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## PROPOSAL FOR AN IPCC SPECIAL REPORT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Proposal by Germany**

## **Proposal by Germany for an IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources**

*This proposal is supported by Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Gambia, Greece, Spain, Sweden, and the Netherlands*

### ***Background***

Parties to the UNFCCC are now implementing their commitments in order to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. In order to do so most effectively, there is a need to compare different options for mitigation in greater detail than is possible in an IPCC Assessment Report. So far IPCC Special Reports have covered a few different sectors in greater detail (Special Reports on Land use, Land-use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), Aviation, Fluorinated Gases (“Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System”), Carbon Capture and Storage). These reports address in detail scientific, technical, environmental, economic and social aspects and regulatory and legal issues of specific technologies in the portfolio of mitigation options. Discussions at COP11/COPMOP1 as well as other reactions to these reports demonstrate the value of an in-depth assessment of specific mitigation options.

Two of the major mitigation options that remain to be assessed in greater depth include, firstly renewable energy sources and technologies (including biomass), and secondly energy efficiency improvement and energy saving. Analyses done in the context of the Special Report on CCS have shown renewable energy technologies to be at least of the same importance for future climate change mitigation as CCS.

In order to assess the potential contribution of different renewable energy sources and technologies (including the use of biomass not only for electricity and heat generation, but also of biofuels for transportation) to climate change mitigation at the same level of detail as for the options that were assessed in earlier Special Reports, the German Government proposes an IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources.

### ***Case for a Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources (SRREN)***

Technological research as well as large-scale commercial diffusion of some technologies that use renewable energy sources have advanced substantially in the last few years. New information in relation to the potential contribution to mitigation, co-benefits for sustainable development, renewable energy technology development, diffusion and transfer is becoming available now. In particular, developing countries and poor rural communities may benefit from a more extensive use of renewable energy sources through use of locally available resources, employment opportunities, stronger local economies and use of new technologies.

Experience with a wide range of policies related to renewable energy technology development, diffusion, transfer has also increased substantially in recent years. At present, there is no comprehensive assessment of these in the context of climate change mitigation, nor of the linkages with adaptation measures and policies.

All this new knowledge on renewable energy cannot be reflected adequately in the AR4 due to space limitations, as can be seen from the First Order Draft that is already available, where eight different major renewable energy technology options are covered in about 14 pages.

Extensive analyses of renewable energy potentials and technologies published so far do not analyse these in the context of climate mitigation nor fully in the context of sustainable development.

In accordance with the framework and criteria decided by the IPCC at its 20<sup>th</sup> Session for the period of preparation of the AR 4, which, according to the report of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session, is “to serve to guide, but not prescribe, future decisions by the Panel regarding its work programme, noting that decisions regarding the conduct of these reports will be considered on a case by case basis.” The IPCC, by preparing a Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources, would continue to “to strive to serve the policy community (UNFCCC and other) with relevant information in a pro-active fashion”. The report would be consistent with mandate, role and procedures of the IPCC.

***Suggested timeline***

April 2006	Decision by IPCC plenary for a scoping meeting on a SR on REN
Summer 2007	Scoping meeting for SR on Renewable Energy Sources
Fall 2007	Approval of scoping paper by WG III/Plenary
Spring 2008	Selection of Authors by WG III Bureau, LA-1
2008-2009	First Draft, LA-2, Expert Review, LA-3
2010	Expert and Government Review, LA-4
2010	Approval by WG III/Plenary

Based on the experience with earlier reports, a period of 3 years would be sufficient between a first scoping meeting and the publication of the SR. With a scoping meeting in 2007, the special report could be approved in 2010 – between the approval of the AR4 (2007) and a possible AR5. This would be comparable to the timing of the CCS report, which was adopted in 2005, two years before the planned adoption of the AR4. This timeline would ensure that the preparation of the report would not limit the availability of experts both for the AR 4 and for the AR 5.