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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

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in response to the request addressed to the Secretary-General in paragraph 68 of the Nairobi Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy to make recommendations to the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly on the most effective and efficient arrangements for carrying out the substantive services required, including the possibility of a small separate secretariat unit for new and renewable sources of energy, making full and efficient use of resources available in the United Nations, subject to the normal procedures of the General Assembly". 1/

2. In paragraph 59 of the Nairobi Programme of Action it is stated that there should be an intergovernmental body in the United Nations specifically concerned with new and renewable sources of energy and entrusted with guiding and monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. The intergovernmental body would, inter alia, undertake the following functions:

(a) To recommend policy guidelines for different organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system in regard to new and renewable sources of energy on the basis of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(b) To formulate and recommend action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action in accordance with the priorities identified as areas for priority action;

(c) To keep under review and modify as may be necessary the priorities established as areas for priority action;

(d) To review and assess trends and policy measures related to the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, with a view to increasing their contributions to meeting future over-all energy requirements;

(e) To promote the mobilization of the resources required in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(f) To recommend guidelines to the financial organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the financing of the activities related to the implementation of the measures of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and to help ensure the implementation of measures listed in this section of the Programme of Action relating to financial resources;

(g) To monitor the implementation and help ensure co-ordination of the measures established in the Nairobi Programme of Action as well as of the

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10 to 21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.1.24), chap. I, A.

activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy:

(h) To be informed of, draw upon and contribute to the work and expertise of governmental and other intergovernmental institutions in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

(i) To review the activities of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and where necessary, make recommendations on the adaptation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

3. In paragraph 61 of the Programme, it is recommended that, without prejudice to final institutional arrangements, the immediate launching of the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action should be entrusted to a Committee patterned on the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. This committee will meet in 1982 and be entrusted with the functions and responsibilities outlined in paragraph 2 above. The final decision on further institutional measures will be taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

4. Paragraph 68 of the Programme, dealing specifically with substantive secretariat support, states that the intergovernmental body will require a range of secretariat services in carrying out the functions outlined in paragraph 2 above and that the co-ordinating functions of the secretariat shall be carried out in accordance with paragraph 63 of the Programme of Action.

5. Under paragraph 63 of the Programme of Action, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, would be entrusted with the task of co-ordinating the contributions of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system within the framework of his mandate as defined by the General Assembly in its resolutions 32/197 and 33/202. In order to ensure the necessary co-operation and co-ordination for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, the Programme calls for the provision of a co-ordinating capacity for new and renewable sources of energy in the Office of the Director-General, who would exercise a supervisory role, making full and efficient use of resources already existing within the United Nations.

II. ARRANGEMENTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT LEVEL

A. Guiding considerations

6. The Programme of Action makes a clear distinction between the secretariat services required by the intergovernmental body and the implementation of the Programme at the international level. Responsibility for implementing the Programme of Action is entrusted to existing organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system acting within their respective mandates and spheres of competence. On the other hand, secretariat services are called for to support the

effective discharge of the responsibilities of the intergovernmental body as outlined in paragraph 2 above. Given the range of these responsibilities and the decentralized arrangements for implementing action, secretariat arrangements must focus principally on the task of organizing and synthesizing, in support of the work of the intergovernmental body, the input of relevant organizations and entities of the United Nations system.

7. Since the final decision on further institutional arrangements will be taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, secretariat support arrangements must be adequate in the first instance to meet the requirements of the committee which is to meet in 1982 and which is entrusted with the immediate launching of the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

8. The secretariat arrangements should also be considered against the background of the responsibilities of the Director-General as discussed in paragraph 5 above. These responsibilities flow from the broad functions of the Director-General as outlined in General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202, which encompass over-all co-ordination within the United Nations system and, within the United Nations proper, the establishment of policy-related guidelines designed to ensure the coherence, co-ordination and efficient management of all activities in the economic and social fields. They also entail the provision of support to the intergovernmental body in the exercise of its system-wide policy co-ordination and review functions.

9. Full account should be taken of the emphasis laid in paragraph 68 of the Programme on making full and efficient use of resources available in the United Nations. Furthermore, the reference in the same paragraph to the "possibility" of a small separate secretariat unit suggests that while the relevant arrangements at the secretariat level should not necessarily, at least in the immediate future, entail the creation of a new organizationally distinct entity, they should encompass adequate resources that would be clearly identified for, and specifically devoted on a continuing basis to, the purpose of providing the required substantive services to the intergovernmental body.

