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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

New and renewable sources of energy

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its thirty-ninth session, adopted resolution 39/173 of 17 December 1984 on implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. 1/
2. In that resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed the importance of the Nairobi Programme of Action as a basic framework of reference for action by the international community in this field, emphasized the need for development of new and renewable sources of energy in order to improve the welfare of the people and also stressed that special attention should be paid to the development of new and renewable sources of energy of developing countries in accordance with their national plans and priorities.
3. The General Assembly expressed its concern at the results of the few regional consultative meetings thus far convened and reiterated that thorough preparation, as well as financial and technical support, was necessary for ensuring the convening and success of such meetings at the national, regional and global levels.
4. The General Assembly took note of the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its second session. 2/ It noted with concern that the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of

* A/40/150.

Energy had been slow and fell far short of the urgent needs of the developing countries. The Assembly stressed the need for continuous commitment and action by the international community at the national, regional and global levels, in particular with respect to the mobilization of financial resources, to which it had attached high priority.

5. The General Assembly called for the early and effective implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and of the conclusions and recommendations adopted to this end by the Committee at its second session. Among those recommendations was a request to the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the Committee at its third session three reports on, respectively, the following subjects:

(a) Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(b) Implementation of programmes and projects based on the framework provided by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in document A/AC.215/5;

(c) Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

6. The Committee also urged all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to provide the focal point for information within the Unit on New and Renewable Sources of Energy with all relevant data to the extent possible in the required format and detail, or for those that have already done so, to update this information. In this connection, Governments that had not yet done so were invited to designate national focal points for new and renewable sources of energy. It finally requested the Secretary-General to prepare a brief guide, designed to promote optimal utilization of the centre for the exchange of information and the national focal points, so as to promote a network of co-operation.

7. In paragraph 5 of resolution 39/173, the Secretary-General was requested to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 39/173

A. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action

8. The implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action on the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy involves national action and international co-operation. A report of the Secretary-General on monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action is in preparation and will be submitted to the Committee for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy at its third session. As required, the report will, on the basis of information received, review the activities for the development of new and renewable sources of energy in developing countries carried out by entities within the United Nations system, under bilateral and other intergovernmental arrangements in support of domestic efforts in this field. The report will be analytical and will also review and assess trends and policy measures in this area.

9. As requested by the Committee, the report will also include information on ad hoc technical panels and expert meetings convened by entities within the United Nations system in the area of new and renewable sources of energy and the utilization of consultants from developing countries, in projects and programmes in this field. A number of such meetings have been held and others are at different stages of preparation.

10. A section on the achievements of inter-agency co-ordination will also be included in the report. Since its establishment in February 1983, the ad hoc Inter-agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy has held four meetings, the last one in March 1985. The Group discussed areas for co-operation, joint planning and programming, and co-ordination of activities in new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system, in line with the recommendations of the Committee. The meetings have also provided a forum for discussing progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and in co-ordinating activities in response to requests made by the Committee.

B. Implementation of programmes and projects based on the framework provided by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

11. In 1982, the members of the ACC had jointly prepared and submitted to the Interim Committee a report on proposals for action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action contained in document A/AC.215/5. The Interim Committee recommended this report as providing a useful framework for agency and inter-agency follow-up to the Programme within the United Nations system. At its first session in 1983, the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy recommended that the relevant organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system should prepare their detailed projects for immediate implementation on the basis of the framework provided by document A/AC.215/5. A report on the implementation of programmes and projects based on the framework provided by document A/AC.215/5 is under preparation and will present information on progress made in implementing the programmes and projects as well as proposals for future action, on the basis of data collected through joint action of the participants in the Inter-agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

C. Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action

12. The Nairobi Programme of Action placed great emphasis on resource mobilization for the development of new and renewable sources of energy and the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy considered various ways and means to mobilize financial resources for this purpose. A report on mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action is being prepared. As recommended by the Committee, it contains a section on consultative meetings; addresses further ways and means of mobilizing resources;

includes an update, as appropriate, of the report contained in document A/AC.218/7 and Corr.1; and reports on action taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the recommendation of the Committee regarding the UNDP Energy Account.

13. In line with the recommendations of the Committee, the process of convening a World Bank consultative group and UNDP round-table meetings was continued and a number of such national consultative meetings were held in which, along with other activities, energy activities, including projects related to the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, were considered and modalities for their implementation envisaged.

14. Two regional consultative meetings were held in 1984. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in collaboration with the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), convened a regional consultative meeting in June 1984, during which regional and subregional projects and programmes were examined for possible funding by the donor organizations. Donor Governments and organizations, as well as representatives from organizations of the United Nations system, participated. Also, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) convened a regional consultative meeting at Bangkok in September 1984. High-level representatives from member and associate member countries of ESCAP, and from donor countries and organizations and organizations of the United Nations system participated. The project proposals were examined and suggestions made to improve their presentation for further consideration for funding. As far as the African region is concerned, preparations for a regional consultative meeting are being conducted by the Economic Commission for Africa.

15. A global consultative meeting was convened in New York from 13 to 15 March 1985 by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. It was attended by donor countries and organizations, a number of developing countries together with entities within the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations. A number of projects and programmes were considered, and support was expressed for the implementation of most of them on the basis of adjustments discussed in the meeting. Another consultative meeting of a global nature, initiated by the Government of France in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), met at Lille, France, in November 1984 and focused on energy utilization of agro-industrial wastes and by-products.

16. As requested by the Committee, in the report now in preparation, the section on consultative meetings for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action will present information on the progress made in the preparation and convening of consultative meetings and appraise the results achieved and the performance and suitability of the consultative mechanism, as such.

D. Information exchange

17. In response to the request by the Committee to Governments to provide national focal points for information on new and renewable sources of energy, many such focal points have been designated. It is hoped that they will help to improve the coverage and quality of data collected on domestic activities and of data made available within the framework of international co-operation. A number of countries have provided information on international co-operation and domestic activities, projects and programmes in this field, and others are expected to do so soon.

18. At the focal point for information established within the Unit on New and Renewable Sources of Energy of the United Nations Secretariat, a computerized data base is being developed on activities, projects and programmes in the field, carried out by the United Nations system, at the national and international levels. The information in the data base will be made available to interested parties and will be disseminated on a regular basis. An update of the compendium on such activities is being prepared and will be distributed to interested parties in the near future. The information obtained on the activities on new and renewable sources of energy is being analysed and constitutes an input for the preparation of reports to be submitted to the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

19. A brief guide, designed to promote optimal utilization of the centre for the exchange of information within the Unit on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the national focal points, is being prepared and will be distributed on the occasion of the third session of the Committee.

Notes

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, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/39/44), sect. V.
