# Report of the Workshop to Launch the Thematic Programme Network on Renewable Sources of Energy and Environmentally Sound Technologies within the context of the Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in Africa (TPN5)

Nairobi, 5 – 6 May 2004

## I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the recommendations of the subregional workshop on the promotion of renewable sources of energy, which was held in Tunis on 28 and 239 October 1998, and after the discussion between the institutional focal points (Agence nationale des energies renouvelables (ANER) and Environnement et dévéloppement du tiers monde (ENDA-TM), the Global Mechanism and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)), which was also held in Tunis, it was agreed that a workshop should be held to launch the activities of the TPN5 network that would bring together some of the potential members (governmental, non-governmental organizations, private sector and so on) and major partners, that are active in the area of renewable sources of energy. The Network would be launched on 5 and 6 May 2004 at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.

2. Experts from a number of countries and representatives of regional and subregional institutions, non-governmental organizations, Desertification Convention liaison centres and certain international institutions such as the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Drylands Development Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and bilateral partners participated. A detailed list of participants is contained in annex III to the present report.

## II. Opening of the meeting

3. Mr. Sékou Touré, Director-General of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, chaired the opening ceremony.

4. The representative of UNEP recalled that there were direct linkages between renewable energy sources, the environment and sustainable development. In that connection, the Desertification Convention secretariat had undertaken activities specifically designed to promote renewable energy in Africa. Also, the workshop on launching TPN5 was taking place in parallel with a meeting on eliminating the use of lead in gasoline in sub-Saharan Africa. The recommendations of the two meetings would be discussed by the meeting of African ministers of energy, which would take place on 8 May 2004.

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5. Mr. Mansour N'Diaye, representative of the UNCCD thanked UNEP and the Kenyan Authorities, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention to combat desertification for their very close cooperation in the preparations for the workshop launching the TPN5 network.

6. He recalled that the Regional Action Programme to combat desertification control programme of action process had been endorsed in Nairobi in 1999 by the African political authorities. Progress had been made since the priority activities of the Regional Action Programme had been adopted, including the Programme Network on Renewable Sources of Energy.

7. He recalled the principal goal of the launch of TPN5, stressing that specific projects must be elaborated and must also be provided with sufficient funding. Also, the experts must take advantage of the recent initiatives by many cooperation partners to encourage renewable-energy-source-related projects. He also mentioned the desertification control projects in the Action Plan for the Environmental Initiative of NEPAD, which included activities to promote renewable sources of energy.

8. The UNCCD secretariat is ready to continue and to strengthen cooperation with the TPN5 network, as were all those participating in that major aspect of the Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in Africa.

9. Mr. N. J. Ondijo (Deputy First Secretary, Ministry of Environment of Kenya) stated that Kenya was a State party to the Desertification Convention and had formulated a national programme of action to combat the phenomenon. Kenya hoped that the activities of its national programme of action would be closely linked to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) subregional action programme and to the regional action programme for Africa.

10. He stressed that achieving Kenya's development objectives would be feasible only if all sectors received sustainable services that were affordable and cost-effective and added that the energy sector was crucial to the development of any country and there was often a correlation between increased per capita consumption of conventional energy and a country's gross domestic product (GDP).

11. Kenya's energy sources were both conventional (electricity, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), kerosene, oil, wind and solar) and traditional biomass (firewood, charcoal and agricultural residues). Kenya's biomass energy was derived from forests, woodlands, bushland, farmland, plantations, agricultural and industrial biomass residues, which accounted for about 80 per cent of total primary energy consumption in Kenya, with 45 per cent of the biomass coming from forests, woodlands and bushland. About 90 per cent of rural and 7 per cent of urban households used firewood, 82 per cent of urban and 34 per cent of rural households consumed charcoal, 20 per cent of households used farm residues, and 3 per cent of rural households used wood waste. That trend was on the increase and would have significant implications for Kenya's vegetation cover and environment unless alternative sources of energy were popularized.

