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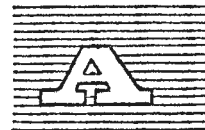
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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE
SOURCES OF ENERGY

Second session
21 July-1 August 1980
Agenda item 6

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DRAFT REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE
SOURCES OF ENERGY ON ITS SECOND SESSION

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS CONCERNING
PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE CONFERENCE

(agenda item 2)

Opening statements

1. The second Preparatory Committee was opened by the Chairman of the Committee. In his introductory statement, the Chairman apologized for the delay in reaching an early conclusion on the venue and dates for the Second Preparatory Committee. The Chairman stated that preparations for this Preparatory Committee and the Conference had not been satisfactory. In order to meet the growing expectations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, he felt that the second Preparatory Committee should give the necessary directions for the Conference. He called for frank deliberations and exchange of views and identified two major areas to which the Preparatory Committee should address itself: (a) what sort of international co-operation was necessary and feasible in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, particularly for the development of developing countries in the short, medium and long terms? (b) what kind of outputs the United Nations Conference should aim at and what should be the outcome of the Conference?

2. In conclusion, the Chairman called on the Committee to work hard, without looking back so that the deadline of August 1981 could be met.
3. The Secretary-General then addressed the Committee. In his statement,^{1/} he stressed the importance of the participation of governments in the preparatory process; consequently, he hoped that this participation will be manifested in all the preparatory activities. He outlined the state of preparations to date, in response to the decisions of the General Assembly and the first session of the Preparatory Committee. These included, inter alia, preparation of documents,^{2/} contact with Governments, preparations at the regional level.
4. The statement summarized the themes to be covered by the ad hoc groups of experts on financing, information flows, transfer of technology, industrial issues, rural energy and energy storage.
5. When commenting on the interim reports of the technical panels, he suggested that their final reports should be structured around the following three principal issues: (a) what technologies are judged ripe and significant; (b) what are the principal constraints limiting their utilization; (c) how to overcome these constraints. He further suggested that national papers should have a similar format.
6. He appreciated the co-operation the Secretariat had received from the agencies of the system, and the IGOs and NGOs with which he had established contacts.
7. The Committee held a general debate on agenda item 2 as a whole and also discussed specific agenda items and subitems in detail. In their statements, all delegations expressed their disappointment at the slow progress in the preparatory process and stressed the necessity of speeding up the preparatory work so that the Conference could be held as scheduled in Nairobi in August 1981. It was pointed out in this respect that any modifications of the work programme should be made within the framework of this target date. Delegations also reiterated the importance of involving competent IGOs and NGOs. They further called for increased co-ordination within the United Nations system so that all the relevant agencies could contribute fully to the preparatory work.

^{1/} Resolution A/CONF.100/PC/CRP.1 of 21 July 1980

^{2/} A list of documents is given in part ...

8. Various delegations gave detailed analyses of the preparatory activities that their Governments had embarked on. They identified the areas in which their countries had gained expertise and some of them indicated what their Governments could offer in terms of assistance to other countries.

9. Representatives of the various agencies, organs, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system made statements in the general debate, indicating their readiness to support the preparatory process for the Conference.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS CONCERNING PREPARATORY
ACTIVITIES FOR THE CONFERENCE

(Agenda item 2)

10. The Preparatory Committee considered this item at its 5th to 13th meetings from 21-25 and from 28-29 July 1980.

11. For its consideration, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Technical Panel on Biomass Energy on its first session (A/CONF.100/PC/5);
- (b) Report of the Technical Panel on Fuelwood and Charcoal on its first session (A/CONF.100/PC/6);
- (c) Report of the Technical Panel on Geothermal Energy on its first session (A/CONF.100/PC/7);
- (d) Report of the Technical Panel on Hydropower on its first session (A/CONF.100/PC/8);
- (e) Report of the Technical Panel on Ocean Energy on its first session (A/CONF.100/PC/9);
- (f) Report of the Technical Panel on Oil Shale and Tar Sands on its first session (A/CONF.100/PC/10);
- (g) Report of the Technical Panel on Solar Energy on its first session (A/CONF.100/PC/11);
- (h) Report of the Technical Panel on Wind Energy on its first session (A/CONF.100/PC/12);
- (i) Report of the Secretary-General on consultations with member Governments on preparation of national papers (A/CONF.100/PC/15);
- (j) Report of the Secretary-General on the participation of intergovernmental bodies, regional and non-governmental organizations in the preparations for the Conference (A/CONF.100/PC/16 and Corr.1);

- (k) Over-all report of the Secretary-General of the Conference entitled "Synthesis of technical information on new and renewable sources of energy" (A/CONF.100/PC/17 and Corr.1);
- (l) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the use of peat for energy (A/CONF.100/PC/21);
- (m) Interim report on draught animal power (A/CONF.100/PC/22);
- (n) Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twentieth session; 5/
- (o) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (A/35/321);
- (p) Statement by the Secretary-General of the Conference at the second session of the Committee (A/CONF.100/PC/CRP.1).

