



**UNITED
NATIONS**

UN LIBRARY

JUN 5 - 1981

A



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

**Nairobi, Kenya
10-21 August 1981**

UN/SA COLLECTION

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.100/NR/3 (SUMMARY)
14 May 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL REPORT SUBMITTED BY FINLAND*

* 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.

SUMMARY

Finland holds the view that new and renewable sources of energy can make a useful and, in some countries, even significant contribution to their national energy balances. There also exists considerable scope for increasing their contribution even in the relatively short run. Consequently, we support efforts to promote the utilization of new and renewable energy and associated international co-operation. It is the view of the Finnish Government that environmental, social and cultural impacts of non-conventional as well as conventional energy production and use should be adequately taken into consideration in all energy planning.

The most important new and renewable sources of energy in Finland are wood, hydro-power and peat. As recently as 1960, wood and hydro-power together accounted for 60 per cent of total primary energy production. In 1980, this share (with peat added) was about 30 per cent. Compared with most other industrial countries, energy economy in Finland was based on the extensive use of renewable indigenous sources until exceptionally recently.

The era of cheap oil led to a decline in the share of indigenous energy even in Finland. In spite of this, however, experience and expertise connected with the utilization of indigenous sources of energy are still available and currently being revitalized, as recent experience has shown.

The saving of energy and promotion of the production and use of indigenous energy have been set as the goals of Finnish energy policy. Many steps have already been taken in order to implement those goals. It is estimated that new and renewable sources of energy could satisfy 34 to 40 per cent of our primary energy consumption in 1990.

There are no significant factors which limit the use of new and renewable sources of energy in Finland, although the time needed to carry out structural changes in the energy economy, the limited nature of energy resources, financing and profitability questions and the level of technology may impede their use. In 1980, about 30 per cent of public money allocated to research in the field of energy went towards research into the production and use of new and renewable sources of energy, principally wood and peat.

Finland's policy on international co-operation in the energy sector has emphasized the strengthening of the role of the United Nations. Thus the Government has supported proposals made within the world Organization with the aim of achieving this objective. An example of this is provided by its unreserved support for the Nairobi Conference and its subsequent active contribution to the preparatory work therefor.

Finland actively participates in intergovernmental multilateral energy co-operation, especially under the auspices of OECD and ECE. Regional (that is, Nordic) co-operation is growing and diversifying. Practical results can also be anticipated from Finland's bilateral co-operation, the framework for which has been

created through agreements with several countries. An active interest is taken by Finnish institutions in the energy activities of various non-governmental organizations engaged in this sector.

The transfer of Finnish energy technology and know-how, both within the development co-operation programme and on a commercial basis, in connexion with new and renewable sources of energy is growing clearly. Owing to its own natural conditions, Finland possesses a considerable fund of know-how and experience applicable to the transfer of technology, especially where forest energy, peat and to some extent, other biomass as well as hydro-power (especially on a small scale), energy transmission and efficient use of energy are concerned. Although the preparedness to transfer technology is primarily centred around Finnish energy-sector companies, prominent Finnish research establishments also have good possibilities to participate, especially in the transfer of technology to developing countries. It has been forecast that the energy sector will constitute one of the areas of emphasis in Finland's development co-operation in the 1980s. A comprehensive report on Finnish capabilities for the transfer of energy technology, particularly to developing countries, has recently been prepared.
