

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
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INTERLINKAGES AND CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

General

- The EU believes that in order to achieve sustainable development it is necessary to adopt an integrated approach which takes proper account of social, economic and environmental factors. It is also important to take into account the costs of inaction in policy making.
- The pursuit of narrow sector objectives in isolation risks compromising the achievement of wider policy goals, most of all regarding climate change.
- For example, experience shows that unplanned and poorly managed industrial development can lead to inefficient and wasteful use of energy, increased air pollution and atmospheric emissions that accelerate climate change, generate poverty as well as loss of natural resources.
- We know that significant inter-linkages exist between each of the thematic issues within this cluster. The EU believes that CSD14 and 15 offer us a rare opportunity to address these issues in an integrated manner. This is an opportunity not to be lost.
- The EU believes it is critically important that during our deliberations over the next two weeks we address the inter-linkages between each of the thematic cluster issues. It will help us identifying how the various goals can be simultaneously achieved. By doing this, we will ensure that when we reach CSD15 we will be better able to agree on policy guidance and practical actions that are both coherent and complementary.
- The EU is pursuing the integrated approach through its Sustainable Development Strategy, which is currently under revision.

Inter-linkages

- There are a number of interlinking issues, where taking action will have benefits for each of the thematic issues. Arguably, each of the thematic issues is in itself an interlinking issue. From our regional discussions and from the Secretary General's report, we realise that there are a few key inter-linkages such as transport and planning which require particular attention. Taking action on these will have benefits for each of the issues in this thematic cluster.

Transport

- Sustainable transport is essential for social and economic development. It enables access to basic services, ensures that goods and people reach markets and

enhances communications while also considering responsibility in terms of sustainable consumption and production patterns. In other words it facilitates industrial, social and economic development.

- Increased demand for effective, reliable and sustainable transport is inevitable as countries develop and economies grow.
- Well-planned and adequately serviced cities are a necessary prerequisite for the establishment of sustainable urban systems that play a significant role in contributing to the growth of national economies and the improvement of peoples lives in general.
- Transport currently depends heavily on fossil fuels, with the associated impacts on resources, air pollution and CO₂ emissions. These have negative effects on human health, and on the local as well as on the global environment particularly through climate change.
- Solutions are varied and complex and several dimensions including the gender dimension have to be fully considered in this area given rights of both, women and men to have access to decent work, education, etc. These will involve a combination of technology innovations and improvements including the use of bio-fuels and alternative fuels, economic instruments, better urban planning, improved, affordable public transport, low emission vehicles and measures to reduce the need to travel.

Land use planning

- As the world develops, our demands on land are changing and increasing. Urbanisation is a consequence and a cause of development and growth, as people migrate to cities for jobs, services and a better quality of life. If not properly planned, these changing demands will have serious and negative impacts on natural resources, energy consumption, air quality and climate change.
- Future land-use and urban planning needs to take account of potential impacts on energy consumption, on air pollution and on climate change. The impacts of climate change need also to be considered within land-use and urban planning.
- CSD14 also affords us the opportunity to consider the closely linked issues of indoor air pollution, and health and energy. Building design needs to be integrated into land use/settlement planning, especially passive design factors that can reduce indoor air pollution. Improvements in household energy systems can impact on important social and economic factors in and around the home and contribute to meeting MDGs (especially health and child health, empowerment of women, poverty eradication, and environmental sustainability).

Crosscutting Issues

- We also believe it is important to address the crosscutting issues, including means of implementation, that were agreed at CSD11. To mention just a few these include:
 - Poverty eradication
 - Changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption

- Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development
 - Capacity building
 - Finance and investment
 - Gender equality
 - Health
 - Education
- As we've learned from our regional discussions and is evident from the Secretary General's reports, these issues are common to each of the thematic issues. We therefore need to give them due consideration in our discussions over the coming weeks.
- Poverty eradication is an overarching objective and essential requirement of sustainable development.
- Each country is responsible for its own sustainable development though regional and global considerations are vital given the cross-boundary effects of air pollution and the like. We firmly agree with the Secretary General on the need for strong national development strategies, which take account of energy for sustainable development, industrial development – including changing patterns of consumption and production, air pollution and climate change.
- In all countries, sustainable development has so far not been sufficiently integrated in policy-making and planning processes. Still, the goals and development areas of different sectors are not balanced to ensure sustainability. The JPOI commitment to formulate and begin implementation of Sustainable Development Strategies by 2005 must be recalled and further implemented. The EU stresses the importance of the peer reviews as a voluntary learning process for the governance of these strategies. Countries can benefit from this process, both as reviewed country and as peer reviewer.
- We believe that in the context of the MDGs, and in particular of MDG7, the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building will contribute to achieving sustainable development and in delivering the broader capacity building needs required to implement international and national commitments. Also it is important to develop and apply common approaches for strategic environmental assessment at the sector and national levels as stated in the OECD Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005.
- Partnerships such as the Global Village Energy Partnership are working to promote the integration of energy into the PRSP process.
- Changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption is fundamental to delivering progress in each of the thematic cluster issues. We recognise that it is the responsibility of developed countries to take the lead in achieving this shift. We particularly welcome the Marrakech process and the Marrakech task forces which provide a vehicle for taking this commitment forward. The Marrakech Task Forces are innovative, action-oriented fora that can address key issues for CSD. We should support their work, and look forward to them delivering results over the next years. The call for national action plans on SCP was also among the key outcomes of the

