

**REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND
UTILIZATION OF NEW AND RENEWABLE
SOURCES OF ENERGY**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-THIRD SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 36 (A/43/36)



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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in paragraphs 1 and 2 of section II of resolution 37/250 of 21 December 1982, decided to establish an intergovernmental Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which would be open to the participation of all States as full members, and endorsed the recommendation that representation of Member States in the Committee should be at a high level.

2. In paragraph 3 of section II of the resolution, the General Assembly decided that the Committee would meet once every two years in even years, but that, exceptionally, it would hold its first regular session in the second quarter of 1983.

3. In paragraph 4 of section II of the resolution, the General Assembly decided also that the Committee would submit its report and recommendations to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which may transmit to the Assembly such comments on the reports as it may deem necessary.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

4. The fourth session of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy was held at United Nations Headquarters from 28 March to 8 April 1988. The Committee held eight meetings (1st to 8th) and a number of informal meetings.

5. The session was opened by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

B. Attendance

6. Representatives of the following States attended the session:

Algeria	Lesotho
Argentina	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Austria	Malaysia
Bahrain	Mauritania
Bangladesh	Mexico
Barbados	Nepal
Belgium	Netherlands
Brazil	Niger
Bulgaria	Nigeria
Burundi	Pakistan
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Peru
Canada	Philippines
China	Poland
Cuba	Republic of Korea
Czechoslovakia	Romania
Democratic Yemen	Saint Lucia
Denmark	Saudi Arabia
Egypt	Senegal
Ethiopia	Sierra Leone
Fiji	Spain
Finland	Sri Lanka
France	Sudan
Gabon	Sweden
German Democratic Republic	Switzerland
Germany, Federal Republic of	Thailand
Ghana	Togo
Greece	Tunisia
Guyana	Turkey
Haiti	Uganda
Hungary	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
India	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Indonesia	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Iran, Islamic Republic of	United Republic of Tanzania
Iraq	United States of America
Italy	Venezuela
Jamaica	Yugoslavia
Japan	Zambia
Kenya	Zimbabwe

7. The following United Nations organs and bodies were represented:

United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations University
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
World Food Council
International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

8. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Bank
International Fund for Agricultural Development
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

9. The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented.

10. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

Commonwealth Secretariat
European Community

11. The following non-governmental organizations attended the session:

International Chamber of Commerce
International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
International Solar Energy Society
Pax Romana
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

C. Election of officers

12. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 28 and 29 March 1988, the Committee elected by acclamation the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Boris N. Goudima (Ukrainian SSR)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Sjoerd Leenstra (Netherlands)
Mr. Eduardo Praselj (Venezuela)
Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Gaouthe (Mauritania)

Rapporteur: Mr. G. B. A. Fernando (Sri Lanka)

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

13. At its 1st meeting, on 28 March 1988, the Committee adopted the following agenda, as contained in document A/AC.218/12:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy:
 - (a) Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;
 - (b) Recommendation of policy guidelines for different organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system with regard to new and renewable sources of energy on the basis of the Nairobi Programme of Action;
 - (c) Formulation and recommendation of action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action in accordance with the priorities identified therein.
4. Promotion of the mobilization of financial resources required in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action:
 - (a) Financing of new and renewable sources of energy projects through existing channels;
 - (b) Progress achieved in relation to consultative meetings.
5. Inter-agency co-ordination for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.
6. Research, development and demonstration, and information systems in the field of new and renewable sources of energy.
7. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fourth session.

E. Documentation

14. The Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Provisional agenda (A/AC.218/12);
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in research, development and demonstration and in information systems in the field of new and renewable sources of energy (A/AC.218/13);
 - (c) Note by the Secretary-General on the colloquium of high-level experts on new and renewable sources of energy (A/AC.218/14);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2 (III) of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy at its third session (A/AC.218/15);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the mobilization of financial resources and inter-agency co-ordination for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy (A/AC.218/16);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on activities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy (A/AC.218/17);

(g) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed organization of work (A/AC.218/L.15);

(h) Excerpts from the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1984-1985 (A/41/318/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) and comments of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

(i) Draft resolution entitled "Enhancing the activities of the United Nations system to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy" submitted by Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/AC.218/L.17);

(j) Draft resolution entitled "Follow-up action regarding research, development and demonstration, and information systems" submitted by Tunisia on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 (A/AC.218/L.18);

(k) Draft resolution entitled "Methods of work" submitted by Tunisia on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 (A/AC.218/L.19);

(l) Draft conclusions and recommendations submitted by Tunisia on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 (A/AC.218/L.20);

(m) Text entitled "Report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields" submitted by the Vice-Chairman (A/AC.218/L.21 and Corr.1 and Rev.1);

(n) Draft resolution entitled "Enhancing the activities of the United Nations system to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy" submitted by the Chairman (A/AC.218/L.22);

(o) Draft resolution entitled "Follow-up action regarding research, development and demonstration, and information systems" submitted by the Chairman (A/AC.218/L.23);

(p) Draft conclusions and recommendations submitted by the Chairman (A/AC.218/L.24);

(q) Draft report of the Committee on its fourth session (A/AC.218/L.16 and Add.1-5).

III. OPENING AND INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS

15. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation opened the fourth session of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. In his opening statement, the Director-General noted that the session of the Committee was taking place in an energy situation that was radically different from that of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in 1981, when energy markets had been under strain and when there had been a strong interest in accelerated development of new and renewable sources of energy. The situation had changed and was marked by eased tensions in the energy markets, a situation expected to continue in the foreseeable future. He stressed that, in spite of these new signs, the development of new and renewable sources of energy continued to be of vital importance and should be pursued untiringly, as the prospects for long-term exhaustion of hydrocarbon resources and the need to replace such resources had not changed. He added that the energy situation of the developing countries supported the development of new and renewable sources of energy. The energy demands of those countries would increase dramatically in order to meet development needs. The Director-General said that new and renewable sources of energy had an important role to play in meeting the energy needs of rural populations in developing countries, particularly in Africa. The development of such sources might reduce dependence on imported energy and improve the energy supply to remote communities. He thanked the Government of Italy and the Italian Commission for Nuclear Energy and Alternative Energy Sources (ENEA) for funding and assisting in the preparation for the Colloquium of High-level Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which met at Castelgandolfo, Italy, in 1987. He also thanked the Chairman of the Italian Commission for Nuclear Energy and Alternative Energy Sources who presided over this meeting. The Colloquium had made an assessment of the Nairobi Programme of Action 1/ and made proposals for enhancing the implementation process, including setting up a network of international centres on new and renewable sources of energy. He then stated that the Committee had repeatedly emphasized the need actively to pursue ways and means for mobilizing adequate and additional financial resources for the development of new and renewable sources of energy in developing countries. Reported commitments of resources in this field amounted to \$36 billion, the bulk of which was for large-scale hydropower development. Funding by the United Nations system for activities in this field totalled about \$9 billion, most of it from the World Bank. He stated that while consultative meetings had played a positive role in bringing together interested parties, they had not yet demonstrated that they could succeed in mobilizing adequate additional resources; further efforts in that regard should, however, continue.

16. The Chairman stated that the role of the Nairobi Programme of Action continued to be important in promoting the development of new and renewable sources of energy, which were significant energy sources in developing countries. He added that the implementation of the Programme of Action had been impeded; it was thus necessary for the Committee to give that problem serious consideration. He also stated that whatever action was taken by the United Nations in its process of

1/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

reform, the area of new and renewable sources of energy was an important concern that needed to be addressed by the international community.

17. The Special Co-ordinator for New and Renewable Sources of Energy introduced the documentation before the Committee. In introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2 (III) of the Committee at its third session (A/AC.218/15), the Special Co-ordinator noted that technical, economic and financial problems that had existed when the Nairobi Programme of Action was adopted had become less acute and, in some cases, disappeared. He stated that while the demand for conventional energy sources continued to grow in the developing countries, the global development of hydrocarbon was still subject to technological constraints and that it would be a mistake to link world energy problems solely to the vagaries of the hydrocarbon market. Indeed, the majority of the population in rural areas in developing countries were unaffected by the conventional energy market situation. He stated that the Nairobi Programme of Action should be promoted as a means of contributing substantially to the energy needs of those rural populations as the rural areas would continue to remain economically depressed if decentralized energy supplies were not promoted.

18. In introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the mobilization of financial resources and inter-agency co-ordination for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy (A/AC.218/16), the Special Co-ordinator stated that the mobilization of financial resources referred to economic and also to human dimensions of new and renewable sources of energy, which were often underestimated. The report provided information on funding for activities of new and renewable sources of energy for the period 1980-1987. He stated that along with bilateral, multilateral and public funds, the private sector was also investing in the commercialization of new and renewable sources of energy technologies. He stated that financial aspects related to development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy were also discussed in the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on activities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy (A/AC.218/17), which also drew attention to the need to give priority to energy planning, research and demonstration.

