

## PRESS RELEASE: GBEP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Steering Committee of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)<sup>1</sup> met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and agreed to form a sustainability taskforce that will develop global criteria and indicators to contribute to the sustainability of bioenergy.

GBEP was established in 2005 as a public private partnership to “promote the continued development and commercialization of renewable energy by [...supporting] wider, cost-effective biomass and biofuels deployment.”

Corrado Clini, Director General of the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of Italy has been confirmed as Chair of the partnership and the co chairmanship has been assigned to Andre’ Correa do Lago, Director of the Department of Energy in the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil.

GBEP partners agree that sustainable biofuels can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy security, and enhance economic development, especially in rural areas. However recent press attention has raised concerns about the sustainability of biofuels. The GBEP sustainability taskforce will work with a wide range of stakeholders to develop a set of science-based criteria and indicators to enable discussions of biofuels sustainability. A draft list of global criteria and indicators will be made available by April 2009. Additionally, the task force will:

- Compile an inventory of existing initiatives on sustainable bio-energy;
- Organize a workshop to facilitate the exchange of experiences on biofuels technologies, norms, and regulations;
- Create a list of examples of experiences and best practices, including benchmarks, relating to sustainable Bioenergy production and use.

For more information please visit the GBEP website: [www.globalbioenergy.org](http://www.globalbioenergy.org).

---

<sup>1</sup> GBEP members include: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Brazil, China, Mexico, Sudan, Tanzania, the Netherlands, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Energy Agency, the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Foundation, the World Council of Renewable Energy, and the European Biomass Industry. Austria, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Sweden, the European Commission, the European Environment Agency, and the World Bank participate in GBEP as observers.