



FACT SHEET: MULTILATERAL SOLAR AND WIND WORKING GROUP

At the Clean Energy Ministerial in Washington, D.C. on July 19th and 20th, ministers announced the development of a **Multilateral Solar and Wind Working Group** to promote accelerated deployment of solar and wind technologies by implementing recommendations from the MEF Technology Action Plan on Solar and Wind Technologies that was released by the Major Economies Forum Global Partnership in December 2009. The Multilateral Solar and Wind Working Group will focus its initial work on developing a Global Atlas for Solar and Wind Energy and a corresponding Long-Term Strategy on Joint Capacity Building.

The global market for wind and solar energy has grown rapidly during recent years, but the task of promoting green growth and providing the world with renewable and long-term sustainable energy is indispensable – and urgent. Through its activities, the Working Group will seek to further lower the incremental costs of providing wind and solar energy to all regions of the world – and thereby reduce emissions, create jobs, and promote energy security. In the future, the focus area of the Working Group could be extended to include other renewable technologies.

Initial key activities under Multilateral Solar and Wind Working Group include:

1. **A Global Solar and Wind Atlas:** The aim is to combine and/or expand existing databases on wind and solar potentials and socio-economic framework conditions around the globe into one open web-portal from which user-tailored data can be derived and accessed. The project draws upon existing initiatives and brings together leading experts.
2. **A Long-Term Strategy on Joint Capacity Building:** The lead countries have given equal priority to developing an openly-accessible web portal providing information on international training opportunities along the whole value chain of solar and wind technologies, from basic working skills to academic education. The project aims to improve transparency and to enable the matching of demand and supply.

The main activities and outputs to be provided and elaborated in the work ahead have been already identified during a workshop held in Bonn in June 2010. Detailed background papers on the Global Atlas and Capacity Building actions reflecting the discussion have been developed.

The lead countries will continue their work on the two initial fields of action and have planned for their next workshop to be held this autumn. Preparatory work will start after the Clean Energy Ministerial, including the input of all country parties having joined the initiative by then.

Participants as of July 20, 2010

The lead countries of Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, and Spain represent some of the most advanced and experienced countries in the field of wind and solar energy and wish to make use of their experience by supporting the global scaling-up of renewable energy technologies. They invite other interested countries to join the Multilateral Solar and Wind Working Group. Several countries, such as Australia, the European Commission,

France, Korea, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States, have already expressed interest in joining the initiative. Further progress on the two initial actions and other related actions in the field of bringing forward the deployment of renewable energy technologies needs the committed support of as many partner countries as possible.

Participating in the Multilateral Solar and Wind Working Group should cover two levels of commitment:

1. Active participation in the government dialogue within the Working Group on the different fields of action.
2. Contributing to, and facilitating, expert discussions to make progress on the actions proposed.