

Position Paper Example

Argentina: Renewable Energy
April 4, 2008

Position Paper for the Global Summit on Environmental Sustainability

The issue before the Global Summit on Environmental Sustainability is: Renewable Energy.

1. Renewable Energy

The Argentine Republic strongly believes that sustainable renewable energy sources must be utilized immediately in order to preserve our earth's future. As stated in Clause 4 of the Millennium Declaration, Argentina believes that renewable energy is one of the most vital means to "integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs." In fact, the Argentine Republic has already implemented such policies and programs in order to attain a higher level of development. For example, the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) has teamed up with policymakers in our country to help draft a national strategy for implementing our nation's renewable energy policy.

Argentina adopted a national policy in January 2007 that was designed to help our country generate 8% of its electricity from renewable sources over the next 10 years. Working with the Vienna-based REEEP to implement Law No. 2190, Argentina receives REEEP's funding and technical assistance to aid developing nations in the cultivation of renewable energy and efficient energy. The Argentine statute outlines which sources of renewable energy will qualify for state support, provides tax breaks for renewable energy equipment, and offers tariffs for certain renewable resources. In the statute, definitions of renewable energy include: small hydropower up to 30 MW, wind, solar, geothermal, tidal and biomass energy, and power generated from landfill gas and biogas. By working with REEEP and the United Nations, we hope to:

- Identify policies that will remove obstacles to the development of renewable energy;
- Provide better information on natural resources and projects, i.e. initiatives on biomass residue;
- Adapt the present legal framework to develop the introduction of distributed generation.

Argentina currently produces 1.6% of its electricity from renewable resources, excluding large hydropower. This year, our country has accelerated the push for renewable energy by issuing an atlas that catalogs wind energy resources; approving a partnership between Emgasud (an Argentinean gas distribution company) and the Chubut province to build a 430-MW natural gas plant and an associated wind power plant; and developing small hydropower and biogas resources. With the help of REEEP and the UN, Argentina hopes to knock down barriers to the development of renewable resources in our nation and around the world.