

**2007 Norman E. Borlaug/World Food Prize International Symposium**  
*Biofuels and Biofoods: The Global Challenges of Emerging Technologies*  
October 18-19, 2007- Des Moines, Iowa

**SESSION III. REALIZING THE PROMISE OF BIOFUELS IN DEVELOPMENT**

October 19, 2007 – 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

*Moderator:* Ambassador Melinda Kimble

**Ambassador Kenneth Quinn**

President - World Food Prize Foundation

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Well, good morning. Everybody had a good breakfast, I hope, and now we're ready to get into, I guess, the dessert after breakfast. This is the delicious stuff with the panels. I'm so pleased – yesterday, we started out with international perspectives, then we had industry perspectives, and now we're going to be looking at issues of biofuels and biofoods and development.

And I'm very, very happy to be working and putting this first panel together with an old friend and colleague from the State Department, Melinda Kimble, now the senior vice president of the United Nations Foundation. And she is overseeing program areas concerning health, population, the environment and peace, and human rights. And prior to that, as I said, she served in the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer, rising to the rank of Minister-Counselor. And also was the Assistant Secretary of the International Organization's Bureau and held other policy-level positions at the Bureau of Economics and Business and the Bureau of Oceans International Environment and Scientific Affairs. And she led the environmental negotiations at events such as the 1997 Climate Change Conference in Kyoto.

She holds Master's Degrees in Economics and Public Administration from the University of Denver and the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.

So, Melinda, we're so pleased – thank you for putting this wonderful aggregation together. Welcome back to Des Moines.

**Ambassador Melinda Kimble**

Senior Vice President, U.N. Foundation

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Well, I just want to say how wonderful it is to be here, and we actually hope our panel will give you food for thought to build on the conversations of yesterday and certainly Mr. Holliday's presentation this morning.

I would like to tell you just a couple of things about the United Nations Foundation and explain why we are interested in this whole area of, as Mr. Rodrigues

called it yesterday, agroenergy. We believe it's a critical area for the agenda we assumed when we were created by Mr. Ted Turner in 1998.

In 1998, Ted Turner set up a foundation to administer his commitment of \$1 billion to the United Nations, and he asked us very much to work with what he and the former Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations called "problems without passports" – environment, peace and security, human rights, and certainly, and actually just because there was so much opportunity in that area, we became very engaged in the primary healthcare agenda of the United Nations, and we have worked very actively on that agenda with much bigger foundations, like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to advance the cause of bringing immunizations and other primary health interventions to children, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and in Asia.

In this process, because Ted is the businessman, he's always said we really need to think about the challenge of development and why it's so critical to change the paradigm for people in a developing world so they can begin to provide many of the things they need for themselves, and actually advance to sustainable livelihoods. This has been the vision of the United Nations in the context of a number of international conferences, most notably the Conference on Environment and Development at Rio, frequently called Agenda 21, or the Year Summit in 1992. And that conference continues to drive United Nations thinking in the development arena today.

Clearly, for us who work with two committed and well-known environmentalists, Senator Tim Wirth and Ted Turner himself, environment has always been a preoccupation of the Foundation. And early on we became engaged in a number of pilot initiatives to advance the goal of clean energy access in the developing world. Many of these activities took place in Africa. That work convinced us that we had to engage at the policy level, because solving the energy-access problem is critical.

Now, I will just try to give you a couple of statistics, because I don't have a lot of charts, and I'm the moderator today, not speaking. But I want you to bear in mind that total primary energy consumption will double between now and 2030. That has huge implications for greenhouse gas emissions, but it also has critical implications for development and economic growth.

Today, Africa consumes 3 percent of total energy consumption in the world. And in all the current best-case scenarios of the International Energy Agency, in 2030 Africa would still consume only 5 percent of total energy supply. Let me underscore what's wrong with this picture.

You cannot grow without more energy. And what we see by studying these figures is that the population will grow, but if energy consumption use and investment in energy services doesn't grow, you will still have 700-800 million people without access to modern energy services. We believe that the paradigm has to change, and there is an incredible opportunity in Africa.

On Wednesday night, Mr. Youba Sokona of the Observatory of the Sahel and Sahara in Tunisia explained that, basically, Africa consumes biomass. It is their source of energy for 70-80 percent of the population in many countries. The way Africa consumes biomass, however, is unsustainable. It is causing land degradation. It is causing more poverty. It causes the inability of soils to regain their fertility. It creates so many critical problems that compromise the development agenda that we have to think about it.

Another thing Mr. Sokona said is Africa's current energy infrastructure is 30 to 40 years old. Ladies and gentlemen, this presents an opportunity to reframe Africa and Africa's energy system in a new, cleaner energy paradigm. And bioenergy – not just biofuels but all sorts of modern biomass energy – can be a key component of that in conjunction with other renewable sources of energy. This is what we hope to discuss today, so that you can begin to see the challenges and the great opportunities ahead of us.