

# OUTREACH 2015

Providing you an insightful lively critical analysis and news

## MOVING FORWARD ON ENERGY AT THE CSD



*An Interview with Jonathan Margolis  
by Felix Dodds and Jennifer Peer*

result, the issue of energy security is of great concern to governments. Energy is important because it underpins the ability to provide other basic services such as water, health, and education. This means every country will approach the issue of energy from the perspective of energy security. We need to recognize though, that the circumstances of each country are distinct. For some countries, renewable energy may be a good option. Others, however, may not have renewable options, and will need to look to more conventional energy sources. National circumstances will drive countries to seek appropriate energy mixes. The goal of the US for the CSD is to find a way to identify the best ways for countries to provide clean, healthy and affordable energy service to their citizens.

**The US has been very supportive of DESA's matrix approach. How could this mechanism be strengthened for future cycles?**

I am glad you raised the issue of the role of the Secretariat. We have been very impressed with the Secretariat's ability to take on board the guidance of governments, who have wanted to see a CSD focused on implementation. Mechanisms such as the matrix and the partnerships database are important responses to this. With regards to the matrix, the Secretariat solicited case studies from governments and major stakeholders. When they did this, they targeted implementation. The US took this request seriously and submitted over 30 case studies to the Secretariat. We understand that many other governments have done the same.

The challenge for the Secretariat now is two fold. First, the secretariat will need to find ways of effectively managing the constant stream of information and case studies that will now be flowing from governments. The second challenge for

**The 14th Session of the CSD is addressing the issues of Energy for Sustainable Development, Industrial Development, Air Pollution and Climate Change. How does the US government feel these issues can be addressed at the CSD?**

This CSD session has one overarching theme: Energy. That is why it is called the 'Energy Cycle.' This overarching theme includes the 4 substantive issues you identified: Energy for Sustainable Development, Industrial Development, Air Pollution and Climate Change. The US Government has made an assessment of those 4 issues and concluded that each could easily have an entire cycle devoted to them alone. Furthermore, many of those areas already have extensive programmes and activities dedicated to them under the auspices of the UN. As a result, the US feels that energy should be used as a prism through which we look at a broad swath of sustainable development issues (e.g., health, education, water, etc.). In relation to the four thematic issues of this cycle, we can talk about each within the context of energy. For example, if we address activities directed at making energy consumption more efficient, on both the supply and demand side, our efforts will in turn have positive affects for air pollution and climate change. We feel energy efficiency is an issue that should be front and centre in discussions at the CSD.

**Since Johannesburg, energy security has become an increasingly important issue. How could the CSD's Energy Cycle give direction on how to address this increasingly critical issue?**

The thing we need to recognize about energy is that citizens expect their governments to ensure that they have access to reliable, healthy, and affordable energy services. As a

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**Check the Diary of Side Events and Partnerships Fair on page 8.**

the secretariat is how to organize the information they receive in a user-friendly accessible manner, that enables governments, practitioners, and other stakeholders to make use of it, adapt it, and replicate it.

**In their statement to the plenary on Monday, the South African representative talked about need to address issues such as technology transfer, capacity building and financing. How could the policy year unlock the capacity building question and come up with some specific activities that could be taken?**

Good question. I like it because it suggests that the policy year is not so much about policy, but about practical action and implementation. We need to be clear about what we are building capacity for. For example, if we want to promote energy efficiency, capacity building would be relevant to help develop the standards for products that conserve energy. It is about identifying the technical assistance that a particular institution might need to enhance regulatory reform or other energy governance. To me, these sound like practical steps rather than policies. I hope next year's policy session can identify practical and concrete steps; that would be a huge contribution.

**Is this the holy grail of the CSD?**

I hope our policy year discussions are focused on identifying the practical (implementation and outcomes), rather than the abstract (namely what types of policy interventions are needed to make an institution undertake specific actions). That is what we should be talking about in the policy year.

**When we attended the ECLAC RIM in Chile, the US had arrived with money to spend on partnerships. There are of course a number of sources of finance: donor money, IFI and Private sector. What role can each of these play?**

Financing is indeed a key issue! You have listed three financing sources. I would like to add a fourth; domestic financing. There are huge amounts of financial resources located in local banks and institutions in developing countries. The key is to find a way to unleash this money so that it can make productive contributions to the energy sector. There are a number of ways to do this. Often local banks view energy projects through a conservative lens, considering them to be risky. Risk guarantees, such as those backed by the US for pooled debt for example, allows money that exists in local institutions to be invested in less traditional investment opportunities. Risk guarantee can provide the help to make investments in the energy sector that might not have been otherwise possible. In addition, credit authority structures have the added benefit of helping local institutions to develop capital markets, making

economic growth sustainable and possible.

