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REPORT OF THE

CONSULTATION ON NGO PLANS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

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Tunis, 26-28 March 1981

Co-sponsors: Environment Liaison Centre (Nairobi)  
European Environmental Bureau (Brussels)  
Friends of the Earth International  
UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (Geneva)

The views expressed in this report are those of the participants in the Consultation, and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the United Nations.

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## 1. Opening

The Consultation was formally opened by Thierry Lemareshquier, of the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (Geneva), who welcomed participants on behalf of the four co-sponsors:

Environment Liaison Centre (Nairobi)  
European Environmental Bureau (Brussels)  
Friends of the Earth International  
UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (Geneva)

He expressed the gratitude of the co-sponsors to the organisers of the Energy 2000 Conference, under whose general auspices the Consultation was being held. He explained that the idea of such a consultation had been discussed among the co-sponsors over a period of several months. They had formed the conclusion that the Tunis Conference provided a unique opportunity for non-governmental networks involved in preparations for the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy to meet with other NGOs, particularly those from Third World countries.

The Consultation had participants from environmental, development and energy-oriented NGOs. It was, therefore, expected that, during the course of the discussions, different approaches to the question of energy and development would be presented, with a view to defining some common grounds for NGO work on issues and activities at Nairobi.

This opening statement was followed by an informal introduction of each participant, who explained his or her organization's specific interest in the UN Conference.

The first session of the Consultation concluded with a presentation by the representative of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) of the report of the Sussex Workshop, held on 10-11 March 1981, entitled A Reaction to the Synthesis Report.

The list of participants and the list of documents available to the Consultation are attached as Annexes.

## 2. Organization of work

### 2.1 Presidency of sessions

It was agreed that each half-day plenary session of the Consultation would be presided by a representative of the major NGO networks present.

### 2.2 Preparation and distribution of report

It was agreed that final responsibility for the production and dissemination of the report of the Consultation would be entrusted to the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (Geneva). It was further agreed that each participant would give the widest possible circulation to the report through their respective NGO networks, in order to stimulate discussion on the issues facing the UN Conference within their own constituencies.

### 2.3 Structure of discussions

For part of the deliberations, the Consultation divided into three working groups, to consider:

- (a) the determination of issues for action by NGO networks;
- (b) the forming of an information coalition;
- (c) political-level action and the NGO Forum at Nairobi.

The reports from these working groups were examined and adopted in plenary sessions, with the incorporation of additional suggestions made in the course of this examination.

### 3. Discussion of issues before the UN Conference

In order to open the general discussion on issues facing the Nairobi Conference, the Presiding Officer invited the representatives of each of the four major NGO networks present to state their organizations' objectives and priority areas for action, both at the national and international levels.

#### 3.1 Environment Liaison Centre (ELC)

Tara Chana began by drawing the attention of participants to the flyer prepared by the ELC, describing plans for the NGO Forum at Nairobi. He stated that the ELC's over-riding concern at present was to raise the funds necessary for NGO participation in the Forum. To date, about \$20,000 had been mobilised from the US Agency for International Development, which would be used to finance the cost of a full-time consultant (in the person of Gary Gallon) for the period April-September 1981, a research assistant, a secretary, miscellaneous office expenses, and Mr. Gallon's travel to New York for discussions immediately following the Tunis Consultation, at the time of the 3rd session of the Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference. Current attempts to raise additional funds included contacts with the Swedish and Netherlands Governments, but no definite commitments had been received.

The June edition of the ELC newsletter, Ecoforum, would focus on preparations for the UN Conference. Articles for inclusion in this edition would be welcome, and should be sent to Gary Gallon or Delmar Blasco of the ELC by the end of April.

The ELC was concerned that a concrete NGO plan of action should be prepared well in advance of the Nairobi Conference, in order that the various Preparatory Committees meeting in New York should have a clear idea of NGOs' options. The NGOs should draw up a "shopping list" of things they would like to see done.

Another major preoccupation of the ELC was the question of network-building. The Centre already had a network of about 3,500 NGOs - with whom it kept in regular touch through the newsletter - but these were mainly working in the field of the environment and human settlements. It was planned to include a couple of pages on NRSE in future editions of Ecoforum.

The ELC was negotiating with the Government of Kenya to make space available for an NGO exhibition in Nairobi. Tentative agreement had been reached on this, but the Centre did not, as yet, know how much would be allotted.

The ELC was of the opinion that NGOs should be able to make a tremendous impact in the field of training, in particular training of local staff in the development and implementation of national policies and programmes. A critical situation existed in Third World countries, many of which still depended far too heavily on foreign staff. It was vital that NGOs emphasize the fundamental importance of training, for without manpower to implement projects no progress could be made.

Another way in which NGOs could play an important role was through demonstration projects. It was recognised that these would require the investment of funds which most NGOs did not possess. However, the ELC was able to make modest grants (up to a maximum of \$1,000) for such activities.

