

Cairo Declaration

We, the Ministers, the heads of delegations and representatives from 20 countries and 20 organizations, convening at the third Middle East – North Africa Renewable Energy Conference (MENAREC3), held at Cairo, on 12 – 14 June 2006;

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg 2002, Bonn 2004 International Energy Conference, Sana'a MENA Regional Conference on Renewable Energies and Sustainable Development (MENAREC1) 2004, the 2nd Middle East – North Africa Renewable Energy Conference (MENAREC2) 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference (BIREC) 2005, and the ABU DHABI Declaration on Environment and Energy, adopted by the Arab ministers of Energy and ministers of environment in 2003, the UNEP Governing Council Dubai 2006 and the 14th session of Commission for Sustainable Development(CSD 14).

Recognizing the rapidly rising demands on energy and fresh water supplies for satisfying the development needs in the MENA region and ensure its sustainability

Noting the importance of achieving sustainable development and alleviating poverty in the region, through increasing access to affordable, environmentally sound and reliable energy services using both available conventional and renewable resources;

Acknowledging the recent technological advancements in several renewable energy technologies, the abundantly available renewable resources in the MENA region and the consequent opportunities for widespread application;

Realizing the needs in the MENA region for parallel actions regarding the five key issues on energy identified by CSD-9 in particular energy efficiency, renewable energy and cleaner fossil fuel;

Appreciating, that our relations are deeply rooted in historical and cultural connections, while considering the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities along with specific national development priorities, objectives and circumstances not precluding common future; **declare that:**

- (1) We encourage countries to develop and implement strategies and policies to enhance the contribution of the energy sector in achieving sustainable development, with due consideration of Renewable Energy as an integral part of these strategies and plans.
- (2) We underline our commitment to take necessary measures and develop competent plans to further promote of renewable energies in our countries energy portfolios, as appropriate to each country resources and needs.
- (3) We encourage and emphasis on the need for increasing the level of cooperation among EU and MENA regions for expanding the use of Renewable Energy technologies and its applications in the MENA countries through bilateral and regional arrangements.

- (4) We confirm the need for extended international public and private financial assistance for countries in the MENA region to support their programmes on issues of energy for sustainable development including Renewable Energies in the MENA region;
- (5) We affirm the need to explore and mobilize innovative and appropriate financing methods and schemes to support renewable energy implementation on new grounds in the MENA region countries.
- (6) We call developed countries as well as regional and international financing institutions to scale up their technical and financial assistance to countries in the MENA region for programmes on technology transfer and capacity building to support local manufacture of Renewable energy systems components, that should contribute to bring down costs of such imported components.
- (7) We believe that creating favorable market environments for private sector investment increasing role, along with enabling frameworks, especially these leveling the ground for strong public – private partnerships, very important for successful commercial application and long-term viability of renewable technologies;
- (8) We call on countries in the region, regional and international organizations to put more emphasis on developing and implementing educational, capacity building and public awareness programmes on renewable energy technologies and applications in the MENA region;
- (9) We take note of the importance of combining energy efficiency measures with renewable energy utilization, that will benefit and improve economics of renewable energies and meet energy diversification and reliability goals;
- (10) We support renewable energy large scale utilization within MENA countries, with a vision to increase electricity exports to European countries and to benefit from the tradable renewable energy systems. Within this vision, larger investments are needed to avail the necessary infrastructure for interconnections between Europe and MENA Countries, to enable green electricity trade;
- (11) We recognize and acknowledge the initiative of the Egyptian private sector participation which materialized during MENAREC 3 by the establishment of the "Egyptian German Renewable Energies foundation", the first foundation in the region for the support and dissemination of new and Renewable Energies. Where the Egyptian private sector has contributed one million Euros as seed money for immediate operation, an initiative that we look forwards to its success and replication;
- (12) We would like to express our appreciation and compliments to the government of Egypt and to thank the Egyptian Ministry of Electricity and Energy represented by New & Renewable Energy Authority (NREA), and other co-organizers the German minister of environment, natural conservation and nuclear safety, EU, ESCWA, UNEP for the efforts exercised and assistance extended which all helped in carrying out a successful conference and enabled fruitful yields.