19. The Special Co-ordinator stated that the Committee, at its third session, had decided to concentrate on one or two themes for consideration at the fourth session. The two themes that had been chosen were research, development and demonstration, and information systems. The report of the Secretary-General on those themes is contained in document A/AC.218/13. It was also within the framework of those themes that the Colloquium of High-level Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy was held in Italy in 1987. The recommendations and conclusions of the Colloquium are contained in a note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.218/14). The Special Co-ordinator thanked the Government of Italy and ENEA for their funding and assistance in preparing for and servicing the Colloquium. He added that the United Nations University, ENEA and the United Nations Secretariat would collaborate on and submit to the Committee at its fifth session a report on the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Colloquium; in doing this they would rely on the support of countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

20. The Rapporteur of the Colloquium of High-level Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (Italian Commission for Nuclear Energy and Alternative Energy Sources), in introducing the report on the Colloquium (A/AC.218/14), stated that

the situation regarding alternative energy sources was a difficult one. Financial resources had been mobilised for alternative energy sources, but large-scale hydropower remained the largest beneficiary of investment in this field. Problems in the energy field included the foreign debt burden, growing real energy demand, environmental degradation and energy prices. Regarding new and renewable sources of energy, attention was usually focused on the implementation of projects, and not on their follow-up. He reiterated the main conclusions of the Colloquium. Governments should create conditions favourable to private industry and local interests; this would encourage the development and diffusion of new and renewable sources of energy. It was important to maintain the pace of development of those resources; successes had been achieved and continued work in this area was important. The Colloquium had called for the utilization of energy-efficient measures, identification of success stories that were indicative of high-quality projects, identification of threshold innovations likely to become feasible, and the promotion of favourable conditions for setting up joint ventures in new and renewable sources of energy in developing countries. The Colloquium was of the view that further consideration should be given to a proposal for setting up a network of international centres in new and renewable sources of energy. Such centres should respond to needs rather than focus on technologies and should be highly flexible; they should attract top people in science and technology, thereby creating an environment of excellence that would enable them to provide a co-ordinative function. A detailed study on the setting up of those centres should be undertaken.

21. The Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development stated that unpredictable fluctuations in oil prices presented problems to energy planners, suppliers and users and that low oil prices had markedly reduced interest in new and renewable sources of energy. The Department, however, saw a continuing need and priority for new and renewable sources of energy and was executing projects in energy planning, including conservation, solar, wind and biomass energy and mini-hydropower, with funding from UNDP and various trust funds. The Department had pioneered work in the promotion of geothermal energy in developing countries for electric power generation, space heating and agro-industrial purposes; geothermal energy accounted for a significant part of the Department's programme. He added that the Department had worked towards establishing reliable systems of information for energy planning. In co-operation with the Government of Japan, a software package had been developed for building models to simulate economic and energy systems. The Department had an ongoing programme of training for energy specialists and policy makers through workshops and seminars and, in 1987, convened a workshop on solar heating and cooling and other renewable sources of energy, for which the Soviet Union acted as host. In 1987, the Department convened a symposium in China on rural energies and rural electrification, and is planning a workshop on wind energy to be held in Denmark.

22. The representative of the World Bank said that energy was still a major sector of the Bank's work. He stressed that lower oil prices had brought little relief to many people in the rural and marginal urban areas in the developing world who depended on wood and other traditional fuels to meet their basic household energy needs. The supply of fuelwood was diminishing, its cost rising and forests were disappearing at increasingly rapid rates in many of those countries. He emphasized that the price of fuel was only one of the many energy issues facing most developing countries, and the recent price declines were unlikely to have any significant impact on energy-intensive production processes in those countries.

There was, therefore, a need for donors to intensify assistance to addressing household energy problems and to developing alternative sources of energy. The World Bank had lent funds for fuelwood planting and supported some national power alcohol projects, notably the Brazilian Alcohol Programme. He stressed that, in general, regular Bank projects employed fully proven, commercial technologies in order to minimize the investment risk to client countries. The Bank had conducted a systematic assessment of the technical and economic status of selected renewable energy technologies, the results of which had been used as guidelines in the Bank's work in the energy sector through two joint programmes with UNDP, namely, the Energy Sector Assessment Programme and the Energy Sector Management Programme.

23. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said that the lack of energy for agricultural and rural development remained a constraint for development in most developing countries. The rural sector in the developing countries continued to need adequate energy supplies. There was a growing shortage of fuelwood, which was also being increasingly used to meet the energy requirements of urban populations and small-scale industries. New and renewable sources of energy had great potential in the rural areas; however, the development of those resources often took place without regard to local needs. He stated that FAO efforts were aimed at improving rural energy assessment and planning and promoting the development of proven technologies that could be within the reach of rural populations. Activities related to the fuelwood situation accounted for the largest share of FAO activities in new and renewable sources of energy. Those activities included efforts to increase fuelwood resources and supplies, the more efficient use of fuelwood and complementing fuelwood with other sources. FAO was also actively involved in biogas development, gasification, animal power and solar and wind energy. He added that the FAO/European Co-operative Network had been active in exchanging research results through workshops and the exchange of experts. Efforts to facilitate the exchange of information and experience between regions had been developed. He stated that the initiatives by FAO and the momentum gained in the field of new and renewable sources of energy needed to be consolidated.

24. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said that all energy systems, including production, conversion and use, had adverse as well as beneficial impacts on the environment and that environmentally sensitive energy management was aimed at minimizing the adverse impact in a cost-effective manner. While there had been considerable improvement in reducing the adverse effects, the adverse impact was expected to increase in the future. He noted that the impact had transboundary effects, thus complicating efforts for their management. The most pressing problem in the developing countries related to unsustainable and inefficient use of biomass resources, with an attendant adverse health impact, particularly from indoor air pollution. He stressed that the lack of full integration of environmental factors into energy policies and planning was the overriding problem to be resolved. The mandate of UNEP was to co-ordinate and catalyse the work of the United Nations agencies and other organizations to ensure that environmental concerns were dealt with in their activities. UNEP had not had a specific programme on new and renewable sources of energy per se. Indirectly, however, emphasis had been placed on such energy sources in its three-pronged strategy of providing information on the environmental impacts of energy, providing help to professionals and decision-makers to incorporate environmental factors into energy policy and planning, and sponsoring in-the-field projects, particularly in developing countries. The main aim of UNEP in the area of energy would be to contribute to the incorporation of environmental considerations into energy policy

and planning at both the institutional and technical levels. UNEP was also actively involved in the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and was assisting in the establishment of the AMCEN Network on Energy.

25. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) said that his organization placed a high degree of importance on the role of new and renewable sources of energy with regard to industrial energy requirements in developing countries. UNIDO activities in energy included energy conservation, energy management and new and renewable sources of energy through technical assistance and promotion of industrial development. About 10 per cent of its \$100 million programme in technical assistance was in energy. UNIDO provided technical assistance in new and renewable sources of energy in such areas as transfer and application of technology, infrastructure strengthening, identification of financial resources, training and the elaboration of the relevant legislative and regulatory framework. Specific areas of assistance covered activities in biomass, hydropower, solar and wind energy, charcoal and fuelwood. Special attention was being paid to hydropower, particularly on a small scale. UNIDO established a consultative group on solar energy, research and application, and is acting as a clearing-house for appropriate technologies in the field of new and renewable sources of energy.

26. The representative of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) said that women in developing countries were crucial agents of environmental management and were the main collectors, consumers and managers of household fuel supplies. Yet, despite their actual and potential role in energy planning, utilization and production, women remained largely neglected by planners and policy-makers. Developing countries would face a more critical energy shortage than experienced unless sustained efforts were made at all levels to implement appropriate energy programmes that included women's participation. She stressed that women needed to be informed and educated about the possible uses of new energy technologies, and to play a role in the selection, use and management of new and renewable sources of energy directly related to women's interests. The Institute was undertaking research and training to enhance women's participation in the energy sector, as well as to identify ways of alleviating their burden as producers and users of energy. In 1987, the Institute had initiated a sensitization and training programme addressed to planners and project managers, as well as to the leadership of women's organizations. The programme made a provision for pilot testing and adaptation of training modules within regional and national training workshops. After the pilot testing, country-specific packages would be prepared for use in local training activities and programmes conducted by core groups of trained facilitators. INSTRAW also developed a project on the promotion of women's involvement in new and renewable sources of energy in Africa; the project addresses priorities expressed in the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 (A/40/666, annex I, declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXI), annex).

27. The observer for the Commonwealth Science Council of the Commonwealth Secretariat said that the Council was mandated to promote the sharing of expertise and resources in scientific co-operation to further the development of Commonwealth countries. It maintained active programmes in the energy field, which focused entirely on new and renewable sources of energy. Over the past three years, the Council had undertaken activities in biogas, biomass, charcoal production, solar drying, climate-responsive building design and surveys of wind energy potential.

Jointly with the International Development Research Centre of Canada and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), it initiated the development of an energy information system for the Caribbean region. The Council would continue to devote special attention to the problems of rural energy use in the developing countries.