### 3.2 International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA)

Jos Lemmers stated that ICDA's main focus in the energy field was on the link between energy and development. Energy had to serve development purposes, in line with the individual situations of Third World countries, rather than the other way about. Energy should not be developed simply for the sake of it.

As noted in the keynote address of the Secretary-General of the UN Conference to Energy 2000, energy was a global issue, and the need for international cooperation to plan future world energy supplies was evident.

As a network of development-action groups in industrialized countries, ICDA was interested in the global dimension, although this should in no way be interpreted as a wish to adopt a paternalistic approach, for example by telling Third World countries how to cope with questions such as nuclear energy.

In the long-term perspective, ICDA saw the need for a more equitable energy package for the whole world - a mix of conventional and NRSE with, hopefully, increased emphasis on the role of the latter. In the short and medium term, a transition package, acceptable to both North and South, had to be found. It was recognised that this would cost money, and, consequently, give rise to political problems, but minimising the suffering of the people in the poorest countries should be the priority consideration.

ICDA - in common with FoE - saw the first priority for the North in conservation and energy efficiency. Secondly, it was vital that the North should plan to make more use of NRSE. Thirdly, there was need for increased care in the use of nuclear energy, which still presented many unresolved problems. Fourthly, NGOs should play an active role in public debate on energy issues, particularly in relation to the necessity of changes in Northern consumption patterns and lifestyles.

The main thrust of ICDA's development action work was currently directed at the role of TNCs in relation to development in the South, but took account also of their influence on consumption patterns and development in the North. The main priority project for 1981 concerned activities of petrochemical and pharmaceutical TNCs, especially in relation to the "seeds" issue (the decrease of genetic varieties of plant crops which had been cut to about half the amount existing at the beginning of the century, mainly due to the indiscriminately-increasing use of chemicals and pesticides).

It was evident that energy represented the largest conglomerate of TNC power; their investments were likely to put much future development potential beyond any form of democratic control and would obviously have tremendous impact on development patterns in both North and South. It was vital that care be taken to see that TNCs did not dominate the entire energy scene through monopolising the know-how and equipment required for NRSE, since their involvement would inevitably be governed by commercial profit rather than public interest.

It was clearly a task for NGOs working in both the environment and development fields to monitor the activities of Northern TNCs and provide information to the general public and to decision-makers. This could be an extremely useful input to the Nairobi Conference.

The UN Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) might be asked to help in this area.

The political package at Nairobi should not overlook energy questions related to the Law of the Sea.

With regard to the future of energy in the South, this was viewed by ICDA in the perspective of collective self-reliance. Solidarity between oil-producing and non-oil-producing Third World countries was primordial, as was solidarity between the least developed countries and newly-developed countries. In the long-term, ICDA felt this was the only solution to the energy problems of the South.

ICDA agreed with the view expressed by the representative of the ELC that the Tunis Consultation should draw up a "shopping list" which NGOs back home also could use as a guide in lobbying their governments in preparation for the Nairobi Conference.

Turning to the report of the Synthesis Group, ICDA's view was that the Sussex Workshop paper had flagged good angles: the Synthesis Report had been overly-technical and, at the same time, supply-oriented. ICDA saw NGOs playing a more political role, more closely aligned to the development context, needs-oriented rather than supply-oriented.

Jos Lemmers also referred to the Coalition's plan to hold an ICDA/Third World Dialogue in the week preceding the UN Conference, on energy and development related issues. It was expected that representatives of at least 10 national coalitions of ICDA attending the Dialogue would remain in Nairobi throughout the UN Conference in order to participate in monitoring and lobbying activities.

Asbjørn Løvbraek said that one of ICDA's main concerns over the years had been the transfer of resources to the Third World. The inevitable financial constraints to investment in NRSE might constitute a case for more automatic transfer of resources through some form of international taxation - for example, a tax on oil consumption, the proceeds of which would be invested in NRSE. This logic had been outlined in recent publications and discussions of development finance specialists.

ICDA had also devoted considerable attention to efforts to elaborate Codes of Conduct for the Transfer of Technology and for TNCs - both of which had clear links to the energy issue.

The question of the scaling of technology should also be borne in mind. Certain areas of NRSE might present a political versus social choice. One could, for example, envisage solar energy being used in many forms, and, depending on the production techniques selected, the effects on social structures would vary considerably.

### 3.3 European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Geneviève Verbrugge explained that the EEB worked at raising the level of awareness of environmental problems and issues through a network. Information on the UN Conference had been circulated, but there had been little real response.

The EEB was attending the Tunis Consultation in the hope of taking home a "shopping list" of issues or action-recommendations which could be used for lobbying national governments, or to assist groups to work together at the national level to increase public awareness. The EEB would like to see a globally and politically-oriented list, comprising issues not only for developed but also for developing countries. NRSE should figure prominently in this, as should energy efficiency.

