

Topic A: “Role of the private sector in sustainable and social development”

What are the Sustainable development goals: (copied from UNDP webiste)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

These 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another.

The SDGs work in the spirit of partnership and pragmatism to make the right choices now to improve life, in a sustainable way, for future generations. They provide clear guidelines and targets for all countries to adopt in accordance with their own priorities, and the environmental challenges of the world at large. The SDGs are an inclusive agenda. They tackle the root causes of poverty and unite us together to make a positive change for both people and planet. “Supporting the 2030 Agenda is a top priority for UNDP,” said UNDP Administrator Helen Clark. “The SDGs provide us with a common plan and agenda to tackle some of the pressing challenges facing our world such as poverty, climate change and conflict. UNDP has the experience and expertise to drive progress and help support countries on the path to sustainable development.”

Even among all this, we still lack a credible and operational definition of **sustainable development**, mainly because of the lack of consensus on a method to value human and natural forms of capital.

1. **No Poverty** - End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- Extreme poverty has been cut by more than half since 1990- however, more than 1 in 5 people live on less than \$1.25 a day
 - Poverty is more than lack of income or resources- it includes lack of basic services, such as education, food, social rights and inclusion, and opportunity or participation in decision making.
 - Gender inequality plays a large role in the perpetuation of poverty and its risks; they then face potentially life-threatening risks from early pregnancy, and often lose hope for an education and a better income.
 - Age groups are affected differently when struck with poverty; its most devastating effects are on children, to whom it poses a great threat. It affects their education, health, nutrition and security. It also negatively affects the emotional, spiritual and emotional development of children through the environment it creates.
2. **Zero Hunger** – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Globally, 1 in 9 people are undernourished, the vast majority of these people live in developing countries
 - Agriculture is the single largest employer in the world, providing livelihoods for 40 per cent of today's global population. It is the largest source of income and jobs for poor rural households. Women comprise, on average, 43 per cent of the agricultural labor force in developing countries, and over 50 per cent in parts of Asia and Africa, yet they only own 20% of the land.
 - Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45 per cent) of deaths in children under five – 3.1 million children each year.
3. **Good Health and Well-being** – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Significant strides have been made in increasing life expectancy and reducing some of the common killers associated with child and maternal mortality, and

major progress has been made on increasing access to clean water and sanitation, reducing malaria, tuberculosis, polio and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

- However, only half of women in developing countries have received the health care they need, and the need for family planning is increasing exponentially, while the need met is growing slowly- more than 225 million women have an unmet need for contraception.
- An important target is to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from pollution-related diseases.

4. **Quality Education** - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- Major progress has been made for education access, specifically at the primary school level, for both boys and girls. However, access does not always mean quality of education, or completion of primary school. Currently, 103 million youth worldwide still lack basic literacy skills, and more than 60 per cent of them are women.
- Target 1 - "By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes"- shows the commitment to nondiscriminatory education outcomes

5. **Gender Equality** - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.
- While a record 143 countries guaranteed equality between men and women in their Constitutions by 2014, another 52 had not taken this step. In many nations, gender discrimination is still woven through legal and social norms.
- Though goal 5 is the gender equality stand-alone goal- the SDG's can only be successful if women are completely integrated into each and every goal.

6. **Clean Water and Sanitation** - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. **Affordable and Clean Energy** - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. **Decent Work and Economic Growth** - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure** - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. **Reduced Inequalities** - Reduce income inequality within and among countries
11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities** - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. **Responsible Consumption and Production** - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. **Climate Action** - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy.
14. **Life Below Water** - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15. **Life on Land** - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
16. **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
17. **Partnerships for the Goals** - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

These are goals based upon the central aims or mission of the corporation:

1. Many corporations hold the most common of objectives as **PROFIT MAXIMIZATION**. Profits are necessary for any business to operations. But what does "profit maximization" mean? In simple terms, it means having the greatest possible positive difference between the total "accountants" costs and total "accountants" revenues. Profit maximization may well be the preferred objective of the owners and shareholders, but other stakeholders will give priority to other issues. Business managers, especially corporations, cannot ignore these. Hence, the growing concern over job security for the workforce or the environmental concerns of local residents are to modify the business decisions towards profit maximization.
2. **Growth** is another objective of many corporations. Over the years, many small businesses have expanded so much, turning into limited companies, and are now called corporations. Growth is measured in different terms (the delegates may not go into detail of measurements, but there is no restriction on the delegates, as such, if the debate is not being jeopardized). Managers, within a corporation, will be keen to achieve the full potential of their business. But the full potential, for them, is not the end, and they will aim for growth. Delegates are advised to go into the limitations and negative externalities of growth of a corporation.
3. The concept of **corporate social responsibility** applies to those businesses who **CONSIDER** the interests of society by taking responsibility for the impact of their decisions and activities on customers, employees, communities and the environment. Not to be confused with "corporate accountability". Corporate social responsibility (CSR) entails practices by the corporation that strongly reflect the principles held by them other than generating profit for shareholders. Their responsibilities can be segregated into a few segments and have direct or indirect impacts on stakeholders such as the environment, community, clients and employees/workers.