ODA also has a clear role to play as well. However, when you compare the amount of financing needed to enable access to energy worldwide (\$16 trillion) to the amount of money available through official development assistance you realize that ODA is magnitudes smaller. In the United States, we have had to recognize that ODA needs to strategically target activities that will act as a catalyst for broader activities. For example, our ODA cannot build power plants, but we can help develop regulatory policy frameworks that will make investing in the energy sector more attractive. ODA should help to make the right climate for investment.

**Stakeholder Forum has conducted number of workshops to look at lessons and to develop recommendations on how the CSD could be strengthened. What are the key lessons learned from the first cycle and how can we take these forward?**

First let me say that Stakeholder Forum did a tremendous service to the CSD process by holding those meetings. In the past 3-4 years, the CSD has set out an ambitious reform agenda. The US has found that many elements of this reform required thinking, discussion and dialogue between governments and Major Groups. Stakeholder Forum provided the ability to sort through some of those issues and to ask: What are we trying to achieve? What are our goals? What do we need to take to get to those goals forward? Let me give you an example. At the September workshop, the discussion identified the idea of champions, actors who step forward and become leaders in implementation.

**Next year is 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. If you could project yourself 10 years into the future, to the 10-year anniversary, what would you hope to see had been achieved?**

We have to be realistic about what the CSD can achieve. It is my hope that by focusing on concrete results and establishing norms for implementation, that by 2012 we will be reporting at CSD-20 and beyond on the capacity we have built, results that have been achieved, the metrics we use to define those results, rather than abstract concepts. Such terms could become obsolete. Instead, we will be interested with whether a local institution has the capacity to manage a stakeholder process that develops a voluntary efficiency labeling program for a set of products. This would be a huge success for CSD. Looking back, I would feel quite proud that CSD 14 launched the process to make this results oriented approach to energy efficiency possible.

*Jonathan Margolis, Ph.D. is the United States Special Representative for Sustainable Development.*

*Jonathan Margolis photo courtesy of [www.iisd.ca](http://www.iisd.ca)*

# ITS TIME FOR THE IAEA TO STOP PROMOTING NUCLEAR POWER

By Felicity Hill  
Political Adviser on Nuclear and  
Disarmament Issues,  
Greenpeace International



As part of the overall UN reform process, the mandate of the IAEA should be changed. Make no mistake, the world needs the IAEA – it has vital work to do in verifying and promoting safeguarded worldwide disarmament with particular attention right now to diffusing tension and promoting peace, security and Nuclear Weapon Free Zones in the Middle East and North East Asia.

That's why its time to remove the dangerous compromise at the heart of all international nuclear proliferation efforts: the Agency's role in promoting nuclear technology.

Ten former Environment Ministers from the Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France and the UK agree. They marked the anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe by joining a call to change the IAEA's mandate<sup>1</sup> to cease any activities that promote nuclear technology. The Ministers called on UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Director General ElBaradei to propose reforms.

The public is joining the Environment Ministers call. The public petition is on the Greenpeace website<sup>2</sup> which is attracting a large number of signatories that will be presented to Nobel Laureate Director-General ElBaradei at a later date.

Greenpeace recently released this report, *The Chernobyl Catastrophe*<sup>3</sup>, which focuses on the consequences for human health which has directly challenged the IAEA and the WHO's arguments, the limited scope of their research inquiry to date and the dubious results emerging from said research, which is simply not providing a comprehensive accounting of the true extent of the Chernobyl disaster.

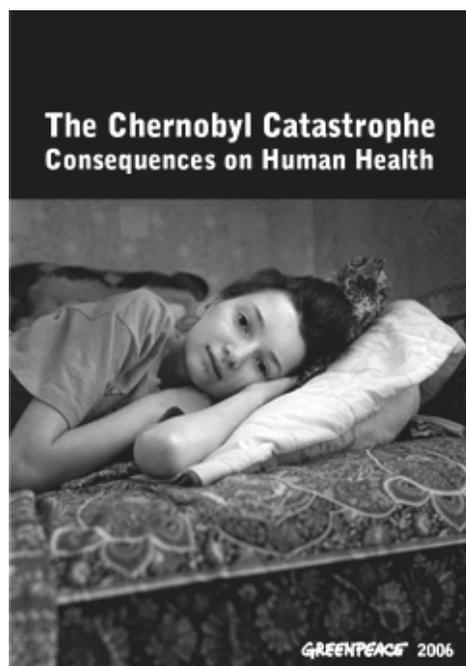
Unless the true facts of the Chernobyl disaster are faced and analysed, any effort to contain the dangers and prevent future incidents are undermined. An honest accounting of the true cost of Chernobyl and the nuclear age is long overdue. The IAEA has the equipment and technical expertise to conduct a much more thorough and comprehensive analysis, including ongoing health and

environmental monitoring. The Nobel winning Agency and the WHO should direct resources to this kind of monitoring and accounting activities rather than those that broker and facilitate the nuclear industry's profits.