Although opposed to some activities of TNCs, the EEB did not see action in this field as a matter of priority.

With regard to the planning of energy policies: reaching a new energy mix should be part of a global process; disparities between rural and urban sectors should disappear. There was a necessity to train people in energy policy planning - perhaps through seminars. The UN should set up a mechanism so that energy policy planning would become part of the overall process.

Financing obviously presented an enormous stumbling-block. The big investment banks and aid agencies had no mechanism to support small-scale and private enterprises at the national level, and it was crucial that they be enabled to finance decentralised projects. NGOs should lobby governments to set up committees to coordinate funds allocated to national or private banks, so as to permit them to make loans at advantageous rates to such projects.

There was a lack of information available to decision-makers in developing countries, and even in the North. Some way should be found, possibly through the UN System, to fill this, and obviously NGOs could also play a part here.

Kees Daey-Ouwens asked participants in the Consultation to keep three main points in mind:

- (a) The reasons why the UN Conference on NRSE was taking place - and why NRSE were so important. These were:

- environmental issues (well-known);
- inter-dependence (dependence on oil-producing countries);
- social and political considerations (today's energy system was very complex and very vulnerable);
- high cost of energy.

If NRSE were not introduced quickly no solution to the energy crisis could be found. It should be remembered that some sources (e.g. tar sands) were unacceptable from an environmental viewpoint.

- (b) Financing: This had to be the target. There was no point discussing NRSE if we were not prepared to pay for them. This applied to institutions such as the World Bank and also to governments.
- (c) General: Transfer of technology to Third World countries (which everyone agreed were those suffering the most) was primordial and had to take place on a non-commercial basis. This was of paramount importance and several precedents existed to show that it could be done.

### 3.4 Friends of the Earth (FoE)

Colin Moorcraft felt that NRSE were inadequately discussed in the Report of the Synthesis Group. It was imperative to bring about a transition from energy inefficiency and depletion to a situation of increasing efficiency and reliance on non-depletable resources, and this depended on NRSE.

All aspects of development - housing, transfer of technology, food production, etc. - should be seen as part of the energy process and borne in mind in the evaluation of actual projects. NGOs should consider, concretely, how this could be done.

The Sussex Workshop report had identified the problem of how to fund non-large-scale rural projects. At present funding was restricted to one end only of the project spectrum. What were the reasons for this - management? political? economic?

On the subject of training, people's actual needs had to be considered and both social and technological strategies should be developed to this end; it was no good just coming up with figures and working out how to satisfy them.

On the environment: FoE was very interested to ensure that the idea of sustainability should be made very clear. There was a very concrete environmental dimension and - if the environment was not taken into consideration - adverse effects could be felt in a very short time.



There was no mention in the Synthesis Report of how development patterns serving Northern interests affected conditions in the South. To what extent did the fuelwood crisis result from Northern intervention in the South? Could we do anything about this? And how could prices be eased without recourse to environmentally-destructive solutions?

Northern leadership: FoE did not see this in a paternalistic sense but was concerned that the North make a much clearer commitment to increase energy efficiency and development of renewables in the Northern countries themselves. In order to fulfil these obligations, it was essential to make a very strong statement on conservation and energy efficiency.

What, finally, was the role of NGOs in all this?

### 3.5 General discussion

The representative of the Ecological Society of Thailand wondered what the participants at the Consultation really expected from the UN Conference. Four very distinct groups would be there:

- Northern governments
- Southern governments
- Northern NGOs
- Southern NGOs

These different groups all had very different ideas. Major UN Conferences such as the 1972 Stockholm Environment Conference and the 1979 Vienna Conference on Science and Technology for Development gave rise to high hopes. But now - ten years after Stockholm - what had the world achieved in the meantime? And what would happen after Nairobi?

Many Third World participants had seen in the Stockholm Conference a trick of the North to retard the development of the South. It was important that this situation should not be repeated in Nairobi, in the sense that provision of NRSE could be construed as a vehicle to facilitate powerful commercial interests. And, again, the South might interpret NRSE as a trick to enable the North to continue using up non-renewables; therefore, the more NGOs placed emphasis on technological aspects, the more people would be blinded to the real issue, which was financing. It was important for the Consultation to get its objectives quite clear before going into details.

The Third World countries would like to see the role of TNCs - and that of major financial institutions such as the World Bank - put in the spotlight. What did they really mean when they talked about NRSE? We should also ask ourselves whether institutions such as the World Bank were really equipped to cope with small scale projects.

And how many people from the Third World would be in Nairobi? We had to find the financing to continue the link forged in Tunis between NGOs from North and South. A very positive aspect of major international conferences was the opportunity afforded to NGOs from North and South to meet. It was essential, therefore, to ensure a strong representation of Third World NGOs in Nairobi.

