

**Plenary Session I:
Opening Session**
Tuesday, 1 June, 9.00 – 10.00 h
Venue: Plenary Hall IKBB

Internationale Konferenz
für Erneuerbare Energien, Bonn
International Conference
for Renewable Energies, Bonn



WELCOME ADDRESS

“Renewables2004 - Make it real”

The Age of Renewables has now begun

Jürgen Trittin

**Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety,
Germany**

Lord Mayor Dieckmann,
Minister President Steinbrück
Minister Khelil,
Professor Pachauri
Mr von Weizsäcker,
Heidi,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to warmly welcome you to *renewables 2004*. Welcome to the **UN City of Bonn**. Welcome to our UN Campus located on the former premises of the German parliament.

The large number of you participating has **already made the Conference a success today**. We expect over **1000 delegates** from more than **120 countries** - altogether **over 2000 participants**.

Bonn is once again sending a strong signal. **A signal for global environmental protection – a signal for globally fair development.**

Mankind is faced with enormous global challenges.

↳ **Global poverty** - over 1.2 billion people worldwide still have to live on less than one dollar a day.

- ↪ **Global warming** – average temperature continues to rise from decade to decade. Droughts, storms and floods continue to destroy development progress, especially in the countries of the South. Climate change is already a reality today and not a fiction for the *day after tomorrow*.

Neither of these two global challenges can be dealt with individually. Climate protection without economic development will not be able to eliminate poverty. Development without climate protection will destroy the foundations of development itself.

Together we face the task

- ↪ of **ensuring** that the number of **people living in absolute poverty** is **halved** in the next ten years
- ↪ of **preventing global temperature from rising more than 2 ° C** compared to pre-industrial times up to the end of this century.

Renewable energies hold a vital key to this. We must satisfy the growing need for energy – without imposing too heavy a burden on our atmosphere.

Renewable energies are **inexhaustible**. **Renewable energies** are **available** almost **everywhere**. **Renewable energies** represent multiple **win-win options**.

- ↪ They permit development and growth especially in remote rural areas - in India's Rajasthan the same as in Germany's Uckermark.
- ↪ They reduce dependence on oil and help save foreign currency.
- ↪ They create jobs – in Germany 120,000 people now work in the renewables sector.
- ↪ They protect our climate and reduce air pollution – in Germany we save 53 million tonnes of CO₂ per year with renewable energies.
- ↪ They are a prerequisite for literacy and gender equality.
- ↪ They help to desalinate and filter water cheaply.

For this reason the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 in Johannesburg advocated **"significantly increasing the share of renewable energies"**.

A great deal has been achieved since then.

- ↪ The **Johannesburg Coalition for Renewables Energy** already came into being in Johannesburg – today it comprises **over 80 countries**.
- ↪ Countries and regions from South America to Europe have set themselves **new goals** for increasing the use of renewable energies.

- ↪ International organisations such as the World Bank have developed new funding projects. **Development aid efforts** are focused on renewables – last year Germany alone provided more than 80 million euros for new projects.
- ↪ In countries such as France, Spain and Germany, feed-in legislation has given rise to **new mass markets for renewables**. This makes ambitious **technology cheaper**. In Germany, for instance, the price of photovoltaic systems halved within a few years.

Renewables 2004 is now the next step. Here in Bonn, all activities will be brought together in a **concrete Action Programme**. The implementation of this Action Programme will be **reviewed** in the framework of the **United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development** in 2006 and 2007.

Renewables 2004 is something **new**. Here in Bonn, we want to combine voluntary initiatives for increasing the use of renewable energies with the United Nations sustainable development structures. This is the inner link between the Declaration, the Policy Recommendations and the International Action Programme.

Here in Bonn we are **not** – so much - concerned with **making general statements**. **The main focus of renewables 2004 is action.**

We need an accelerated global increase in the use of renewable energies. **At renewables 2004 we must get down to business.**

We must enable this **global increase to become reality**. To combat global poverty – to combat global warming. **Let's make it real.**

I'm sure the lovely surroundings of the Rhine will be conducive to the successful outcome of our Conference. **The age of renewables has now begun.**