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Synthesis Group Meeting
17-27 February 1981
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteurs: F. DAGHESTANI (Jordan)
W. CHARTERS (Australia)

Chapter ____ . ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

G. Review of the draft synthesis document (continued)

12. During its preliminary review of the draft synthesis document of 16 February 1981 (non-symbol document), the Synthesis Group noted several general points that would require consideration in preparing a revised version. There was general agreement that the document should take a more positive tone about the prospects for new and renewable sources of energy. There appeared to be undue emphasis on the constraints limiting the adoption of these technologies, and there was inadequate recognition of the contribution that these sources of energy had already made to the world energy supply. It was also noted that some topics, such as rural energy needs and the role of draught animals, might have been accorded inadequate treatment in the draft synthesis, owing to the recent conclusion of the relevant preparatory work on those topics. It was suggested that the discussion of constraints should focus closely on problems that were specific to new and renewable sources of energy; the document should avoid reiterating more general problems that had been considered many times by the United Nations, particularly those that had been addressed at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held at Vienna in 1979.

13. In addition to those and other general comments, many specific suggestions were made to improve the document in detail. It was therefore agreed that the members of the Synthesis Group should revise the document in two drafting groups. At the request of the Chairman, C. Tham (Vice-Chairman), assisted by W. Charters (Rapporteur), acted as convenor of the drafting group concerned with chapters I and II of the draft synthesis document. I. Cissé (Vice-Chairman) and F. Daghestani (Rapporteur) acted in similar capacities for the drafting group that revised

chapters III and IV. Both groups worked on an open-ended basis, and observers and representatives participating in the meeting were invited to contribute to the work of the drafting groups.

14. After the drafting groups had completed their work, the draft synthesis document was again considered in plenary in its revised form. Further improvements were suggested and it was agreed that members of the Synthesis Group should submit written proposals to the Rapporteurs, who would take responsibility for incorporating them into the document, as appropriate.

H. Recommendations

15. During its discussion of the draft synthesis document of 16 February 1981, in the form prepared by the secretariat, the Synthesis Group noted that it would be necessary to complete the document by adding a final chapter (chap. V), corresponding to item 8 of agenda of the Synthesis Group. The Chairman introduced the discussion of this topic by circulating an informal paper containing proposals on the list of topics that should be included in that chapter. The Synthesis Group agreed that the informal paper provided a suitable basis for its work, and an open-ended drafting group was constituted, under the leadership of the Chairman, to prepare a draft chapter.

16. After the drafting group had completed its task, the draft of chapter V was considered in plenary. It was agreed that both the form and the content of the draft required improvements. Members of the Synthesis Group agreed to provide the rapporteurs with written proposals for changes. Representatives and observers were also invited to submit suggestions. The rapporteurs were requested to make any necessary stylistic improvements.

17. Following the revisions, chapters I to V of the draft synthesis report of 16 February 1981 were considered and accepted by the Synthesis Group. The Group agreed that those chapters should be incorporated in the report of the meeting, together with the annex to chapter I and the record of organizational arrangements and relevant annexes.

I. Adoption of the report

18. The report of the Synthesis Group, as amended, was adopted on 27 February 1981.