

October 29 - November 9  
COP7, Marrakech

## **UNFCCC COP7 to World Summit on Sustainable Development – Choose Positive Energy**

### ***Introduction***

The IPCC Third Assessment Report identified extensive threats from human induced climate change particularly in developing countries. These impacts pose a serious risk to development in some places: basic rights such as reliable access to food, water and health are likely to become more precarious as climate change accelerates. Extreme weather events are already killing or rendering homeless tens of thousands of people in developing countries each year.

At COP7 governments have been invited by the UN General Assembly to provide input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 10 months time in Johannesburg. This provides an important opportunity to enlist a wider community in the pressing need to implement solutions to climate change globally, and to do so in a way that also meets equally urgent development needs.

Greenpeace believes that a strong recommendation from COP7 for the WSSD to establish a commitment for major global program on the rapid expansion of renewable energy would go a long way toward meeting these needs. In addition governments of the North should prepare for the ratification and entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol by the WSSD meeting.

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Step: Ratify Kyoto***

A serious intention to protect the world from “dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system” – as the objective of the FCCC treaty states - must be matched by action to bring about the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol by the WSSD meeting. This would provide a strong signal by governments of developed nations that they take their responsibilities seriously. ***Parties must agree that they will ratify the Kyoto Protocol by the time of WSSD meeting in September 2002.***

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Step: Accelerate Kyoto***

Governments need to then move towards a rapid acceleration of negotiations so that industrialised countries move on to a trajectory of greenhouse gas emission reductions which would lead to a cut of at least 80% by 2050. This would then move the world towards satisfying the terms of the FCCC which is to stabilise “greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system’. An accelerated shift to second commitment period negotiations will send a strong signal to industry that there will be a supportive framework for those that are thinking longer term and avoiding investment in carbon intensive development. ***Parties must put this on the agenda at WSSD.***

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Step: Rapidly Accelerate Renewable Energy**

Such deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions can only be achieved if there is a rapid move towards phasing out the use of fossil fuels – oil, coal and gas – as a source of primary energy and the substitution of these energy sources for renewable energy. It is a challenge, but one to which we must rise if we are serious about protecting the climate.

Two billion of the world's poorest people currently have no access to reliable, clean electricity supplies; a situation which is as intolerable as it is unsustainable. If the only route chosen out of poverty is increasing reliance on fossil fuels, the prospects for any climate protection are grim. The same must be said for the developed world. It is just as unsustainable and intolerable that rich societies in the north increase their energy consumption and supplies of fossil fuel sources.

The way out of fossil fuel reliance is the substantial increase in the uptake of renewable energy sources. Localised renewable energy resources are also part of a vision of a secure and safer form of energy. It is the formulation of this wider vision, commensurate with the challenges of climate change, poverty alleviation and energy security - particularly acute following the tragic events of Sept 11<sup>th</sup> - that would permit COP7 to introduce a new positive focus to the WSSD.

***Parties should urge that the WSSD establish a commitment for a major global program on the rapid expansion of renewable energy by vastly expanding targets for renewable energy supplies in developed countries and committing to bringing renewable energy to 2 billion of the world's poorest people by 2012.***

We believe this is both necessary and feasible. Indeed the G8 group of industrialised nations established a task force to advise them on how to assist with implementation of renewable energy in developing countries, and market expansion in developed countries. The report of that taskforce provides a conservative outline of some key steps in delivering these objectives.

#### ***The G8 Renewable Energy Task Force***

The G8 established a renewable task force at the Okinawa G8 summit in 2000 "to identify the barriers and solutions to elevating the level of renewable energy supply and distribution in developing countries". The Task Force report contains detailed and significant recommendations which, if agreed and implemented will go a long way towards generating the global renewable energy revolution that is needed to combat climate change and improve the lives of billions of people world-wide. The recommendations would also help move industrialised countries on a pathway towards large long term emission reductions.

The following points and recommendations from the Task Force's report are particularly noteworthy:

- The report clearly says that the only barriers to massive uptake and expansion of renewables are financial and political - not technological. This contradicts those who still say that the technology is not yet ready, and further makes the case for action by governments.
- The report emphasises life-cycle costs to show that renewables are often already competitive with conventional energy sources. This puts the lie to often-repeated assertions that renewables are too expensive. The Task Force goes even further and recommends that renewable energy projects are developed and funded not only when they are a least cost option on a life-cycle basis, but also "*when they achieve protection of local and/or global environment at a reasonable cost.*"

- The report states that successful promotion of renewables over the next 30 years will prove less expensive than a "business as usual approach" to the global energy supply.
- The Task Force recommends that G8 countries take steps to remove incentives and other supports for environmentally harmful energy technologies.
- The Task Force recommends the implementation of common environmental guidelines among the G8 Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) which include minimum standards of energy-efficiency or carbon intensity for ECA-financed projects.

### ***Power to Tackle Poverty***

While governments should adopt and act on the recommendations of the G8 Task Force's report and set themselves concrete timetables for implementation, they should take the initiative further, by both by expanding its ambition and by including all governments to create a truly global initiative.

Such an initiative is being spearheaded by a joint international campaign being run by Greenpeace and The Body Shop, called "***Choose Positive Energy***". This campaign aims at establishing a commitment at WSSD for a major global program on the rapid expansion of renewable energy that would enable the two billion people in developing countries who have no modern energy supply to have this by 2012. Details of how this can be achieved are detailed in the report 'Power to Tackle Poverty – getting renewable energy to the world's poor'. Important measures detailed in the report include:

- Shifting investments into renewable energy instead of building fossil fuel power stations;
- Stopping subsidies and dismantling tax regimes that favour fossil fuels – shifting these to support renewable energy;
- Committing to genuinely sustainable development – based on meeting people's real needs and demands for services, rather than providing unsustainable energy technologies.

### ***Annex: Mandate for UNFCCC input to WSSD***

Formal discussion by the plenary at COP7 on its input into WSSD is provided under Agenda item four. This COP has been invited by the UNGA to submit a progress report to the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21, and in addition contribute to the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21. This latter gives adequate scope for COP7 to recommend a substantive new global initiative for renewable energy, as well as an accelerated agenda for tackling climate change. Below are the official annotations to the COP7 agenda, outlining the details leading to this mandate.

**“Input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development Background:** The United Nations, in General Assembly resolution 55/199, invited the UNFCCC to participate fully in the 10-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21, including the preparation of a report for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held at Johannesburg in September 2002. In its decision 55/443, the General Assembly invited COP7 to contribute to the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and requested the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC to report to the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. 45. The SBI, at its twelfth session, requested the

secretariat to prepare elements of a draft input on the UNFCCC process to the World Summit on Sustainable Development for consideration at its fourteenth session, with a view to recommending a draft decision for adoption by COP7. At its fourteenth session, the SBI Chairman recommended that this matter be taken up at the fifteenth session of the SBI. 46. Following a discussion in the Bureau of COP6, it is proposed that this item be taken up in the plenary of the COP rather than the SBI. 47. **Action:** The COP will be invited to consider this item and adopt a decision on input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.”  
*FCCC/CP/2001/10 Input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development*

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