28. The President of the International Solar Energy Society described the activities of his organization, which were mainly aimed at stimulating the exchange of new ideas and technical results in fields connected to energy saving and to any renewable non-polluting energy sources, such as photovoltaic, wind energy, mini-hydraulics and biomass. He stressed the importance of developing and disseminating technologies appropriate to the needs and resources of people in developing countries. Such technologies must be relatively small, simple and capital-saving and should be capable of utilizing local skills, thus enabling people to help themselves. He added that many gaps in knowledge remained, and that the funding of research and development in appropriate energy technology was very low in relation to the needs. Aid-giving Governments and international agencies should ensure that appropriate technologies were readily available to the developing countries; this necessitated a major expansion of research and development, field testing and publication of data on appropriate renewable energy technologies.

29. The representative of Pax Romana said an innovative, environmentally sound and inexpensive hydropower technology called the Oscillating Hydro-Energy Converter, had been successfully commissioned and tested. It was based on the oscillating motion of a wing system caused by water flows against it and did not require the construction of dams. A small-scale power plant of 100 Watt range had been built making optimal use of parts of a bicycle, pieces of water pipe, scrap wood and iron material. A simple and sturdy design was ready for implementation as a decentralized electricity generation plant for drinking water supply or irrigation. It was cheap and could be built by local people, utilizing local materials and skills.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF NEW AND RENEWABLE
SOURCES OF ENERGY

(Agenda item 3)

30. Delegations welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2 (III) adopted by the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy at its third session (A/AC.218/15). One delegation stated that the report was largely descriptive and did not provide an economic evaluation. That delegation suggested that in future reports the costs of the various technologies should be provided and that the Committee's work should be oriented towards the practical application of technologies in order to enhance co-operation in the field of energy. Many delegations stated that they attached great importance to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and expressed concern at the slow progress in its implementation, especially in view of the long-term demand and supply prospects for energy. Delegations reiterated that the Nairobi Programme of Action was still valid for the development of new and renewable sources of energy and reaffirmed the need for efficient and concerted international co-operation for the effective and speedy implementation of the Programme. Delegations stated that while the ultimate responsibility for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy lay with individual Governments, international co-operation - bilateral and multilateral - should continue to play an important role. National efforts should thus be supplemented by effective international support.

31. Delegations stated that recent low oil prices were not reason for complacency in efforts to develop further new and renewable sources of energy. Many delegations concurred in the conclusions of the report that long-term supply and demand prospects for energy had essentially not changed. Low prices had resulted in reduced exploration activities while infrastructural and environmental factors hampered the utilization of coal or nuclear energy. Because fossil fuels were finite, energy costs would inevitably rise unless there was a successful diversification to other energy sources and a sustained effort at energy conservation.

32. Delegations stressed that the recent low oil prices had not made any substantial difference in the energy supply situation for the more than 2 billion people in rural areas, which were largely disconnected from international energy markets and their fluctuations. They were concerned about the fuelwood crisis, which threatened to become more widespread and to endanger the survival of many in rural areas through ecological damage, adverse effects on nutritional health reduced agricultural productivity and accelerated migration to urban centres. They noted that the impact of the crisis was particularly severe on women, who bore the main responsibility for fuelwood collection, food production and cooking. One delegation stated that its country's experience had shown that the reduction of fuelwood use did not necessarily lead to a reduction in deforestation or desertification. In many cases, such actions encouraged the expansion of mechanized agriculture to areas originally covered by forests, whose exploitation was generally seen as generating little or no commercial benefit. It added that the most important measures to be taken to solve the fuelwood crisis would be the creation of incentives for the rational exploitation of the forests, the diffusion of appropriate management and reforestation techniques, the creation of commercial

outlets and markets for forest products aimed at increasing the commercial value of these areas.

33. Some delegations stated that, contrary to the conclusions prevailing in some quarters, the recent decline in the price of petroleum had not reduced the energy crisis in many developing countries. The crisis was as acute, if not more serious, than it had been at the time of the Nairobi Conference, in 1981. The fuelwood crisis further aggravated the situation, especially in the oil-importing developing countries.

34. Many delegations expressed the view that new and renewable sources of energy were and would remain of particular significance for developing countries, especially the least developed ones, and noted that in rural areas and remote villages there were no other valid energy alternatives that could be considered feasible and that had no detrimental effects on the environment. For those rural communities, the installation of small-scale hydropower, solar pumps and wind pumps, the use of biogas, the use of photovoltaic cells for lighting and other purposes would reduce the consumption of fuelwood and thus help alleviate the fuelwood crisis. Some delegations stressed that in dealing with the issue of new and renewable sources of energy, it was important to make a clear distinction between commercial and non-commercial energy. The distinction was particularly significant for developing countries, in which a majority of the population lived in rural areas where the ratio of new and renewable sources of energy to total energy consumption was usually very high. In that context, one delegation stated that it was important to distinguish problems of energy in rural areas from those in other areas of the developing countries. It stressed that it was wrong to press for the development of new sources of energy in rural areas, when traditional sources of energy were better in some cases. Activities should focus on rural development and the welfare of the rural population, rather than new and renewable sources of energy as such and be conducted on the basis of observed needs. The success and long-term viability of projects depended on the amelioration of the conditions of the people affected, and special care should be taken to avoid imposing solutions.

35. One delegation drew the attention of the Committee to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (A/42/427, annex) and noted that energy conservation, as well as the use of new and renewable sources of energy, was a solution to continued global environmental degradation. To ensure the effective implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, industrialized countries must give conservation and the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy the priority they deserved. A change in the philosophy of the developed countries was essential for creating conditions for sustainable development and constructive co-operation with developing countries. One delegation stated that the use of new and renewable sources of energy that was benign from an environmental point of view would contribute to the restoration and maintenance of a better ecological balance.

36. Many delegations stated that the United Nations system should vigorously continue the task set for it by the Nairobi Programme of Action and that the international community, including industrialized and developing countries, should play their full part in actively promoting the development of new and renewable sources of energy. One delegation stated that the recent energy situation afforded the international community a breathing space that would enable it better to face the tighter energy situation that was likely to occur in the foreseeable future;

there would be grave consequences if the international community failed to implement long-term energy policies and measures designed to diversify energy sources and reduce energy consumption.

37. A number of delegations emphasized that in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, attention should be given to practical projects that reflected the priority tasks set out in the Programme of Action and took into account the needs of developing countries. A number of delegations suggested that the Secretariat should study the experience of countries with energy-saving technologies. One delegation stated that while new and renewable sources of energy could not replace the use of conventional energy sources, they would become important supplementary sources by the end of the century. It suggested that in future the international community should strive for the optimal combination of conventional and alternative forms of energy. It stated that a successful solution to the energy problem was possible only with the establishment of peace and security through effective disarmament, which would guarantee the release of resources for use in development, including new and renewable sources of energy.

38. Many delegations stressed the need for a multidisciplinary approach in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action in order to create conditions for the accelerated development and application of new and renewable sources of energy, the rational use of energy, the protection of the environment, the combined use of various complementary sources of energy and efficient energy conservation. A number of delegations urged organizations working in the field of new and renewable sources of energy to pay due attention to the changing condition and needs of women in both rural and urban areas.

39. A number of delegations gave details of their countries' bilateral co-operation activities undertaken with developing countries as part of the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. Some countries had initiated special energy programmes to improve energy supply in developing countries and to help them exploit and use new and renewable sources of energy efficiently; this involved a careful analysis of the energy sector, including resource availability and infrastructure; it also involved programmes in disseminating technologies for harnessing and using new and renewable sources of energy. Others had financed or supported programmes and projects in the field of new and renewable sources of energy.

40. One delegation stressed that the effective implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action was an essential component of the strategy for the economic recovery of Africa. African countries had identified activities to promote the development of new and renewable sources of energy and to rationalize the use of energy. In different subregions of Africa, special attention was being given to the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy, especially fuelwood. The successful implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action would contribute to the success of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. That delegation suggested that the fuelwood crisis be considered by the Committee at its fifth session. Many delegations stated that the objectives of the Nairobi Programme of Action were still valid but that the pace of its implementation had not met expectations.

41. One delegation stated that the formulation and execution of projects and programmes were essential to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. Projects and programmes had been formulated in 1982 before the Committee

was established (see A/AC.215/5). At its first session, the Committee approved a set of guidelines for preparing projects and programmes, and, at its second session, the Committee requested that new project proposals be prepared and existing ones updated, if required. At the third session, in 1986, the Secretary-General had provided information on the implementation of the projects contained in document A/AC.215/5 and on new project proposals for implementation (see A/AC.218/11). However, no specific detailed discussion or decisions were taken by the Committee for future action. The Committee could consider the document A/AC.218/11 at the fourth session, or if no time was available, the Secretary-General could prepare a report containing new project proposals and a review of the progress achieved in the implementation of previous project proposals for consideration by the Committee at its fifth session. The Committee was requested to make a thorough study and provide guidance so that that function of the Committee was not lost.