Creating opportunities for the nuclear cartel to continue to make profit is an inappropriate activity for any part of the multilateral

project of the United Nations. Any institution associated with the UN – and the IAEA is one, it reports to the General Assembly and the Security Council – should not be in the business of facilitating unprofitable and dangerous businesses, which create an unjustifiable and unsustainable toxicity liability for hundreds of thousands of years to come

The IAEA did a great thing recently when it commissioned a public opinion poll from a reputable company that asked people in 18 countries what they thought about nuclear power. The Agency was told that the majority of people oppose the expansion of the nuclear power industry, and prefer that currently operating plants be phased out. The poll<sup>4</sup> also asked people about their concerns about climate change, with 10% of those polled changing their opinion about nuclear power when it was presented as a solution to climate change. This was particularly candid of the Agency, to reveal the exact impact of telling this lie, a lie we are being sold very heavily right now, that investing in nuclear energy can mitigate climate change.



1. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/releases/former-environmental-ministers>
2. [http://ctk.greenpeace.org/gp-en/ctk-collectors/respond?item%5fid=2047368&obj\\_skin\\_id=51](http://ctk.greenpeace.org/gp-en/ctk-collectors/respond?item%5fid=2047368&obj_skin_id=51)
3. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/reports/chernobylhealthreport>
4. [http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Reports/gponi\\_report2005.pdf](http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Reports/gponi_report2005.pdf)

# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY: WHERE WE ARE NOW AND WHERE CAN WE BE

In cooperation with INFORSE, HELIO hosted a panel discussion titled *Sustainable Energy: where we are now and where can we be*. This panel discussion was held as a side-event as a contribution to the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 14) held in New York, May 1-12.

The objective of this event was to generate a list of innovative responses for CSD 15. The audience was asked to focus its discussion around the following three questions:

1. What public authority action is necessary?
2. How can the CSD process contribute to the necessary national and international decisions?
3. What can we do to encourage/stimulate the process?

Points 2 and 3 elicited the greatest amount of interest. The discussion is summarized below.

Given the nature of sustainable development, it is important not to concentrate on subject-specific areas such as water, energy etc., but rather to focus on the over-arching goal of poverty alleviation/equitable development. The focus of discussions then becomes how a specific issue can contribute to this goal. For the CSD, its role becomes one of convener – it is the platform for bringing different groups together to discuss how their “issue” can best contribute to poverty alleviation/equitable development. This not only focuses efforts on the fundamental human right of equity but also works to minimize the

divisiveness that often arises when the goal of one group undermines that of another group. The push for clean and renewable energy is one example as a shift away from coal, oil and nuclear will have an effect on jobs in those sectors and will cause resistance among workers and trade unions. By focusing on poverty alleviation/equitable development the issue is not clean and renewable energy verses jobs but the need to couple the economic transition (that would occur with an energy shift) with a social transition. Demand for participatory democracy (effective citizen involvement) and the importance of understanding and educating decision makers on gender and cultural issues were also highlighted as important factors.

The context for discussion was set by a series of presentations that outlined the current status of energy policies around the world and how they contribute to global ecodevelopment. Three scenarios for where we can be in 50 years if we apply our collective political will was also presented.

The panel was moderated by **Edgar Blaustein**, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Presentations were given by:

- **Laura Williamson** (HELIO International) Sustainable Energy: where we are now – country analyses and outlooks
- **Ibrahim Togola** (Malifolkecenter/HELIO International-Africa) Energy and Development in Africa
- **Gunnar Olesen Boye** – (INFORSE) Where We Can Go: Sustainable Energy Visions for the Next 50 Years

