

1996/303. Recommendations of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development at its second session

At its 52nd plenary meeting, on 26 July 1996, the Economic and Social Council took note of the recommendations made by the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development at its second session,²¹³ and invited all States, entities within the United Nations system, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations to consider the recommendations, as appropriate. The recommendations were as follows:

(a) There was an imperative need to accelerate the research into and development of all promising approaches to energy and materials efficiency and renewable energy development with a view to assisting in the early commercialization of advances made and achieving a more efficient and sustainable balance in national energy economies. International financing organizations were urged to consider earmarking a higher portion of their funds for this purpose;

(b) In view of the slow progress made in removing the barriers that hampered renewable energy development, there was a need to adopt a proactive approach towards removing such obstacles. In particular, there was a need to continue subsidies and other forms of direct and indirect support. The external costs of using fossil fuels needed to be internalized, and a policy environment conducive to the use of renewable energy resources needed to be created;

(c) A major and immediate expansion and acceleration were necessary in decentralized rural electrification programmes in developing countries. As recommended at the special session of the Committee,²¹⁴ a global initiative should be launched with a clear commitment of financial resources to fund it and an agreed time-frame for its implementation;

(d) Taking into account the critical socio-economic situation in many developing countries, regional initiatives should be undertaken to resolve important issues related to the use and development of energy resources. Such initiatives should serve as a platform for studying, coordinating and implementing activities on a continuous basis, and could be further reinforced through other forms of international cooperation;

(e) A systematic database should be established on the programmes and activities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of energy in a form that was accessible for public information, using modern electronic communication techniques;

(f) The reports of the Committee should be made available to the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for their consideration, as appropriate.

²¹³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 4 (E/1996/24)*.

²¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 1996, *Supplement No. 5* and corrigendum (E/1995/25 and Corr. 1).