Draft resolutions A/AC.218/L.17, L.19 and L.22

42. At the 6th meeting, on 5 April, the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, subsequently joined by Hungary, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enhancing the activities of the United Nations system to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy" (A/AC.218/L.17), which read as follows:

"The Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy,

"Taking note of General Assembly resolution 40/178 of 17 December 1985 on strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of international economic, scientific-technological and social co-operation,

"Recalling the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 1/ in particular its recommendations on the development and utilization of solar and biomass energy,

"Recalling also its resolution 1 (III) of 13 June 1986, in which the Committee decided to adopt a substance-oriented approach that would enable it to give in-depth consideration to one or two specific themes placed on its agenda,

"1. Decides to include, in the provisional agenda for its fifth session, the themes 'Direct solar-to-electrical energy conversion' and 'Utilization of agricultural residues and urban wastes for energy production', for detailed consideration, and 'Role of new and renewable sources of energy in integrated rural development';

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect A.

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its fifth session an analytical report based on an in-depth study of the current achievements in the fields of direct solar-to-electrical energy conversion, the utilization of agricultural residues and urban wastes for energy production in Member States, and the role of new and renewable sources of energy in integrated rural development;

"3. Invites Member States to provide the Secretary-General, on a regular basis, with information on the current state and latest developments in the above-mentioned fields and also to broaden co-operation in developing corresponding technologies;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy to the Committee at its fifth session to enable Member States to make optimal use of the relevant experience accumulated."

43. At the 7th meeting, on 6 April, the representative of Tunisia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Methods of work" (A/AC.218/L.19), which read as follows:

"The Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy,

"Mindful of General Assembly resolution 40/178 of 17 December 1985 on strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of international economic, scientific-technological and social co-operation, in which the Assembly stressed the willingness of Member States to strengthen the United Nations system as a framework for constructive dialogue and joint efforts in solving international economic, scientific-technological and social problems, especially problems confronting the developing countries,

"Recalling the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 1/

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/205 of 17 December 1985 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, in particular the recommendations concerning energy, contained in part two, section IV, of the annex to that resolution,

"Recalling also General Assembly resolution 41/170 of 5 December 1986, in which the Assembly endorsed the report of the Committee on the Development and

"1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

Utilisation of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its third session, 2/ including the decision to adopt a substance-oriented approach for subsequent sessions of the Committee, within the scope of its mandate and without seeking to establish priorities for action, 3/

"Recalling further General Assembly decision 38/429 of 19 December 1983 and Economic and Social Council decision 1984/182 of 27 July 1984 relating to biennial consideration of reports of intergovernmental bodies,

"1. Decides to include in the provisional agenda for its fifth session, for detailed consideration, the themes 'Contribution of new and renewable sources of energy to integrated rural development' and 'Utilization of agricultural and urban wastes for energy production';

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare an analytical report for consideration by the Committee at its fifth session based on an in-depth study of the current stage of achievements in Member States regarding the selected themes;

"3. Invites interested Member States and organizations of the United Nations system as well as other interested organizations, to convene technical and scientific meetings related to the substantive themes that would contribute to their in-depth examination;

"4. Invites interested Member States to inform the Committee at its fifth session of their ongoing practical and scientific activities and/or evaluations with regard to the selected substantive themes;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to provide a report for consideration by the Committee at its fifth session on the activities of the United Nations system in that regard in order to facilitate a more effective exchange of information and experience regarding the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy."

"2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/41/44).

"3/ Ibid., annex, sect. A, resolution 1 (III).

44. At the 8th meeting, on 8 April, the Chairman, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolutions A/AC.218/L.17 and L.19, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enhancing the activities of the United Nations system to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy" (A/AC.218/L.22), and orally revised paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 by deleting the word "Member" before the word "States".

45. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/AC.218/L.22), as orally revised (see annex, resolution 1 (IV)).

46. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/AC.218/L.22, draft resolutions A/AC.218/L.17 and L.19 were withdrawn by the sponsors.

V. PROMOTION OF THE MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES REQUIRED
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI PROGRAMME OF ACTION

(Agenda item 4)

47. The representative of UNDP introduced the report of the Administrator of the Programme on activities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy (A/AC.218/17, annex). He said that technical assistance represented only a small proportion of the \$36 billion that had been invested in the field of new and renewable sources of energy in the developing countries and that UNDP inputs to that effort should be seen as catalytic: they were intended to attract and apply much larger investment resources in the future. He said that the UNDP Energy Account had served as the channel for mobilizing resources for the joint UNDP/World Bank Energy Sector Management Programme and that the UNDP Energy Office had mobilized \$30 million deployed in some 60 projects. He stated that, while the Nairobi Conference had helped to raise consciousness about energy issues, it had regrettably not raised the commensurate financial resources. He informed the Committee that the UNDP Energy Account had received only a small contribution to its core resources in its first four years and that, given that situation, the Administrator proposed closing the Energy Office and merging its resources and responsibilities with those of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development. The Administrator had made that proposal in order to reduce administrative costs and improve the programme for science and technology and energy-related activities. He urged donors to provide financial resources specifically focused on energy activities so that UNDP could help developing countries make rational use of energy resources.

48. Delegations welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the mobilization of financial resources and inter-agency co-ordination for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy (A/AC.218/16), which was also considered under item 5, and report of the Administrator of UNDP (A/AC.218/17, annex). Many delegations said that inadequate resources had so far been mobilized for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. Some delegations attributed that to the fact that the Programme of Action had not identified quantifiable financial targets. Many delegations stressed that efforts must be made to strengthen mechanisms within the United Nations system for the mobilization of financial resources. Many delegations said that efforts at mobilizing financial resources should be redoubled. Massive financing efforts should be made through bilateral and multilateral channels and through co-operative enterprises. Many delegations noted with concern that the resources of the UNDP Energy Account were depleted and stressed the necessity of replenishing it.

49. One delegation said that the absence of a clear indication of the prospects for resource availability was an obstacle for programme and project preparation but that no resources could be made available in the absence of well prepared programmes and projects - it was a vicious circle. Many delegations felt that the low level of financial contributions for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action was an indication of the lack of commitment of the international community.

50. Many delegations said that consultative meetings were a mechanism for the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action. One delegation explained that there had been no financial targets in the

Programme of Action because it had been argued that appropriate mechanisms already existed in the United Nations system. The same delegation emphasized that if financial resources were a constraint on project formulation, then the Committee must pay more attention to such mechanisms as consultative meetings, which had been held at the global, regional and national levels. The delegation said it did not know how effective the consultative meetings had been in mobilizing additional resources. It suggested, however, that a new round of meetings should be held, but with better preparations. It urged agencies to send decision-makers to the meetings, called upon Governments to be involved in the meetings and appealed to donors to support the consultative mechanism and channel resources to it. In that context, creative and innovative approaches to revitalize the consultative mechanism were called for and it was suggested that the meetings could perhaps focus on a specific source of energy or technology. The delegation stressed the need for working out follow-up action to the meetings. Another delegation stated that consultative meetings should not be considered the only or the most important means of mobilizing additional resources. It added, however, that consultative meetings had met the objective of identifying areas of action and facilitating co-ordination. Yet another delegation said that the convening of such meetings should not lead to any additional expenditures from the United Nations regular budget.

VI. INTER-AGENCY CO-ORDINATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE NAIROBI PROGRAMME OF ACTION

(Agenda item 5)

51. Delegations welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the mobilization of financial resources and inter-agency co-ordination for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy (A/AC.218/16). Many delegations said that improved co-ordination of activities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy was necessary and that the question of inter-agency co-ordination was extremely important for the effective implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and for preventing overlaps in the activities of the United Nations system. Many delegations supported the steps taken to increase inter-agency co-ordination within the United Nations system. They were of the opinion also that special attention should be given to ways and means of ensuring proper international co-ordination in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and to making the best use of the available resources.

52. One delegation said that the output of the Inter-Agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy should be increased and that it should focus on eliminating overlaps and on performing practical tasks that had priority in order to enhance the co-ordinating role of the Committee. The same delegation said that the work of the Secretariat units dealing with energy should be improved. Another delegation said that United Nations inter-agency co-ordination was not as effective as it should be.

VII. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION, AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS
IN THE FIELD OF NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

(Agenda item 6)

53. Delegations welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the United Nations system in research, development and demonstration, and in information systems in the field of new and renewable sources of energy (A/AC.218/13), which demonstrated the important role that the system was playing. The report, which summarized the activities undertaken by the United Nations system, provided a valuable framework for the system's work in this field. The report also reflected the trends and policies in the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy and the difficulties experienced by developing countries in those areas. The two themes of the report were important and had been identified at the Nairobi Conference as areas for priority action. Many delegations, however, said that many relevant activities were being undertaken outside the United Nations system and hoped that information on national experience in the fields of the two themes would be made available during the session and thus enable the Committee to identify action that should be taken in relation to the themes. Some delegations said that the report had considered the scientific aspects of research, development and demonstration but not the economic, social, cultural and administrative ones, which were themselves of great importance.