The Need for Change

To put things into perspective, it is expected for the population to rise to a staggering 9.5 billion by 2050. If we don't change our current lifestyles, we will need the equivalent of three planets' natural resources to sustain it. This proves something needs to be done. Agriculture is the biggest user of water worldwide, and irrigation now claims close to 70

percent of all freshwater appropriated for human use. A third of the total food production is either rotting in bins, or is spoiled due to poor transportation and harvest practices. At the same time, a large share of the world population is still consuming far too little to meet even their basic needs. Global food waste at the retailer and consumer levels needs management for more efficient production and supply chains. This can help with food security and shift us towards a more resource-efficient economy. Additionally, many still don't use energy-efficient light bulbs, which could save the world up to 120 billion US dollars.

THE NEED FOR A MORE PRO-ACTIVE APPROACH TOWARD THE ENVIRONMENT

The first step in this direction has been to work with the private sector to change the perception that externalities, including social and environmental responsibilities, are the exclusive responsibility of government. Working together with its clients, CAF (Charities and Aid Foundation) is slowly replacing the long-held concept that the environment is a hindrance to the development process with the notion that the environment is actually a promoter and propeller of sustainable development. After many years of viewing the environment and its proponents in a confrontational manner, where sanctions and regulations appeared to be the rule, CAF is promoting a working environment where both government and business can work together to promote both the role of business in the region and a pro-active approach toward the environment.

Protectionism towards one approach used previously which had a, somewhat, authoritarian approach towards the private sector in the achievement of the goals. A new approach has been designed where the focus is environmental management, which is known as the management approach.

Protectionist approach	Management approach
How can development be protective of the environment?	How can environmental protection promote development?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental protection is the objective • Development is the potential aggressor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental protection is the means to objectives • Sustainable development is the objective
Fiscal response	Innovative response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegates and subcontracts to third parties • Interventions made after decisions taken • Efforts focused on making declarations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovates with management criteria, internally • Interventions made at conception of

<p>and centered on a diagnosis</p> <p>Impacts = threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imposes sanctions and regulations • Adds components and costs 	<p>project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts oriented towards action and focusing on strategic approaches <p>Impacts = opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes initiatives and creativity • Increases efficiency and productivity • Promotes competitiveness
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THE NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING BALANCES

Growth will not occur without capital accumulation. We know, however, that there are several kinds of capital. While the physical and financial forms of capital have been widely understood, other forms of capital—the human, the natural, the institutional, and the cultural – are less well understood and taken into account less in decision making. But progress is being made. There is now, for example, more recognition that there is a need to take into account factors such as depletion of natural resources. Human capital is becoming central to many discussions. Cultural and institutional capital questions are also arising as countries and individuals make choices and select different mechanisms in their efforts to attain sustainable development.

The gap between the short term view of producing capital and the long term view of maintaining a balance among the various forms of capital is the challenge for present generations. This challenge can only be addressed by recognizing that sustainable development will only be achieved if there is a balance attained in all the various forms of capital, and that each type of capital plays an important role in the effort to achieve sustainability.

THE NEED FOR A NEW SOCIAL APPROACH

Increased income growth is the prerequisite to increased investments in the various types of capital. Growth alone, however, is not sufficient. Empirical evidence in Latin America shows that the poorest segments of society are totally marginalized from the economy of the region. The gap between the rich and the poor in Latin America has increased dramatically in the past decade and the region's growth rate is insufficient to reduce the

absolute number of poor. Furthermore, if the current rate of growth continues, two more people will fall into poverty each minute during the next decade (London, 1996, and estimates of the Inter-American Development Bank). Talk of sustainable development in the region is fruitless unless we find a way to "de-marginalize" this segment of the population. Delegates should come up with ways for "de-marginalizing" the gap.

The gap between the rich and the poor will continue to exist unless society and, particularly, the private sector – which creates the opportunities for livelihood for most of the population in the region – assume more social responsibility. It is in the interest of everyone to raise the standard of living in the region. Without it, there is no possibility of growth of the private sector or the economy.

