RIO+20: WHAT TO EXPECT?

ENERGY FOR ALL - CASES

RIO+20 - WOMEN’S VIEWS

20-YEAR INFORSE
Working for a Sustainable Energy Future

It is now 20 years ago that the INFORSE network was formed, to give a voice to sustainable energy supporters, and to facilitate cooperation among sustainable energy NGOs. Since then, new renewable energies such as wind and solar have become billion-dollar markets. Major countries like Germany are working towards a sustainable energy future, and millions of people have got access to clean energy.

Unfortunately, problems have also increased: CO₂ emissions have increased by 40% and much more than a billion people are still lacking even minimal access to clean energy.

We need to speed up the introduction of sustainable energy and to develop mechanisms for energy access. With these actions, we may still achieve a global transition to sustainable energy by 2050, as INFORSE has urged throughout the latest decade. We can also achieve that all people have access to clean and affordable energy by 2030, based on local resources.

This will not happen by itself. Energy supply is not a free market: fossil and nuclear have been supported from their beginning and a transition to sustainable energy, is effectively a political decision. We need promoters of sustainable energy to make it happen.

To provide all with access to clean energy, we just need to add a tiny fraction to the current global energy consumption, but it has not happened because affordable access to energy is not a good market. The development must be started by dynamic non-profit entities such as NGOs, and there must be a continued effort to reach out to the poorest. Access to sustainable energy must be treated as a human right.

When the countries now meet for the second time in Rio de Janeiro, it is high time to speed up the transition to sustainable energy and the increase in access to sustainable energy. We urge the countries to agree to that when they meet, but the necessary push must also come from new coalitions of promoters of sustainable energy, including countries and all kinds of stakeholders that agree upon this objective.

This newsletter gives some insight into the solutions toward that INFORSE members work for and into how we work. If you want the world to move in our direction, we welcome cooperation.

Gunnar Boye Olesen
Editor & INFORSE Regional Coordinator (Europe)
Rio+20 What to Expect?

The results of Rio+20 have been negotiated among countries since January. The main issues are:

- Green economy
- Sustainable development goals
- Global institutions for sustainable development, including a new high-level political forum/council and a representative for sustainable development and future generations (an ombudsman).

“Energy” and “sustainable consumption and production” are also Rio+20 issues. The decisions to be taken at Rio+20 could start the development of a better global system for sustainable development, but the level of ambition is not high. Probably the most important aspect of Rio+20 will be how the countries follow up with national actions, as we saw after the Rio Conference in 1992.

“Sustainable Energy for All” initiative, with a target of 2030 is only “noted with appreciation”.

Green Economy

The introduction of the Green Economy has been promoted as a major result of Rio+20. The draft text for Rio+20, however, holds only a vague description of the concept, along with a proposal for the creation of a capacity development scheme involving UN agencies, donors and others.

Sustainability Goals

A set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is proposed to supplement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The current proposal is to start a process for adoption of the SDGs only in 2015, including energy goals. An additional proposal calls for supplementation of the use of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a metric with use of indicators for sustainable development, for natural wealth, and for social well-being.

Energy - Time Frame is Missing

Energy has a chapter emphasizing the need to address the challenge of access to modern energy services for all, but failing to set a timeframe for it. The “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative, with a target of 2030 for universal energy access, is only “noted with appreciation”.

The text also recognizes the need to consider reforms that would lead to the phasing out of environmentally harmful subsidies, including energy subsidies such as for fossil fuels, that inhibit sustainable development. Here, too, timing is missing.

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

The text proposes a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP. It also proposes processes for developing product standards to reflect the impact of production and consumption, such as the Ecodesign and labeling process that supports energy efficiency with success in the EU.
Mozambique: Local Energy Centers Provide Better Cooking

While the woodlands in Mozambique are under pressure more than 80% of the population still depend on biomass for cooking. More energy efficient ways of preparing meals need to be found. ADEL-Sofala and the Danish NGO SustainableEnergy support 8 Local Energy and Development Centres (LEDCs). The LEDCs provide a local focal point for sustainable use of energy as well as economic development.

