also wish to take part.

28. IAEA is coordinating an inter-agency project on databases and methodologies for comparative assessment of different energy sources for electricity generation in cooperation with a number of regional commissions, the World Bank, UNIDO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and other international organizations.³ The project, which is aimed at enhancing capabilities for the competent assessment of different sources of energy, could form a basis for system-wide cooperation in the development of methodologies for planning, policy formulation and implementation.

29. WMO and UNEP are cooperating in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat is cooperating with several intergovernmental organizations and bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, UNIDO, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the International Energy Agency on scientific and technological issues and on issues related to national communications (methodological issues, analysis and participation in reviews).

30. At the regional level, ECE and other entities within and outside the United Nations system have been cooperating in implementing the Energy Efficiency 2000 Projects, while ESCAP is executing the UNDP-funded Programme for Asian Cooperation on Energy and Environment. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ESCAP, FAO, the World Bank, regional development banks and other international and regional organizations have been cooperating in the development of rural energy and related rural development projects.³ The regional commissions are well-placed to coordinate policy development and system-wide involvement in the implementation of energy-related activities and programmes. This seems to be well under way in ECE and ESCAP, both of which should provide valuable models for other regional commissions. There is, in addition, scope for cooperation among the regional commissions, the respective regional development banks and other regional entities.

31. Many activities in energy are undertaken at the country level, during which cooperation and coordination are pursued in various manners in response to the local situation. Such efforts would benefit from a common strategy and enhanced sharing of experiences.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ENHANCING THE
CAPABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE
FIELD OF ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

32. This section draws heavily on and is similar to the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on ongoing energy-related programmes and activities,³ which were supported by the participants of the Expert Workshop on fostering the linkage between energy and sustainable development within the international institutions.⁴

33. Major changes are required in the current energy systems in order for them to contribute to sustainable development worldwide. This can only be achieved if all actors involved, including the United Nations system, redouble their efforts in a concerted manner to ensure the development, promotion and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at realizing a sustainable energy future.

34. The entities within the United Nations system have an important role to play in developing a reference framework for the energy-related activities of the United Nations system based on a common understanding of a sustainable energy future, and thereby providing synergies to the activities.³ Such a framework would promote a balanced and mutually reinforcing approach to economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable energy development and foster partnerships for sustainable energy development with relevant actors outside the United Nations system, particularly with non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations dealing with energy and the private sector. It should be built on the experiences so far gained in inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the energy field.

35. The Commission on Sustainable Development provides a central forum for high-level discussion of issues that are crucial to achieving the goals of sustainable development, including that of a sustainable energy future, at the policy level. The Commission affirmed its functions in coordination with other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and other related organizations and institutions. It also stated that the work of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development should be more compatible with and supportive of the work programme of the Commission, and that the Economic and Social Council, in carrying out its functions related to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227, should consider the most effective means of bringing this about.⁷ The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development addresses all aspects of energy and should continue to play a valuable role in furthering United Nations policy discussion on energy in the years ahead. To that end, its effectiveness would need to be enhanced, through, inter alia, better representation of Governments, improved dissemination of reports to the Committee and of the Committee and increased participation of the organizations of the United Nations system, including regional commissions in the work of the Committee.

36. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the field of energy have been rather ad hoc in previous years. The preparation of the report of the

/...

Secretary-General on energy activities³ for the Commission on Sustainable Development has marked the beginning of enhanced cooperation and coordination that will be pursued along the following lines:

(a) Convening ad hoc meetings of the entities within the United Nations system dealing with energy in order for them: to elaborate a common reference framework for actions in the field of energy and to achieve coherence and effectiveness in energy activities that contribute to sustainable development (this issue was discussed by the Commission and recommended for further consideration by the General Assembly at its nineteenth session in June 1997⁷); to enhance the exchange of information on the different aspects of energy development and use including policy issues; and to help in the improvement of energy data and information systems of the respective organizations;

(b) Devoting part of the agenda of the sessions of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development to energy on a regular basis and ensuring linkages with energy-related aspects of the work of other Administrative Committee on Coordination bodies;

(c) Cooperating with organizations outside the United Nations system;

(d) Encouraging joint programming and implementation of energy activities of common interest to the entities within the United Nations system.

VI. OPTIONS FOR HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION ON ENERGY

37. In the continuing debate on the crucial role that energy plays in sustainable development and the continuing need for enhancing energy supplies and improving living conditions in developing countries, a number of suggestions have been made for a high-level discussion on the subject.

38. The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, at its second session, invited Member States and entities within the United Nations system to consider convening a United Nations conference on energy for the twenty-first century in the year 2001 to mobilize world opinion for supporting actions at different levels on energy in relation to sustainable development. In that connection, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report examining the feasibility and the scope of the proposed conference, in consultation with experts, as necessary, and to submit the report to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-second session.¹

39. The Economic and Social Council, when considering the suggestion of the Committee, requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with regional commissions and entities within the United Nations system, inter alia, to explore all possible options for a high-level discussion on energy, taking into account the results of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (7-25 April 1997)¹⁰ and of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly.²

40. The Vienna Expert Workshop on fostering the linkage between energy and sustainable development within the international institutions suggested that there be a dedicated session of the Commission on Sustainable Development towards a sustainable energy future; such a session might be organized in 2001 or earlier, given the needs and possibilities of a major change in current energy systems. The Workshop stressed that appropriate preparation for the proposed session on energy be ensured upon the approval of the 1998-2002 work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development.⁴

41. Options for a dedicated session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, possibly in 2001, were discussed by the Commission and put forward for consideration by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session.⁷ In the multi-year programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1998-2002 that has been forwarded by the Commission on Sustainable Development to the General Assembly for consideration at its nineteenth special session, energy and transport issues are among the subjects proposed for consideration in 2001.⁷

42. Given the fact that options for a high-level discussion on energy are still being considered, no proposals are given at this time.

Notes

¹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 4 (E/1996/24), chap. I.

² Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/51/3 (Part II)), chap. V, sect. B.1, resolution 1996/44.

³ E/CN.17/1997/7 and Corr.1.

⁴ E/CN.17/1997/16, annex.

⁵ Energy after Rio: Prospects and Challenges (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.III.B.11).

⁶ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

⁷ A/S-19/14-E/1997/60.

⁸ E/CN.17/1997/17/Add.1.

⁹ E/C.13/1996/7.

¹⁰ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 9 (E/1997/29).