

**Second session of the Conference of Parties
Framework Convention on Climate Control
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IAEA Statement

Morris Rosen
Deputy Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency

The IAEA is pleased to be represented as an observer organization at the second session of the Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Control.

The Conference is dealing with one of the greatest challenges facing the international community today - how to provide sufficient energy without unacceptable environmental damage through emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gasses. In national action reports prepared for this meeting, a number of countries reveal that they will not meet the greenhouse emission goals they have set for themselves. Indeed, it is easy to see how the need for energy worldwide is leading to the construction of ever more fossil fuel installations burning coal, oil or gas and releasing greenhouse gases.

The future calls for increased energy efficiency, conservation and a proper mix of energy sources. Expansion of nuclear power, which now provides about 8% of the world energy and 17% of its electricity, could contribute to meeting emission goals as its use does not release any of the greenhouse gasses. The main obstacle to an increased reliance on nuclear energy is public concern with safety, radioactive waste and non-proliferation. The IAEA is deeply engaged in all these issues and for its part will continue to make available factual information relevant to these concerns.

It is not very meaningful to discuss the benefits or risks of any one energy option in isolation. All sources and uses of energy have their risks - as, indeed, an absence of sufficient energy carries risks. Only an analysis of different options side by side can tell us which energy policy is ecologically as well as economically least burdensome. The IAEA has had for many years a programme on comparative assessment of energy sources with special emphasis to the health and environmental impacts and risks of energy systems. Methodologies and extensive data bases have been developed in cooperation with a number of international organizations including UNEP, UNIDO, WMO, the International Energy Agency and the World Bank.

Recently the IAEA has discussed with the IPCC secretariat a programme to carry out a review of the various assessments of greenhouse gas emission factors for the complete energy chains of fossil, nuclear, hydro and renewables. The objective would be to prepare a report which would be made available to the IPCC

for their work on mitigation options for the Third Assessment Report. The programme would be carried out through a series of expert group meetings and a final report could be available late in 1997 or early 1998.

Governments need to devise long-term energy policies and difficult policy decisions must be taken. Extensive and responsible analysis of energy options is clearly needed if we are to resolve the dilemma between energy need and greenhouse emissions. The IAEA is ready to contribute.