Local Ownership and Production

Leaving capacity behind to sustain a positive development is an integrated part of the project. The LEDCs have trained and educated 60,000 people in a number of energy related topics - from the production of energy efficient cooking stoves to the establishment of saving groups. This has resulted in 30,000 operating stoves and USD 200,000 in savings. The savings are dedicated to activities that benefit the local environment. An energy shop is an integrated part of the centre. Here villagers can buy improved stoves and PV products.

National Impacts

Trainers and activists from the LEDCs have been well received in other provinces where they are engaged in the empowerment of similar associations. The project is also active in the national energy forum FESMO where experiences and results are shared.

Access to Energy for All – The sustainable way

The Rio+20 negotiators recognise that sustainable, affordable access to modern energy services is vital to development and poverty reduction. To provide this to those that miss it today, more than one billion people need to gain access to clean and affordable energy. Luckily, there are sustainable solutions that can provide them with the energy services they need. These solutions are based on local sources such as solar, small hydro, biogas, and other sustainable uses of biomass. Many of the members of INFORSE are promoting these local solutions. On these pages are some examples, including examples that we collected within the “Southern Voices” programme (see p. 11).
India: Household Biogas for Energy Access and Carbon Credits

In India, NGOs have assisted in the development of millions of household biogas plants that help rural families switch from scarce biomass like firewood for cooking to biogas generated from manure and organic waste. It provides many local benefits and it also reduces depletion of wood resources which reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

In the regions Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, INSEDA and member NGOs have a project to develop 4000 biogas plants with carbon credits within the CDM Gold Standard. The process started in 2007, and after 24 steps during 4½ years, in July 2012, the carbon credits will finally be verified and sold.

Based on this case, it is clear that for rural energy access projects, the processes to get carbon credits are too cumbersome, time consuming, and costly. They are also risky, as the verification can fail.

There is an urgent need for better mechanisms to promote and reward solutions that provide energy access combined with other benefits such as climate mitigation.

Nepal: Solar Tuki – Charging up Together

In Nepal electric lamps with solar cells and batteries, or in Nepalese “Solar Tuki”, are increasingly popular to replace kerosene lamps. In some poor villages, like the Kantipur Village (a remote village in Chitwan district in Nepal), households cannot afford individual solar tuki sets. Hence the NGO Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA) established a community charging center for solar Tukis in March 2010. Now 48 households in the village benefit by daily charging of one or two solar tuki each, getting better light and saving money and time to buy kerosene.

Mali: Jatropha Biofuel

Biofuels can be a powerful means of alleviating poverty as well as of mitigating climate change. Mali Folkecenter (MFC) is gaining expertise in supporting local development through rural electrification based on locally produced jatropha oil.

MFC’s rural electrification projects consist of three components: distributed jatropha cultivation, oil-pressing, and production of electricity.

Jatropha is grown on small parcels of between 0.5 and 5 hectares. Around 70% are inter-cropped with, e.g., peanuts, beans, or cotton. Intercropping ensures that local food production is not abandoned. This arrangement provides a stable income to farmers who traditionally rely on cotton as a cash crop.

The oil production facility has two mechanical presses. Seeds are bought from local farmers, pressed, and filtered to increase the quality. Residue from the seed-pressing is converted into liquid fertilizer and charcoal that are sold back to the communities.

Electricity production is done in a power plant using diesel generators. The engines are modified to run on pure jatropha oil, pure diesel, or any combination of the two fuels. The electricity is distributed via a low-voltage distribution system providing 380V 3-phase and 230V single-phase.

In the city of Garalo, approximately 400 households (equals more than 10,000 people) are provided by electricity in this way. The total size of the grid is 13 km.

Read more about these and other solutions to provide energy access for all: www.inforse.org/energyaccess.htm
Women as a “Major Group” to the Rio+20 Process has submitted a position statement, which represents the positions of over 70 women’s organisations. It was compiled by a steering committee including the two INFORSE members, WECF and ENERGIA. This article features some parts of the position that are especially relevant to the promotion of sustainable energy.