54. One delegation stressed the need for making steady and continuous efforts to promote international co-operation in research and development and in building up information systems; there was an urgent need for more effective utilization of traditional sources of energy in the developing countries. Another delegation, having noted the continuing role of government in contributing to and promoting certain areas of research and development, said that the commercialization of new technologies should be sought through integrating industry experts in the review and planning stages.

55. One delegation said that the report essentially enumerated the activities of the United Nations system; there was no in-depth analysis of the nature of the activities, including successes or failures. That lowered the quality of the report. Another delegation said that the coverage of research, development and demonstration would have been more useful if the activities had been categorized according to those undertaken in the developing countries and those undertaken within the Organization. Another delegation said that most of the reported activities in research and development concentrated on sophisticated technologies used in developed countries and suggested that less sophisticated technologies used in the developing countries should receive priority in future. Special attention should be given to the adaptation of sophisticated technologies to the particular conditions prevailing in the developing countries.

56. One delegation commended the new approach of concentrating on selected themes for detailed consideration; the practice would have a positive impact on the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. The same delegation suggested two themes for consideration at the fifth session: (a) direct conversion of solar energy to electricity and (b) use of agricultural waste for the production of biogas.

57. Many delegations expressed concern at the decline observed during the decade in the budgets for research and development in the developed countries as it would pose a serious problem for the future energy situation. Some delegations emphasized the importance of ensuring social acceptance as an integral part of introducing new and renewable sources of energy. They said that, since much experience was already available in the developing countries, there was great potential for South-South co-operation in activities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy; they believed that the regional commissions should play a more active role in supporting such co-operation.

58. Many delegations said that optimum use of existing information systems in the field of new and renewable sources of energy could make an important contribution to resolving future energy problems throughout the world. Some delegations found the list of information systems outside the United Nations system valuable. One delegation expressed the need to eliminate some energy-related information systems within the United Nations system and to better co-ordinate activities within the system. Many delegations said that the suggestion for convening an ad hoc panel of experts to prepare specific recommendations on the issues regarding information systems, contained in the report of the Secretary-General, was worth exploring. A few delegations requested further information justifying the need to convene such a meeting. One delegation reiterated the great significance it attached to the work of the United Nations in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and proposed acting as host for a meeting on the provision of information on new and renewable sources of energy.

59. Many delegations referred to the importance they attached to the designation of national focal points through which the Committee was apprised of the extent to which the Nairobi Programme of Action was implemented. They called on the focal points to continue their work of collecting and analysing information on new and renewable sources of energy and requested countries to continue to furnish the Secretariat with the information it required.

60. Delegations welcomed the conclusions and recommendations of the Colloquium of High-level Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (A/AC.218/14, annex) as warranting further study with a view to translating them into practice. Many delegations said that the recommendation to set up a network of international centres for new and renewable sources of energy in the developing countries would constitute a nucleus for the development of information systems in those countries. The proposed centres should interconnect and upgrade existing national institutions. That would reduce overlap and duplication of research and strengthen co-ordination of activities. Existing institutions in the developing countries that had long worked successfully in specialized areas of technologies related to new and renewable sources of energy should be transformed into such centres, which should develop an interdisciplinary approach in future activities. Such centres could be included in a future network for the implementation of concrete projects. Delegations were informed that a project document was being prepared for conducting a survey on the feasibility of establishing the proposed centres.

61. Delegations supported the proposal to collect, analyse and distribute, on a systematic basis, information on successful or not so successful projects in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. Many delegations concurred with the observation that international co-operation in the implementation of activities in new and renewable sources of energy was essential; that Governments should create conditions favourable to industry and private interests so that they could become

more involved in the development, manufacturing, commercialization, application and diffusion of new and renewable sources of energy. Many delegations endorsed the need to give attention to the cultural, social and institutional aspects of energy development and the need to involve women in the planning and implementation of projects in new and renewable sources of energy, including the choice and adaptation of technologies. Many delegations supported the policy measures enumerated by the Colloquium to be taken by Governments, which related to tariffs, energy pricing, specific incentives, norms and standards, creation of the appropriate environment for small industries, services, infrastructures and credit. Many delegations agreed that insufficient attention had been given to follow-up activities related to projects in new and renewable sources of energy after they had been established.

62. Many delegations made detailed presentations on national activities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. They described specific research, development and demonstration activities in, for example, solar, wind, geothermal and hydraulic energy and biomass, including the application of technologies in those areas. Many delegations provided information on national institutions engaged in research, development and demonstration. Such activities revealed the importance that countries had placed on the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, in particular on the two themes being considered by the Committee. Delegations of a number of developing countries said that they had increased their efforts in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and that applications were expanding. Some technologies were already being utilized on a commercial scale, while others were already competitive with those for conventional energy sources. In a few developing countries, industrial infrastructures for the application of new and renewable sources of energy had been developed. Delegations of a number of developed countries expressed willingness to continue bilateral co-operation with developing countries and share with them the know-how developed in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. Bilateral as well as multilateral co-operative activities had already been initiated by some countries. Such activities involved the training of nationals of developing countries in various areas of new and renewable sources of energy and provision of expert services and loans for financing both public and private investments in that field.

63. Delegations of a number of developing countries said that steps had already been taken in their countries to incorporate the development and application of new and renewable sources of energy in the overall national energy programmes. Guidelines on national energy policies containing a strong programme that ensured the harnessing, exploiting and utilizing of new and renewable sources of energy were being developed and implemented.

64. Delegations also described activities related to systems of information. Many delegations stressed the importance of the exchange of information for the national development of new and renewable sources of energy and provided information on national institutions engaged in or with data bases on information systems. Delegations of a number of developing countries said that programmes aimed at the improved collection, analysis and dissemination of information on new and renewable sources of energy had been initiated in their countries.

Draft resolutions A/AC.218/L.18 and L.23

65. At the 7th meeting, on 6 April, the representative of Tunisia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up action regarding research, development and demonstration, and information systems" (A/AC.218/L.18), which read as follows:

"The Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy,

"Recalling the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 1/

"Recalling also General Assembly resolution 41/170 of 5 December 1986, in which the Assembly endorsed the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its third session, 2/ including the decision to adopt a substance-oriented approach for subsequent sessions of the Committee, within the scope of its mandate and without seeking to establish priorities for action, 3/

"1. Welcomes the Colloquium of High-level Experts in New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held at Castelgandolfo, Italy, from 5 to 7 October 1987 and takes note with appreciation of its report; 4/

"2. Calls for the active implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Colloquium, aimed at giving new impetus to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action; such recommendations include:

"(a) For the short term, the carrying out of activities in the areas of efficient utilization of energy, the identification of success stories, the identification of 'threshold' innovations and the promotion of joint ventures in developing countries;

"(b) For the longer term, the studying of the feasibility of establishing a network of centres of excellence of international scope in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

"3. Calls for the convening of an ad hoc panel of experts to prepare specific recommendations regarding information systems on new and renewable

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/41/44).

3/ Ibid., annex, sect. A, resolution 1 (III).

4/ A/AC.218/14, annex.

sources of energy on the basis of the information provided by delegations during the present session of the Committee, as well as other relevant information on the subject;

'4. Requests the Secretary-General to promote the foregoing follow-up actions and to report to the Committee at its fifth session on the progress achieved."

66. At the 8th meeting, on 8 April, the Chairman, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/AC.218/L.18, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up action regarding research, development and demonstration, and information systems" (A/AC.218/L.23).

67. At that meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out the following revisions:

(a) In paragraph 2, the word "following" was inserted before the word "proposals";

(b) In paragraph 2 (b), the word "establishing" was deleted before the words "a comprehensive network";

(c) In paragraph 3, the words "Calls for the convening of" were replaced by the words "Requests the Secretary-General to convene in consultation with interested States," before the words "an ad hoc panel";

(d) Paragraph 4, which read:

"Requests the Secretary-General to carry out the foregoing follow-up actions and to report to the Committee at its fifth session on the progress achieved, without additional cost to the United Nations regular budget."

was revised to read:

"Requests the Secretary-General to promote the foregoing follow-up actions, without additional cost to the United Nations regular budget, and to report to the Committee at its fifth session on the progress achieved."

68. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/AC.218/L.23), as orally revised (see annex, resolution 2 (IV)).

69. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/AC.218/L.23, draft resolution A/AC.218/L.18 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

(Agenda item 8)

A/AC.218/L.20 and A/AC.218/L.24

70. At the 7th meeting, on 6 April, the representative of Tunisia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced the draft conclusions and recommendations contained in document A/AC.218/L.20, which read as follows:

"1. The Committee stressed the importance of the full implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, with a view to contributing to meeting the energy needs of developing and developed countries. The Committee stressed that the United Nations system had a vital role to play. It also stressed that international co-operation was essential in assisting developing countries in their efforts in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, according to their national plans and priorities.