There are several ways to address this topic, but for the sake of simplicity, the delegates may focus on a few main issues. However, the floor will always be open to new issues, and may even bring the chair delight. Any delegate that produces new issues and areas of discussion is considered better than the rest of the delegates. The following may be used as a resource for a standard level debate:

1. Honesty and integrity of corporations:

The elementary key towards the success of a business is its customers. The customers believe that "our" business is the one that provides the best quality product, or the cheapest product in terms of price, or any other societal judgment. For this, Corporations have a department of "customer relationship management". This department exclusively deals with customers of the business. They are responsible for keeping the integrity and honesty of the mediation of information. Ill-information is a term used to describe information that is not true, and this may be in the form of false advertising, or lying about public accounting records to avoid taxes.

2. Environmental values:

Negative externalities are defined as costs that are suffered by a third party due to an economic transaction. In a transaction, the consumer and producers are considered the first and second party, while any other party is considered the third party. Negative externalities include pollution, costs to society, use-up of reserved

land etc. Many economies have a diversified attitude towards such externalities. Developing economies believe that businesses, in their early years, need not consider the environment in their decision making. This is largely due to the fact that these developing economies hope to achieve economic growth at a faster pace, and the people of the country believe they should get cheaper products to satisfy the most needs and wants with the limited incomes, regardless of whether the product is "green" or not. Delegates may take this as a hint to help them in their country stances.

3. Health and safety issues:

Workplace safety- to ensure safe environment for all employees.

4. Welfare of Employees:

Many corporations, especially in developing countries, cheat their way out of "extra" costs. These include not meeting the minimum wage requirements, unpaid overtime hours and using child labor as a cheaper method of production.

The welfare of employees is not only limited to reducing costs of a business. There have been numerous reports of sexual harassments in many corporations. This goes against any code of conduct of a business, and the sexual harassment laws of the UN or country.

5. Economical values:

The economics of a country does not solely rest upon the growth of GDP, or a stable exchange rate, or a stable inflation rate. In the long term, an economy focuses on the externalities coming from a business. Many businesses give out positive externalities as well, but there are always negative externalities that exists. Due to this, economics advises businesses to produce at a socially optimum level of output and price. This means to produce at a level where external benefits total the external costs of a business. Delegates are advised to research on "externalities" in an economy, negative and positive, and produce measure of how the "socially optimum level of output" can be achieved.

Delegates are advised to make proper linkages of all issues with the SDGs.

Considerable questions to be answered:

1. What can we do to protect the environment?
2. How can environmental protection promote development?
3. How much and how fast do we have to grow in order to adequately meet the needs of present and future populations?
4. What types of investments should countries encourage in order to enhance balance across sectors?
5. How should countries invest their financial capital for this purpose?
6. To what level should countries accept depletion of their natural resources as a way to accumulate other forms of capital?
7. How is the accumulation of financial capital being shared among the population?
8. What is your country's stance on this agenda? How can your country contribute?
9. What is your country doing to establish the 2030 goals?
10. What institutions need to be strengthened or created to attain goals?

Further reference:

The United Nations Private Sector Forum focuses on the role of the private sector in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

References available upon request.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Delegates should know that bringing any new input to the committee is very considerable to the chair. Any new input will be credited as much as possible. Delegates are advised to complete their research on the topic, and research deeply on each term used in the guide. Focus mainly on externalities, corporate social responsibilities, and accountability for these firms if they do not fulfill the requirements of the legislation implemented. Also, individual discussion concerning the private sector and the SDGs would be to the delight of the chair. Delegates should be strictly aware of their stance in the debate, do not base your research solely on the study guide,

further reading is strictly advised, repetition of the information from the guide MAY, result in a negative manner towards the chair. Try your best, to only quote what is necessary for the committee from this guide. Looking forward to the debate!

Topic B: Promoting the efficiency of traditional and renewable energy utilization for sustainable purposes

Introduction

Several countries have been taking actions and putting considerable efforts in order to set up a power generation systems that generate an independent energy resource. The need to receive power through accessing energy has an essential role in human life while ways preferred have also affected the environment. Generating power by not damaging the nature and its elements from renewable energy resources such as solar, wind, geothermal energy and biomass etc. is of great potential. However, usage of these energy resources is not widespread. Promoting the efficiency of traditional and renewable energy utilization for sustainable purposes is the question of the present, considering the actions previously taken by governments that have failed to create efficient result. Several techniques and technologies are available today to utilize biologic based energy sources; more production with fewer budgets is the need of the market.

