

4 December 2005

Ms. Beverly Miller Chief, Major Groups & Stakeholders Branch
United Nations Environment Programme
Email: beverly.miller@unep.org
CC: nilvo.silva@unep.org

Re: UNEP/GCSS.IX/9/Add.1

Dear Beverly Miller,

After reviewing the second set of unedited working documents of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Greenpeace would like to present its input to the Committee of Permanent Representative to UNEP.

In general we found the background paper for the ministerial consultations on energy and environment for development (UNEP/GCSS.IX/9/Add.1) to provide a good basis for discussion. However, we would like to highlight some concerns.

Greenpeace's main concerns are:

- The introduction (paragraph 1-3) does not convey the strong sense of urgency that this issue demands.
- Even though energy efficiency is discussed, the need of a massive uptake of Renewable Energy must be reinforced.
The wording of paragraph 35 suggests that all systems of energy production have similar levels of environmental impacts even though the scale and size of these are obviously significantly different (e.g. coal mining and wind farms). We would like to see this paragraph rewritten to reflect the relative size of the impacts or to remove the impacts of wind farms which pale into insignificance compared to the scale of impacts from other sources, such as coal power stations.
- With paragraphs 43 and 69, UNEP is opening the discussion for the use of nuclear energy. Since the production of nuclear energy is dangerous to human and environmental health, very costly and is a terrorist target, Greenpeace is fundamentally opposed to the use of this energy.
We request that paragraph 43 is rewritten by taking into account that funding for the long-term geological disposal of nuclear wastes is diverted from support for Renewable Energy technologies, which are indeed sustainable. We strongly urge you to remove the sentence "Cleaner fossil technologies and nuclear power will play an important role in the coming decades" from paragraph 69.
- In Paragraph 66 we would like to highlight that "removing and storing carbon emissions in geological formations or the oceans" is extremely expensive and diverts also research funds from Renewable Energy development.
- Following UNEP studies about Northern Export Credit Agencies role to develop Renewable Energy in big southern emitters countries like China and India, we think it would be necessary to include a paragraph that clearly mentions the need of shifting fossil fuel investments in developing countries coming from industrialized countries to renewable energy projects.

Finally, we would like to ascertain that the discussion following the questions UNEP is raising with Ministers and Heads of Delegations (paragraph 79) will be focussed on sustainable and clean energy alternatives. In particular, we would like you to confirm that the focus will be the correct financing and political support of renewable technologies. We do not instead want to see diversion of financing and research towards nuclear energy or highly expensive alternatives like carbon capture technologies.

I would like to thank you very much for the ability to input on the documents for the 9th special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jean-Luc Roux', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jean-Luc Roux
Political Director
Greenpeace International