"2. Implementation of the Programme of Action required sustained and continuous effort by the United Nations system through the preparation and execution of programmes and projects, in accordance with national plans and priorities. To that end, a process of successive generation of project and programme proposals would be required. The United Nations system was requested to prepare for each session of the Committee a report containing new project proposals and an update of existing ones, if required, together with information on the status of implementation of the preceding set of projects and programmes.

"3. The Committee, aware of the importance of effective exchange of information for monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action, invited Member States to provide data on national activities in new and renewable sources of energy to the focal point for information in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

"4. The Committee stressed the importance of effective mobilization of the financial resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action. To that end, additional financial resources should be mobilized through the existing financial mechanisms within the United Nations system, including the Energy Account of the United Nations Development Programme.

"5. The Committee emphasized the importance of consultative meetings as a mechanism for the mobilization of additional financial resources. In that regard, the Committee recommended that appropriate preparations for consultative meetings and adequate follow-up action be carried out in order to enhance their effectiveness in mobilizing financial resources. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to innovative approaches in the preparatory process and the scope of the meetings. In that respect, in addition to national, regional and global meetings, meetings centred on specific sources of energy, specific technologies or specific applications and the interregional replication of successful regional projects could also be

envisaged. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the Committee at its fifth session on the progress achieved.

"6. The Committee reiterated the importance of effective co-ordination within the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Inter-Agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy was called upon to intensify its efforts for enhanced co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the Committee at its fifth session on the progress achieved."

71. At the 8th meeting, on 8 April, the Chairman introduced document A/AC.218/L.24, which contained draft conclusions and recommendations drawn up on the basis of informal consultations held on document A/AC.218/L.20.

72. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the conclusions and recommendations in A/AC.218/L.24, which are set out below:

"1. The Committee stressed the importance of the full implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, with a view to contributing to meeting the energy needs of developing and developed countries. The Committee stressed that the United Nations system had a vital role to play. It also stressed that international co-operation was essential in assisting developing countries in their efforts in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, according to their national plans and priorities.

"2. Implementation of the Programme of Action required sustained and continuous effort by the United Nations system through the preparation and execution of programmes and projects, in accordance with national plans and priorities. To that end, a process of successive generation of project and programme proposals would be required. The United Nations system was requested to prepare for each session of the Committee a report containing new project proposals and an update of existing ones, if required, together with information on the status of implementation of the preceding set of projects and programmes.

"3. The Committee, aware of the importance of effective exchange of information for monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action, invited interested Member States to provide appropriate data on national activities in new and renewable sources of energy to the focal point for information in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

"4. The Committee stressed the importance of effective mobilization and utilization of the financial resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action. It stressed also the importance of an effective utilization of financial resources that have already been mobilized. To that end, additional financial resources should be mobilized through the existing financial mechanisms within the United Nations system, including the United Nations Trust Fund for New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the Energy Account of the United Nations Development Programme.

"5. The Committee emphasized the importance of consultative meetings as a mechanism for the mobilization of additional financial resources. In that regard, the Committee recommended that appropriate preparations for consultative meetings and adequate follow-up action be carried out in order to enhance their effectiveness in mobilizing financial resources. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to innovative approaches in the preparatory process and the scope of the meetings. In that respect, in addition to national, regional and global meetings, meetings centred on specific sources of energy, specific technologies or specific applications and the interregional replication of successful regional projects could also be envisaged. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the Committee at its fifth session on the progress achieved.

"6. The Committee reiterated the importance of effective co-ordination within the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Inter-Agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy was called upon to intensify its efforts for enhanced co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the Committee at its fifth session on the progress achieved."

73. In the light of the adoption of the conclusions and recommendations contained in document A/AC.218/L.24, the sponsors withdrew document A/AC.218/L.20.

IX. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY TO THE SPECIAL COMMISSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

Documents A/AC.218/L.21 and Corr.1 and Rev.1

74. At the 6th meeting, on 5 April, the Vice-Chairman introduced document A/AC.218/L.21 and Corr.1 on the Committee's report to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, which read as follows:

"1. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1987/112 of 6 February 1987 and General Assembly decision 42/431 of 14 December 1987, the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy conducted a review of its functioning in order to present its views and proposals on how to improve the implementation of its mandate.

"2. It is understood that the Special Commission has already had one round of discussions on the functioning of the Committee. However, it may be recalled that the Special Commission has done so without the benefit of a submission from the Committee itself on its functioning, including suggestions for possible improvements. The present report is submitted with those considerations in view and includes the views of the experts participating in the fourth session.

"3. The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy was held at Nairobi in August 1981. It adopted the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The Programme, which is the major internationally agreed document in this area, provides a framework for concerted action for the promotion and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, with a view to satisfying future global energy needs by strengthening international co-operation for research and development, mobilizing additional financial resources and providing, through co-operative international efforts, for the exchange of information and training in accordance with national plans and priorities.

"4. The Nairobi Programme of Action provided for the establishment of institutional arrangements, including an intergovernmental body to be designated, co-ordination mechanisms, task forces for implementing specific programmes and projects, and secretariat support. The Conference recommended functions for the intergovernmental body but was not able to resolve the issue of the designation of a body (new or existing) to be entrusted with follow-up functions.

"5. The General Assembly, in resolution 37/250, resolved the issue of the institutional arrangements by deciding to establish the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

"6. The Committee meets every two years, in even-numbered years.

"7. The Committee submits its reports and recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which may transmit to the Assembly such comments on the reports as it may deem necessary. So far the report of the Committee has been transmitted by the Council without substantive comment. The General Assembly has endorsed the Committee's conclusions, recommendations and resolutions.

"8. The Committee was given a number of functions, in particular monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and the activities of the United Nations system in this regard, recommending policy guidelines for the organisations of the United Nations system, formulating and recommending action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Programme, and promoting the mobilization of the financial resources required for the implementation of the Programme.

"9. The Committee has fulfilled its responsibility of providing guidelines for the implementation of the Programme in a professional and comprehensive manner. An initial framework for action by the United Nations system was set out, and guidelines were given for preparing concrete projects and programmes on the basis of the priorities of the Programme. In order to provide continuity to the efforts of the United Nations system, guidelines were also given for updating existing project proposals and for preparing new proposals, when necessary. With a view to increasing the effectiveness of the Committee's work, attention is focused on a limited number of key areas at each session.

"10. Secretariat support arrangements were defined by General Assembly resolution 37/250. They include a Special Co-ordinator for New and Renewable Sources of Energy in the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and a small, separate and identifiable New and Renewable Sources of Energy Unit in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. These arrangements (consisting of four Professional staff) were designed to give the area visibility and effectiveness while avoiding the establishment of a large and costly secretariat structure.

"11. The critical importance of energy for development and economic growth has increased over time. An orderly transition from an energy mix based primarily on hydrocarbons to one based increasingly on new and renewable sources of energy as described in the Nairobi Programme of Action (para. 7) continues to be an important international objective. Recent fluctuations in energy markets and their impact on the priority given by some Governments to energy issues do not affect longer-term prospects in this regard. It was agreed from the beginning and has been regularly repeated that the implementation of the Nairobi Programme is a long-term endeavour and that the resolve to carry it out should not be affected by short-term fluctuations in energy markets. Developing countries should continue to increase their energy demand to support their economic development efforts and improve the living conditions of their people, especially in rural areas.

"12. The full implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action is thus of paramount importance in meeting the energy needs of developed and developing countries. The United Nations system has a crucial role to play in implementing the Programme, and, in this regard, an active intergovernmental

role is required. Many delegations felt that the Committee, therefore, had an important role to play in ensuring adequate monitoring of the implementation of the Programme, recommending policy guidelines for the United Nations system, formulating and recommending action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Programme of Action, and promoting the mobilization of the financial resources required in the implementation of the Programme. In the opinion of these delegations, the Committee deserves the full support of the international community in fulfilling its mandate as an intergovernmental body.

"13. Other delegations were of the opinion that because of the irregular attendance at sessions of the Committee, it proved difficult to have a really fruitful discussion and arrive at satisfactory results. These delegations felt that the important issue of new and renewable sources of energy deserved to be treated more effectively and efficiently and merited an improved overall level of participation. As regards the future discussion on new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system, these delegations stressed that due account should be given to the distinctive, though interrelated, objectives that the Nairobi Programme of Action addresses: (i) meeting small-scale energy requirements for rural development; and (ii) developing long-term energy options in the face of oil price fluctuations, environmental protection and depletion of natural resources.

"14. These and various other delegations presented options, such as merging the Committee with other bodies dealing with related areas, i.e. the Committee on Natural Resources and the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, or having the Economic and Social Council assume direct responsibility for the functions of the Committee. Some delegations would not object to combining the Committee with the Committee on Natural Resources, provided that the questions now dealt with by the Committee would be included in the programme of work of the Committee on Natural Resources. As to secretariat services, these delegations believe that they could be provided, mainly by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

"15. Many delegations considered that the technical capability of the Committee could be further improved by establishing a standing high-level expert group that would assist the Committee in its work. The expert group would be entrusted with the task of providing, *inter alia*, technical advice in carrying out programmes and projects, assistance in strengthening R and D institutions, a forum for the exchange of technical information, and in-depth technical analyses on the basis of topics selected at each session of the Committee for discussion at its following session. In addition, the expert group would assist the Committee in making the necessary preparations for each of its sessions. The expert group should be established without incurring any additional costs.