Energy prices are higher than the other parts of Europe in the Central European countries. Primary energy is imported, its transportation costs much, the markets are fragmented and energy infrastructures are not well interconnected. In addition, the Danube Region (the European Union's longest, and the continents second longest river) is especially vulnerable regarding security of supply, as it was demonstrated in January 2009 when gas supplies were cut¹. Energy production and consumption are also significant sources of pollution. Pollution can be reduced or decreased by covering the energy need through the utilized renewable energy production. Usage of biomass is highly important since it paves the way for solutions in order to eradicate the threats of climate change. On the other hand, renewable energy, not only eliminates the threats of climate change but also establishes new job opportunities, provides more secured option for supply and contributes to economic growth. The evaluation of the environmental and social effects of biologic based energy resources is very inconsistent. Annually seven thousand articles and papers are issued worldwide as regards biologic based energy resources with diverse perspectives.²

Decentralized energy use is the most important reason for the reduction of problems caused by fossil energy use. Energy must be centralized and the fossil energy usage must be controlled to stabilize the affects of the usage. Even though renewable energy sources can be preferred to decrease the negative affects of the fossil energy usage, limitations have to be made. Researchers believe that the use of biomass should have a limit, because the renewable ability of natural resources is limited. It is widely accepted that biomass production (for energy purpose) is more favorable than the conventional production in terms of environmental aspects. The 'revitalization' of rural areas is one of the most frequently cited advantages.

Furthermore, work place creation is also a blank that must be filled to examine the question of renewable energy. Considering the fact that majority of authors agree that environmental aspect of the question is most probably more important than the question of producing renewable energy. Some authors argue that in order to create centralized and well functioning renewable energy industry, work place creating without harming the environment and decreasing the size of the negative impacts on green is an element. All in all, each region must promote renewable energy locally and all regions and settlements should find a way to use renewable energy that has more advantages to local budget. Economic and social perspectives are also subjects to consider if regions will adopt renewable energy to their development strategy. To conclude, with the use of locally produced biomass, the region will not lose money spent on the industry of the renewable energy and saving will enable the regions for further development on the issue.

Current Situation

Most of the European countries are in favor of the utilization of renewable energy considering the variety of aspects that one nation could benefit from turning their energy market and industry to renewable systems. Secondly, using local industries of renewable energy can also save considerable sum of money. Today, usage of renewable energy is considered one of the main steps to access regional development by harming less but producing more. Currently, renewable energy types starting with the solar, wind, hydroelectric



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and natural gas are highly supported by the international community and countries are taking actions to further develop their industries. Hungary, China and Finland can be examples for the important regional potentials however, most of the More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) are taking actions in order to turn to renewable energy.

Case Study

Hungary

Biogas production is one of the most important sectors when it comes to renewable energy. The largest biogas plant is located in Hungary with 4,17 MW³ of electrical power generation capacity.

The main parameters of a new biogas plant in Hungary

Feedstock of current use	Slaughterhouse waste, turkey and cow manure, liquid pig manure, whey and process sludge, sweet sorghum
Biomass consumption	Approximately 135,000 tons/year
Source	Surrounding animal breeding and food-processing facilities (max. 70 km), crop residues
Water consumption	10,000 m ³ /year
Waste production	Digestate (biogas residue) is categorized as waste: 116,000 tons/year Used engine oil cca. 1.5 tons/year
Waste recycling	Digestate is 100% recycled Engine oil is recycled by subcontractor
Waste utilisation	Digestate is used as fertilizer
Waste disposal	Minimal communal waste
Savings of CO ₂	17,500 tons CO ₂ e/year as electricity offset, plus cca. 15,000 tons CO ₂ e/year from fertilizer offset

Table 1.2

As well as having the largest biomass sector, the region offers highly proper conditions for the cultivation of renewable raw materials.

Economic data of the new biogas plant

Total budget	cca. 20 Million EUR
Public support	A non-reimbursable support
Investors	BayWa AG, Munich, Germany
Incentive type	Feed-in tariff
Support policy framework	Hungarian Operative Program for Economical Development Government directive no. 389/2007 regulates

Above given chart summarizes the economic data of the new biogas plant for Hungary; as showing the total budget of the investment cca. 20 Million Euro. Hungary plays a key role as being regional investor of renewable energy by consuming approximately 135.000 tons/year as it was given in the first chart.

China

China is also one of the countries that should be highlighted regarding the usage and investment of the renewable energy. Prominent efforts are obviously directed to access energy without harming and by having the maximum efficiency in recent years. It becomes a common knowledge that Chinese government has strived in order to develop new policies, standards in consuming energy without harming the environment; considering the fact that buildings in China consume up to %25.5 energy consumed in the whole country.

