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OF ENERGY

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ESA's PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, to be held 10 to 21 August in Nairobi, offers an opportunity for global cooperation in confronting energy problems.

The European Space Agency has been invited by the Secretary General of the Conference to participate and to describe to other participating delegations those of the Agency's activities and expertise which could be useful for the development and effective utilisation of the various new and renewable energy sources addressed at the conference.

Consequently, the European Space Agency attended meetings of the background technical preparations and in particular assisted in the preparations of a report submitted by the technical panel on solar energy. In addition the Agency submitted an own report which describes briefly activities of the Agency which have the potential to improve the collection, processing, transmission and dissemination of energy data and other relevant information at national, regional and international levels. All these functions are considered by the Preparatory Committee as very important for promoting the wider use of new and renewable sources of energy.

Some of the systems and Services described in ESA's report are employed in the collection and dissemination of information as to climate and weather forecasting, earth resources monitoring (e.g. agro-forestry) communication, navigation, etc. Others are in the field of the establishment of information retrieval systems, image interpretation, and the evaluation and test of technologies applicable in solar energy systems.

It is hoped that the activities developed by ESA can be of assistance in the planned actions to be fixed by the Conference and ESA is prepared to examine the matter further and eventually submit to Member States of the Agency the possible proposals for cooperation which could arise.