meeting in Costa Rica in September 2005. The EU has now committed to producing an EU Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan by 2007. We recognise that partnerships should foster and support the aims of the Marrakech process.

- Environmental sustainability underpins the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Protecting and managing our natural resource base is therefore fundamental to achieving lasting development.
- The Secretary General's report *An Overview of Progress* does not paint a positive picture. Neither does the recent Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. In our quest for development we are continuing to destroy the ecosystems on which future development depends. Our ecosystems are not limitless and this trend needs to be reversed. Our economic activities need to respect the carrying capacity of ecosystems.
- Nature provides immeasurable benefits to the six billion people living on our planet. By exploiting the world's diverse natural resources, humankind has achieved improvements in well-being over the last few centuries. Since the world's natural resources are limited, and ecosystems are increasingly vulnerable, we should today be more careful than ever about the ways we use natural resources, as the underlying issue is the way we use natural resources and return them to the natural environment. In this context we reaffirm our commitment under the JPOI and the Convention of Biological Diversity to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth. We also wish to highlight our support to the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification in that regard.
- There is an urgent need to focus our policies into the entire cycle of production and consumption - make it more sustainable based on sound materials while also exploring how we can satisfy our basic needs in more sustainable ways. This strategy poses an opportunity to encourage innovations, to balance the use of natural resources, and to foster ecosystem services.
- To achieve progress in each of the thematic issues, the significant barriers which limit the use and the effectiveness of the means of implementation need to be removed by strengthening their role and increasing the adoption of an integrated approach in policy-making.
- Trade and access to markets is essential for developing countries to lift themselves out of poverty. To achieve development which is truly sustainable we need to increasingly take into account the potential impact of trade on the environment and respond accordingly to enhance the mutual supportiveness between trade and environment agreements.
- Financing remains a significant barrier to implementation. One of our objectives for this cycle needs to be identifying options for bridging the finance gap for cleaner energy technology and services. The recent World Bank Energy Week outlined some of the risks and the options. We should seek to build on this work and experience. Following the Gleneagles G8 Summit, the World Bank is leading on the

development of an Investment Framework for scaling up public and private investment into low carbon technologies.

- We need to improve the quantity and the quality of available resources. In the longer term, more needs to be done to promote domestic and inward investment by creating conducive investment frameworks. Economic instruments including market-based mechanisms, incentives, subsidies, taxes and tariffs will also have an important role to play.
- In many countries declining budgets for research and development are hampering the ability of policy makers to find the most effective solutions to a number of the challenges we face.
- Inadequate development, lacking transfer and deployment of affordable, efficient and environmentally sound technologies and in some cases high costs of these technologies continue to hinder progress on each of the thematic issues.
- Complex inter-linkages exist between health, industrial development, energy production and consumption, air pollution and climate change. There is an urgent need to address the causes of ill health and their impacts on development.
- Women are often excluded from decision-making processes, particularly poor women with limited access to education. Their needs must be on an equal basis as the needs of men and fully considered in all phases of providing affordable and accessible energy services and in the planning of sustainable industrial development. Women and children as well as men working in households are disproportionately affected by indoor air pollution from the burning of traditional and fossil fuels for cooking and heating. This cannot continue. Solutions include access to cleaner fuel and the equipment to use it.
- A number of barriers remain to achieving gender equality and to improving the status, health and economic welfare of women and girls. These include the lack of sexual and reproductive health rights and lack of participation in decision making.
- Education, as a tool of implementation, can contribute to the effectiveness of policies for sustainability.
- Access to education is vital to a sustainable economic and social development. Whilst some regions particularly Latin America and the Caribbean and South East Asia, have made excellent progress in achieving the MDG of achieving access to primary education for all by 2015, significant barriers still remain in other regions, including sub-Saharan Africa. These are well known and include competing demands on children, in particular girls, to undertake domestic chores, lack of resources, lack of infrastructure and lack of energy to enable schools to function. Campaigns and communication initiatives could support awareness and respect of basic human rights.
- The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development provides an appropriate long-term framework of reference. It is important to coordinate various initiatives to ensure effectiveness of the overall processes. The UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development represents a regional contribution to the Decade with

the aim to support the achievement of sustainable development and could provide guidelines for other regions.