Building industries are focused on developing new concepts and techniques to achieve their goals in building energy saving. Taking into account that China is the candidate for being the most powerful country in economics, the government of China chooses the cheapest and most effective way to produce energy. Therefore renewable energy is not likely to take place in the first rank in the agenda of prospective Chinese governments as well. The government does not wish to take risks in installing several mechanisms for renewable energy considering unbalanced economic condition of the world.

All though there are diverse kinds of renewable energy sources existing in the world, considering the recently years. China mainly focused on the renewable energy types following;

- *Solar Energy*; in western China, there are more than 3000 sunshine hours per year (Lau et al.,2007). The accumulative area in 2006 was more than 100 million m², and the new incremental area was about 20 million m².

- *Biomass Energy;* It is estimated that China's total exploitable biomass energy in 2020 is about 0.7 billion tons of coal equivalence (tce) and exploitable biomass energy that could be used as energy would reach to 0.45 billion tce.
- *Geothermal Energy;* Geothermal energy is the energy contained as heat in the Earth's interior. Chinese geothermal energy is mainly located at the Circum---Pacific tropical zone and Himalaya---Mediterranean tropical zone. More than 3200 spots have been found, with a theoretic annual natural heat release of 104,000 PJ, of which around 1000 PJ can be exploited currently.
- *Wind Energy;* the technically exploitable wind energy resource in China is about 2548 GW which corresponds to around 7644 TWh power generation with assumption that the annual average number of windy hours is 3000.

Finland

Finland takes serious the issue of energy security and investing renewable energy resources as a solution for its need. Energy structure, supply and the consumption are on the table for a discussion on the Finnish government for a long time.

063132-2 Aslani, Helo, and Naaranoja

J. Renewable Sustainable Energy 5, 063132 (2013)

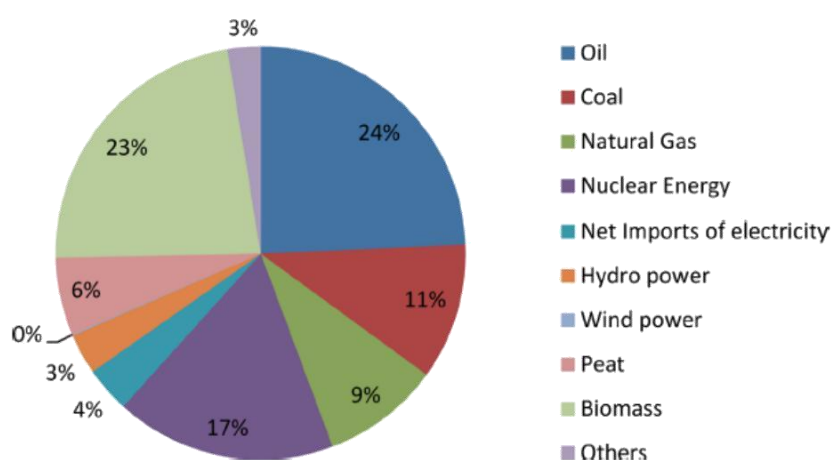


FIG. 1. Share of each energy source in total energy consumption in Finland in 2011.

Table 1.5

As it can be seen from the given chart: oil, coal, natural gas, and nuclear energy, net imports of electricity, hydro power, wind power, pind and biomass are the main types of energy accessed that Finnish government mainly focused on until 2011.⁴ It is being estimated that as being of the northernmost countries of the Europe, Finland will become more and more active in the industry of the renewable energy considering the fact that total energy consumption from the renewable energy rapidly increased more than %10.2 in total share between 1991---2011.⁵

Greater Mekong Sub---Region (GMS) Countries

Greater Mekong Sub---Region is namely consisting of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. All of these countries are crucial countries for the question of renewable energy, since all of them have abundant renewable energy resources. Taking a deep consideration on the statistics, there are huge hydro potentials of 55.2 GW, biomass power of 7.0 GW, wind power of 155.3 GW, and geothermal power of 472 MW. The average solar radiation is 5.0 kWh/m² /day.⁶

Executive summaries of past actions taken:

- A/RES/62/197 --- Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
- A/RES/60/199 --- Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996---2005
- A/69/309 --- Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy and its Role in Ensuring Sustainable Development and International Cooperation
- A/69/323 --- Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
- A/68/309 --- United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All
- A/67/314 --- 2012 International Year of Sustainable Energy for All
- A/60/488/Add.6 --- Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996---2005
- E/CN.17/2001/PC/20 --- Energy and Transport

Further Research Suggestions/ Bibliography

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