



INVITATION

Seminar/roundtable discussion on approaches to tackle climate and development challenges simultaneously, with a particular focus on Global Feed-in Tariffs

Monday 16 May 2011, 13-16, Skeppsholmen, Stockholm

You are cordially invited to a seminar with the Director of the UN Division for Sustainable Development, Dr Tariq Banuri, and the Director of the Centre for Science and Environment, India, Ms Sunita Narain, as special guests and resource persons.

As both Tariq and Sunita are visiting Stockholm for the Nobel symposium, we are using the opportunity to, at very short notice, organise a small meeting to highlight one of the most promising and exciting ideas in relation to climate, development and energy. This idea explicitly and simultaneously tackles, through a global system of feed-in tariffs for renewable energy, the need for drastic reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as well as the need for billions of poor people to gain access to *more* affordable energy. Furthermore, even though the funds for these renewable energy investments would come from the rich countries – in line with the climate convention – these investments would over 10-15 years in fact become true, cost-effective investments also for the rich countries' own, now cheaper transition to non-fossil societies.

This approach appears to be one of the few true win-win schemes in the climate and development realm, and should therefore be of great interest to explore further. The approach has the potential to take off, just as REDD transitioned from a somewhat odd idea a few years ago to now being centred in negotiations and with billions of dollars pouring into the scheme. A system of global feed-in tariffs for climate and development is a bolder, and in our view more promising, idea.

Political momentum

Dr Tariq Banuri has been a leading person behind the conceptualisation of the approach, which was presented in the 2009 big UN DESA (Department for Economic and Social Affairs) World Economic and Social Survey (WESS). This seminal publication outlines how a "Global Marshall Plan for climate and development" could be set up – with global feed-in tariffs as one of its core features.

We now see a growing interest for this kind of approach. In Sweden, Naturskyddsföreningen (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, SSNC) has taken a lead in promoting the scheme. Internationally, Greenpeace, WWF, the World Future Council and others have developed and promote similar approaches. Some countries have introduced the idea during the UNFCCC negotiations.

As momentum grows, it is a question of which countries will be first to take the political leadership in strategically promoting such a scheme. We hope Sweden will be one of them. The seminar will therefore discuss how Sweden, together with other leading countries, could set in motion a pilot scheme that could later be scaled up.

Given the stalemate and deeply eroded trust between poor and rich countries in the climate negotiations, a concrete scheme that can deliver results, and thereby foster a cooperative spirit between North and South is badly needed. The idea however reaches beyond the UNFCCC framework, and should in our view become a central focus for the Rio +20 process. Incidentally, Tariq Banuri is also directing the UN secretariat in New York for the Rio +20 process.

Participants, aims and structure of the meeting

The seminar will gather participants from government, academia, Sida and civil society in Sweden, and possibly also one or two guests from international civil society who have been working on these issues. We will be quite a small group as the aim is to provide opportunity for open and free-flowing discussions where we can explore the core idea in a larger context, identify potential drawbacks and challenges, and examine political opportunities.

We will have more formal introductions by Tariq and Sunita, but emphasise everybody's participation as equals and that there will be ample time for interaction. A draft agenda and a background note is attached as appendix. In the appendix there are also links to key background documents that can be downloaded.

Practical information

The seminar will take place between 13 and 16 on Monday 16th May at "Hus 28", Kungliga Konsthögskolan, on Skeppsholmen in central Stockholm. This is made possible through the kind cooperation with Mejan Arc (see attached note for announcement of their interdisciplinary one-year post-graduate course "Resources.11: Just Grounds").

The What Next Forum will provide coffee/tea and sandwiches/snacks before and during the seminar.

Please send a confirmation of your participation to niclas.hallstrom@whatnext.org as soon as possible, and latest 11 May. You are also welcome to suggest additional persons you think should be invited.

Hoping to see you on 16th May,



Niclas Hällström
What Next Forum



The What Next Forum convenes meetings, explores new issues and catalyses alternative ideas into action.

The What Next Forum seeks to **convene** informal dialogues, roundtable discussions, exploratory seminars, strategy workshops, as well as public debates – and to facilitate dedicated people meeting each other in new constellations.

The What Next Forum aims to **explore** new issues, challenges and alternative views on development.

The meetings strive to create opportunities for new thinking and exploration of unconventional ideas – and of possible scenarios ahead.

The What Next Forum strives to **catalyse** promising ideas and initiatives into action. By convening meetings of people who can both think ahead and act, the What Next Forum strives to catalyse the

formulation of strategies, help initiate networks and organisations, and provide active support to both policy-makers and activists.

The What Next Forum is a new initiative that builds on the many years of prior work by Niclas Hällström at the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and the What Next Project.