



World Wind Energy Association

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On the occasion of the World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition, Berlin, 2-6 July 2002, the World Wind Energy Association WWEA announces the following manifesto in order to formulate the basic conditions for the world-wide proliferation of wind energy:

A Global Strategy for Wind Energy

The substitution of all nuclear and fossil energies by renewable energies!

A small part of the world population gained a broad range of possibilities to develop socially and economically by using fossil and nuclear energy resources. During the last centuries societies with easy access to energy resources could increase their life expectancy dramatically and enhance their living quality.

With its unpredictable impact on the ecosystem, the massive use of nuclear and fossil energy resources endangers the basic existence of all human beings. Many people suffer from direct health damages. The predicted climate change and possible nuclear contamination create even bigger dangers. Today predominantly the population of poor countries suffer the most from the results of non-sustainable resource use.

Due to the inequitable regional concentration of fossil and nuclear energy resources, a huge part of the world population has no direct access to energy. Two billion people on earth live their lives without access to electricity. They are denied the opportunity to attain the same standards of living that are enjoyed in the industrialised world. Furthermore the unequal geographic distribution of fossil resources causes numerous political tensions and is the root of most present military conflicts.

Because of its limited availability, the continued unrestrained use of fossil and nuclear energy resources can not offer long-term and sustainable perspectives of future development to the populations of either industrialised or under supplied nations.

Right now these negative impacts and risks are not included in energy prices, so there is not much incentive to end the wasteful use of fossil and nuclear energy resources.

Wind energy as one basis for a sustainable future

Renewable energies offer the chance for a sufficient and secure energy supply. Thus they create the opportunity for peaceful development and greater global security. The amount of solar energy reaching the earth is equal to tens of thousands of times the present world energy consumption. Such a supply is beyond human imagination and there are no natural limitations to its use for the benefit of mankind. It is therefore obvious that harnessing this energy should be given a high political and economic priority in order to shift the world to a completely renewable energy supply.

Wind energy use will be one cornerstone of the energy supply of the future. Several countries demonstrate that wind energy use is technically and economically feasible. Wind energy will be a part of a future energy mix that will include solar energy, hydropower, biomass, geothermal energy, etc.

Barriers to the final breakthrough of wind energy

There are still several barriers standing in the way of wind energy's success:

- Fair competition in the international energy market is prevented by several subsidy schemes for the conventional energy industry that add up to 300 billion US \$ a year.

- Very often, the knowledge of wind energy's potential, as well as its technical opportunities and economic benefits are not well disseminated – there is even an information deficit among politicians.
- Countries with a broad energy infrastructure have developed technical and economic structures that support the further use of nuclear and fossil energy resources. Changing that structure is often hindered by the companies, interest groups and political decision makers involved in the conventional energy system. A special challenge is that renewable energies, like wind energy, are decentralised energy sources, whereas the existing energy utilities are focused on centralised structures.
- The countries with an insufficient energy supply very often try to follow the energy supply model of the industrialised countries. Frequently, the remarkable economic development opportunities afforded by a sustainable energy supply are not realised.
- The deficit of wind energy information is sometimes exacerbated by intentional misinformation campaigns directed at resident populations.

Strategic cornerstones for the world-wide proliferation of wind energy

To overcome the described restrictions, it is necessary for politicians and wind energy supporters to develop, prioritise and execute renewable energy strategies. The development of such strategies should be based on the most successful implementation programmes and should take specific regional requirements into consideration.

1. Wind energy actors at all levels of society are called on to make wind energy a strategic priority. An important precondition for this is the reciprocal exchange of information and support between international wind energy actors.
2. The subsidies for nuclear and fossil energy must be removed. External costs must be internalised and reflected in energy prices. Appropriate instruments for that process are fees and taxes on energy sources that produce harmful pollution.
3. Every community, region, national government and international organisation is asked to continue its support for wind energy and to encourage replication. In the long term, there will certainly be a benefit from this foresighted investment in this future technology.
4. For the establishment of a fair competition wind energy promotion schemes have to be designed with specific requirements in mind. Compared to fossil and nuclear energy, wind energy typically has a higher proportion of fixed investment costs and a relatively low proportion of running costs. For that reason, development programmes must grant investment security from the outset in order to encourage private investors. When designed to attract creditors, minimum prices support schemes have proven to be a suitable and efficient development incentive.
5. Priority for wind energy use must include a legally guaranteed grid access. Furthermore, building codes and other regulations must be simplified to streamline the permitting process. Finally, administrative barriers must be systematically reduced.
6. Local and regional populations have to profit directly from wind energy projects. They should be included early in the wind farm planning process and their input should be taken into consideration. Operator models that directly involve local firms and residents are most suitable for that purpose.
7. To overcome the existing information deficiencies, it is necessary to enhance the wind energy information and technology transfer at all relevant levels. According to the World Council for Renewable Energy, it is necessary to establish an International Renewable Energy Agency to realise these aims. National governments are called on to establish wind energy information development programmes. Part of this should be a corresponding education programme and further vocational training at schools and at universities.
8. The industrialised nations must put a stronger emphasis on sustainable energy supply through their development policies. Development programmes should be designed to foster the establishment of national wind energy industries.
9. The world trade laws must not restrain the proliferation of wind energy and renewables in general. Trade liberalisation must prioritise the environment and resource protection over free financial trade and free movement of goods. Above all, the G7/G8 countries must fulfil their responsibilities in future negotiations.

For the upcoming Johannesburg summit, an appeal has to be made to the world's leaders: The contribution of renewable energies to the future of mankind has to be more clearly acknowledged and should be formalised in treaties and documents. National governments should be called upon to develop and establish national renewable energy strategies.