B. Tasks to be carried out by the secretariat support capability

10. On the basis of the considerations set forth above, it is envisaged that, subject to the final decisions to be taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on further institutional arrangements, secretariat support requirements would be threefold:

(a) To provide substantive support to the intergovernmental body in fulfilling its responsibilities through the organization and synthesis of input from the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system:

(b) To assist the Director-General in providing support to the intergovernmental body in carrying out its responsibilities with regard to system-wide co-ordination and co-operation in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

/...

(c) To serve as a focal point in the United Nations for activities with regard to new and renewable sources of energy.

11. In addition to these general requirements, there is a need, in the first instance, to provide adequate support for the 1982 session of the committee foreseen in paragraph 61 of the Programme of Action which is to launch the implementation of the Programme. Such support would include preparations for a review by the committee of ongoing as well as planned activities, and for its consideration of action-oriented plans for carrying out the Programme of Action. Special attention will need to be given to the development and implementation of programmes and projects in the areas for priority action identified in the Programme of Action: energy assessment and planning; research, development and demonstration; transfer, adaptation and application of mature technologies; and information flows, education and training. Staff work would also need to be done in anticipation of efforts by the committee to promote the mobilization of the resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action, and to ensure that effect shall be given to the measures recommended by the Conference in that regard.

C. Organizational arrangements

12. The arrangements outlined below for the provision of secretariat support services are based on the considerations enumerated in the preceding section. They are also predicated on the understanding indicated in paragraph 61 of the Programme of Action that the General Assembly is to take the final decision on institutional measures relating to the intergovernmental body at its thirty-seventh session, in 1982. It follows that the secretariat arrangements established in the interim must be subject to review and adjustment in the light of such decisions as the General Assembly might take regarding the structure, powers and functions of the intergovernmental body that these arrangements would thereafter be expected to support.

13. It is accordingly recommended that the secretariat support services required for the preparation and follow-up of the 1982 session of the interim committee might be organized most effectively and most efficiently on the basis of a standing interdepartmental working group, which would meet on a regularly scheduled basis. The working group would be chaired by the Director-General or his designated representative and would consist of the heads of the relevant organizational entities of the United Nations proper or their specifically designated representatives at a senior level and would be supported by a professional staff member, who would serve on a full-time basis as the secretary of the working group.

14. The United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Centre for Science and Technology for Development would provide the core membership of the working group. Other United Nations entities, including for instance the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the regional commissions, would participate fully also at the senior level in the working group whenever issues of concern to them were under consideration.

15. The relevant United Nations entities will provide substantive support to the working group in their areas of sectoral or intersectoral competence. In addition, to ensure the availability of adequate resources specifically devoted on a continuing basis to the provision of support in areas of a cross-sectoral nature and in synthesizing input for consideration by the intergovernmental body, 78 work-months of professional staff support have been made available by the organs and departments of the United Nations, specifically the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The staff resources concerned have been identified and, while they would remain administratively attached to their respective entities, they would be specifically earmarked for these purposes. It should be emphasized that these resources will be made available from existing capacities pending the final institutional arrangements to be decided on at the General Assembly at the thirty-seventh session and that these arrangements should therefore not prejudice the resource requirements of contributing entities following the review of their respective responsibilities in implementing the Nairobi Programme of Action.

16. These arrangements would not detract from the current mandates of the various entities concerned within the United Nations proper or from those of other organizations of the United Nations system. They would retain and reorient or strengthen as necessary the sectoral and intersectoral capacities required to enable them to respond effectively to the substantive requirements of the Programme of Action.

17. Without duplicating efforts or disturbing existing institutional arrangements and spheres of competence, the working group would effectively draw upon the expertise and resources already present in the United Nations in support of the intergovernmental body. As indicated above, it is not anticipated that the working group would either assume operational responsibilities or undertake independent substantive activities. Rather, its primary responsibility in this regard would be to provide guidance for the organization and synthesis of input from the competent entities within the system. In addition, it would ensure co-operative action by the principal entities concerned within the United Nations proper and thus contribute to system-wide co-ordination in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

18. The proposed working group would provide a source of integrated support to both the intergovernmental body and the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and would thus serve to promote the necessary continuity in the provision of support services to the intergovernmental body. The intergovernmental body is called upon to make policy and programme recommendations of system-wide scope and to review the activities of the various organizations of the United Nations system. The Director-General is entrusted with the task, *inter alia*, of co-ordinating the contributions of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system; and the existing mechanisms for interagency co-ordination, particularly the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and its subsidiary machinery, would remain the loci for efforts in this regard.

