

**Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme**

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**Ninth special session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Dubai, 7-9 February 2006

**Statement on energy by non-governmental organizations which
attended the seventh Global Civil Society Forum**

1. The annex to the present note contains the statement on energy and environment by non-governmental organizations which attended the seventh Global Civil Society Forum. The present note and its annex are being submitted to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its ninth special session, as requested by the Global Civil Society Forum.

2. The report of the seventh Global Civil Society Forum will be published under separate cover later during the first quarter of 2006.

Annex

NGO Statement on Energy in the Ministerial Consultation

08 February 2006

Good morning, Madame Chair, and thank you for providing the NGOs major group the opportunity to share their views with the session.

The failure of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development to make substantial forward progress on the energy question, points once again to the need for a 'home' for energy within the multilateral system.

We have all heard about the imperatives for a revolution in the way we produce and consume energy: that air pollution is killing children by the millions in the developing world, and that climate change poses an overwhelming threat; and that access to energy plays a central role in rural development.

Renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies are technologically mature and market ready, already enjoying exponential growth rates as the fastest growing part of the energy sector. Other technologies show potential future promise. But what is necessary now is the political will: We need political will to agree to cooperate with diverse stakeholders, we need political will to transfer subsidies from fossil fuels to renewable energy, we need political will to develop renewable energy feed in laws, and we need political will for renewable technology transfer adapted to local contexts.

The use of unsustainable energy technologies that are sometimes promoted as a solution for climate change and energy security should be opposed. This includes nuclear energy, waste incineration and large hydropower.

Carbon sequestration technologies require several decades of development before becoming economically mature while we only have one or two decades of development to achieve a shift in the energy sector to prevent adverse climate change impacts. Therefore youth and environmental NGOs do not support investments in such technologies that will divert funds from existing proven successful solutions.

Biofuel has been highlighted as a potential alternative fuel several times throughout this discussion. We urge the consideration of the fact that large-scale bio-energy can be very destructive, with threats of monoculture and deforestation that exacerbate environmental concerns. We do urge the support of smaller scale bio-energy projects that support livelihood development and the generation of bio-fuels from organic waste, which can serve as a sustainable solution to manage the classical problem of solid waste in the developing world.

The NGO major group, along with other members of civil society, recognizes that energy efficiency is critical to any comprehensive sustainable energy strategy. Joint efforts by governments and stakeholders are key elements to the continued promotion of enhanced energy efficiency. We strongly highlight that consumer awareness and reaction are key factors to success in addressing the energy challenge.