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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Office for the Caribbean



THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

INFORMATION NOTE

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

I N F O R M A T I O N N O T E

The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (UNCNRSE), Nairobi 10-21 August 1981 is being prepared for by a Preparatory Committee-comprising representatives from member countries which works through the Conference Secretariat in New York, headed by Mr. Mohammed H. Gherab, Secretary General of the Conference. The Preparatory Committee met in February and July 1980 and will be meeting again in March 1981 for its third session and June 1981 for its fourth session.

The following specific activities have been initiated to ensure adequate international preparation:

I) TECHNICAL PANELS: These have been organized to evaluate the state of the art in the technologies under consideration viz:

- 1) Technical Panel on Biomass Energy
- 2) Technical Panel on Fuelwood and Charcoal
- 3) Technical Panel on Geothermal Energy
- 4) Technical Panel on Hydropower
- 5) Technical Panel on Ocean Energy
- 6) Technical Panel on Oil Shale and Tar Sands
- 7) Technical Panel on Solar Energy
- 8) Technical Panel on Wind Energy.

These Technical Panels, comprised of individuals chosen on the basis of expertise and geographic distribution, have already met once and have submitted reports of their first sessions; they are due to meet again between September and November this year.

II) AD HOC EXPERT GROUPS: These will meet between November 1980 and January 1981 in the following key areas:

- 1) financing
- 2) information flows
- 3) research and development and transfer of technology
- 4) education and training
- 5) rural energy, including utilization in agriculture
- 6) industrial issues, including utilization in transportation and allied sectors.

III) NATIONAL PAPERS: Countries have been asked to submit national documents by 31 December 1980. It is recommended that these be concise papers with summaries and should use as reference the following outline:

- a) bearing in mind the role and potential of new and renewable sources of energy in meeting present and future energy needs identification of the significant sources including available quantitative data;
- b) what main technologies for production and use of new and renewable sources of energy are of interest to the country concerned in the foreseeable future in the context of national energy requirements;
- c) what are the main constraints limiting the utilization of these technologies, including where appropriate, constraints in the following fields:
 - i) financing
 - ii) research and development and transfer of technology
 - iii) education and training
 - iv) flows of information
 - v) rural energy, including its utilization in agriculture
 - vi) industrial issues including transportation, industry and other sectors.
- d) what are the means to overcome these constraints at the national, regional or international levels;
- e) what scope exists for international cooperation.

This outline should only be considered as indicative. Governments are also free to submit any other type of information they may consider appropriate for the Conference, regarding their national experiences in new and renewable sources of energy. The Conference Secretariat is willing to supply consultants to assist countries in the preparation of this document.

IV) REGIONAL PREPARATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA: A team of three regional technical advisors are working through the Economic Commission for Latin America. They have been advising member states of the preparatory activities and are responsible for regional preparations.

Two technical meetings are being planned for the region followed by a Ministerial meeting scheduled for March 1981. A technical meeting on "Firewood and Charcoal: their incorporation into energy planning and policy making" is proposed (possible venue Nicaragua); the other technical meeting proposed will consider "Evaluation Criteria for Financing Research and Investment in NRSE" (possible venue Barbados).

The latter meeting is likely to be held during the first week in December and high level papers are being requested of experts. These meetings will each consist of approximately ten experts sponsored by the UNCNRSE Secretariat.

V) THE SYNTHESIS GROUP scheduled to meet during February 1981 will prepare a synthesis document taking into account (a) final report of the technical panels; (b) reports of the ad hoc expert groups and (c) draft synthesis document prepared by the Secretariat; (d) other relevant information.

VI) The Conference itself will be preceded by one week of pre-Conference consultations.

