

Ulla Tørnæs' tale ved konferencen "Renewable energy and development"

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Omstændigheder

Konferencen blev holdt af Nordic Dialogue Meeting med Verdensbanken.

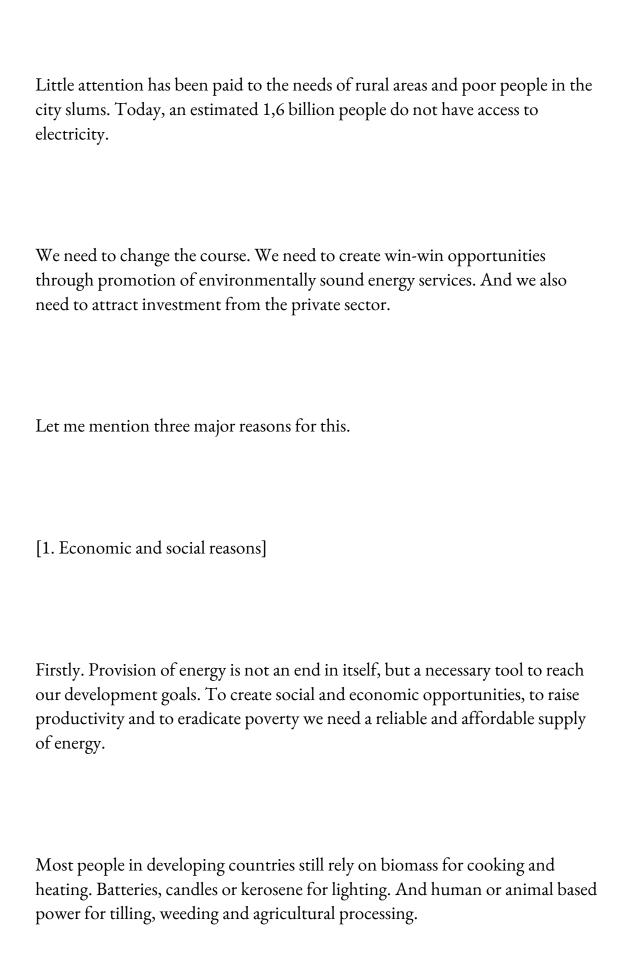
[Welcome and background]

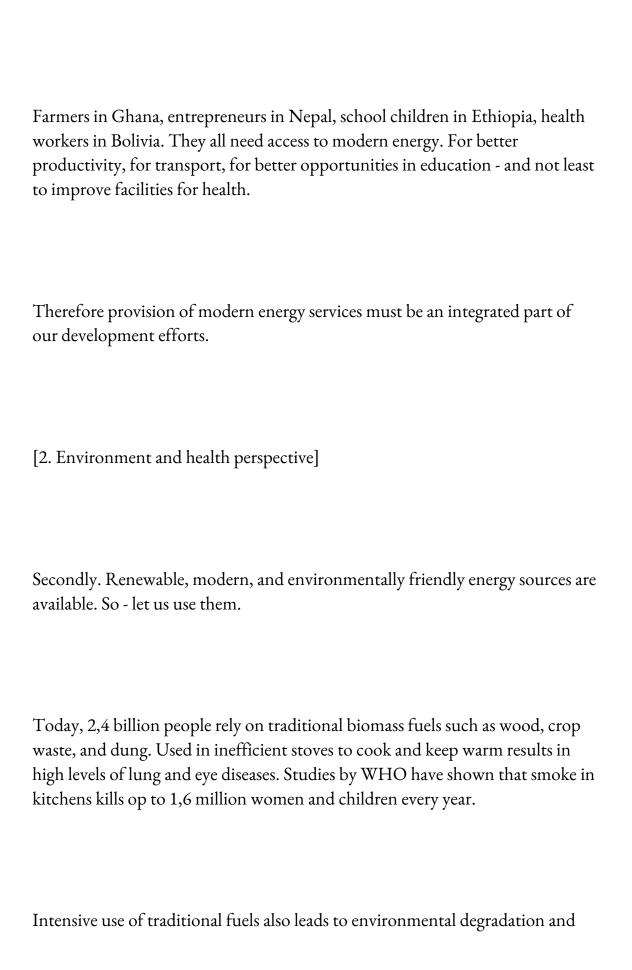
I am pleased to welcome you to this dialogue meeting between the Nordic Countries and the World Bank.

