

Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference

DIREC declaration:

29 October 2010

1. Ministers and Government Representatives from 71 countries participated in the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference 2010 (DIREC) with the aim of up-scaling and mainstreaming renewables for energy security, climate change and economic development. DIREC is the fourth meeting building upon successful outcomes in Washington in 2008 (WIREC), in Beijing in 2005, and in Bonn in 2004.
2. We acknowledge the multiple benefits provided by renewable energy. Together with energy efficiency, it provides energy access especially for the poor; creates economic and job opportunities; improves air quality and moderates climate change; and enhances energy security and sustainable development. In the last five years, the renewable energy sector has grown strongly and steadily. Even in 2009, up against strong headwinds caused by the global recession, lower oil and gas prices, and the lack of an international climate agreement, total investment had increased.
3. Besides finance, the growth in renewable energy has been policy driven. By early 2010, more than 100 countries had some type of target and/or promotion policy related to renewable energy. In addition, adoption of renewable energy is no longer confined to industrialized world—more than half of the existing renewable power capacity is now in developing countries.
4. Despite the impressive growth in renewable energy adoption in the last five years, the challenge is that its share in the world's primary energy supply remains small and its adoption uneven. The world has tapped only a small amount of the vast supply of renewable energy resources. For the upward trend of renewable energy growth to accelerate, technology development and policy efforts need to be taken to the next level, and large-scale private investment needs to be encouraged.
5. A large proportion of the world's population has remained without access to modern energy services for too long. Depending upon the energy source in question (electricity for lighting, modern cooking fuel, etc.) anywhere between 1.4 billion and 2.7 billion people lack modern energy services. The use of renewable energy sources will not only provide access, but also help in the eradication of poverty and in the achievement of the other Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
6. The goal enunciated by the UN Secretary General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate change (AGECC) of universal access to modern energy services by 2030 is commendable and should be pursued by the international community and accorded a high development assistance priority.
7. We support the designation of a Year of Access and call upon the United Nations to designate 2012 as the International Year of Energy Access. We agree to work with governments, development banks, the private sector and NGOs to achieve this objective.

8. In many of our countries, investments in targeted research and development in the energy sector are much lower than in other comparable sectors of the economy and incommensurate with the scale of the task at hand. We reaffirm the importance of investments in research, development and deployment (RD&D) and of international cooperation in RD&D for more cost-effective and advanced energy technologies.
9. It is only by significant scaling-up of renewable energy that will enter the virtuous cycle of cost-reductions followed by more significant scaling-up. We recognize that increasing the use of renewable energy faces several challenges but consistent and sustained government policies can and do have a favorable impact on technology development. Supportive frameworks, procurement policies, a level playing field, providing access to affordable long-term finance, all will help increase the uptake of renewable energy. The integration and mainstreaming of renewable energy into national sustainable development strategies for poverty reduction, agriculture, education, health and family welfare, will further provide more opportunities for scaling-up.
10. We welcome and urge cooperative global action to strengthen human and institutional capacities in developing countries. Long-term strategies for capacity building are required for policy analysis and technology assessment, supporting development of technologies and related skills in sourcing, marketing, installing, operating, maintaining, and serving renewable energy equipment and in the sharing of best practices.
11. While there is no shortage of capital in the world, the challenge has always been how to scale up private investment in clean energy in developing countries. Public funds are instrumental in leveraging and incentivizing large-scale private investment in developing countries through, for example, guarantees, risk sharing, buying down interest, etc. The provision of fast-start funding in the Copenhagen Accord, as well as existing multi-lateral and national funds, could catalyze much larger private flows for clean energy in developing countries. Some of these resources should also be provided for improving access to modern energy services in rural areas of the developing world.
12. We welcome the Delhi International Action Programme that encourages governments, international organizations, private companies, industry associations, and civil society organizations to take voluntary action for up-scaling renewable energy within their jurisdictions or spheres of responsibility. We request the Government of India to present an update of these voluntary actions at the next International Renewable Energy Conference being hosted by the Government of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
13. We express our sincere and deep appreciation and thanks to the people and the Government of India for successfully organizing this conference and for their hospitality and generosity.