Key Problems highlighted:
- 2.4 billion people in developing countries still depend almost entirely on traditional biomass fuels (wood, charcoal, dung and agricultural residues). It is mostly women who are tasked with collecting and managing these fuels. Cooking indoors, without chimney, causes widespread respiratory diseases.
- 70% of the 1.3 billion people living on less than one dollar per day are women. The situation is worsening due to current food and fuel crises caused by climate changes (flooding, draught), and financial crises.
- Women are more affected by the adverse impacts of nuclear radiation, and climate change than men.
- Unsustainable energy use (nuclear, fossils, and coal) is threat for our generation and to that of our children. This is demonstrated by effects of nuclear disasters, climate changes, and environmental pollution.
- Women are deeply underrepresented in decision making bodies all over the world. Without true representation of their needs, women are left without a voice.

Women call for that the Governments agree:
- to make a decisive position to immediate phase out of nuclear energy and take the path to promote the use of renewable energy.
- to create incentives and a fair legal environment for renewable energy, and for women’s access to these resources.
- to invest in access to clean sustainable renewable energy sources and energy efficient technology.
- to stop direct and indirect subsidies to unsustainable energy supplies (nuclear, shale gas, tar sands, and coal) currently estimated at 7-9 billion Euro annually.
- to commit a legally binding mechanism to address the cost of decommissioning and clean up of nuclear power plants, nuclear waste and uranium mines, to be paid by the nuclear industry.

Read the full Position under Major Groups, Women at: www.uncsd2012.org
You can also sign it at www.womenrio20.org
- to make gender equality as a pillar of governance including the further promotion of the Rio Principle 20 towards the full participation of women. This can be done by quotas or time-bound targets of minimum participation of women e.g., 40%. Supportive tools can include: changing governance cultures, capacity building, gender sensitive indicators, spreading technologies that free women’s time, supporting anti-discrimination labour laws, and ensuring equal pay.
- to reform the fiscal system internalising external costs
- to going beyond GDP with new economic indicators which take women’s contributions and natural capital into account.
- to reallocate military funds to sustainable development.

Publication:
Women & Energy vs Gender & Climate

This new collection of articles gives an overview on the key issues on gender, energy, and climate, and their development. The articles are written by authors representing the key organisations active in the debate, many of them members of INFORSE. During the years the terminology changed from “women” to “gender” and from “energy” to “climate”. The focus is changing but the issues are the same.

Among the titles are:
• “Let Women Have A Say, Too! It Would Matter!” and “What shall I say to my daughters?” editorials by Judit Szoleczky, INFORSE.
• “Why Women and Energy? Perspectives for CSD9” by Elizabeth Cecelski, and Sheila Oparaocha, ENERGIA
• “Mothers Respond to Chernobyl” by Anna Golubovska-Onisimovo, MAMA-86, Ukraine, and by Cathy Foley, Australian physicist.

2001-2012 Articles from Sustainable Energy News
• “Gender Issues Missing in Climate Talks: Action Needs to be Taken, Gender is NOT Something to Ignore!” by Ulrike Röhr & Joy Clancy, GENANET and Sheila Oparaocha, ENERGIA.
• “Women Say: ”Don’t Nuke the Climate” - review from COP15.
• “Gender Justice at COP15: Half of Nothing is Nothing” by Marion Rolle and Nina Somera, GenderCC.
• “Portable CookIt to Save Millions of Lives: Cooking is generally a women’s activity and one that most policy-makers too easily ignore” by Pascale Dennehy, Solar Cookers International.
• “Micro Credit to 100 Million Poor Women” by Lalita Balakrisnan, AIWC, India.
• “Micro Credit in Bangladesh: Women’s way from the darkness to light, from carrying wood to using mobile phone and internet” by Rubina Hossain, Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh.
Transition to Sustainable Energy: Progress in Europe

Phase-out of Fossil Fuels in Europe
INFORSE-Europe and a number of other NGOs have proposed ways in which the EU countries could turn to 100% renewable energy. In the INFORSE-Europe proposal, the 27 EU countries, after 2040, would use only renewable energy from sustainable sources within the EU. Activities would continue or increase in all sectors, but of course they would have to be made much more energy-efficient. Only for the transport sector is lower activity assumed, given the large amount of unnecessary transport that takes place today.

The EU countries have discussed less ambitious, but still far-reaching, scenarios for reducing CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050, based on the European Commission’s energy and climate Roadmaps 2050. This spring, of the 27 EU countries, 26 could agree to a framework for emissions reductions and a mandate to the EU Commission to develop the roadmaps further. Unfortunately, one country, Poland, would not agree, thereby delaying joint EU actions.

