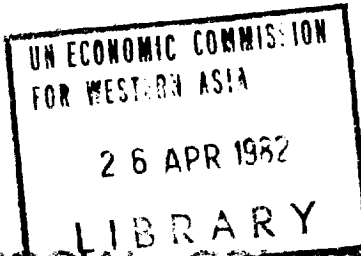




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FOLLOW-UP ACTION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL ON UNITED NATIONS
WORLD CONFERENCES AND ECWA REGIONAL MEETINGS

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON NEW
AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

(Nairobi, 10-12 August 1981)

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Conference was held at Nairobi, Kenya, from 10 to 21 August 1981. It was attended by about 5,000 participants from approximately 140 countries. The majority of ECWA member States were represented by deputy prime ministers, ministers or their deputies in addition to highly qualified delegations. Their participation left its mark on the deliberation of the Conference and its Programme of Action. The objective of the Conference had been defined in General Assembly resolution 33/148 of 20 December 1978 which called, in particular, for the elaboration of "measures for concerted action designed to promote the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, with a view to contributing to meeting future over-all energy requirements, especially those of the developing countries, in particular in the context of efforts aimed at accelerating the development of the developing countries". In resolution 35/204, the General Assembly subsequently decided that the Conference should consider the adoption of the Programme of Action containing inter alia "concrete operational measures for subregional, regional and international co-operation in the field of new and renewable sources of energy". Energy sources considered by the Conference included: solar; geothermal; wind; tidal; wave; thermal gradient of the sea; biomass conversion; fuelwood; charcoal; peat; draught animals; oil shale; tar sands; and hydropower.

2. The Conference had before it for consideration: national papers (including those of Democratic Yemen; Egypt; Iraq; Jordan; Lebanon; Oman and Syrian Arab Republic), the reports of eight technical panels (solar energy; wind energy; oil shale and tar sands; hydropower; geothermal energy; fuelwood and charcoal; tidal energy; biomass), the reports of ad hoc groups of experts on selected policy issues (financing, Research and Development, demonstration, education and training; utilization in rural areas; utilization in industry including transport, the report of a Synthesis Group as well as the reports of relevant organs, organizations and regional commissions of the United Nations system. Two reports on the activities of ECWA in the field of new and renewable sources of energy were circulated under symbol numbers A/Conf.100/7/Add.4 and A/Conf.100/8/Add.4. The Executive Secretary of ECWA, heading ECWA's delegation to the Conference made a statement on 15 August 1981.

3. Representatives of over 100 countries participated in the general debate, while the draft Programme of Action was considered in two committees. The discussions demonstrated an active concern about the world energy situation and prospects. The general view was that every effort should be made to promote the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy in accordance with national plans and priorities while continuing the exploration and development of conventional energy resources and enhancing efforts aimed at the rational use of energy. It was felt that primary responsibility for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy should rest with individual countries.

Recommendations of the Conference

4. The Conference adopted a Programme of Action ("Nairobi Programme of Action") directed, inter alia, towards concerted action in the following areas:

- (a) Energy assessment and planning;
- (b) Research, development and demonstration;
- (c) Transfer, adaptation and applications of mature technologies;
- (d) Information flows;
- (e) Education and training; and
- (f) Mobilization of financial resources.

In resolution 36/193 the General Assembly endorsed the Nairobi Programme of Action.

5. Regarding the implementation and monitoring of the Nairobi Programme of Action, the Conference agreed that adequate institutional mechanisms and appropriate assistance were needed, drawing to the fullest possible on the resources available within the United Nations; whenever appropriate and necessary the regional commissions should be strengthened.

6. Concerning institutional arrangements, without prejudice to the final arrangements which the General Assembly may wish to make, the Conference recommended that the immediate launching of the Nairobi Programme of Action be entrusted to a Committee patterned on the Preparatory of Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. This Committee should hold one session only, in 1982, lasting not more than two weeks. It would report to the thirty-seventh (1982) session of the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council which may transmit to the Assembly such comments on the report as it deems necessary. The final decision on further institutional measures will be taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

7. Regarding the financial aspects of the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, the Conference recognized that the Programme required the mobilization of additional and adequate sources, both public and private, from all developed countries, international financial institutions and other international organizations as well as from developing countries in a position to contribute. Resources should be directed through channels, such as the UNDP, the Revolving Fund for the Exploration of Natural Resources, the interim financial arrangements for science and technology, the UNDP Energy Account, in accordance with national plans and priorities. Consideration might also be given to establishing, on a voluntary basis, new financing mechanisms for the development of new and renewable sources of energy in the developing countries within the United Nations system, if and when necessary.