"16. Many other delegations felt that the possibility of establishing an expert group with limited membership was worth exploring. Most of those delegations considered that such an expert group, if established, should replace the Committee and that the intergovernmental discussion of the report of such a group should be conducted by the Economic and Social Council.

"17. It was understood that before a decision could be taken on the establishment of an expert group, more information should be provided on its terms of reference and composition and on the institutional, legal and financial implications.

"18. It was stressed that the United Nations system was the most important channel for the mobilization of the financial resources required for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

"19. In addition, the Committee reconfirmed the importance of consultative meetings as a means of mobilizing additional financial resources. The necessary guidelines were provided by the Committee at its first and second sessions (A/38/44, para. 81, and A/39/44, para. 74), with a view to making these meetings more towards resource mobilization than towards general discussion. [It was stressed that appropriate information was required for effective monitoring at the intergovernmental level.]

"20. Even though improvements in the follow-up of meetings could assist in translating intentions into actual contributions, the limited results achieved so far are an indication of insufficient political will to support the implementation of the Programme of Action. Another indication of such an unfortunate and undesirable situation is the lack of financial resources available in the UNDP Energy Account, in spite of the Committee's appeal for additional voluntary contributions.

"21. Information plays an important role in the implementation of the Programme of Action. A positive indication of the great interest of all countries in this regard is that over 130 national focal points for new and renewable sources of energy have already been designated. In this connection, the work carried out by the Secretariat is commendable, as shown by the increased statistical coverage of activities related to new and renewable sources of energy and by timely responses to information requests.

"22. Co-ordination of activities of the United Nations system is another key issue in the effective implementation of the Programme. It requires continuous effort by the system and deserves particular attention from the Committee, so that the available resources may be utilized effectively. In this regard, the ACC Inter-Agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy has an important role to play."

75. At the 8th meeting, on 8 April, the Chairman introduced document A/AC.218/L.21/Rev.1 containing the Vice-Chairman's text on the Committee's report to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, drawn up on the basis of informal consultations held on document A/AC.218/L.21 and Corr.1.

76. At that meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out the following revisions:

(a) The beginning of paragraphs 14 and 16, which read respectively: "Many delegations" and "Many other delegations", were revised to read: "A number of other delegations";

(b) The following sentence was added at the end of paragraph 14: "Many other delegations felt that the present Secretariate arrangements had functioned in a satisfactory manner and should therefore be maintained.";

(c) The third and fourth sentences of paragraph 15, which read: "These delegations considered that the technical capability of the Committee could be further improved by establishing a standing high-level expert group that would assist the Committee in its work. The expert group, taking into account equitable geographical distribution, would be entrusted with the task of providing, inter alia, technical advice in carrying out programmes and projects, assistance in strengthening R and D institutions, a forum for the exchange of technical information, and in-depth technical analyses on the basis of topics selected at each session of the Committee for discussion at its following session.;" were reworded by moving the words "taking into account equitable geographical distribution" between the words "by establishing," and the words "a standing high-level expert group".

77. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the Vice-Chairman's text, as orally revised, as set out below:

"1. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1987/112 of 6 February 1987 and General Assembly decision 42/431 of 14 December 1987, the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy conducted a review of its functioning in order to present its views and proposals to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields.

"2. It is understood that the Special Commission has already had one round of discussions on the functioning of the Committee. However, it may be recalled that the Special Commission has done so without the benefit of a submission from the Committee itself on its functioning, including suggestions for possible improvements. The present report is submitted with those considerations in view and includes the views of the experts participating in the fourth session.

"3. The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy was held at Nairobi in August 1981. It adopted the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The Programme, which is the major internationally agreed document in this area, provides a framework for concerted action for the promotion and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, with a view to satisfying future global energy needs by strengthening international co-operation for research and development, mobilizing additional financial resources and providing, through co-operative international efforts, for the exchange of information and training in accordance with national plans and priorities.

"4. The Nairobi Programme of Action provided for the establishment of institutional arrangements, including an intergovernmental body to be designated, co-ordination mechanisms, task forces for implementing specific programmes and projects, and secretariat support. The Conference recommended functions for the intergovernmental body but was not able to resolve the issue of the designation of a body (new or existing) to be entrusted with follow-up functions.

"5. The General Assembly, in resolution 37/250, resolved the issue of the institutional arrangements by deciding to establish the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

"6. The Committee meets every two years, in even-numbered years.

"7. The Committee submits its reports and recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which may transmit to the Assembly such comments on the reports as it may deem necessary. So far the report of the Committee has been transmitted by the Council without substantive comment. The General Assembly has endorsed the Committee's conclusions, recommendations and resolutions.

"8. The Committee was given a number of functions, in particular monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and the activities of the United Nations system in this regard, recommending policy guidelines for the organizations of the United Nations system, formulating and recommending action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Programme, and promoting the mobilization of the financial resources required for the implementation of the Programme.

"9. The Committee had elaborated an initial framework for action by the United Nations system and guidelines were given for preparing concrete projects and programmes on the basis of the priorities of the Programme. In order to provide continuity to the efforts of the United Nations system, guidelines were also given for updating existing project proposals and for preparing new proposals, when necessary. With a view to increasing the effectiveness of the Committee's work, attention is focused on a limited number of key areas at each session. Many delegations said that the Committee had fulfilled its responsibility of providing guidelines for the implementation of the Programme in a professional and comprehensive manner.

"10. Secretariat support arrangements were defined by General Assembly resolution 37/250. They include a Special Co-ordinator for New and Renewable Sources of Energy in the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and a small, separate and identifiable New and Renewable Sources of Energy Unit in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. These arrangements (consisting of four Professional staff) were designed to give the area visibility and effectiveness while avoiding the establishment of a large and costly secretariat structure.

"11. The critical importance of energy for development and economic growth has increased over time. An orderly transition from an energy mix based primarily on hydrocarbons to one based increasingly on new and renewable sources of energy as described in the Nairobi Programme of Action (para. 7) continues to be an important international objective. Recent fluctuations in energy markets and their impact on the priority given by some Governments to energy issues do not affect longer-term prospects in this regard. It was agreed from the beginning and has been regularly repeated that the implementation of the Programme is a long-term endeavour and that the resolve to carry it out should not be affected by short-term fluctuations in energy markets. Developing countries should continue to increase their energy demand to support their economic development efforts and improve the living conditions of their people, especially in rural areas.

"12. The full implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action is thus of paramount importance in meeting the energy needs of developed and developing countries. The United Nations system has a crucial role to play in implementing the Programme, and, in this regard, an active intergovernmental role is required. Many delegations felt that the Committee, therefore, had an important role to play in ensuring adequate monitoring of the implementation of the Programme, recommending policy guidelines for the United Nations system, formulating and recommending action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Programme of Action, and promoting the mobilization of the financial resources required in the implementation of the Programme. In the opinion of these delegations, the Committee deserves the full support of the international community in fulfilling its mandate as an intergovernmental body. The need to improve the agenda was mentioned as another direction for possible progress. The recently adopted thematic approach represents a positive step in this direction, but further progress should be sought through the selection of appropriate themes and the elimination of unduly repetitive items.

"13. Other delegations were of the opinion that because of the irregular attendance at sessions of the Committee, it proved difficult to have a really fruitful discussion and arrive at satisfactory results. These delegations felt that the important issue of new and renewable sources of energy deserved to be treated more effectively and efficiently and merited an improved overall level of participation. Regarding the future discussion on new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system, these delegations stressed that due account should be given to the distinctive, though interrelated, objectives that the Nairobi Programme of Action addresses: (a) meeting small-scale energy requirements for rural development; and (b) developing long-term energy options in the face of oil price fluctuations, environmental protection and depletion of natural resources. However, many delegations stressed that the Nairobi Programme of Action was an integrated and comprehensive endeavour, which needs to be carried out in a unified and coherent manner, and that a piecemeal approach would, therefore, only result in undermining the implementation of the Programme.

"14. A number of other delegations presented options, such as merging the Committee with other bodies dealing with related areas, i.e. the Committee on Natural Resources and the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, or having the Economic and Social Council assume direct responsibility for the functions of the Committee. Some delegations would not object to combining the Committee with the Committee on Natural Resources, provided that the questions now dealt with by the Committee would be included in the programme of work of the Committee on Natural Resources. As to secretariat services, these delegations believe that, at the same time, the role of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development should be borne in mind. Many other delegations felt that the present Secretariat arrangements had functioned in a satisfactory manner and should therefore be maintained.

"15. Many delegations felt that those options would not lead to any improvement. In particular, they stressed that merging the Committee with other bodies was likely to result instead in a deterioration of the intergovernmental debate on new and renewable sources of energy, as focus on this issue and opportunity for in-depth technical discussions would be lost.