The representative of the IIED said there was no doubt that the solution to the world's energy problems lay in the North and not in the South. However, it was important not to lose sight of the fact that the South was not a homogeneous group; rather than dividing the world between North and South, it would be more realistic to divide it between industrialised countries, newly-industrialised countries and the very poor. Changes in Northern consumption patterns were indispensable in attempting to resolve the crisis, but OPEC member-countries could also play a very big part. It was vital to find an area of mutual interest, as this was, in the long run, the only way to break the political logjam.

It was crucial that NGOs exert immediate pressure to see that the composition of national delegations to the UN Conference was at a high level, empowered to make the decisions which would be necessary.

The representative of the International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF) recalled the importance of youth participation, especially in the environment field. It was essential, also, not to lose sight of social implications.

He referred to a network of European environmental and development NGOs, together with representatives of some Third World NGOs, which had been spontaneously created in Tunis by certain participants in the Energy 2000 Conference. This group had set itself three immediate priority tasks:

- the preparation of a listing of alternative experiences which had been attempted in industrialised countries, in order to demonstrate the wealth of potential already existing which could usefully be expanded further;
- the preparation of a kit containing information on TNCs, based on studies undertaken by both environment and development-action NGOs;
- the preparation of a kit containing details of studies undertaken in the field of conservation.

The network also intended to give strong support to a committee on the UN Conference already operating in Belgium. A work programme had already been drawn up by the network and, in the future, it was hoped to extend activities beyond the field of energy.

#### 4. Determination of priority issues for NGO action

The following lists of themes on which NGO action will be generated within and beyond constituencies are based on the report of the working group on the determination of issues for NGO action, and were agreed in plenary session:

#### 4.1 Statement of goals

- I. The only solution to the energy crisis is to effect a global energy transition. We, as NGOs, wish to move from over-reliance on non-renewable resources and wasteful energy technologies to a global mix of energy use that is less wasteful and non-depletable. This transition shifts the impact of energy use from patterns which are environmentally, socially and culturally destructive to those which are sustainable and potentially benign. Such a transition should move social and political relationships away from dependencies.
- II. Energy policy must be integrated with overall development objectives, with due consideration to the diversity of local situations which call for different approaches to development, respecting social, cultural, economic and environmental realities.
- III. The major obstacles preventing the shift to sustainable energy futures lie in the industrial countries:
  - over-consumption of energy;
  - inefficient use of energy;
  - export of technologies which are both disproportionately beneficial to the North and based on out-dated assumptions of energy supply.

Thus a solution to global energy problems cannot be found without a fundamental energy-use transition in the industrial world, based on increased use of renewable sources. Also, industrialised countries must be encouraged to reduce their demand on world reserves of conventional sources of energy (oil and natural gases) so that they can be diverted for current and future use for development in Third World countries.

- IV. The capability to do energy planning - based on careful assessment of energy needs - is central to rational use of energy resources, particularly in promoting a more equitable distribution of resources between the rural poor and the urban industrial sectors.
- V. Special attention should be paid to the fuelwood and charcoal crisis in the rural areas of developing countries. Resources must be committed from outside and from within countries affected, in order to facilitate recovery of fuelwood resources to sustainable levels.
- VI. There are no simple solutions to the energy crisis; solutions must involve a multiplicity of interests within societies, including those of people who are often overlooked, e.g. women and youth. This requires greater public participation in the decision-making process.

## 4.2 Major themes for NGO action

### I. Changes to be brought about in industrialised countries

- energy efficiency/consumption;
- NRSE (development and implementation)
- reduction of dependence on fossil fuels and nuclear power;
- information role of NGOs in changing patterns of energy consumption;
- under-privileged groups in Northern societies;
- importance of a clear energy policy;
- need to be aware of technology and information transfers.

### II. Transnational corporations

- monitoring of TNCs by NGOs
- links between TNCs and foreign policy in industrial nations, and between TNCs engaged in activities in different domains, e.g. fossil fuels, nuclear power, NRSE;
- accountability (Codes of Conduct);
- possible role of UNCTC.

### III. Financing

- how do funding bodies disburse their funds and what are the consequences?
- how can money be raised for energy transition? (e.g. oil-use tax)
- how should money be spent and how can it be channeled to small rural projects?

### IV. Transfer of technology, skills and information (North/South, South/North, South/South and North/North)

- training and education (e.g. in energy policy planning);
- transfer of soft ware (information and data);
- transfer of hard ware (machinery);
- problem of integrative planning (relating energy to other development components);
- place in North/South Dialogue and discussion of Codes of Conduct for the Transfer of Technology;
- social and cultural impact of transfer and, in particular, the role of women.

### V. Environmental issues, by types of energy

- nuclear power;
- fossil fuels;
- tar sands and oil shale;
- coal;
- renewables.