12. The key causes of desertification in Kenya were fuelwood use and collection, charcoal production and timber cutting and production. The consequences of desertification were soil erosion, siltation and land degradation. The Government of Kenya and the public were doing much to promote sustainable use of biomass energy sources through various strategies that included the following:

    1. Promoting planting of fast-maturing trees for energy production;
    2. Enhanced public participation in energy issues through a programme implemented by the Ministry of Energy and non-governmental organizations;
    3. Promoting charcoal briquetting from all types of biomass sources;
    4. Improving the efficiency and increasing the penetration of efficient fuelwood and charcoal stoves;
    5. Introducing efficient charcoal kilns in charcoal-producing areas;
    6. Encouraging the establishment of commercial woodlots, including periurban plantations;
    7. Establishing jua kali (informal) industries in rural trading centres to manufacture improved charcoal and fuelwood cooking stoves;
    8. Training jua kali artisans in the manufacture, installation and maintenance of renewable energy technologies;
    9. Promoting private-sector participation in biomass energy production, distribution and marketing.

13. In his view, the above were pertinent issues that the meeting could address, and he invited experts to seek solutions for Africa as a whole, given that most African countries had problems similar to those of Kenya.

## III. Election of the Bureau

14. After consultations, the Bureau was constituted as follows:
    Two Vice-Chairs: ANER and ENDA, as the institutional focal points for TPN5;
    Two Rapporteurs: the African Energy Policy Research Network (AFREPEN), representing civil society and non-governmental organizations, and the national expert of Guinea.

## IV. Adoption of the agenda

15. The following agenda was adopted:

    1. Opening of the workshop.
    2. Election of the Bureau of the workshop, adoption of the draft programme and introduction of the participants.
    3. Presentation of the principal aspects of the UNCCD Regional Programme of Action for Africa and status of the implementation and launching of the activities

of the thematic programme network (TPN) (presentation by Mr. Moïse Aklé, UNCCD Regional Coordinator for Africa).

4. Experience of the networks in Africa (presentations by the representatives of IEPF and ADB).
5. Renewable energy sources, combating development and sustainable development in Africa: the role and objectives of TPN5 (presentation by Mr. Naceur Hammami, ANER Tunisia, focal point for the TPN5 Network).
6. Summary of responses to questionnaires: draft programme of action for the Network (presentation by Mr. Youba Sokona, ENDA-TM, joint focal point for TPN5):

   **Work in groups**

   *Theme 1:* Organization of the network, information system, monitoring and evaluation system (indicators)

   *Theme 2:* Programme of work: allocation of tasks and responsibilities, and funding

   Partners' statement on the results of the workshop
7. Presentation, discussion and validation of the outcomes and recommendations of the groups.
8. Presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop.
9. Closure of the meeting.

## V. Major issues of the Desertification Convention's Africa regional action programme and progress made in implementing activities of the thematic programme networks (*Mr. Moïse Aklé, UNCCD Regional Coordinator for Africa)*

16. Mr. Moïse Aklé, UNCCD Regional Coordinator for Africa gave a presentation on the UNCCD regional action programme in the context of the TPN process, which was being carried out pursuant to article 11 of the Convention proper and with articles 11 and 13 of its regional annex for Africa.

17. The regional action programme was based on resolution 2 of the Pan-African Ministerial Conference held in Ouagadougou in March 1997 and on other relevant decisions by the African Ministerial Conference held in preparation for the third Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD. The Convention secretariat had been entrusted with facilitating the launching of six thematic programme networks. To date, the following networks had been launched:

   (a) TPN1, on integrated water resource management, launched in November-December 2000 in Accra, for English-speaking West Africa;
   (b) TPN2, on agro forestry and soil conservation, launched in June 2001 in Lomé, for French-speaking West Africa;
   (c) TPN3, on the promotion of the rational use of rangeland and the development of fodder crops, launched in November 2001 in Maseru, Lesotho, for southern Africa;
   (d) TPN4, on ecological monitoring, natural resource mapping, remote sensing and early warning systems, launched in October 2002 in Tunis, for North Africa;

(e) TPN5, on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and ecotechnologies, which was currently being launched;
(f) TPN6, on the promotion of sustainable farming systems, which would be launched in November-December 2004.