These delegations considered that the technical capability of the Committee could be further improved by establishing, taking into account equitable geographical distribution, a standing high-level expert group that would assist the Committee in its work. The expert group would be entrusted with the task of providing, *inter alia*, technical advice in carrying out programmes and projects, assistance in strengthening R and D institutions, a forum for the exchange of technical information, and in-depth technical analyses on the basis of topics selected at each session of the Committee for discussion at its following session. In addition, the expert group would assist the Committee in making the necessary preparations for each of its sessions. The expert group should be established without incurring any additional costs.

"16. A number of other delegations felt that the possibility of establishing an expert group with limited membership was worth exploring. Several of those delegations considered that such an expert group, if established, should replace the Committee and that the intergovernmental discussion of the report of such a group should be conducted by the Economic and Social Council.

"17. It was understood that before a decision could be taken on the establishment of an expert group, more information should be provided on its terms of reference and composition and on the institutional, legal and financial implications.

"18. It was stressed that the United Nations system was one of the most important channels for the mobilization of the financial resources required for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action in assisting efforts of developing countries in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, according to their national plans and priorities.

"19. In addition, the Committee reconfirmed the importance of consultative meetings as a means of mobilizing additional financial resources. Their effectiveness in mobilizing additional resources has, however, not been conclusively ascertained. It is therefore important to strengthen efforts in improving the preparation and follow-up of consultative meetings in order to enhance their operation. The necessary guidelines were provided by the Committee at its first and second sessions (A/38/44, para. 81, and A/39/44, para. 74), with a view to making these meetings more oriented towards resource mobilization than towards general discussion. The Committee, at its previous sessions, called for the convening of consultative meetings at national, regional and global levels and requested to consider the convening of future consultative meetings, when appropriate. It was stressed that appropriate information was required for effective monitoring at the intergovernmental level.

"20. Many delegations felt that even though improvements in the follow-up of meetings could assist in translating intentions into actual contributions, the limited results achieved so far are an indication of insufficient political will to support the implementation of the Programme of Action. Another indication of such an unfortunate and undesirable situation is the lack of financial resources available in the UNDP Energy Account, in spite of the Committee's appeal for additional voluntary contributions.

"21. Information plays an important role in the implementation of the Programme of Action. A positive indication of the great interest of all

countries in this regard is that over 130 national focal points for new and renewable sources of energy have already been designated. In this connection, the work carried out by the Secretariat is commendable, as shown by the increased statistical coverage of activities related to new and renewable sources of energy and by timely responses to information requests.

"22. Co-ordination of activities of the United Nations system is another key issue in the effective implementation of the Programme. It requires continuous effort by the system and deserves particular attention from the Committee, so that the available resources may be utilized effectively. In this regard, the ACC Inter-Agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy has an important role to play."

**X. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION
FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE**

(Agenda item 7)

78. At its 8th meeting, on 8 April, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its fifth session and the list of documentation, as revised during the discussion (see annex, decision 1 (IV)).

XI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FOURTH SESSION

(Agenda item 8)

Draft report A/AC.218/L.16 and Add.1-5

79. At its 8th meeting, on 8 April, the Committee adopted the draft report on its fourth session (A/AC.218/L.16 and Add.1-5) as orally revised during the discussion.

ANNEX

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy at its fourth session

A. Resolutions

- 1 (IV). Enhancing the activities of the United Nations system to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy

The Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy,

Mindful of General Assembly resolution 40/178 of 17 December 1985 on strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of international economic, scientific-technological and social co-operation, in which the Assembly stressed the willingness of Member States to strengthen the United Nations system as a framework for constructive dialogue and joint efforts in solving international economic, scientific-technological and social problems, especially problems confronting the developing countries,

Recalling the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, a/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/205 of 17 December 1985 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, in particular the recommendations concerning energy, contained in part two, section IV, of the annex to that resolution,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 41/170 of 5 December 1986, in which the Assembly endorsed the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its third session, b/ including the decision to adopt a substance-oriented approach for subsequent sessions of the Committee, within the scope of its mandate and without seeking to establish priorities for action. c/

Recalling further General Assembly decision 38/429 of 19 December 1983 and Economic and Social Council decision 1984/182 of 27 July 1984 relating to biennial consideration of reports of intergovernmental bodies,

a/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

b/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/41/44).

c/ Ibid., annex, sect. A, resolution 1 (III).

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council decision 1987/112 of 6 February 1987 and General Assembly decision 42/431 of 11 December 1987 relating to the establishment of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields,

1. Decides to include in the provisional agenda for its fifth session, for detailed consideration, the themes:

(a) Contribution of new and renewable sources of energy to integrated rural development;

(b) Specific issues:

(i) Direct solar-to-electrical energy conversion;

(ii) Utilization of agricultural residues and urban wastes for energy production;

2. Invites interested States to inform the Committee at its fifth session of their ongoing practical and scientific activities and/or evaluations with regard to the selected substantive themes;

3. Invites interested States and organizations of the United Nations system as well as other interested organizations to convene, without additional costs for the United Nations regular budget, technical and scientific meetings related to the substantive themes that would contribute to their in-depth examination and to inform the Committee at its fifth session of the results of those meetings;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare an analytical report for consideration by the Committee at its fifth session based on an in-depth study of the current stage of achievements in States regarding the selected themes;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to provide a report for consideration by the Committee at its fifth session on the activities of the United Nations system in that regard in order to facilitate a more effective exchange of information and experience regarding the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy.

8th meeting
8 April 1988

2 (IV). Follow-up action regarding research, development and demonstration, and information systems

The Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy,

Recalling the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, a/

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 41/170 of 5 December 1986, in which the Assembly endorsed the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its third session, b/ including the decision to adopt a substance-oriented approach for subsequent sessions of the Committee, within the scope of its mandate and without seeking to establish priorities for action, c/

1. Welcomes the Colloquium of High-level Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held at Castelgandolfo, Italy, from 5 to 7 October 1987 and takes note with appreciation of its report; d/

2. Calls for the active implementation of the following proposals contained in the conclusions and recommendations of the Colloquium, aimed at giving new impetus to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action:

(a) For the short term, the carrying out of activities in the areas of efficient utilization of energy, the identification of success stories, the identification of "threshold" innovations and the promotion of joint ventures in developing countries;

(b) For the longer term, the studying of the feasibility of a comprehensive network of centres of excellence of international scope in the field of new and renewable sources of energy building on the positive experiences of the existing network while avoiding undue duplication;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to convene, in consultation with interested States, an ad hoc panel of experts to prepare specific recommendations regarding information systems on new and renewable sources of energy on the basis of the information provided by delegations during the present session of the Committee, as well as other relevant information on the subject;

a/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

b/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/41/44).

c/ Ibid., annex, sect. A, resolution 1 (III).

d/ A/AC.218/14, annex.

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to promote the foregoing follow-up actions, without additional cost to the United Nations regular budget, and to report to the Committee at its fifth session on the progress achieved.

8th meeting
8 April 1988

B. Decision

1 (IV). **Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifth session of the Committee on the Development and Utilisation of New and Renewable Sources of Energy**

At its 8th meeting, on 8 April 1988, the Committee on the Development and Utilisation of New and Renewable Sources of Energy approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifth session set out below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Substantive themes selected for detailed consideration:
 - (a) Follow-up action on the proposals contained in the conclusions and recommendations of the Castelgandolfo Colloquium of High-level Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy;
 - (b) Follow-up actions on systems of information;
 - (c) Consideration of themes selected for detailed consideration at the fifth session:
 - (i) Contribution of new and renewable sources of energy to integrated rural development;
 - (ii) Specific issues:
 - a. Direct solar-to-electrical energy conversion;
 - b. Utilization of agricultural residues and urban wastes for energy production.
4. Implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilisation of New and Renewable Sources of Energy:
 - (a) Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;
 - (b) Recommendation of policy guidelines for different organs, organisations and bodies within the United Nations system with regard to new and renewable sources of energy on the basis of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

- (c) Formulation and recommendation of action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action in accordance with the priorities identified therein;
 - (d) Promotion of the mobilization of financial resources required in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action;
 - (e) Inter-agency co-ordination for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.
- [5. Consideration of the draft medium-term plan in the field of new and renewable sources of energy.]

Documentation

1. Report of the Secretary-General based on an in-depth study of the current stage of achievements in Member States regarding the themes selected for detailed consideration at the fifth session.
2. Report of the Secretary-General on activities of the United Nations system with respect to the themes selected for detailed consideration at the fifth session.
3. Report of the Secretary-General:
 - (a) Progress achieved regarding the implementation of the proposals contained in the conclusions and recommendations of the Castelgandolfo Colloquium of High-level Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy;
 - (b) Specific recommendations regarding systems of information in the area of new and renewable sources of energy.
4. Report of the Secretary-General:
 - (a) Project proposals of entities within the United Nations system and status of their implementation;
 - (b) Progress achieved with respect to resource mobilization, including consultative meetings, and inter-agency co-ordination.

كيفية الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة

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