Danish Transition to Renewable Energy
INFORSE organisations have shown how Denmark could change to 100% renewable energy by 2030 with a combined effort of more windpower, biomass from Danish sources, energy efficiency, flexible energy system and transition to a sustainable transport system.

In Denmark, the energy transition is supported by many others in addition to NGOs.

In March 2012, a vast majority of the Danish Parliament agreed a transition of the Danish power system to 50% windpower by 2020, increased energy efficiency, and a number of other elements on the road to 100% renewable energy by 2050. The government is also working toward a transition of Danish heat and power supplies to renewable energy by 2035.

Danish power supply in Pj. The official plan until 2020 compared with the proposal of INFORSE-Europe and Sustainable Energy until 2030.

Read more: www.inforse.org/europe
EU Policies – EED & Ecodesign

In the EU, policies for energy efficiency are progressing. The Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), proposed in 2011, is now in three-way negotiations wherein the EU Parliament, the EU countries, and the EU Commission try to reach a compromise solution. It is not an easy task, as some countries have low ambitions.

By mid-June 2012, a compromise is possible, but if disagreements persist, the process could be seriously delayed.

Today the most successful EU energy-efficiency legislation is the ecodesign and energy-labelling process covering increasing numbers of product groups. The energy-efficiency requirements and labelling for tumble dryers and 40-W lamps will be in place soon.

Boilers and water heaters have the highest savings potentials of all product groups. The decisions on these are expected in 2012.

Also regulation is in progress for computers, standby-consumption of equipment connected to networks, ventilation, vacuum cleaners and directional lamps.

Regulation of non-residential refrigeration, ovens, hobs (stovetops), and electrical transformers has come one step forward with consultation of stakeholders including NGOs. Here, INFORSE-Europe has made clear its positions, together with other NGOs in the Coolproducts Campaign.

Next is expected regulation of wood stoves and other solid-fuel combustion.

See more: www.coolproducts.eu, and www.inforse.org/europe/eu_ecodesign.htm

Low Carbon Societies Network: Social Acceptance and Stakeholder Involvement in Scenarios

The project to develop scenarios for transitions to low-carbon economies in Germany and France ended in March 2012. The project results are now available at the project’s web site.

In addition to the project’s reports, the web site also features posters and short fact sheets on stakeholder involvement, models and scenarios.

The website also has a special section, “ENCi Scenario Process”, on the collaborative scenario-creation processes for Germany and France.

While the project with EU support is finished, the Low Carbon Societies Network continues. Currently, scenarios are being planned with stakeholder involvement in Bulgaria, Latvia, Italy and South-East Europe.

You can still sign up to the Network at the website www.lowcarbon-societies.eu

NGOs Active in the Practical Transition to Sustainable Energy

While NGOs are promoting the transition to renewable energy and energy conservation, in many European countries, NGOs also have important functions in the transition. In Denmark, NGOs are playing a key role as independent advisors about energy conservation and renewable energy. The largest is “Energitjenesten” or, in English, “The Energy Service”.

Through 10 local/regional offices, it promotes behaviors and decisions that save energy and change energy use to renewable energy sources at home, at the workplace and during transport.

The Energy Service is a project under the organization SustainableEnergy in cooperation with local associations. Free advice services via phone and internet are combined with exhibitions and energy audits at low costs.

In Denmark, these activities are funded primarily by the power sector within its energy conservation obligation.

More: www.energitjenesten.dk, and www.ve.dk

A popular website is an important tool in modern energy advice. Energy auditor from “The Energy Service” in action.
INFORSE was formed at the Rio Conference, on June 4, 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. It was based on a common vision of NGOs from North and South of the need to promote sustainable energy defined as energy efficiency combined with sustainable use of renewable energies.

It was also based on frustration over the inability or unwillingness of countries at Rio in 1992 to agree on international cooperation for renewable energy or energy efficiency, while cooperation for nuclear power was (and is) well established in the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Where the countries did not agree upon international cooperation for sustainable energy, it was felt, at least a large group of NGOs would do so.

