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**United Nations Conference  
on New and Renewable Sources  
of Energy**

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SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL REPORT  
SUBMITTED BY TUNISIA\*

\* The designations employed, the presentation of material and the views expressed in this paper are those of the submitting Government and do not necessarily reflect the practices and views of the Secretariat of the United Nations in any of these respects.

1. The world's energy needs are growing much more rapidly than its probable capability of producing energy-supplying raw materials. This growth is all the more threatening because usable oil and natural-gas resources represent only a small part of the world's energy reserves and because oil production will reach a peak about 1990, meeting 40 per cent of the world's energy demand, but will meet only 10 per cent of that demand by the year 2020.
2. It is therefore urgent to develop medium-term and long-term strategies for the exploitation and development of new energy resources, particularly new and renewable forms of energy. The situation calls for a new era of solidarity and international co-operation in this sector.
3. Tunisia has been concerned with its energy policy since the dawn of its independence. A special Energy Directorate in the Ministry of the National Economy is designed to ensure co-ordination of the sector, efficiency of control, and long-term planning within the National Sectoral Commission for Energy. The Commission has produced an energy-development model with a view to the years 2000 and 2020 which will determine the choices for the optimal use of replacement resources on the basis of a realistic cost estimate of energy products and of an implementation plan for setting up an optimal strategy for Tunisia.
4. Concrete action has been taken in the areas of solar, wind and biomass energy, which will be pursued under the sixth national plan for economic and social development (1982-1986). In this context, a number of projects have been identified.
5. The constraints in this sector are:
  - (a) Financing of research, demonstration and development projects;
  - (b) High cost of equipment;
  - (c) Difficulties in adapting the use of energy to new techniques;
  - (d) Lack of competent personnel.
6. Filling these gaps requires international co-operation, centred on strengthening financial plans and identifying areas of co-operation.
7. For example, consideration might be given to establishing a United Nations programme on new and renewable sources of energy similar to the United Nations Environment Programme, creating an international information centre designed to furnish information on research and progress in this area, or organizing international negotiations on the transfer of technology in the area of new and renewable sources of energy.

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