## Press conference & launch of report, *"Fuel for Life: Household Energy and Health"*

UN Press Briefing Room (Room 226)  
11:00 - 11:45 EST, Thursday 4 May, 2006

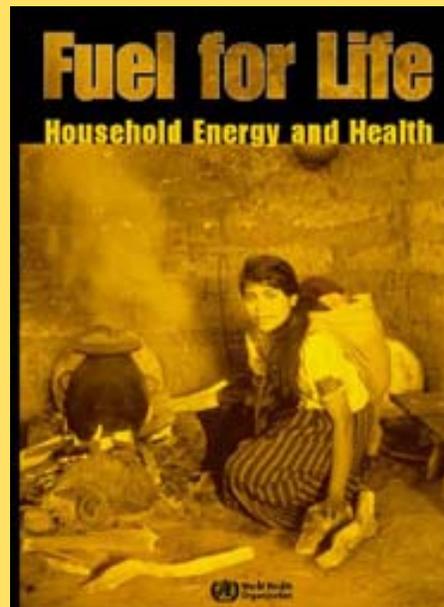
### **Dr Carlos Corvalan**

Coordinator, Department of Public Health and Environment,  
WHO

### **Ms Eva Rehfuess**

author of the report and responsible officer for WHO's  
programme on household energy and health

*"Fuel for life: household energy and health"* summarizes the health impacts of household energy and gives an overview of past and future trends in solid fuel use. This publication also reviews interventions experiences and demonstrates - through the quantification of the costs and benefits of different interventions that good-value-for-money solutions exist.



# United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)



[www.un-nqls.org](http://www.un-nqls.org)

## What is NGLS?

NGLS is an inter-agency programme of the UN system established in 1975 to serve as a bridge between the United Nations and civil society. Its aim is to strengthen constructive engagement between the UN system and Civil Society through facilitating dialogue and encouraging cooperation.



## What does NGLS do?

- NGLS focuses its activities in three key areas:
- Providing strategic information and advice to the organizations of the UN system and Civil Society;
- Helping to build a foundation and framework that supports the United Nations efforts to interact with Civil Society;
- Supporting the efforts of Civil Society to constructively engage with the United Nations.

## NGLS Publications Include:

- **Go Between:** Quarterly newsletter that provides a large number of system-wide “snap shots” of activities and events taking place across the UN system and Civil Society;
- **Roundup:** a series of briefing papers that provide in-depth coverage of major conferences and other aspects of the UN’s work;
- **Civil Society Observer:** bi-monthly e-newsletter of documentation of various kinds related to NGOs and civil society offering current, topical and global analysis from both inside and outside of Civil Society;
- **Intergovernmental Negotiations and Decision Making at the United Nations:** a booklet that provides practical information to those interested in the dynamics of intergovernmental decision-making in the United Nations;
- **Other publications:** NGLS has produced, or co-produced, a variety of other practical guides and directories – the latest being a compendium reviewing the interaction between Civil Society and over 30 different UN entities. For more information on NGLS publications visit our website: [www.un-nqls.org](http://www.un-nqls.org)

## How else does NGLS help?

- NGLS produces newsletters and other information material to increase public awareness and support for UN efforts;
- NGLS keeps global Civil Society informed of activities on the UN agenda and encourages to participation in UN conferences, events and processes;
- NGLS organizes meetings and events with NGOs and Civil Society actors and/or with UN agencies, programmes and funds;
- NGLS sometimes manages funding to bring developing-country NGOs to UN events;
- NGLS maintains a wide variety of thematic e-mail listservs to distribute announcements from NGOs and UN entities.

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# EDUCATION: THE MISSING LINK FOUND THROUGHOUT CSD

By Esther Castain, Education Caucus

Whether in policymaking or in community initiative, a widening range of stakeholders at every level need to be engaged in sustainability if we are to bridge apparent gaps between knowledge, understanding and action. Education for sustainable development calls for taking a risk; that is, going beyond what is known to take stock in the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. These were among the points raised at the side event co-sponsored by UNECE and UNESCO, reviewing achievements, challenges and future perspectives in this first year of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.



Though reports were primarily from countries of the North, it became clear that numerous action plans exist at sub-national levels to integrate education for sustainable development into communities, where civil society, government and experts intersect in the most concrete ways. Identifiable challenges are comparably numerous: (1) an inherent lack of institutional flexibility to respond to emerging needs for understanding and action; (2) how to design indicators that both ensure implementation and highlight learning outcomes; (3) finding practical linkages between education for sustainable development leading to an informed and inclusive citizenry. The list goes on.

Education for sustainable development that inspires us to go beyond what is known includes not only bridging these gaps but also reflecting unheard voices and traditions. For example: "Climate change poses a significant threat to our communities," according to the Indigenous Peoples Caucus statement during the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue segment of the regional discussion this morning in

Conference Room 4. "Indigenous peoples may be experiencing the vulnerabilities of climate impacts, but we also have survived as sustainable communities for thousands of years and are producers of solutions."

In a casual Vienna Café conversation after reading over the discussion papers of the Major Groups, one person commented: "How can you change production and consumption patterns without education? You can't."