VI. Military industry, armament and energy

- level of R&D, financing and human resources in military industry and armament;
- consumption of energy by armaments industry.

VII. Rural areas and the urban poor

- impacts of fuelwood and charcoal crisis;
- role of women as prime consumers of energy;
- increased efficiency in use of fuelwood and charcoal;
- need to find cheap substitutes for fuelwood (biogas, alcohol, solar).

4.3 Priority issues for NGO lobbying in Nairobi

I. General criteria

- (a) Lobbying should be undertaken primarily to benefit those who suffer the most from the world energy situation, i.e. people in rural areas and the urban poor.
- (b) Emphasis should be placed on lobbying the North, both in terms of (i) internal energy policy (e.g. TNC and government activity), and (ii) their impact on rural areas and urban poor in the Third World.
- (c) Focus should be on renewables, including conservation, as opposed to conventional sources and nuclear power.
- (d) To the extent possible, lobbying should aim at the insertion of appropriate language on the following issues in the Programme of Action.

II. Discussion of specific issues

(a) Financing

NGOs should lobby for a shift of 5 per cent of research and development funds in the North devoted to renewables which could be used in developing countries, through joint collaboration any benefits (profits and industrial spin-offs) derived should remain in the South.

There should be a shift in the percentage of energy R&D budgets in the North which is currently devoted to renewables. By 1984, 10 per cent should go to R&D on renewables and conservation, and, by 1990, 25 per cent.

R&D funds for NRSE should be channeled through existing agencies, such as the World Bank, IFAD and regional development banks. Primary focus should be to change the total investment in renewables.

(b) Planning and training

NGOs must lobby for increased energy planning capability in both developing and developed countries. Relevant parts of the Draft Programme of Action must be identified to this effect, particularly for the promotion of technical training and planning skills. Planning should be based on energy needs assessment incorporating environmental, social and cultural aspects.

(c) Energy efficiency and conservation

NGOs should emphasize that the introduction of renewables world-wide must be paralleled by conservation and energy efficiency in the commercial sector. NGOs should endeavour to have conservation and efficiency recognised as a new source of energy in the Programme of Action.

(d) Incompatibility between certain sources of energy and NRSE requirements

NGOs should lobby in order that synthetic fuels, oil shale and tar sands are recognised to be incompatible with renewable energy development. This should be argued on economic, environmental and social grounds.

(e) Fuelwood and rural development

NGOs should lobby to focus immediate attention on the fuelwood and charcoal crisis and its impact on rural and urban poor. Emphasis should be placed on public participation in the Programme of Action, and the relationship between the fuelwood crisis and participation of women. NGOs should strive for the commitment of concessional funds and resources to fuelwood development and stress the need to watch the social, cultural and environmental impacts of fuelwood use.

(d) Transnational corporations

NGOs should monitor the involvement of TNCs in national energy policy and planning.

Emphasis should be placed on the degree of TNC activity in NRSE, particularly with a view to analysing the high-technology bias of TNCs in research and development.

TNC accountability (particularly in relation to matters dealt with in other UN fora: Code on the Transfer of Technology and Code on TNCs).

Two of the themes selected were given special attention in the adoption of the above list of priority issues:

(a) Although nuclear energy was not to be considered by the UN Conference, available projections clearly indicated that it would increase its share of the global energy mix. It would, therefore, be politically unwise for NGOs not to examine this source of energy in the context of overall energy availability and supply. On the

other hand, it was clear that NGOs did not want this issue to overshadow the debate on the energy transition, and that the identification of nuclear energy ought to remain a contextual reference in a process of consciousness-raising.

(b) The monitoring of TNC involvement in energy questions required concrete, irrefutable research on the part of NGOs, who felt strong concern with this issue.

## 5. NGO information strategy for the UN Conference

### 5.1 Need for an integrated approach to NGO information work for the UN Conference

The question of cooperation among NGOs for information related to the UN Conference was introduced by the representative of IIED. His starting point was that those interested in co-sponsoring a conference newspaper for Nairobi would probably face serious difficulties in raising the necessary funds from sources traditionally associated with such endeavours. It was, however, vital that such a newspaper be produced. Experience at earlier major UN system conferences made it abundantly clear that the NGO newspaper was the major information tool for all those attending such conferences, and a very effective instrument in channeling NGO ideas into the proceedings.

In his view, another approach could be to integrate the conference newspaper in a general information programme. With the endorsement of all the major NGO networks preparing for Nairobi, such a programme could appeal to a wider range of potential donor agencies. This would apply particularly to funding agencies involved in education, be they non-governmental - such as some of the more important voluntary agencies in industrialised countries - or inter-governmental, such as Unesco, UNFPA and UNICEF. It was agreed that all NGOs involved in such an information coalition would do their best to support this fundraising effort.

