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**Letter dated 16 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Permit me to inform you about the first event of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE), held in Austria from 11 to 13 December 2000.

GFSE is intended as a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on issues pertinent to energy for sustainable development. It grew out of the outreach efforts of the World Energy Assessment and intends to orchestrate a series of dialogues that will facilitate decision-making on policy issues in the appropriate forums. The first event was dedicated to rural energy because of the urgent need to address the question of bringing modern energy services to the more than two billion people currently without access to modern energy.

The first meeting of GFSE was co-sponsored by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, the United Nations Development Programme, the Austrian Government and the City of Vienna. In the lead up to the first meeting, GFSE has enjoyed the support of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Environmental Partnership for Central Europe, the International Energy Institute, the International Council of Scientific Unions, the World Conservation Union, the Leadership for Environment and Development Foundation (LEAD), the World Energy Conference and Verbundplan, and has benefited from active cooperation with the World Bank and many individual experts on energy and sustainable development. Financial support from LEAD, Norway and Sweden for the participation of experts from the least developed countries in the first meeting of GFSE is gratefully acknowledged.

Please find enclosed the executive summary of the first meeting of GFSE (see annex I), the final version of the programme (see annex II) and the report by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (see annex III).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

*(Signed)* Gerhard **Pfanzelter**

**Annexes to the letter dated 16 January 2001 from the  
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General**