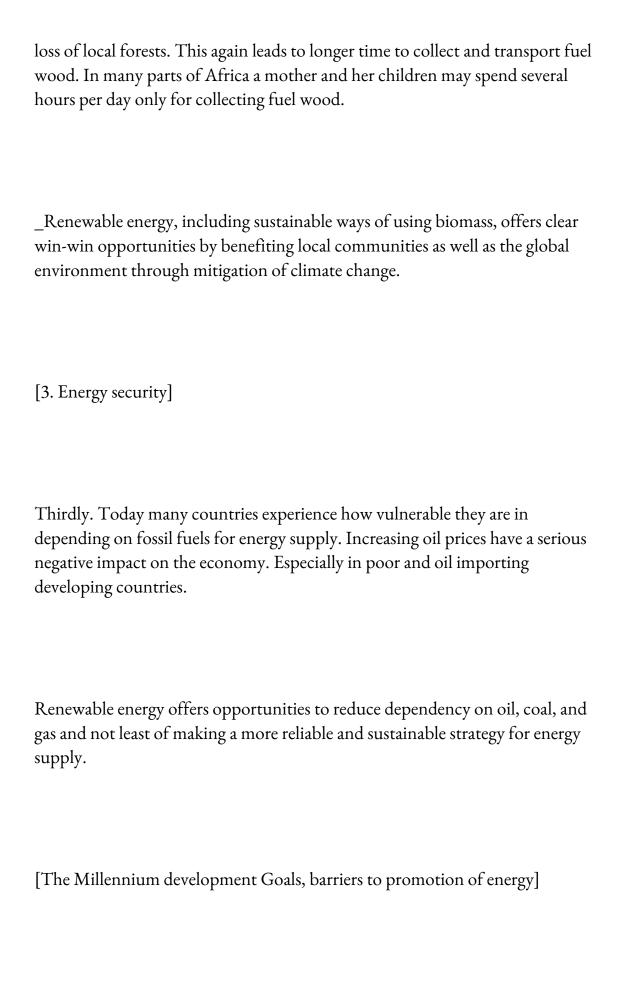
At the meeting in Oslo last year with the Nordic governors to the World Bank, President Wolfensohn called for a closer dialogue between the Bank and the Nordic countries in the area of renewable energy and development.

The share of energy produced from renewable energy sources is still marginal in the total world energy supply. But the potential is great. Promotion of renewable energy, therefore, is an obvious part of the solution for meeting the energy needs in developed and developing countries in a climate-friendly way.









To meet the basic needs of the poor in our partner countries, modern energy services are needed. Without such efforts, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is at risk.
Indeed, access to energy services should have been included as a Millennium Development Goal. But it is not the only reason why energy has had a low priority in development cooperation over the last 10 to15 years.
The political commitment has not been strong enough among partners. Consequently, the institutional, financial, and legal framework enabling promotion of access to energy has also been weak. Compared to fossil fuels, the playing field for promoting renewable energy is still not leveled.
[The way forward]
What can be done about it?
Let me mention some areas where increased efforts are needed:

0. Priority to energy services in Poverty Reduction Strategies
0. Promotion of energy sector reforms;
0. Development of low-cost renewable energy technology_o such as solar systems, wind farms, small hydro-power, and improved cooking stoves;
0. Financing of the higher than usual costs for renewable energy projects
0. Engaging the private sector in public-private partnerships.
These are only a few key examples. The challenge is big, and as we move forward, CSD 14 and 15 will offer opportunities for taking stock off our efforts.
[This meeting, the Bank's commitment, and Denmark's contribution]

Today, we are here to exchange views on how we can move forward in these and other areas. And we are here to focus on how the Nordic countries and the World Bank can strengthen their dialogue on promoting renewable energy for development.

The Danish government recognises the important role of the Bank in this field. We welcome the commitment by the Bank to scale up its annual lending by 20 percent in the area of renewable energy. This surely is a step in the right _direction. And we encourage the Bank and others – ourselves included - to do even more.

In this regard, and as a concrete step in our partnership with the Bank, I am considering a financial contribution in the order of 45 million Danish kroner. The contribution will be earmarked for the promotion of renewable energy in developing countries through the Energy Sector Management Assistance _Program (ESMAP).

[Closing]

In closing - let me reiterate: Renewable energy is important in giving more people access to energy services and at the same time taking a climate-friendly approach to energy and development.

In this regard, the Nordic countries are well positioned with relevant experience.
It is my hope that this meeting will lead to an even stronger partnership between the Nordic countries and the World Bank in promoting sustainable and renewable forms of energy services.
Thank you!
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