



Statement from Member Governments of the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition to UN Commission for Sustainable Development (14th and 15th Session)¹

Renewable energy - key to Energize Future Generations

1. Winning the battle against climate change, securing global energy supplies and assisting in the eradication of poverty by improving access to energy services feature amongst the biggest roadblocks to global sustainable development.
2. Considering these and other challenges, Heads of State recognized the key role for renewable energies at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, and agreed to significantly increase their share in the global energy mix, with a sense of urgency. We launched the declaration "The way Forward on Renewable Energy" and established the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC), now including 88 Governments. We agreed to the importance of, and promote the use of national and regional time bound targets and timetables for developing markets and guiding investments in renewable energies. We agreed to make sure that these did not remain empty words.
3. We welcome, as part of an overall energy policy approach, the growing awareness on the multiple benefits of increased development and use of renewable energies for improving access to energy services, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing energy security, reducing the economic burden of energy imports, increasing job opportunities, improving air quality and public health, sustainable development, and eradicating poverty.
4. Our Governments, individually and jointly, have shown international leadership. We, together with other countries and stakeholders, actively engaged in many action oriented conferences and partnerships such as REEEP, MEDREP, EUEI, EEP, GVEP, and GNESD, to strengthen international awareness on the benefits of renewables and to ensure action is delivered on the ground.² These efforts led to a notable strengthening of international co-operation on renewable energy. The International Energy Agency, with support from the JREC secretariat, established a Global Renewable Energy Policies database to encourage exchange of information and good practice. At least 48 countries have now introduced proactive policies to drive new renewable energy technologies into the market. More than 45 countries had taken on renewable energy targets at the regional, national, or sub national level.
5. The Bonn Renewables 2004 declaration demonstrated the broadening and deepening consensus on the need to urgently increase the share of renewables. It delivered an International Action Program containing around 200 commitments towards delivering concrete results on the ground and led to the establishment of the global policy network 'REN21'. The 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference confirmed this commitment to act, pointing to the increasing and improving

¹ JREC members in Annex

² Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), Mediterranean Renewable Energy Partnership (MEDREP), EU Energy Initiative (EUEI), Energy Environment Partnership (EEP), Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP), and Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD)

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affordability of renewable energies also for developing countries. A strong message was sent to periodically track progress of actions taken on the ground and of the global share of renewable energies.

6. We have not yet realized our objectives. The share of renewables remains too low. Government actions are urgently needed to reap the full potential and benefits by providing the long-term policy framework that renewable energy investors require as well as facilitating access to technologies and to funding for cost-effective renewable energy and energy efficiency investments and programs. Further action by the international community, including international financing institutions, is required. The upcoming 14th and 15th Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development provides an unprecedented opportunity for all governments to take another important step forward. It is therefore of key importance that further action on renewable energies features amongst the key issues on the upcoming CSD agenda. Discussions should focus on reaching agreement on action oriented measures building on progress made to date and challenges ahead, and in incorporating the environmental costs of all energy sources.
7. We urge CSD 15 to establish an efficient arrangement to review and assess progress towards the global increase of renewable energies building on the recommendations of the Beijing Declaration (BIREC 2005). We strongly encourage the CSD to consider the Bonn International Action Program and the Global Renewable Energy Policies Database as a format and starting point for enhancing awareness raising and capacity building by exchanging the latest information on good practice. The CSD should identify measures that seek to eliminate the barriers to, and create positive incentives for, the widest possible development, financing and diffusion of appropriate technologies and services in the renewable energy sector including further engaging international and regional finance institutions and the private sector.
8. We look forward to discussing how to further deepen the commitments on renewable energy in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. We call on REN21 to assist in bringing together all relevant stakeholders for fact based discussions and for ensuring that our agreements will find support across all relevant policy areas. We are committed to co-operate with all governments, stakeholders, and partnerships to come to conclusions and actions that are meaningful for present and future generations.

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JREC Members

Afghanistan
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Austria
Bahamas
Barbados
Belgium
Belize
Bolivia
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Cape Verde
Chile
Colombia
Comoros
Congo Brazzaville
Cook Islands
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic Rep of Congo
Denmark
Dominica
Estonia
Federated States of
Micronesia
Fiji
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Kenya
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Malta
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Mauritius
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Nauru
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Romania
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the
Grenadines
Serbia and Montenegro
Seychelles
Sao Tome and Principe
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Suriname
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Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Turkey
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Yemen