18. Finally, he put forward a number of suggestions relating to organizational matters and set out the results expected of the meeting. He also said that the principal recommendations of the current meeting would constitute part of the network's programme of work, and that its final recommendation would be considered by the ministers of energy at their meeting on 8 May 2004.

## VI. Experience of networks in Africa: *statement by Boufeldja Benabdallah représentative of the « Institut de l'Energie et de l'Environnement de la Francophonie » (IEPF)*

19. The representative of the Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF) recalled that the institute had been set up in 1987 by the General Conference of the Agence de coopération culturelle et technique (ACCT) pursuant to the decisions of the first two summit meetings of heads of State and Government of countries sharing the use of the French language. He reviewed the various networks of experts under the institute and noted their achievements in these networks.

20. The IEPF expert networks are the following:

GBE: Bioenergy-environment group (set up in 1988);
GITER: International technical group on rural electrification (set up in 1989);
RIES: International solar energy network (set up in 1991);
GEMFOR: Group of experts on training (set up in 1989);
AFFI: Association forestière francophone internationale (International Francophone Forestry Association) (set up in 1997);
RIED: International sustainable energy network.

21. In conclusion, the IEPF representative expressed the hope that everyone would use their imagination in overcoming administrative obstacles and finding new ways of gaining access to energy. In his view, the networks offered a more effective response to complex and often uncertain global and regional problems, in that they took more specific account of actual experience. This letter point was important when considering the possibility of an observatory.

22. This, as demonstrated by all the activities that had been conducted, the networks had been pioneers in the emergence of ideas, concepts, procedures and modalities for capacity-building.They had proved remarkably effective in incubating ideas which had already been put into practice.

23. M. Benabdallah then reviewed the ex post facto organizational evaluation of the IEPF networks which had been carried out in St. Cassin in 1998. The evaluation had revealed such positive features of the network as: the emergence of new thinking, the

mobilization of skills, support by national authorities for capacity building, field-testing of approaches and the exchange of experience.

24. Finally, he stressed that efforts must be made to ensure coherence between the mission of the parent institution and the missions of the various networks.

## VII. Networks' experience in Africa: *Presentation by M.* Wim Klunne, *African Development Bank(ADB)*

25. Mr. Wim Klunne of the African Development Bank presented an overview of the ADB FINESSE Africa program. He started by pointing out that ADB was looking into the delivery of affordable, economically acceptable and environmentally sound energy services, which were central to Africa's economic development and poverty eradication.

26. He went on to observe that, although energy issues on the African content required serious attention, the renewable energy related activities of the ADB had to date been limited. In the period between 1967 to 2001 of the over $4 billion invested by the Bank in the energy sector, only 1.1 per cent was devoted to renewable energy. A large proportion of that amount was used to execute studies. The main reasons for renewable energy projects lacking in the Bank's project portfolio are the inadequate awareness of the existence of alternative energy investment opportunities in Africa and the fact that regional member countries had made scarce mention of alternative energy as priorities in their development needs.

27. To address that issue, ADB had embarked on the FINESSE Africa program. This $5.3 million project funded by the Netherlands Government would run for 4 years. The overall goal of the ADB FINESSE Africa program was to assist countries in Africa, working through the Bank, to formulate appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks and develop capacity to generate a pipeline of investment projects in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The FINESSE approach would thus focus on pre-investment activities (policy dialogues, institutional strengthening and capacity development) to support the dissemination and commercialization of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies across Africa. The specific objectives of the initiative were to increase capacity of the ADB staff to deal with alternative energy issues, establish African countries' ownership and commitment to renewable energy programmes and identify and prepare alternative energy components to be included in the Bank's portfolio.

