

Contribution by Belarus

Advancing Technologies for Energy Efficiency, Alternative and Renewable Sources of Energy (concept paper)

United Nations High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

New York, 25 September 2008

Background

The issue of new and renewable sources of energy featured prominently on the global agenda for some time yet. It has been a major issue for discussion at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, as well as at various other international conferences. The United Nations General Assembly on a regular basis adopts resolution “Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy”. A number of UN bodies and agencies, above all, ECOSOC, UN Commission on Sustainable Development, and UNIDO consistently address this issue.

The importance of greater energy efficiency and a wider global application of new and renewable sources of energy is more than evident. It will help diversify supply of energy sources, enhance energy security, make global economic development more environmentally sound and sustainable, thereby laying an enabling environment for the realization of the global development agenda built around the Millennium Development Goals.

There is a need to consider the establishment of the permanent functioning United Nations mechanism, which will be able to facilitate access of all countries to the advanced energy technologies with due regard to the intellectual property rights.

General Assembly Thematic Debate

During the general debate of the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly in October 2007 Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus to convene General Assembly thematic debate on the issue. This proposal was endorsed at the Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Tehran in July 2008.

The NAM requested the President of the General Assembly to convene an informal thematic debate during its 63rd session on dissemination and deployment of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, new and renewable energy technologies as well as the transfer of such technologies.

Time-frame

The thematic debates on technologies for energy efficiency, alternative and renewable energy should be organized within the Assembly’s 63rd session (September 2008 – September 2009).

Procedure

A group of countries interested in advancing the inter-related issues of energy efficiency, new and renewable sources of energy, with the support of relevant UN agencies should cosponsor the thematic debate and submit a proposal to the President of the General Assembly. Once the President of the General Assembly decides on the

matter, the cosponsoring countries along with the UN Secretariat and other relevant agencies will assist the Office of the President in preparation of the event, in particular, in determining the mode of the debates, key questions for discussion, participants, keynote speakers, etc.

Outcome

The discussion and policy recommendations suggested by the participants should be reflected in the President's summary of the debate. The summary will provide an important input to subsequent energy-related deliberations within the UN General Assembly and ECOSOC, as well as to the meetings of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, and to the consultations on transfer of technologies under the UNFCCC.

Road Ahead

The thematic debate may contribute to establishing a global mechanism for transfer and distribution of technologies for energy efficiency, alternative and renewable sources of energy.

Further steps are contingent upon the outcome of the thematic debate. The debate may also contribute to consideration of the initiative of the President of the General Assembly Mr. Srdjan Kerim to elaborate a global plan to overcome energy crisis and the proposal of the IAEA Director-General M.ElBaradei to set up a Global Energy Agency.