### 5.2 Information coalition

Following this presentation, and the discussion of information matters in a working group, the Consultation decided that the organizations represented would form an information coalition with a view to supporting a series of activities and the fundraising required to carry them out. The representative of IIED expressed his willingness to draft a comprehensive information proposal for presentation to funding agencies, and it was agreed that he would be entrusted with the task of preparing the necessary documents on the basis of all the proposals and ideas set out in the following sub-sections of part 5 of the present report.

The Consultation also agreed that the proposal to be drafted would be complementary to the efforts being made by the ELC and by the NGO Committee on NRSE in New York to obtain funding which would include the conference newspaper. The proposal could, therefore, be used in two ways: (i) to backstop the ELC and the NGO Committee whenever funding sources interested in supporting such activities needed additional information; and (ii) to approach agencies other than those contacted by the ELC and the NGO Committee.

### 5.3 Pre-Conference information activities

#### 5.3.1 Information work already planned

The following indications were given by participants as to information activities already planned by their organizations:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ICDA :                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- articles on the UN Conference to appear in ICDA's monthly publication, <u>ICDA News</u></li><li>- circulation of report of the Tunis Consultation to national coalitions</li></ul>   |
| EEB :                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- double-page on NRSE and NGO action in the next issue of <u>Ecoforum</u></li><li>- information for national groups interested in setting up NGO committees on NRSE</li></ul>  |
| Vienna Institute for Development :  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- publication and dissemination of material on energy questions for German-speaking audiences</li><li>- one-day seminar on energy and development (May 1981, Vienna)</li></ul>   |
| ELC :                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- special report on NRSE in July edition of <u>Ecoforum</u></li><li>- regular information to NGOs on progress made in ELC preparations for Nairobi</li><li>- information on 3rd session of the Preparatory Committee for NGOs</li></ul>  |
| FoE International (San Francisco) : | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- probably two more issues of <u>Renewable News</u></li><li>- articles to appear in FoE's <u>Soft Energy Notes</u> (May issue)</li><li>- production and distribution of short monographs on technologies related to the sources of energy identified for the UN Conference</li></ul> |
| FoE International (Brussels) :      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- information to be included in the newsletter which is sent to grassroots groups</li><li>- contacts with World Information Service on Energy (WISE)</li><li>- inventory of activities undertaken by grassroots groups in the field of NRSE at the national level</li></ul>          |
| Earth Resources Research :          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- articles in environmental periodicals such as <u>Undercurrents</u></li><li>- use of newsletters</li></ul>  |
| NCOS/CNCD :                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- publications on NRSE in the Third World Documents series of NCOS</li><li>- work towards the creation of a national committee in Belgium</li></ul>  |
| Earthscan (IIED) :                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- organization of Press Seminar on UN Conference (The Hague, probably in July)</li></ul>   |



- Ecological Society of Thailand : - special issue of the Society's Environment Journal devoted to the UN Conference.  
(Would appreciate material from other NGOs for inclusion.)
- plans for the production of a film on village technology stressing the cultural and social roots of NRSE, in order to promote awareness of these concepts among public opinion
- National Committee for the Control of Energy Choices : - national meeting organised by quarterly magazine Quale Energia in April
- contacts with grassroots groups and lobbying competent ministries for Nairobi
- NGO Committee on NRSE (New York) : - organization of an Energy Day on 8 April 1981 (during PrepCom 3), to (a) increase public awareness about the UN Conference, and (b) commence elaboration of NGO input on seven issues identified by the Committee (work to continue during coming months)
- UN Conference Secretariat (New York) : - inclusion of all NGOs attending the Tunis Consultation on the NGO mailing list for the Conference, for distribution of preparatory documents (background papers and public information materials)
- UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (Geneva) : - publication of information on the Tunis Consultation and other NGO activities in forthcoming issues of Development Forum
- regular collation and dissemination of information on NGO plans for Nairobi

#### 5.3.2 Information for the 4th session of the Preparatory Committee

See section 6.2 of the present report.

#### 5.3.3 Regular news-sheet for information coalition

In addition to Renewable News and other information activities leading to the UN Conference, it was agreed that a fortnightly news-sheet should be produced to circulate news from members of the information coalition on all aspects of NGO preparations for Nairobi: national level activities, possible contributions to the conference newspaper and the NGO Forum, meetings of interest, etc. The UN NGLS (Geneva) offered to coordinate the information gathering, and it was hoped that one of the NGOs participating in the coalition would be able to take care of the production and distribution of the news-sheet.

#### 5.4 Conference newspaper

The representative of the ELC drew attention to the proposal already submitted by his organization to potential funding sources - of which the conference newspaper was one of the major items, with an estimated budget of US \$58,000, which included printing and distribution costs as well as journalists' travel and fees and provision for volunteer writers and

and distributors. This figure was based on the publication of 14 eight-page issues, each with a print-run of 5,000, and seven paid staff to be joined by volunteers.