28. He ended his overview of the ADB FINESSE programme by pointing out that, next to the programme, the Bank received funds from CIDA (Canada), DANIDA trust fund (Denmark), NORAD (Norway) and SIDA (Sweden) for renewable energy-related activities.

## VIII. Renewable energy, Combating desertification and Sustainable Development in Africa; Role and objectives of the TPN5 (*Presentation by*

***Mr. Naceur Hammami, Agence nationale des énergies renouvelables, Tunisia, Institutional Focal Point for TPN5*)**

29. Mr. Naceur Hammami, institutional focal point for TPN5, noted that energy was at the heart of the environment-development debate, as an indispensable motor for economic and social development. He pointed out that energy use was one of the major causes of global environmental deterioration, owing in particular to greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and desertification.

30. For Africa, he emphasized, energy issues fell within a framework that also included numerous other challenges facing the continent, notably: economic growth, poverty eradication, and the fight against desertification. A sizeable proportion of the population of the African countries still lacked access to modern energy services. For those populations, energy was an essential component of all activity aimed at maintaining a minimum level of economic and social development, and it was essential to meeting day-to-day needs with regard to water, food, health, education, and so on. Given the fundamental role of these services, it was obvious that making them widely available had to figure among sustainable development priorities.

31. The use of renewable sources of energy, as a tool for promoting economic development and combating desertification and poverty, therefore represented a major challenge for the energy future of the world, and in particular for that of Africa, for three main reasons: renewable energy technologies are practical and well-suited to decentralized uses in developing countries; the potential for mobilization of renewable energy is significant; and the exploitation of that potential will entail many fewer local environmental problems than fossil fuels.

32. For that reason, the regional workshop on the promotion of a thematic network on renewable energies and eco-technologies within the framework of the Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in Africa (RAP/CCD), held in Tunis in October 1998, had proposed the creation of a network which would bring together a variety of stakeholders and which would play an important role in the development of this sector.

33. This initiative had taken solid form in October 1999 in Nairobi, one year after the African ministerial conference/regional preparatory conference for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD had, with a view to promoting sustainable development, endorsed the proposal and designated the Agence Nationale des Energies Renouvelables (ANER) of Tunisia, in collaboration with Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde (ENDA/TM), as the institutional focal point for the African thematic programme network on renewable sources of energy (TPN5) in the framework of the Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in Africa. The network comprised various public and private institutions and agencies specializing in the priority areas of concern, associations representing civil society, NGOs active in the fight against desertification and development partners. It provided a framework for bringing together institutions and organizations in order to foster better collaboration, dialogue, coordination and harmonization of policies and strategies in the context of implementing the Regional Action Programme in Africa.

34. He pointed out that the current global context was increasingly favourable to the development of renewable sources of energy. Financing mechanisms were being put in place, including through GEF, UNDP, UNEP, and certain bilateral partners, ADB, IEPF, UNESCO and other institutions.

## IX. Synthesis of questionnaires and TPN5 draft Action Programme

**(*Presented by Mr. Youba Sokona, ENDA Tiers Monde, co-focal point for TPN5*)**

35. Mr. Youba Sokona summarized the responses to the questionnaires that had been sent to various stakeholders working in the renewable energy sector in Africa.

36. The 43 questionnaires analysed revealed that the majority (51 per cent) of the stakeholders already belonged to an energy network. The responses indicated that they all supported the creation of a broader network, to which each expressed a desire to contribute.

37. The primary expectation was that the network would make possible linkages for the exchange of information and the sharing of experience between stakeholders in the energy sector, via e-mail and dissemination of written materials, which were cited by the majority of respondents as prime tools of communication.

38. The representative of ENDA also pointed out that energy was again on the agenda of development agencies (CSD). He stressed that the International Conference for Renewable Energies, to be held from 1 to 4 June 2004, in Bonn, would give particular attention to support for field projects.