The missing link of education is found in sharing lessons learned. It's found in the hallways, it echoes in the sessions, in every dialogue about learning processes and outcomes.

**Tomorrow at the Partnership Fair...**

**The Adriatic Action Plan 2020**

5:15-6:00 pm

The *Adriatic Action Plan* project aims to build a common platform for sustainable urban development in the Adriatic Sea Region. The project was first submitted as a Type II Initiative at the Johannesburg Summit, and then approved and co-financed by the European Union through the INTERREG III program. The projects partners are 20 local authorities from six Adriatic nations, with the Italian city of Ancona acting as lead partner. The *Adriatic Action Plan 2020* moves from the recognition that in the Adriatic region sustainability policies are implemented only at random, without coordination and frequently confined to a defensive and conservative attitude, regardless of management tools. The Adriatic cities and the whole region need an evolution in local government, integrating sustainability in any level of administrative procedures. The project framework provides parallel actions both in the public and private sectors. The final results will be summarized in a program (*Adriatic Action Plan 2020*), which includes common strategies and actions to be implemented by the year 2020. Most activities are oriented to strengthen the links between local governments and citizens of the whole Adriatic Sea Region.



# REN21 BRINGS REPORT ON BONN INTERNATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME TO UN CSD-14



Timely for the fourteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14), REN21 has prepared the first interim report on the progress achieved in the Renewable Energy International Action Programme (IAP).

The report says that stakeholders who have put forth Actions at the Bonn International Renewable Energy Conference in 2004 are generally keeping their commitments and contributing to the ongoing worldwide dynamic for Renewable Energy advancement.

The report will be released during the UN CSD-14 session, which in the first half of May is to review progress made in energy for sustainable development, climate change and other areas. The information on the 197 Actions and their implementation by governments, international organisations, civil society, and the private sector is a rich source for case studies from all over the world in policy, R&D, awareness building, financing, capacity building, and RE deployment.

## REN21

will be present during UN CSD-14 with several activities:

### ***REN21 Partnership presentation***

(with Mr Rajendra Pachauri and Mr Steve Sawyer):  
04 May: 11:30-12:10 ,Conference Room 6

### ***Participation in JREC side event***

08 May: 18:15-19:45,  
German House, 871 United Nations Plaza

### ***REN21 Information Desk (including reegle.info)***

09 May: 9:00-18:00, Neck Area

### ***Partnerships in Practice: Discussion***

09 May: 15:00-16:30, Conference Room 6

### ***Joint REN21-REEEP Side Event on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency***

(with Hon. Ms Margaret Beckett, UK, and Hon. Mr Sigmar Gabriel, Germany,  
and other Ministers and high-level Speakers)  
10 May: 13:15-14:45 , Conference Room 6

REN21 will also hold its Steering Committee meeting in the margins of CSD-14.

## RIO - GRINDS: the light hearted side of sustainable development



Mao Zedong and Tony Hill...Which is which?



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is an EcoSoc Accredited Organization

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## DIARY - SIDE EVENTS

1:15-2:45	Asian Concerns and Perspectives on the Climate Regime Beyond 2012. Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	2
	Geothermal Resources: a hot key to a sustainable future. Government of Iceland	6
	Sustainable Energy Islands – Leading By Example. Climate Institute	A
	The Science of Climate Change and its Impact: Priority Areas for Strengthening Science-Policy Links. International Council for Science & WFE0, Scientific and Technological Community Major Group	*DHLA
6:15-7:45	Energy Efficiency through Sustainable Consumption and Production. Nordic Council of Ministers	2
	Profitable Environmental Management – a “Triple Win” for Sustainable Industrial Development – a “no regret-approach” to Sustainable Industrial Development. German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	6
	Energy in the United Nations. UN-Energy & UNDESA	A
	Tackling Atmospheric Pollution: A global Approach. Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	*DHLA

## DIARY - PARTNERSHIPS FAIR

10:00-10:40	LPG Challenge	6
10:45-11:25	Promoting an Energy-efficient Public Sector (PEPS)	6
11:30-12:10	Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century	6
12:15-1:00	Cities for Climate Protection Campaign	6
3:00-4:25	"Partnerships in Practice" interactive discussion on <b>Partnering with the Private Sector: how and why?</b>	6
4:30-5:10	Designing Country Profiles on Sustainable Energy Development	6
5:15-6:00	Vinyl 2010	6
9:00-6:00	Energy and Environment Partnership with Central America	N.Area
	LPG Challenge	N.Area
	Promoting an Energy-efficient Public Sector (PEPS)	N.Area
	Vinyl 2010	N.Area

## OUTREACH 2015

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