The representative of FoE International stated his organization's willingness to co-sponsor the conference newspaper. He suggested the following guidelines for co-sponsors:

- decide editorial policy, assignments, the general thrust of coverage at morning meetings of those actively writing and producing the paper;
- designate an editor of the day;
- designate a designer;
- each sponsoring group raise money for travel and expenses of staff they provide for the operation (about \$2,000 for travel and per diem per person) with, if possible, an additional 50 per cent to help with expenses of the paper;
- each person sent to Nairobi under this arrangement should have competence regarding the substance of a major area of the UN Conference; be representative of her/his NGO's views; and have demonstrated writing skills;
- ELC and other sponsoring groups could approach potential funders to sponsor one or more newspaper staff, as well as part of the costs of production. UN and other agencies might provide enough to bring, for example, a writer from a Third World NGO;
- some writers, not representing an NGO per se, for example a Third World journalist or a writer from an industrial country with strong NGO ties, might be seconded to the paper, should funding be found.

FoE were prepared to contribute four people to the staff of such a cooperative newspaper; this contribution was to be of the order of \$15,000.

The representative of ICDA explained that, although his organization would not formally be among the co-sponsors of the conference newspaper, it was willing to contribute background and feature material (amounting to one page per issue) focussing on the links between the UN Conference themes and the development dimension of global negotiations, as viewed by ICDA. Furthermore, members of national coalitions of ICDA present at the UN Conference could probably contribute copy to the newspaper.

The working group on information questions reported on its examination of the possible options for the conference newspaper. In the ensuing discussion the following points were made and agreed upon:

(a) the newspaper was an indispensable instrument; given the tradition established over the last several years, it was imperative that sufficient resources be raised for the staffing and production of a regular newspaper to cover both the UN Conference proceedings and all other activities in Nairobi;

At the national level, although not many illusions could be entertained in terms of being able to change government positions between now and the Conference, the following considerations should be borne in mind:

- identification of competent ministries and focal points in order to ascertain country positions for remaining sessions of the Preparatory Committee;
- setting up of small NGO committees representing environmental and development groups;
- drawing attention to the question of the level of political representation of industrialised countries at the UN Conference;
- identification of key countries in both North and South;
- concentration of lobbying on governments likely to be open to a dialogue.

In connection with the lobbying of industrialised-country representatives, it was important that NGOs paid continued attention to two points:

- Northern countries are today very vocal about the importance of energy questions and their need for guaranteed supplies. They must be made to understand that this will require substantial resources for NRSE from the Northern countries;
- Northern countries must put their own house in order.

At the Conference itself, there was a need for a close monitoring by NGOs of the Conference proceedings and for direct links with delegates. Of particular importance was the responsibility of industrialised countries to live up to their own rhetoric - which they were more likely to do if faced with a strong NGO presence. In this connection, it was important that NGOs be informed that, although the Forum officially closed on 16 August, other activities would necessitate their continued presence in Nairobi until the closure of the UN Conference (21 August).

Links had to be established between the Conference newspaper team and the monitoring group, in order to feed the journalists with thorough information on the positions of the various groups and thus guarantee the total accuracy of reports in the Conference newspaper. It was suggested that one person on the NGO lobbying/monitoring team should be given responsibility for relations with media representatives at the Conference.

## 7. NGO Forum at Nairobi

The representative of the ELC stated that the Centre had taken responsibility for the organization of the NGO Forum, which was planned to take place from 9-16 August 1981. It was expected that 200-300 people would participate. It was hoped that the Forum would be opened by the Secretary General of the UN Conference, who would deliver a keynote address. The facilities which the ELC was trying to secure, in cooperation with the Government of Kenya, would hopefully include:

- room space for thematic workshops to be run by one or several NGOs under their responsibility;
- space for a practical NGO exhibition;

Also to be included in the information strategy were proposals for continuing information work in the fields of NRSE and energy and development, through such periodicals as Renewable News, Ecoforum (ELC), Ecoforum (EEB), the Tranet Newsletter, ICDA News, etc.

FoE International (Brussels) accepted to act as clearing-house for the project.

## 6. Political level action

### 6.1 3rd session of the Preparatory Committee

It was agreed to mandate the representatives of the ELC and FoE (USA), who would be in New York during the PrepCom, to make known the views of the NGOs present at the Tunis Consultation, as an input to the preparatory process and to discuss coordination of follow-up work with the NGO Committee on NRSE in New York.

### 6.2 4th session of the Preparatory Committee

It was agreed that a Draft Position Paper on the issues of the UN Conference, based on the list identified at the Tunis Consultation, and taking into account the discussions on the Draft Programme of Action during the 3rd session of the PrepCom, should be prepared and circulated to governments before the 4th session of the PrepCom (to take place from 8-26 June 1981). The Consultation agreed that the paper should, at all stages of its elaboration and circulation to governments and, subsequently, to NGOs, remain in draft form, since its main objective was less to receive the endorsement of individual delegations or NGOs than to generate interest in the priority issues identified by the Consultation.

