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ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Statement presented to the session for Energy for Sustainable Development
by Raymond Myles, INFORSE/INSEDA on behalf of the NGO Major Group

NGO as major group supports the promotion and implementation of sustainable energy, especially for poverty reduction.

NGOs support the target proposed by the WHO to reduce by half, by 2015, the number of people with out basic energy services. This must be based on the renewable energy services used in sustainable ways.

In this connection we suggest the following concrete actions:

1. Capacity building of all the stake holders, especially the NGOs, CBOs and other Micro level People's Institutions.
2. Energy conservation and energy efficiency measures.
3. Make available resources for the implementation of decentralized, people/community managed affordable, power generation systems.
4. Making available seed funds/money to NGOs for the implementation of micro finance based RETs for poverty reduction.
5. Put in place organizational mechanism to promote dialogue between the governments and local NGOs on regular basis to effectively promote and implement practical solutions in RETs for poverty reduction.
6. We agree with the delegates that the biofuel must be produced sustainably. We underscore that this necessity for sustainability elements form of consideration for the use of genetically modified crops for biofuel production.
7. The components of renewable energy, such as PV home lighting system, biogas plants & appliances and solar cookers should have tax exemptions so that the cost is kept low enough to make it affordable for the poor people.
8. Appropriate guidelines should be worked out for systematic promotion and implementation of RETs.
9. The national governments should politically support RE promotion programme involving NGOs and provide appropriate incentives and subsidies to reach maximum number of poor in the developing countries.

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation called on governments to consider the reliability, affordability, economic viability, social acceptability, and environmental soundness of energy services and sources. Based on these criteria, nuclear energy CANNOT be considered to be a sustainable solution to access on energy. Because of the following reasons:

1. Nuclear energy is not reliable
2. Nuclear energy is not affordable
3. Nuclear energy is not economically viable
4. Nuclear energy is not socially acceptable
5. Nuclear energy is not environmentally sound or emission free
6. Nuclear energy is not renewable
7. Nuclear energy is not a solution to climate change
8. The proliferation of nuclear energy leads to the proliferation of nuclear weapons

In light of these undeniable arguments, the CSD must admit that nuclear energy is not sustainable and call for the phase out of nuclear energy. Other options, which truly meet the criteria for sustainable energy are available and require our undivided attention and financial investment.