



Address delivered by Jürgen Trittin,
Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety of Germany,

on the occasion of the

Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
on Renewable Energies

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is a long and successful tradition of partnership between Germany and Brazil in the field of environmental protection. Brazil hosted the Earth Summit in Rio, and was a driving force behind that event. I am delighted that Brazil is now organising the first preparatory conference for *renewables2004*.

I would like **to thank** all parties involved, especially the **UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL)**, which has provided this Conference with excellent technical, logistical and financial support to this Conference, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

These preparatory conferences are crucial to the success of the International Conference for Renewable Energies due to take place in June 2004 in Bonn. I am confident that this process will get off to a flying start here in Brazil The diversity of your country makes you ideally placed to act as a mediator between the different states in the subcontinent, and provides an **excellent basis for playing the role of host successfully. You will set the pace for the regional conferences in Africa, Europe and – hopefully – in Asia as well.**

I am delighted that

- a number of Latin American and Caribbean governments have already set themselves national expansion targets,

- **at the first Latin American and Caribbean Environment Forum, the environment ministers in this region reinforced the expansion target** of deriving 10 % of total energy consumption in the region from renewable energy sources by the year 2010.

I.

In the years after Rio, we realised that a great deal more needs to be done in order to address the root causes of the problem of ***global climate change***. Climate change is one of the biggest global environmental policy challenges facing us today. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that the average global temperature will increase by between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees during the 21st century.

Our aim is to **limit this temperature increase to a maximum of 2 degrees compared with pre-industrial temperatures**. Climate warming is already underway: In Latin America, fishermen increasingly find themselves impoverished by El Nino, and ever more frequently hurricanes and floods tear up streets and favelas, leaving the survivors in utter poverty. In Europe too climate change can be felt in the extreme flooding it has experienced on the one hand and in the forest fires caused by extended dry periods on the other. **In the long term, no country, including the industrialised nations, can afford the damages caused by climate change.**

In the long term, merely containing the damage inflicted by climate change will not be sufficient. **We must actively structure energy supply in an environmentally sound, future-oriented way so as to avert climate change.** We must cut worldwide CO2 emissions by at least 30 % between 1990

and 2050. The main polluters – industrialised countries – have a particular obligation in this respect. The only way of achieving this is through **large-scale development of renewable energies, a much higher level of energy efficiency and energy saving.**

Last year, for the first time, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg highlighted the fact that a reorientation towards a **globally sustainable energy supply** is the necessary basis for combatting climate change and **halving the number of the world's poor by 2015.**

The *efficient* use of renewable energy sources is pivotal to this concept.

For countries in the southern hemisphere, renewable energies offer a **variety of benefits, both for individuals and for the economy as a whole:**

- Access to modern, clean energy is an important prerequisite for overcoming poverty, because:
- it facilitates **new opportunities for income and employment**, also in rural areas.
- **Renewable energies can ensure decentralised access to water;** this also promotes **gender justice;**
- It reduces dependency on energy imports, and **therefore conserves much-needed currency for vital development-related investments;**
- It **reduces the escalating levels of air pollution from traditional energy sources** – especially indoor pollution caused by cooking on wood and coal fires.

The expansion of renewable energy resources is a win/win strategy for everyone involved – for individuals and economies, for poor and rich, for south and north. In Johannesburg, we failed to agree upon a global target for

the expansion of renewable energies. For this reason, in September 2002, **Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, along with twelve other Caribbean states**, joined forces with **Germany and the EU** to agree upon a **"Way Forward on Renewable Energy"**.

This *Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition* (JREC) is a fascinating initiative, and a key to the transformation of global energy systems: **The *Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition* of like-minded nations actively forwards the development of renewable energies with concrete targets and cooperation.** This group of like-minded countries includes industrialised countries, threshold countries and countries where up to now only a few people had access to a modern energy supply. **The group is overcoming decades of disparity and its constellation represents the way forward.** Up to and during *renewables2004* the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition aims to add further to the countries supporting it, currently already numbering more than 80.

II.

From 1 to 4 June 2004, Germany will host the International Conference for Renewable Energies in Bonn. The Conference aims to advance the expansion of renewable energy sources worldwide. Its success depends to a large extent on the commitment of the *Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition* and the regional preparatory conferences. **The more the regional conferences are able to formulate concrete expectations, targets, contributions and obligations, the better our chances in Bonn of kick-starting the switch to sustainable global energy systems.**

The concrete goals of *renewables2004* are as follows:

- **National and regional expansion targets up to 2010/2020**
These targets are to be formulated in a bottom-up process. The European Union has set itself the target of doubling the share of renewables in electricity consumption by 2010. Germany's contribution to this is a target of 12.5% for renewables' share in electricity consumption. Similarly, Latin America's environment ministers have set themselves a target of a 10% share for renewables in energy consumption.

- **An international action plan**
This plan should contain concrete actions and targets. These include innovative financing strategies, the use of the flexible Kyoto mechanisms (Clean Development and Joint Implementation Projects) for the expansion of renewable energies and a monitoring and review process.

- **Guidelines for a "good policy"**
The guidelines should take the diverse starting positions of individual governments and regions into consideration and envisage how a "good policy" for promoting renewable energies should be structured.

- **Long-term follow-up process**
The Conference should not be a one-off, flash in the pan event, but should be the foundation for a long-term process.

Today we are focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean – and I am keen to listen to your views:

- What are the objectives of the individual Latin American countries?
- Are they able and do they wish to specify a regional expansion target?

- Which obstacles need to be overcome in order to facilitate the expansion of renewable energies?

Mandatory expansion targets and clear legislation are needed if we are to persuade companies to invest. They need the assurance of favourable supply terms during the start-up phase. In Germany and the European Union, our experiences in this respect have been very positive: The Renewable Energy Sources Act has become a model throughout the world. Industry and society alike benefit from the expansion of renewable energies. We already have 130,000 jobs in this new, dynamic sector, which has the highest growth rates. We now produce one third of the world's wind-generated electricity.

The proposed **Brasilia Platform** will make a valuable contribution to the continuing preparatory process for *renewables2004*. **I highly appreciate your willingness to confirm today the regional expansion targets already adopted by the environment ministers. Similarly, I expressly encourage you to present national goals by renewables2004.** This will prioritise the development of renewable energies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Our host country is a perfect example for this. Estimates indicate that there is a 60-90 GW potential here for wind-generated electricity alone. Photovoltaics could supply 2,5 million households in rural areas with electricity. **Let us mobilise this huge potential.**

Thank you very much for your commitment. I warmly invite the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to attend *renewables2004* in Bonn next year.