In view of the obvious time constraints, it was proposed that this paper be prepared by a group of concerned NGOs in Europe, possibly - should funding permit - with the assistance of a professional writer. The most suitable venue for the meeting of this NGO drafting group was felt to be London, where the participation at least of FoE (UK), IIED and ICDA could be easily assured. It was further agreed that responsibility for the coordination of this NGO drafting group would be entrusted to the representative of Earth Resources Research (UK). This would include submission of requests for the necessary funding (likely to amount to US \$3,000-5,000) to cover consultancy fees, editing and reproduction costs of an estimated 1,000 copies of the paper (which would probably comprise about 20 pages), 200 of which would be needed for the 4th session of the Preparatory Committee.

### 6.3 Action at EEC level

IIED and EEB proposed to look into ways of increasing discussion on NRSE-related questions among the 10 member countries of the EEC. This could take the form of a meeting to take place in the UK in July with participants from both energy and development cooperation ministries.

### 6.4 Lobbying and monitoring activities

Following the presentation of the report of the working group on political level action, the Consultation agreed that the list of issues identified required lobbying and monitoring of governments' positions during the remainder of the preparatory process, as well as at Nairobi.

At the national level, although not many illusions could be entertained in terms of being able to change government positions between now and the Conference, the following considerations should be borne in mind:

- identification of competent ministries and focal points in order to ascertain country positions for remaining sessions of the Preparatory Committee;
- setting up of small NGO committees representing environmental and development groups;
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- room space for thematic workshops to be run by one or several NGOs under their responsibility;
- space for a practical NGO exhibition;

- equipment and space for audiovisual presentations;
- space for the display of NGO materials.

It was also foreseen that daily briefings on progress made at the UN Conference be given by NGO representatives.

In the general discussion which followed, it was emphasized that the Forum sessions should be scheduled so as not to conflict with those of the UN Conference, and to allow time for the valuable networking activities which such fora traditionally stimulate.

It was also essential that planning for workshops begin immediately. Participants in the Tunis Consultation should strive to suggest themes for these workshops and stimulate NGOs' interest in taking responsibility for their organization, including the provision of background papers, ensuring the availability of resource persons and adequate reporting procedures.

On the basis of past experience, it was important that precise criteria be established for sponsorship of workshops, in order to ensure that they be truly international in character and that resource persons came from a broad range of countries.

A box would be included on the NGO pages of Development Forum inviting NGOs to submit ideas for possible workshops (themes, resource persons, expected participation, and sponsorship). In this connection, it was important that NGOs attending the Tunis Consultation take special responsibility for the organization of workshops on the issues they had identified.

#### 8. Procedure for NGO accreditation to the UN Conference

The representative of the UN Conference Secretariat stated that, although the rules of procedure of the Conference had not yet been adopted, it was anticipated that the provisions governing NGO participation would be very similar to those of earlier major UN conferences. In addition to NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC, other national and international NGOs which had a special interest in energy questions would, in all probability, also be accredited. To this end, it was essential that these NGOs write to the UN Conference Secretariat, in order that due consideration be given to the granting of observer status.

An orientation session for all NGOs accredited to the Conference would be organised by the UN Secretariat immediately prior to the opening of the Conference.

#### 9. Closure of Consultation

The representative of ICDA, speaking on behalf of the NGO participants, thanked the co-sponsors of the Consultation for having provided the occasion for concrete cooperation between both environment and development networks. He hoped that the setting up of the information coalition, and the identification of common themes for action would lead to the establishment of permanent links between these networks and increase their effectiveness at national and international levels.

In closing the Consultation, the representatives of the United Nations thanked the NGOs present for their participation and for the remarkable spirit of cooperation which had prevailed throughout.

ANNEX I  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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## ANNEX II

### LIST OF DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE CONSULTATION

1. Report of the Synthesis Group (Doc.A/CONF.100/PC41)
2. Report of the Sussex Workshop - Reaction to the Synthesis Report Prepared for the UN Conference on NRSE (edited by Andrew Barnett, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, 10-11 March 1981).
3. Keynote address of Enrique V. Iglesias, Secretary-General, UN Conference on NRSE to the Energy 2000 Conference, Tunis, 23 March 1981.
4. ELC flyer on the NGO Forum on NRSE.
5. Renewable News, nos. 1, 2 and 3.
6. Paper by Gary Gallon (ELC, Nairobi): Brief Comments on UNERG and NGO Activities.
7. Paper by David Chatfield (FoE/USA): Energy Efficiency and Conservation.
8. Paper by René Karottki on activities of OVE (Danish Organisation for Renewable Energy).
9. Paper by Eddie Boelens on activities of National Centre for Development Cooperation, Brussels.