



INFORSE at the UN CSD-14

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CSD14 - Countries Favour Renewables, But..

When UN's Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) has energy on the agenda, and more than 100 countries take part, including more than 50 ministers, it could lead to impressive results in global cooperation for sustainable energy. The CSD14, held at the UN in New York, during the period of May 1-12, 2006, did not come so far. The session reviewed energy, climate, industry, and air pollution. This "review" will be the basis for the energy "policy session" of CSD, which is to be CSD15 in May, 2007.

At the CSD14 it became clear that renewable energy and energy efficiency have almost unanimous support. The developing countries increasingly see these solutions as protections against high oil prices. Because of that, the case for strong international cooperation for sustainable energy has never been better.

Clean fossil fuels, including clean coal, was also supported by the large majority of the countries. Clean coal is increasingly including carbon capture and storage (where it a few years ago was mostly a question of scrubbers).

Nuclear was not discussed a lot. A few countries, including India, supported it in their speeches, while the International Atomic Energy Agency organised a nuclear-positive side-event and several NGOs organised side-events highlighting the problems of nuclear power. The industry lobby was promoting its mantra "keep all energy options open", including nuclear power and the other unsustainable technologies. The strong industry lobby got its message into the chairman's summary from the meeting with the wording "energy from all sources will be needed".

The countries were very reluctant to discuss sustainability problems of energy sources, from nuclear, to fossil fuels, to large hydro. This is clearly unacceptable. Glossing over or ignoring environmental consequences of energy use is one of the root causes of many of the energy-related problems that we face today. Troublesome issues associated with the different forms of energy were highlighted by NGOs in many side-events at CSD14.

Among the problems discussed were how coal mining, oil extraction and large hydro-power ruin ecosystems as well as the life of local people.

Side-Event: INFORSE-HELIO

The INFORSE Vision2050 for transition to sustainable energy was presented at a side-event to CSD that was organised by INFORSE and Helio-International. See: www.inforse.org



On the photo (from left to right): Laura Williamson, (Helio) Gunnar Boye Olesen (INFORSE) Edgar Blaustein (French Ministry), and Ibrahim Togola (Mali FC)

Side-Event: Women - Nuclear Energy is Not the Solution

In one of the side-events on problems with nuclear power, the experience of women were highlighted. Women in general are more critical of nuclear power than men. With the Chernobyl accident, this resulted in thousands of women taking action throughout Europe and the world. Some are still active today, as were most of the panelists at the side-event, including Anna Golubovska-Onisimova from MAMA-86 in Kiev. This organisation continues to help mothers to protect themselves better from radiation and to work for alternatives to nuclear power.

The side-event was organised by Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF). Read *Chernobyl-website* and -publication <http://www.genanet.de/index.php?id=433&L=1>.



The CSD Matrix

For each CSD-theme, a "matrix" is made with practical examples of solutions to the problems discussed. The themes in the matrix for CSD14 and 15 are energy access, renewable energy, advanced and cleaner technologies, energy efficiency, industrial development, air pollution, and climate change. Most of the solutions that are currently in the matrix are with major governmental involvement. NGOs can also propose solutions; and maybe we should do that more frequently.

See more at: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd14/documents/matrixCSD14.pdf.

UN Energy & Nuclear INFORSE's Deep Concern

At a side-event at CSD14, the new UN-Energy group presented itself. In one of its first publications, "Assessing Policy Options for Increasing the Use of Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development", the authors propose a nuclear power plant for Ghana, to be operational by 2025.

This strange proposal is the result of assumptions of very cheap nuclear power including, among others, unrealistically low operating costs.

The INFORSE network is deeply concerned that UN organisations are promoting nuclear power in developing countries, and that it is being done by disseminating unrealistic positive data for nuclear power in countries where few people, if any, have the capacity to evaluate them.

Read about UN-Energy and its publications at <http://esa.un.org/un-energy/>.

At CSD, NGOs comprise one of 9 major groups; inside the NGO group, the CURES network played a prominent role. INFORSE took part of CURES activities.

Read the CSD14 Chair's summary as well as statements made at the official sessions, including NGO statements, at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd14/review.htm>. Read about INFORSE activities and other NGO activities at www.inforse.org.