Network Regions Formed

After INFORSE was formed, the first members started to develop regional networks, with the vision of strengthening regional NGO cooperation for sustainable energy as a cornerstone of INFORSE. During the remaining part of 1992 and 1993, INFORSE regions were formed on all continents except Australia and Antarctica, and by the end of 1992 INFORSE had 44 members worldwide.

Secretariat, Database, UN Observer

In 1993, INFORSE got Danish support for its secretariat, for Sustainable Energy News, for global meetings of coordinators, and other activities.

With this funding, the network could follow its priorities: it started to follow UN processes related to sustainable energy, to build a database of sustainable-energy contacts, and to organise exchanges of information on local sustainable energy successes. These activities helped the members to reach further, for instance to the UN system, which is hard for local NGOs to access.

UN CSD, Social Summit, Women Conference

During the 1990’s, INFORSE coordinated NGO participation to promote sustainable energy in global processes such as the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), the Social Summit in 1995, the World Conference of Women (also in 1995), and the Solar Summit in 1998.

Europe Seminars and Education Material

In parallel, the regions started to develop regional activities. With great success, INFORSE-Europe organised annual seminars and several projects to build links across the former iron curtain in Europe.

INFORSE-Europe and INFORSE South Asia together began to develop an on-line training tool, the Distant Internet Education in Renewable Energy Technologies (DIERET).
CSD, Rio+10, Global Vision: 100 % Renewables
In 2001, INFORSE focused on the CSD, which had energy on the agenda that year. The network also started to develop visions and scenarios for how to realise the ideas of its members of a global transition to sustainable energy by 2050. This vision was developed further for the “Rio+10” conference in Johannesburg in 2002.

Europe networking: EU & East-West
In 2002, the Danish support for INFORSE was abruptly cut with change of government, but the network continued. The European region was most successful in attracting funding, for networking in the EU and for East-West cooperation within Europe.

European Visions: 100 % Renewables
The sustainable energy visions were refined, and developed to show for an increasing number of countries how they could turn to 100% renewable energy in just 20, 30 or 40 years, if they act with a sense of urgency, but without real cuts in well-being. The network also started to follow more closely EU energy policies.

Focus from CSD to UNFCCC
In 2006 and 2007, INFORSE followed the energy theme of CSD, but given the meagre outcome of the CSD, the network decided to reorient its focus towards the climate negotiations within the UNFCCC and has participated in climate COP’s since COP14 in 2008.

Renewables to Reduce Poverty in South Asia
In the years 2006-2008, INFORSE South Asia carefully developed a comprehensive handbook on Sustainable Energy Solutions to Reduce Poverty in South Asia, gathering best practices from the sub-continent.

IRENA
When the countries finally decided in 2010 to form an organisation for renewable energy, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), INFORSE took part as observer at the inaugural meeting and later in the first IRENA assembly in 2011.

Climate Capacity Building in Asia & Africa
Since the end of 2010, INFORSE has cooperated with other networks in the “Southern Voices” programme to build capacity among southern NGOs in climate policy. INFORSE South Asia, INFORSE East and Southern Africa, and INFORSE West Africa all benefit from the Programme.

Networking for the Future
With our participation in Rio+20, we want to build on our existing network, but also to start cooperation with new partners for a global transition to sustainable energy based on local, appropriate solutions with active participation of NGOs and the local societies. The network is open to independent NGOs that promote sustainable energy with practical or political activities and that will support the INFORSE Charter.

Publication May 2012
Southern Voices on Climate Policy Choices - Analysis of and lessons learned from civil society advocacy on climate change
Analysis of the tools and tactics that advocacy groups use to influence policy responses on climate change at international, regional, national and sub-national levels. INFORSE members from Africa and South Asia have provided a number of sustainable energy cases. Available from www.climatecapacity.org
WEST AFRICA
Burkina Faso: ANAR, CEAS - Burkina - Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer, Burundi: CADIC.
Sierra Leone: Sustainable Technology Development Group.

EAST & SOUTH AFRICA
Mozambique: ADEL-Sofala, Livaningo.
Tanzania: TaTEDO. Uganda: CDI - Climate and Development Initiatives, INED, IRDI, JEEP, UCSD.

LATIN AMERICA

NORTH AMERICA

EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

SOUTH ASIA


The regional coordinators are highlighted with bold and italic.