19. The secretary of the working group would be located in the Office of the Director-General so that, in carrying out the functions involved, the incumbent would be able to take full account of the system-wide implications in respect of over-all co-ordination at the level of the various secretariats.

20. Finally, the organizational arrangement outlined above would provide a clear focal point for activities with regard to new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations in relation, inter alia, to inquiries from Governments or other interested parties. The working group would be responsible for ensuring the appropriate response either on its own behalf or by reference to the relevant entities or organizations of the system. The full-time services of the professional secretary of the working group would ensure continuity in its operations.

D. Resource requirements

21. The participation of the designated representatives from the various entities concerned in the working group would not require additional resources. In addition, as indicated in paragraph 15 above, the support staff resources would for the time being be made available from existing resources.

22. Pending the review of resource implications that will need to be carried out in the context of the General Assembly's final decision on institutional arrangements, the Director-General will endeavour to meet from existing resources the additional responsibilities arising for his Office from the proposed working group and from the requirements for system-wide co-ordination outlined in the Programme of Action.

23. It is proposed that a position of secretary of the working group be established at the P-5 level and provided with the necessary General Service staff (a G-3/4 secretary). Every effort will be made to meet this requirement from existing resources of the United Nations and thus no request for additional resources is being made at this time. However, should existing resources not be available, this would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

24. It is envisaged that extrabudgetary resources, including the unutilized balance of the trust fund established to support preparations for the Conference, will be available for, inter alia, the contracting of consultancy services required by the working group and for the necessary travel of the secretary of the working group to facilitate consultations with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system.

III. ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERORGANIZATION CO-OPERATION

25. In paragraph 62 of the Nairobi Programme of Action it is stated that "the United Nations system should fully participate in and support the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, with due consideration to national plans and priorities, so as to ensure its successful implementation. It is imperative to increase the responsiveness of the system in this respect as well as to provide for the co-ordinated action of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the development of new and renewable sources of energy. Such institutions should organize their work and rationalize their activities according to established priorities in such a way as to meet the need for implementing the Nairobi Programme of Action."

26. As already indicated, the organizational arrangements set out in the preceding section of this report are not intended to replace or duplicate the substantive or operational capabilities and functions exercised by the organizations of the system. Rather, they should be seen as a means of promoting increased action by each of its components and as a facility to assist both the intergovernmental body and the Director-General in carrying out their respective mandates.

27. As noted above, paragraph 63 of the Programme of Action also entrusts the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, who chairs the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), with the task of co-ordinating the contributions of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system within the framework of his mandate as defined by the General Assembly in its resolutions 32/197 and 33/202.

28. In carrying out his responsibilities, the Director-General will draw fully on the organs of the United Nations system and will fully utilize the facilities available within the machinery of ACC. It is anticipated that ACC will take appropriate action to contribute to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action through the strengthening of existing consultative mechanisms within ACC, promoting first the concerted execution of the various components of the Programme, including co-ordination, as appropriate, between regular programmes and technical co-operation activities, and, secondly, where warranted by the intersectoral nature of the actions called for in the Programme, the joint execution of activities and projects. In this context, ACC decided to constitute an ad hoc working group chaired by the Executive Secretary of ECLA to prepare proposals for interagency follow-up to the Nairobi Programme of Action.

29. It is anticipated that the system of focal points in the bodies, organs and organizations of the United Nations system used in the preparations for the Conference would be kept active also for the implementation tasks.

IV. IMPLICATIONS OF CONFERENCE DECISIONS FOR THE PROGRAMME BUDGET
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

30. At the 17th plenary meeting of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held on 21 August 1981, the Secretary of the Conference stated that any provisions of the Programme of Action or draft resolutions that had implications for the programme budget of the United Nations would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly by the Secretary-General at the time when the Assembly considered the report of the Conference.

31. No additional financial resources are being requested by United Nations entities at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The United Nations entities concerned have initiated a review of their respective programmes and resources with a view to meeting, fully and effectively, their responsibilities in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. The programme results of this review will be made available to the 1982 session of the intergovernmental body. On the basis of the decisions taken at that session, the Secretary-General will call to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session any administrative or financial implications that may arise for the programme budget of the United Nations.
