

SUSTAINABLE BIOENERGY TOWARDS GLOBAL ENERGY SECURITY AND LOW CARBON ECONOMY

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Background

1. Stabilizing CO₂ request a short-medium term global strategy, to develop and to disseminate radical changes in the energy technologies and in the global energy system to reduce the “carbon intensity” of the economy.

Considering the IEA estimated dimension of the investments in the global energy system in the next 20-30 years (22 trillion \$) the timing for the development of the new low carbon energy sources and technologies is now.

In this perspective, bioenergy is the already available “*carbon neutral*” option ,

- ❖ *to meet the increasing energy demand without additional carbon emissions,.*
- ❖ *to help the “decarbonizing” future global energy system*

2. Biofuels are expected to make a significant contribution in meeting global road-transport energy needs in the next future.

Nevertheless, biofuels sustainability criteria should be identified and agreed, to integrate the bioenergy development with the food and environmental security :

Food security

the increasing demand for agricultural land for energy production is raising concerns about land availability for all needed purposes, such as food, feed, energy, grazing and conservation.

Environmental security

the production of biofuels can produce more harmful emissions than the fossil fuels they replace.

3. Taking in to account that the tropics are the most suitable area for biofuels, and considering that the greater consumption per capita is outside the tropics Bioenergy can change the geography of the global energy market by increasing

- ❖ *diversification of geographic and fuel sources;*
- ❖ *energy security;*
- ❖ *economic role of developing countries;*
- ❖ *development of fuels and technologies towards a low carbon economy*
- ❖ *challenging the fossil fuels economy.*

4. To build a sustainable global biofuel commodity

- ❖ *Life cycle analysis, labelling and “certification of origin” of biofuels should be applied in the global energy market, to ensure that “sustainable bioenergy” production is not affecting biodiversity, natural resources and food security.*
- ❖ *Classification of “sustainable bioenergy” should be introduced in the WTO rules in order to reduce or, as appropriate, eliminate tariff and non tariff barriers according to the Doha Development Agenda, paragraph 31 (iii).*
- ❖ *Sustainability criteria should not represent a way for the introduction of un-necessary trade barriers and protectionism against developing countries export opportunities*
- ❖ *Research and development of innovative technologies to produce biofuels from cellulose (from grasses, trees, agriculture residues and wastes) should be supported by the International Financial Institutions in the developing world.*

The Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)

1. GBEP was established in the framework of the Gleneagles Plan of Action to “support wider, cost effective biomass and biofuels deployment, particularly in developing countries where biomass use is prevalent.”

The 2007 G8 Heiligendamm Summit renewed the mandate of GBEP “to continue its work on biofuel best practices and take forward the successful and sustainable development of bioenergy”.

Currently, the following countries and organizations are Partners of GBEP: all G8 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom, U.S.A.), Brazil, China, Mexico, Mozambique, Tanzania, Netherlands, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Energy Agency (IEA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations Foundation, World Council of Renewable Energy (WCRE) and European Biomass Industry Association (EUBIA). India, South Africa, Austria, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Sweden, European Commission and the World Bank are participating as observers.

2. The GBEP activities are finalised to

- Promote global high-level policy dialogue on bioenergy and facilitate international cooperation;
- Support national and regional bioenergy policy-making and market development;
- Favour efficient and sustainable uses of biomass and develop project activities in sustainable bioenergy
- Foster exchange of information, skills and technologies through bilateral and multilateral collaboration;
- Facilitate bioenergy integration into energy markets by tackling barriers in the supply chain.

The Partnership works in synergy with other international initiatives to avoid duplication and enhance impact.

❖ **GBEP Report - “A Review of the Current State of Bioenergy Development in G8 +5 Countries”**

The Report was finalized and delivered to the public in the occasion of the 20th World Energy Congress Rome 2007, on 13 November 2007.

❖ **Sustainable development of bioenergy**

Sustainability is a key issue in the perspective of a global bioenergy commodity, and towards a new biofuels trade regulations.

Next April, United Kingdom will host a GBEP technical workshop to set the agenda and the framework for the identification of the international principles and rules for the development of sustainable bioenergy.

❖ **Harmonization of methodologies on Green House Gas emission reduction measurement from the use of biofuels for transportation and from the use of solid biomass**

United States is the leading Partner of the GBEP Task Force on GHG methodologies on biofuels for transportation and hosted the Task Force meetings in Washington DC, 9-10 October 2007, and 6-7 March 2008.

The methodologies will facilitate the accounting of the bioenergy uses in the international and domestic policies and measures to reduce the GHG emissions.

❖ **Awareness raising and information management**

GBEP's awareness-raising and information management activities seek to increase the understanding of pertinent issues related to bioenergy development among Partners and between the Partnership, other technical and political actors, and the general public. It also provides the basis for a deeper and more effective coordination of ongoing activities on bioenergy.

GBEP's awareness-raising and information management activities have focused on the following areas:

1. development of GBEP information material and update of the GBEP website (www.globalbioenergy.org) launched on 7 May 2007 to promote information sharing on bioenergy and to provide an overview of the activities of the Partnership;
2. participation in relevant international conferences and meetings focused on bioenergy, and organization of specific GBEP events;
3. organization of a GBEP media communication campaign at international level and of the extensive media coverage of the GBEP's activities on print and online formats.