

XIAMUN XI

United Nations Environment Programme

Transitioning to renewable energy in developing nations

Chair Report

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FORUM: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
ISSUE OF: Transitioning to renewable energy in developing nations
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POSITION: President

Introduction to Committee:

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the United Nations' leading global authority on the environment, driving transformational change on the triple planetary crisis: the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature, land and biodiversity loss, and the crisis of pollution and waste.

Introduction to Topic:

Access to renewable energy technologies is widely understood as an important factor in global sustainable development and climate change mitigation. Renewable energy technologies, which include solar, wind, hydro, and bioenergy, offer more environmentally friendly alternatives than fossil fuels and can play an important role in achieving the net-zero emission goals979 that the United Nations has set by 2030. Despite the potential, access to these technologies remains hugely uneven, which primarily affecting developing countries, which also lack the financial resources needed. An estimated 3.5 billion people worldwide lack a reliable, sustainable energy infrastructure. This report examines the challenges, opportunities, and strategies for transitioning to renewable energy as a main source of energy worldwide. In this report, it will examine access to the financing, technologies, and infrastructure needed to expand renewable energy in developing nations, and the major parties involved.

History of Topic:

History 1 — One of the first groundbreaking renewable-energy policies: in 2005, 15 developing countries had policies supporting renewable energy; this showed that formal policy support was still limited.

History 2 — Adoption of the Paris Agreement: In 2015, countries adopted the Paris Agreement, establishing a framework for climate cooperation, including financial and technology support for developing nations

History 3- Expansion of national policies: By 2017, the number of developing member states with renewable-energy support policies had increased to 95.

History 4- Global renewable-energy target: In 2023, countries agreed to work toward tripling global renewable-energy capacity by 2030

Key Terms:

Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) — Technologies that generate energy from natural resources that are replenished, such as solar, wind, and hydro.

Energy Equity — The main principle of fair access to energy resources and services for all, no matter their economic status.

The International Energy Agency — (IEA) is an intergovernmental organization that provides policy, data, and further updates on global energy issues.

Energy Poverty — A situation where communities or individuals lack basic modern-day energy services, which include electricity and proper cooking facilities

Should contain key words needed to understand the topic and easily facilitate the flow of the debate.

Major Parties Involved:

1. Supranational Organizations

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)— Plays a central role in promoting equitable access to renewable energy by integrating clean energy solutions into broader sustainable development strategies. It emphasizes social equity, which ensures that renewable energy transitions benefit marginalized and rural populations.

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) —It is a leading global intergovernmental organization that is highly dedicated to renewable energy. The organization provides data, policy guidance, and technical expertise to assist countries in developing and scaling up the renewable

technology sector. Furthermore, the organization also attracts global progress towards sustainable development (affordable and clean energy)

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) — This organization is a United Nations-led initiative, which is mostly focused on achieving universal, affordable, sustainable energy by the year 2030. SEforALL works with governments and international organizations to expand renewable energy to civil society and also national grids.

2. National Governments and Government Agencies

People's Republic of China— China is one of the world's largest producers and installers of renewable energy technologies. China does significant global manufacturing of solar panels, wind turbines, and other renewable energy technologies. However, their concerns regarding debt sustainability and environmental standards in some projects are..

3. Independent Entities and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)

The World Bank —It is one of the most influential financial institutions that supports renewable energy. It helps by providing loans, grants, and technical assistance to renewable energy infrastructure. The World Bank's goal is to promote energy equity at scale and reduce and possibly eliminate energy poverty.

Problems Raised:

Financing and Investment Conditions — Because renewable-energy projects require huge upfront investment, and while some developing countries face high borrowing costs and limited access to long-term financing, due to these conditions there is often project delay and make renewable-energy development more expensive and unattainable for LCDs

Grid Reliability and Infrastructure — Often, solar and wind output varies with weather and time of day therefore, this requires electricity systems that can manage these changes. Because of limited or aging grids, this can make it difficult to integrate renewable energy and supply reliable electricity to remote communities.

Uneven Distribution of Economic Benefits.— Renewable energy can create employment and industrial opportunities, but these benefits are not always distributed evenly across regions. In nations that mainly import renewable-energy equipment, these nations might gain fewer manufacturing jobs, depending on their workforce, infrastructure, and market conditions.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue:

Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)
There is an ongoing initiative aiming to achieve universal access to modern energy, double the global rate of energy efficiency, and increase the share of renewable energy. However, progress is limited, and energy poverty persists.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)
The International Solar Alliance received formal recognition through UN General Assembly resolution 73/275 (2019), which formally granted ISA observer status at the UN. This was a resolution that strengthened the ISA, which expanded international cooperation on renewable energy technologies. This resolution grants ISA more power to advance renewable energies, planted across developing countries.

Timeline:

Date	Event
2005	Fifteen developing countries have policies supporting renewable energy.
September 2011	Countries adopt the Paris Agreement, establishing a framework for international climate cooperation
2017	The number of developing countries with renewable-energy support policies reaches 95.
9 December 2019	The UN General Assembly adopts Resolution 76/123, granting the International Solar Alliance observer status.
25 September 2015	UN member states officially adopt the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 7 on affordable, reliable, sustainable, and energy.
2016	Sustainable Energy for All becomes a separate organization under Austrian law while maintaining a formal relationship with the UN.

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13 December 2023	The COP28 agreement calls on countries to contribute to tripling global renewable-energy capacity and doubling the global average annual rate of energy-efficiency improvements by 2030.

Possible Solutions:

The following solutions are suggested by the President for inclusion in the draft resolution; however, he/she/they urges all delegates to undergo additional research through credible sources such as the UN, governmental organizations, and international news outlets to best prepare themselves for the upcoming conference.

1. Financial mechanisms
   Expand grants, low-interest loans, and financial solutions to support renewable energy projects in low-income countries.

2. Technology transfer and capacity building.
   Sub knowledge sharing of the international corporation programs.

3. Decentralized energy systems
   Encourage community-led projects to ensure local ownership and sustainability.

4. Environmental sustainability
   Implement standards for environmentally responsible production of renewable energy technologies.

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