Progress report of the Secretary-General

(Agenda item 2(a))

Provision of technical assistance for the preparations
for the Conference

12. The Committee was informed that senior officers of the Secretariat and regional advisers had visited various countries to explain to them the purpose of the Conference and inform them of the state of preparations for the Conference, and to discuss with them their technical assistance requirements in regard to the national preparations for the Conference. The Secretariat also informed the Committee that some of the requests for technical assistance were beyond those required for the preparation for the Conference.

13. Delegations who spoke on this specific matter, however, expressed the view that the points (a) and (d) in Annex I of the document A/35/321 regarding the objectives of such technical assistance visits were extremely superficial and preliminary, and were not in keeping with the goal of promoting more in depth preparations for the Conference. These delegations suggested that the regional commissions should assist and encourage in organizing national, regional and interregional seminars for a detailed discussion at the policy-making levels of the preparations being undertaken for this Conference. In this connexion, the slow progress made by regional commissions in the preparations for the Conference with the exception of ECIA was disappointing.

Programme of Public Information for the United Nations
Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy

14. On the implementation of paragraph 14 of resolution 34/190 relating to the programme of public information activities being planned to promote awareness of the Conference, many delegations felt that the information programme needed to be revised. These delegations expressed the view that some of the planned activities such as the Paris International Colloquium, pre-conference study tours and supplementary staff for the DFI which would absorb nearly half of the budget were not priority areas.

15. These delegations felt that some of the budget would be more profitably used in an exhibition or organization of demonstrations on the use and application on new and renewable sources of energy in different countries and regions of the world.

16. There was concern also expressed by those delegations that the public information programme which was being scheduled to start in September would be coming too late.

17. They suggested a modification of the programme. Other delegations on the other hand were satisfied with the programme on public information as contained in the Secretary-General's report.

18. The Director of Public Information Programme in responding to some of the questions raised explained the rationale behind the timing they had proposed for the start of the activities for the Conference, and indicated that some of the new proposals made for additional programmes would require additional finances.

Calendar of preparatory activities

19. There was a general agreement among delegations on the necessity to accelerate the calendar of preparatory activities, in order to ensure that the meeting of chairmen and other experts take place earlier than scheduled initially and thus enable the Governments to consider all documents in time to ensure that the Conference is held in Nairobi as agreed in General Assembly resolution 34/190. A revised time-table was proposed by one delegation and received support from several representatives. The Secretary-General of the Conference replied by proposing another revised time-table which would permit gaining one month in the preparations for the Conference. A decision was then taken by the Preparatory Committee on this point.

Ad hoc expert groups

20. The importance of the role of ad hoc expert groups was stressed by many delegations. A number of representatives declared that the ad hoc expert groups should formulate recommendations for concrete measures aiming at concerted action in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and should evolve recommendations on policy measures for international co-operation in the various fields assigned to each group. Many representatives felt that the deliberations of the ad hoc groups should build upon the reports of the technical panels and other existing information and that the results of these deliberations should in turn be made available to the regional expert group meetings.

21. A number of representatives felt that the distinction between the role of the ad hoc groups on the one hand and the technical panels on the other hand was not clear enough and required further clarification. Several speakers felt that the terms of reference of the ad hoc groups were too detailed and too wide-ranging to be adequately covered in single meetings of 5 days duration. These needed to have more focused definition, and should concentrate on practical issues. Several representatives also felt that the number of ad hoc expert groups and the number of experts within each group should be reduced. Many delegations felt that the topic of energy storage, in particular, needed no separate expert group; each technical panel should include in its area of study the relevant aspects of energy storage; alternatively a consultant study on the subject might be called for. Many delegations proposed that ad hoc groups should be established as follows: financing; the development and transfer of technology; research and development including education and training; information flows; rural energy; new and renewable sources of energy and industrial issues.

22. A number of delegations expressed the importance of linking the work of ad hoc expert groups with those of technical panels.

23. Many representatives felt that the ad hoc groups' meetings were being held too late and that their schedule dates should, as far as possible, be advanced.

National Papers

24. The Preparatory Committee addressed itself to the issue of producing national documents. The discussions covered a variety of points such as the desirability of producing these documents; the desirability of reaching consensus on a possible outline for these documents, as well as the need for them to be concise; the dates by which such documents should be submitted and the role to be played by them in the context of Conference preparations.

25. It was almost unanimously agreed that national documents should be produced. Many delegates however were of the view that individual states should be free to decide whether or not they would compile national documents.

26. Most delegates indicated a preference for simple and flexible guidelines, some of them preferring the outlines to be those proposed by the Secretary-General in his statement to the opening session of the Preparatory Committee. A few delegates felt that the national papers should be short and concise. Many delegates further stated that governments should be free to submit any other type of information paper they may consider appropriate for the Conference.

