

# **GBEP Task Force on Sustainability**

## **An overview**

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*CSD 17 Side Event*

*Sustainable Bioenergy Development: GBEP's contribution*  
*UN Building, New York, USA*

*14 May 2009*

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# Summary of presentation

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- Background to the Task Force on Sustainability
- Priorities, activities and progress
- Future plans

# Background to the Task Force

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- Bioenergy an important form of renewable energy with many potential benefits
- But must be developed and used sustainably if it is to have a viable long term future
- GBEP committed to helping build an international consensus on practical measures to achieve that important aim
- Establish the Task Force on Sustainability in June 2008 under UK leadership

# Task Force remit

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- Priority – to develop global science-based criteria and indicators regarding the sustainability of bioenergy in all its forms
  - Relevant
  - Practical
  - Voluntary
- GBEP's unique selling point – the only initiative which is building consensus between national governments

# Intended use of the criteria and indicators

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- to guide any analysis undertaken of bio-energy at the domestic level;
- to be used with a view to informing decision making and facilitating the sustainable development of bio-energy;
- not to be applied so as to limit trade in bio-energy in a manner inconsistent with multilateral trade obligations.

# Progress

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- Four meetings held since June 2008
- Very good progress to date
- Provisional draft sustainability criteria drawn up
- About to commence work on science-based indicators

# Provisional criteria

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- Organized into 4 baskets:
  - Environmental
  - Economic
  - Social
  - Energy Security
- A fifth category for cross-cutting issues, e.g. institutional and policy frameworks, which are not a good fit with the baskets but important

# Environmental basket

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1. Greenhouse gas emissions
2. Productive capacity of land and ecosystems
3. Land use change, including indirect effects
4. Air quality
5. Water availability, use efficiency and quality
6. Biological diversity

# Economic basket

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1. Resource availability
2. Resource use efficiency in bio-energy production, conversion, distribution and end-use
3. Economic development
4. Economic viability and competitiveness of bio-energy
5. Access to technology and technological capability

# Social basket

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1. Food security
2. Access to land, water and other natural resources
3. Labour conditions
4. Rural and social development
5. Access to energy
6. Human health and safety

# Energy security basket

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## 1. Energy security

# Development of indicators

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- Three sub-groups established
  1. Environmental sub-group, led jointly by UNEP and Germany
  2. Social sub-group, led by FAO
  3. Economic and energy security sub-group, led jointly by IEA and UN Foundation
- A work stream on indirect effects within the Environmental sub-group, led by Germany

# Next steps

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- Indicator sub-groups will work quickly and meet in July to review progress on the development of science-based indicators and consider what additional work is needed to refine them;
- Revisit and refine the sustainability criteria in light of the outcome of the work on indicators;
- Give further consideration to how the criteria and indicators could be used, and in doing so, will seek the views of a wide range of interested parties and stakeholders.
- A final report containing the agreed criteria and indicators, together with recommendations on their use, as well as examples of good practice in bio-energy production, use and policy-making, is expected to be published by May 2010.

# For further information

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