8. The Conference paid particular attention to the strengthening of regional commissions, development banks or programmes. Whenever appropriate and necessary intergovernmental bodies should be established in order to facilitate the supplementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. Priority attention should be given to the following:

(a) Support of evaluation, research, development and demonstration, training energy planning and identification of regional or subregional projects for the development of new and renewable sources of energy;

(b) establishment of specialized institutions and/or the strengthening of those existing in the countries of each region which would co-operate in order to achieve a more effective implementation of their respective regional programmes;

(c) strengthening and/or establishment of regional information networks which could connect with international information networks and focus at the regional level on technologies and their application as well as on the centralization and diffusion of information on equipment, its use and limits;

(d) organization of joint research and development activities related to promising technologies;

(e) organization of regional demonstration and pilot projects and installations designed both to test application and to disseminate information on technologies related to new and renewable sources of energy;

(f) development of pre-investment activities designed to provide a basis for the accelerated implementation of technologies for new and renewable sources of energy utilization;

(g) strengthening and support of regional efforts directed at the transfer and diffusion of technologies;

(h) undertaking of joint industrial activities for the production of energy-related capital goods; and

(i) organization of technical meetings, seminars, conferences, study tours and so forth, with a view to facilitating and developing exchanges of information and experience on the utilization of new and renewable sources of energy.

Follow-up action by the ECWA secretariat

9. ECWA had in anticipation planned activities to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action in its 1982-83 programme budget and 1984-89 medium-term plan in energy. In the 1982-83 work programme, two programme elements cover all of the five policy areas of the Nairobi Programme of Action: Programme

element 1.1 (E/ECWA/118, p. 87) entitled "A regional programme for new and renewable sources of energy, with special reference to rural applications", which covers areas (b) (c) (d) (e) and (f) of paragraph 4. Programme element 1.2 (E/ECWA/118, p. 88) entitled "Energy planning: methodological considerations and their application", which covers area (a) of paragraph 4.

In the 1984-89 medium-term plan the first two subprogrammes of the energy programme, namely, energy planning and energy development, can be considered as a direct implementation of the **major** provisions of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

10. ECWA has thus planned to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action in its region under its own regular programme. But this implementation will obviously be limited by ECWA's available resources. In this connexion, the Commission requested in resolution 94(VIII) of 6 May 1981 that "appropriate additional resources are allocated to the secretariat of the Commission for the proper implementation at the regional level of any programme of action stemming from the Conference, as well as for any other functions in the field of new and renewable sources of energy which may be entrusted to it in the aftermath of the Conference". ECWA, therefore, stands ready to expand its activities relating to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action beyond its regular expansion would of course be commensurate to the extra resources allocated.

11. The intergovernmental committee to consider the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action is scheduled to meet in May/June 1982 (Rome). At that meeting, the committee will give special attention to:

(a) 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 (NPA);

(b) action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the NPA in accordance with the areas for priority action as identified in the NPA;

(d) promotion of the mobilization of resources required in the implementation of the NPA; and

(d) guidelines to the financial organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system on the financing of activities related to the implementation of the measures in the NPA.

12. ECWA intends to bring to the attention of the intergovernmental committee its resolution 94(VIII) of 6 May 1981, which inter alia, requested that appropriate additional resources be allocated to the secretariat of ECWA for the proper implementation at the regional level of the NPA, especially in fulfilling the recommendations at national and regional levels emanating from the Regional Preparatory Expert Group Meeting for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (UNERG), Beirut, 12-16 January 1981. At that meeting, it was recommended that the secretariat organize periodically regional meetings to exchange information regarding the optimum utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy and to facilitate the exchange of scientists and experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy between the individual countries of the region.

13. In view of the above, it is suggested to organize a regional meeting of experts during the 1981 first quarter of 1983, under the title "Post Nairobi Conference" to discuss:

(a) The report on "A regional programme for new and renewable sources of energy, with special reference to rural applications" to be prepared during 1982;

(b) follow-up on the NPA in the light of recommendations adopted at the Regional Expert Group Meeting on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (Beirut, 12-16 January 1981);

(c) the establishment of information networks on the use of New and Renewable Sources of Energy.