39. Concerning the TPN5 programme of action, he noted the following elements:

- The contribution of the emergence of a political climate favourable to increased use of new and renewable sources of energy;
- The creation of financing and credit mechanisms for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy;
- The collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant information on new and renewable sources of energy;
- Increased use of local resources, capitalizing on the results of research on a regional scale through NEPAD and the African Energy Commission;
- Strengthening of public-private partnerships for the promotion of new and renewable energy sources;
- The African observatory of new and renewable energy sources;
- Development of equipment production infrastructures.

40. Finally, Mr. Sokona offered some suggestions as to the strategy to be followed in implementing the network. This strategy should include:

- Identification of one or two very small-scale, low-cost activities;
- Identification and use of what already exists;
- Identification of actors who can play a major role and of the minimum necessary financing.

## X. Presentations by countries, sub regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector

41. The representatives of Senegal, Niger, the Arab Maghreb Union, IGAD, SADC, RIOD/AVC, and the Tunisian company, Solar Energy Systems (SES) gave presentations and reviewed their experience, programmes and activities in the promotion of renewable energy related to desertification control in Africa. Other delegations circulated their presentations during the workshop. Most stressed the relevance of the issues, in view of the serious degradation of environment in Africa and as yet weak contribution from the renewable energy sector to desertification control efforts. They expressed the hope that they would be able to draw greater benefit from opportunities afforded under new international agreements, as well as under such relevant initiatives as those of the European Union, the World Bank, ADB and NEPAD.

42. Several speakers raised the issue of the efficiency of certain available technologies and drew attention to the lack of technical skills necessary for their operation, particularly in Africa.

43. Others pointed out that the consolidation and development of activities already under way, particularly in such areas as biomass, represented a good foundation for activities under the TPN5 network. It was agreed, however, that all the renewable energy sectors relevant to combating desertification should be further developed.

44. From the statements which were made, the following conclusions may be drawn:

- There is considerable interest among countries and organizations in enhancing the contribution of new and renewable energy sources to desertification control and to the promotion of sustainable development;

- The need to build capacity through training and the exchange of experience and information was reaffirmed and should form a major component of the regional programme of action;

- The development of local, subregional and regional resources is a major component of the priority areas of action identified by most stakeholders.

During the debate, the Tunisian company Solar Energy Systems (SES) showed a film on the promotion of renewable energy in Tunisia.

## XI. Consolidated report of the working groups

### I. Plan of activities

45. The group recognizes the network on new and renewable sources of energy (TPN5) as an important tool for the development of regional sustainable development strategies. However, in the area of new and renewable energies, despite the accumulation of a significant body of knowledge, the policies put in place have yet to yield satisfactory results, owing to various factors, including the following:

- Lack of a comprehensive political vision;
- Weakness in the evaluation of past and present experiences;
- Lack of diversification of energy sources (modern energy sources);
- Lack of knowledge of the value added to be derived from new and renewable energies;
- Limited involvement of the private sector;
- Insufficient recognition of the link between energy and poverty;
- Failure to make widespread use of best practices (e.g., biomass).

46. In the light of the foregoing, the work programme of the network should serve to further not only the activities of the Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in Africa but also other related regional initiatives.

47. The ultimate aim of the activities envisaged is to help create an enabling environment for poverty reduction in Africa.

