

Joint Declaration from Civil Society at BIREC2005

For Renewable Energies and Sustainable Future Development

**6 November 2005
Beijing, CHINA**

We, from the civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from 12 countries, 52 organizations, 87 representatives who participated at the International NGO Workshop on Renewable Energy on November 6, 2005, held before BIREC2005, have agreed on the following declaration on renewable energy development in both industrialized and developing countries.

I. We urge the governments to go beyond the Bonn Declaration and to acknowledge that renewable energy and energy efficiency are the most important energy strategies in the 21st century.

II. Renewable energies bring the following benefits to human society: reducing dangerous climate change, mitigating local pollution; creating jobs, generating income and alleviating poverty; increasing security of energy supply and reducing the need for energy imports, and enhancing regional/local self-reliance. Therefore, governments, the business sector, and civil society should work together on renewable energy development. Joint efforts from all sectors in society will provide the basis for a sustainable energy system in the coming decades.

III. Governments have the responsibility to ensure the rapid market development of renewable energies in both rural and urban areas with key incentive mechanisms in place. Ambitious legally binding targets, cast into national laws, for the development of renewable energies are needed, with the adequate mechanisms in place in order to achieve those targets. These targets should be adjusted beyond those committed at the International Conference on Renewable Energies (Bonn 2004). The energy markets need an effective legal framework to make investments in renewables economically attractive. As long at least as there is no level playing field for renewable energies, full financial compensation for renewable energy producers must be provided with measures like: priority in grid access, feed in tariffs, tax exemptions. Subsidies for fossil and nuclear energy must be phased out and external costs must be internalized. We, therefore, call on governments to introduce Renewable Energy Legislation and ensure its effective implementation.

V. We call upon governments to establish the institutional basis for promoting renewable energies at international level.

VI. International financial institutions such as the World Bank, Regional Development Banks and export credit agencies have not developed adequate measures to support renewable energies so far, and most of their resources have been invested in fossil energies, which have led to great threats to the global environment and to human society and the globe. Therefore, international financial institutions, and development assistance organizations alike, should shift available funding toward investments in renewable energies and energy efficiency.

VII. Strengthening capacities, such as on local knowledge for appropriate use of renewable energy technologies and technology transfer in developing countries, is key to successful market introduction of renewables. This is especially related to regional and local initiatives that emphasize civil society's participation and education. To realize such objectives, new financial resources and institutional support should be mobilized to assist civil society's participation and local involvement. Gender equity issues should be included at all stages of decision making of development, planning and implementation of renewable energy programs.

VIII. The NGOs signing this declaration have committed themselves to join hands in promoting the benefits of Renewable Energy Sources to the general public. NGOs are an informed, skilled, and equal participant in both the global and national stakeholder efforts to achieve and implement objectives and measures agreed upon in a global perspective.

China Association for NGO Cooperation-CANGO, Canadian Renewable Energy Alliance, Citizens' United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability- CURES, Global Village of Beijing-GVB, Greenpeace China, Heinrich Boell Foundation-HBF, INFORSE, Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies- ISEP, LEAD China/Institute of Environment and Development, WWF China