



Appendix 1: Background and approach

Context and background

The idea of a concerted global effort to support a transition to renewable energy in developing countries, and thereby simultaneously tackle electricity access and climate mitigation, is gaining traction. Over the last few years several of us have actively promoted the idea of a global ‘Marshall plan’ for decentralised renewable energy, and highlighted feed-in tariffs as one of the most effective policy tools for the transition to renewable energy. For developing countries, the wide implementation of feed-in tariffs and other ambitious policies require financing they can not be expected to provide themselves. Thus international cooperation and partnerships are required, with real, upfront climate finance at the core.

It is also clear that the future, climate-friendly energy systems need to be qualitatively different from today’s centralised and grid-focused models. Distributed, decentralised energy models where households, communities, municipalities as well as small and medium-sized companies, are in focus and where communities control their energy seems critical for ensuring real access to electricity, genuine development and a harnessing of wind, solar and biomass that does not lead to negative effects such as land-grabs and exploitation of local communities.

We are encouraged by the recent leadership by especially the Africa Group in the UNFCCC negotiations. The group of countries filed a formal submission in May 2014 under ‘Workstream 2’(on pre-2020 action) calling for a Renewable Energy Partnership and highlighted the idea of globally funded feed-in tariffs. This has generated considerable interest among countries in both North and South, as well as within civil society. We see a clear momentum building up towards Paris, and think this idea of a renewable energy support mechanism can become one of the key issues at COP21.

Given these positive developments, we see an urgent need for a seminar of this kind. More specifically, we see a need to:

- Discuss and clarify views on the future energy models at large.
- Draw on and assess national experiences of renewable energy support systems, with a particular focus on feed-in tariffs/guarantee prices.
- Work out concrete options for how the interface between GCF and national support systems in developing countries can be set up.
- Consider and examine risks and develop ways to ensure that solutions are appropriate from both social, ecological, economic and equity perspectives.
- Strategise and consider our different roles and possibilities in the lead-up to Paris and beyond.



The meeting

The meeting in Delhi will use the joint background paper 'A Global Renewable Energy Support Programme by CSE and What Next as a starting point. This 30-page report was released at COP20 in Lima and provides our current thoughts and perspectives on the points above. The paper also shows, however, what needs to be further elaborated and substantiated. In addition we hope the paper will inspire extensive discussion and debate, and help identify issues where there may be conflicting views that need to be further discussed and deliberated.

The workshop is thus intended to be a highly participatory and dynamic, interactive one. We will devote time for discussions both in full group and divided into smaller working groups. The agenda will more or less follow the discussion paper structure, with brief opening reflections/remarks by participants on some of the topics.

In order to facilitate the meeting discussions, we expect you to read at least the background paper well in advance, and encourage you to share views and thoughts with the organisers and other participants before the meeting (not a requirement though!). The current version of the paper can be downloaded at www.whatnext.org, and we will soon send you a slightly updated version by e-mail.

Furthermore, we hope the meeting will provide us with a wealth of insights, ideas and new understanding that we can incorporate into an expanded and updated version of the background paper. This material we hope will be of direct value to the Africa group and other UNFCCC Parties as well as for civil society campaigning and advocacy. Through the meeting we also hope to set the ground for coordination between a broad range of actors/stakeholders, as well as, for example, consolidate a civil society platform on global renewable energy support.

We envisage around 30 participants in total, from different continents, and with backgrounds in academia, climate negotiations, government, regulatory agencies, civil society, business and international organisations. We will also ensure that the group includes expertise in community energy and mini-grid solutions, distributed energy systems, energy and development, local participation and capacity building, climate finance/GCF, climate negotiations, feed-in tariffs/price guarantee systems, environmental and social safeguards and more.

If you have suggestions of persons you think would be particularly relevant and interested in attending the meeting, you are most welcome to provide us with such suggestions.

BACKGROUND MATERIAL AND READING: The discussion paper Global Renewable Energy Support Programme: Globally funded payment guarantees/feed-in tariffs for electricity access through renewable sources constitutes the primary background reading. We will also compile a growing selection of useful background material, and encourage you to share relevant material with us in advance so that it can be made available to all participants. It has been attached with the invitation mail.



About the organisers

Centre for Science and Environment

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) is a public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi. CSE researches into, lobbies for and communicates the urgency of development that is both sustainable and equitable. The scenario today demands using knowledge to bring about change. In other words, working India's democracy.

CSE aims is to raise concerns about the degraded environment - stress on land, water and forest resources for survival along with the rapid industrialization throwing up new problems: growing toxification and a costly disease burden. We participate in seeking answers and – more importantly – in pushing for answers and transforming these into policy and so practice. We do this through our research and by communicating our understanding through our publications. We call at knowledge-based activism. We hope we will make a difference.

The Centre's efforts are build around five broad programmes - communication for awareness, research and advocacy, education and training, knowledge portal and pollution monitoring.

www.cseindia.org

What Next Forum

What Next Forum was founded by Niclas Hällström in 2009 and convenes people across issues and countries, explores new and alternative perspectives on environment, development and health, and catalyses action for change. It draws on an extensive international network of activists, scholars and decision-makers and is based in Uppsala, Sweden.

What Next is currently engaged in projects around climate change/renewable energy, antibiotic resistance, biodiversity financing, synthetic biology and student-led education for sustainable development. In all of these areas What Next plays a facilitating and catalysing role that investigates false and real solutions, and supports the establishment of new coalitions, networks, and collaborative processes.

In addition to organising and facilitating interactive, in-depth seminars and meetings, What Next publishes books and reports that build on these processes.

What Next has actively promoted and built support for the idea of globally funded feed-in tariffs both within and outside of the UNFCCC since 2008. Some of this work is reflected in the 360-page publication What Next Volume III: Climate, Development and Equity, which presents a cross-section of key climate justice issues.

www.whatnext.org