**48. Work programme (June 2004–June 2009)**

| Main areas of action | Activities |
|---|---|
| **Capacity-building** | • Identify needs<br>• Identify expertise<br>• Compile and disseminate best practices<br>• Foster efforts to introduce renewable energy-based electricity into the network<br>• Develop a guide to expertise (centres of excellence, training institutes, technology, etc.)<br>• Organize targeted training plans<br>• Training in project design |
| **Development of local, subregional and regional resources** | • Identify resources<br>• Use and disseminate existing technologies<br>• Make expertise available to stakeholders<br>• Increase diversification of energy sources to reduce consumption of biomass (biogas, LPG, etc.) |
| **Exchange of information and experience** | • Put in place an information system on energy/desertification<br>• Put in place a user database<br>• Publish an information bulletin, electronic exchanges<br>• Facilitate exchanges of experts |
| **Financing mechanisms** | • Put in place a system for monitoring financing opportunities for new and renewable energy sources / desertification control from interested partners<br>• Identify and disseminate information on possible financing mechanisms in the framework of multilateral environmental agreements<br>• Take full advantage of existing opportunities in the context of programmes designed to strengthen synergy with sustainable development instruments<br>• Utilize financing available through public-private partnerships |
| **Contribution to regional and subregional initiatives** | • Update relevant studies on renewable energies/desertification, proceeding as follows: (i) develop terms of reference, (ii) analyse past and present initiatives, (iii) recommend priority activities to be undertaken and determine levels of intervention.<br>• Participate in the development of the new and renewable energy / desertification projects in the framework of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD and the subregional programmes of action |

**Elements for an integrated project formulation on renewable energies and desertification**

***Supply / production***

| **Issues** | | **Efficiency** | **Afforestation** | **Diversification of resource** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Data/knowledge improvement/ Best practices | | Charcoal production – improved | Woodlots (Swaziland)- land tenure, ownership, obtaining seedlings (Kenya), energy plantations<br>Bio-technology | Briquettes of agro-waste (Mali – success) –barriers to be addressed<br>(Zambia – fail)<br>Tanzania – coffee husks for institutions |
| Technology | | | (Kenya) Policy framework and legislation<br>Irrigation: Wind and solar pumps | (Mauritius) bagasse based cogeneration,<br>Zambia – small scale<br>Zimbabwe – bagasse based<br>Gasification – wood<br>Tanzania, Zimbabwe charcoal industrial, |
| Policy and legislation | | | Agro-forestry –choice of trees species, related benefits, | Tanzania, Mali, Zambia and RSA - Jatropha plant, bio-diesel |
| Sustainability of interventions | | | Zimbabwe- Sustainable forest resource management | |
| Linkage with economic up-liftment | | | | |

***Demand/ End-use***

| Issues | Household | Institutional | Industrial |
|---|---|---|---|
| Appliance standards/labeling | Improved stoves | (Kenya) Improved stoves | Cogeneration, SWH for pre-heating and heating water |
| | Hybrid-PV & LPG | | Efficient industrial kilns and burners |
| | Biogas | Biogas – Tanzania, China, | Agro-processing demand side management. |
| | Fuel substitution from biomass to natural gas (Ivory Coast)<br>South Africa, Namibia -Solar cookers – substitution/supplement biomass.<br>Zimbabwe – partially | | |

## II. Organization of the network

49. The group sees the network as a multi-dimensional tool for the delivery of services that will contribute to the promotion of new and renewable energies in the framework of combating desertification in Africa. The partnership between a government agency (ANER) and an NGO (ENDA) is considered an efficient means of operating the network.

The network is organized as follows:

- The institutional and operational arrangements established in Tunis (1998) remain the same;
- An advisory body for the network is established.

**Composition:**

50. Seven representatives of subregional organizations (AMU, SADC, IGAD, ECOWAS/CILSS, ECCAS/COMIFAC) and regional organizations (African Union, ADB);
Five rotating country representatives, serving two-year terms (centres of excellence in new and renewable energy sources);
Five representatives of international organizations (UNEP/GEF, UNDP, ECA, IEPF, UNCCD Secretariat);
Two NGO representatives (rotating) ;
Two private-sector representatives (rotating);
One academic institution representative (rotating).

**Monitoring mechanism:**

51. The institutional focal points (ANER/ENDA) are responsible for submitting an annual activity report during the regional preparatory meeting prior to official UNCCD sessions (Conference of the Parties and CRIC).

**Monitoring and evaluation system:**

52. The group mandates the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) to develop the terms of reference for the development of a system to monitor and evaluate the performance of the network. The indicators to be developed will take account of the work programme for the network established by this meeting for the period 2004–2009. The indicators will also specify the respective responsibilities of ANER and ENDA. The RCU will submit its report during the next African regional meeting on the UNCCD (November, December 2004).