27. Possible deadlines for submission of national documents were suggested by some states and the date of 31 December 1980 was generally approved by delegations. Most of the delegations suggested that national documents be integrated into the substantive preparations for the Conference. While most delegations felt that national papers should be presented to the Conference as working documents, others were of the opinion that regional commissions should synthesize the national documents.

Over-all report of the Secretary-General of the Conference,
taking into account decision 5(I) of the Committee

(Agenda item 2(b))

Synthesis Report

28. Delegations, while recognizing the constraints under which document A/CONF.100/PC.17 had been produced and acknowledging its interim nature, made a number of comments concerning the subject. Many delegations were critical that the document had not made an evaluation on the economic viability of new and renewable sources of energy. They also felt that certain paragraphs such as 8e, 8f, 13, 17, 18, 20 included simplistic or too general statements. Paragraphs 12a, 12c, 16, 17 were also considered too simplistic and thus unacceptable.

29. It was deemed impossible to make valuable forecasts for the year 2000 and that it would be better to leave out such a quantitative evaluation as that of part III of the document especially as summarized in paragraph 46.

30. It was felt that the regional analyses were insufficient and should have gone into greater depth and that Table I should be restructured following the usual regional groupings. Furthermore, it was felt that the validity of the figures given in some of the tables were questionable; a number of delegations suggested that the sources of the data be specified. A number of delegations indicated that they would forward specific written comments on the document to the Secretariat.

31. Many delegations also felt that the document did not well balance the analysis between developing countries on the one hand, and developed countries on the other, especially in the field of research and development. They also felt that all countries needed to utilize new and renewable sources of energy. Some delegations felt that the constraints listed in paragraph 46 of the document did not assign any order of priority to them; neither did it give the nature of their inter-relationship.

32. It was proposed that the Secretary-General revise document A/CONF.100/PC.17 in the light of comments and observations made during the session and to submit a revised document in time for the next session of the Preparatory Committee.

33. Some delegations proposed that the structure of the future synthesis report should be centered around the three main questions proposed by Mr. Gherab in his introductory statement, and that annexes 1 and 2 of document A/CONF.100/PC.17 be submitted to the technical groups of experts.

34. A number of delegations proposed that the synthesis document should contain the following: (a) a comparative study of the costs of production of new and renewable sources of energy; (b) a study of rational use of new and renewable sources of energy, which would include a comparative study on potential for increasing substitution of conventional energy by new and renewable sources of energy; (c) a section on concrete measures for international co-operation in this area, with recommendations on solutions to the problem, in particular for developing countries; (d) an annex including a comprehensive compendium or bibliography of existing studies on new and renewable sources of energy.

35. It was proposed that the synthesis document should incorporate the integration of the inputs of technical panels as well as of ad hoc groups of experts.

36. The synthesizing exercise was considered by all of delegations as of utmost importance for the preparations of the Conference and that the final synthesis will constitute a basic document for the consideration of governments as well as for the elucidation of future recommendations.

Interim reports of the technical panels

(Agenda item 2(c))

37. It was felt that the final reports of the panels would be important as they would provide the technical foundation for policy formulation and decision by the Conference. Many delegations deplored the fact that the interim reports lacked a common format and were pleased to learn that this shortcoming would be corrected in the final reports. Several delegations felt that while the standards of the panel reports were high, a great deal more was required to be done.

38. A number of delegations hoped that the panel reports would be able to identify the extent to which new and renewable sources of energy could help meet future energy requirements. Some delegations felt that the primary responsibility of the panels was to produce data and recommendations for action. Many expressed the need to improve available statistics on new and renewable sources of energy. At the same time they felt that considerations of technical data alone would be insufficient: there was also need to consider inherent constraints, e.g. costs, economics and the fact that some resources were site specific.

39. A number of delegations expressed the need to integrate the output of the panels with those of the ad hoc expert groups.

40. Many delegations felt that the panel reports should not be exclusively resource oriented; if they are to have meaningful long-term practical utility, they must also be demand oriented. The delegation felt that the report must consider the cost per unit of production; technical feasibility and economic viability of a given new and renewable source of energy, including substitution costs; and socio-economic factors affecting the potential use of new and renewable sources of energy.

Cross-organizational analysis of the energy programmes
of the United Nations system

(Agenda item 2(d))

41. In response to a recommendation of the Committee on Programme and Coordination at its 20th session, the Preparatory Committee had before it the cross-organizational analysis of the energy programmes of the United Nations system and the CPC's report thereon.

42. The delegates taking part in the debate on this subject agreed that it was a useful document providing information on past and ongoing activities of the United Nations system in the field of energy including new and renewable sources of energy. Several speakers stressed the need for better coordination of the activities so as to ensure rational use of the limited resources of the system. They also indicated that the document provided useful indications for the contributions which the various organs, organizations and specialized agencies could make to the preparatory work for the Conference.

43. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Preparatory Committee decided to take note of the report of CPC (Section IX A, Decision _____(II)).