- Over the past three days we've heard about the very many obstacles, but also the opportunities as well as example of best practice, that exist in each of the regions. What has become apparent is that there are differences in the experience of each region. To tackle these challenges we need to identify solutions that are suited to regional variations. There are also problems that are common to each of the regions, for which our shared objective should be to find global solutions.

Inter-linkages between Climate Change and sustainable development

- Climate change is a serious and long term challenge with the potential to affect every part of the globe. It has the potential to set back many years of international development and seriously undermine poverty reduction efforts. In some regions, climate change may prevent achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- We face a serious and linked challenge in tackling climate change and air pollution. The EU believes it is all but impossible for us to talk about these links without also talking about the links with energy and industrial development.
- We need to enhance synergies between and to take an integrated approach to climate change and energy objectives, recognising that strategies to invest worldwide in cleaner and more sustainable energy services can support a range of objectives, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the global environment, enhancing energy security and competitiveness and cutting air pollution. We need to do this in a way which supports our vigorous efforts to eradicate poverty.
- Education, as a cross-cutting tool, could support this integrated approach, focussing on substantial aspects as for example on energy saving and reduction of GHG emissions. Training and capacity building could support new skills and knowledge in terms of energy efficiency, e.g. young people at every stage of their education must be informed about the challenges of a sustainable energy policy. Therefore, countries are encouraged to include energy-related topics, in the context of sustainable development, in the education curricula.
- Work within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is key for limiting the impacts of green house gas emissions and climate change and consequently for global sustainable development. The EU is implementing its climate change commitments under the UNFCCC and strongly believes that climate friendly policies can be implemented in a cost-effective manner now and in the future, if we ensure a global response and use flexible mechanisms such as those provided for under the Kyoto Protocol.
- The Kyoto greenhouse gas reduction regime is vital for achieving our overall objectives in a viable global economic system. The costs of inaction and related effects on economies severely impact on developed and developing countries alike. In order to promote informed national decision-making processes and to build human and institutional capacities in partner countries for the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, the EU has developed an Action Plan on Climate Change and Development Cooperation.
- The global mean surface temperature should not increase beyond 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Recent scientific research and work under the IPCC indicate that keeping this long-term temperature objective within reach will require global greenhouse gas emissions to peak within the next two decades, followed by substantial reductions in the order of at least 15% and perhaps by as much as 50% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.

- To achieve this, a joint global effort is required, with economically more developed countries taking the lead to significantly reduce global emissions of green house gases.
- Without prejudging new approaches for differentiation between Parties in a future fair and flexible framework, the EU believes that, in this context, reduction pathways for the group of developed countries in the order of 15-30% by 2020 compared to the base years used in the Kyoto Protocol, and by 2050, in the spirit of the Conclusions of the March 2005 (Environment) Council, should be considered.
- However, the developed countries that presently have commitments inscribed in Annex B and have ratified the Kyoto Protocol will not be able to combat climate change effectively on their own. These countries accounted for only about 30% of global emissions in the year 2000. Today's 25 Member States of the European Union accounted for 14% of global emissions in 2000. This share is expected to decrease substantially over the coming decades. A broader strategy for global measures, involving both developed and developing countries, is required. Such a strategy should include more research and innovation, energy policy reforms and the development and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.
- The EU believes that climate change and energy strategy development must be closely linked. A key priority for the EU is to give a firm signal about the medium and long term direction of EU policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the continuing role of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in delivering emissions cuts beyond 2012.
- We welcome the World Summit Outcome commitment to support developing country efforts to implement comprehensive national development strategies, which include sustainable natural resource management. It will be important for climate change, including mitigation and adaptation measures, to be integrated into these strategies
- This CSD cycle provides the opportunity for us to look at why we're not meeting this objective. It also provides an opportunity for us to agree what more needs to be done to implement our energy, climate change, air pollution and industrial development commitments in an integrated way which can lead us to our end goal of sustainable development
- Adaptive capacity resides in people's livelihood strategies and supporting policy, legal, institutional and organization context, and should, therefore, be built into the development process. This ensures that adaptation efforts are focused on reducing the risk of climate change impacts on a country's national development priorities, as set out in their Poverty Reduction Strategy or equivalent.
- This mainstreaming of climate risks into national development policies ensures consistency between adaptation and national development objectives such as poverty eradication. Separation of the two runs the risk of adaptation policies inadvertently conflicting with development and poverty policies, or conversely, development policies inadvertently increasing vulnerability to climatic conditions. Appropriate entry points for integrating adaptation to climate variability and climate change into development co-operation activities need to be identified, including in

country assistance strategies, sectoral policy frameworks, Poverty Reduction Strategies, long-term investment plans, technical consultations and sector reviews, as well as strategic and project-level environmental impact assessments.

- Both adaptation and greenhouse gas emissions mitigation are required to respond to climate change. These measures are needed within both developed and developing countries, consistent with the ultimate objective and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