**Advocacy for TPN5:**

53. The working participants note with great satisfaction that the Government of Tunisia has provided substantial support for the activities of the network since its launching in 1998 and its official establishment in 1999.

54. The participants are also pleased to note that Tunis is emerging as an African centre of excellence for the promotion of sustainable development, as evidenced by the solid commitment of the local authorities and the presence of important agencies and organizations such as the OSS, ADB, and RCU/CCD.

55. The participants express the wish that the functioning of TPN5 be placed under the aegis of His Excellency, the President of Tunisia, and requests that the UNCCD Secretariat transmit this wish to the Tunisian authorities.

## XII. Conclusions and recommendations of the workshop

56. The workshop proposes the following recommendations as its contribution to the promotion of renewable energy as a contribution to combating desertification and, in general terms, to the eradication of poverty in Africa:

1. Renewable energy actions and activities should form part of national, subregional and regional policies and strategies relating to poverty eradication;

2. The renewable energy and energy efficiency market should be developed through the better use of existing financial mechanisms;

3. Policies promoting the use of renewable energy in revenue-generating activities should be strengthened;

4. Strengthened efforts should be made to extend energy services as a matter of priority to rural areas;

5. Infrastructure should be developed for the production of equipment for the delivery of energy services;

6. Efforts should be made to promote national, subregional and regional policies which ensure wider access by deprived populations to renewable energy;

7. Lessons learned from projects should be translated into political action;

8. Compelling results drawn from pilot projects should be widely disseminated (change of scale);

9. Renewable energy sources should be made a priority in desertification control subregional programmes;

10. Funding and credit mechanisms for the promotion of renewable energy should be established and set in operation, including through the use of funding derived from multilateral environmental agreements;

11. The issue of renewable energy desertification should feature more prominently on the agenda of consultations between African countries and their bilateral and multilateral development partners;

12. Efforts should be made, through the TPN5 network, to promote various forms of South-South and North-South cooperation, giving priority to the development of renewable energy and taking into account regional cooperation frameworks set up under the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification;

13. Conditions should be created within the network conducive to the strengthening of networking operations through the launching and development of joint renewable energy and desertification activities;

14. Advantage should be taken of all renewable energy and desertification opportunities afforded by regional initiatives, such as NEPAD, and international initiatives, such as the plan of action of the Johannesburg Summit, the Bonn Renewable Energy Conference, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals.

## XIII Closing session

57. The Chair thanked Mr Touré and the entire team of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa for their support towards the preparation and organization of the workshop. He hoped that he could count on the continued support of UNEP in pursuit of the goals set by the TPN5 network. He also thanked the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification for having launched the establishment of a network for the promotion of renewable energy. In addition, he expressed his appreciation to all participants for their valuable contributions, including those made through their responses to questionnaires. Finally, he invited all stakeholders to join efforts in promoting the work of the TPN5 network.

58. The UNEP representative, M. Sekou Toure invited the government experts and representatives of the subregional economic communities to prolong their stay in Nairobi so as to participate in the meeting of African energy ministers. He informed them that the workshop's recommendations on the launching of the TPN5 network would be submitted for consideration by that ministerial meeting, in addition to issues relating to follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as well as the establishment of an African council of ministers of energy.

59. M. Mansour NDIAYE, the representative of the Convention secretariat thanked all participants for attending the workshop, in particular, those of international institutions such as ECA, UNDP and GEF.

60. He stressed that the linkage between renewable energy and desertification control currently presented opportunities, which should be explored by the TPN5 network in the course of its implementation. He said that the secretariat was keen to promote the network's activities through its Regional Action Programme. He thanked in particular

ANER and ENDA-Tiers monde for the work, which they had accomplished in that domain.

61. The workshop was closed at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, 6 May 2004.

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