



## **Commission on Sustainable Development**

### **Fifteenth session**

30 April-11 May 2007

## **Major groups priorities for action in energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change**

### **Non-Governmental Organizations**

#### **New paradigm**

1. Owing to the unabated global reliance on fossil fuels and unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, progress in promoting sustainable development will be rendered impossible within the four themes of the current cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development: energy for sustainable development, climate change, atmospheric pollution and industrial development. The combustion of fossil fuels is a key driver for climate change and atmospheric pollution. Reliance on fossil fuel is also causing increased external indebtedness for the least developed countries. Lack of access to decentralized modern energy services and lack of support for renewables are key obstacles to just and sustainable development, including industrial development.

2. Based on the precautionary principle, in order to promote sustainable development, safeguard the environment and promote social equity, the following steps are necessary:

#### *In energy for sustainable development*

3. In order to achieve real sustainable development, a just transition must be made from fossil fuels and nuclear energy towards accessible and affordable energy alternatives, including energy efficiency and energy savings.

4. An equitable and just access to energy services must be developed in order to fulfil basic needs and develop energy policies with time-bound targets and commitments, as an integrated element of poverty reduction strategy papers and/or national strategies for sustainable development, that focus on the poor to ensure greatest impacts and institutionalize citizen involvement to meet the needs of society and business in a sustainable fashion.

5. A transfer must be made of existing and new energy technologies, excluding harmful nuclear ones, to those countries in need, while respecting and/or strengthening local and regional capacities and culture.

6. There must be an immediate shift in energy funding and investment to phasing out subsidies to fossil fuel and nuclear industries in order to level the playing field. Such subsidies dramatically hamper sustainable development and therefore should be

redirected to renewable energy and energy efficient funding, including access to energy for the poor.

7. A comprehensive strategy on finance must be developed by redirecting international financial institutions and their funds to sustainable energy, including the introduction of strengthened microfinancing for new renewables and energy efficiency.

8. Those export credit agencies that fund the promotion of fossil, nuclear and hydroenergy production that does not, inter alia, comply with the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams should be identified and support for them phased out by 2008. All international financial institutions should be instructed to do likewise.

9. The development of nuclear facilities must be halted as they are neither safe nor environmentally and economically sound and sustainable.

10. Sustainability criteria must be set for energy production and consumption, including the use of bioenergy, in order to avoid negative effects on food security, livelihood, biodiversity and to close the widening of the gap between the haves and have-nots.

#### *In industrial development*

11. It must be emphasized that industrial development does not automatically lead to sustainable development and poverty reduction, but that standards of sustainable production and consumption must be the basis upon which all industries are based. They must be set within the limits of the Earth's carrying capacity, sharing equitably the burdens of the ecological footprint and internalizing the external costs, respecting the principle of "the polluter pays".

12. Sustainability reporting within the private sector must be stimulated by developing clear indicators to monitor and guide sustainable industrial development. All large enterprises should utilize principles of corporate responsibility and accountability to ensure open communication and transparency and with respect to ownership and decision-making.

13. Short production and consumption chains must be developed in order to avoid unnecessary transport, with added value to the manufacturer.

14. The Millennium Development Goals and the goals of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation must be implemented by ensuring that benefits from industrial development in the South remain in the South and by avoiding negative consequences, such as pollution, waste dumping, low salaries and bad working conditions, at all costs. Industrial development in richer countries cannot be based on the exploitation of poorer ones.

### *In air pollution and atmosphere*

15. Clean public transport alternatives must be promoted. Vehicles, particularly those driven by diesel engines, are the main cause of urban air pollution. Cities that have taken decisive steps to curb transport-related air pollution have introduced innovative measures, such as mandatory replacement of diesel with compressed natural gas or congestion fees and public transport alternatives.

16. An indoor clean air, health/environment policy must be developed. Such policies must include access to cooking and heating facilities that are affordable, cleaner and environmentally friendly, such as efficient, smokeless and cleaner burning biomass stoves, biogas and solar cookers. Policies should include the promotion of simple technologies to allow for greater ventilation of smoke from indoor fires. Environmental and social impact assessments should also be used when promoting such technologies.

17. Adequate technology to curb the incineration of garbage from local heaps and national landfills must be made available and the incineration of garbage that emits toxic fumes must be legally banned.

### *In climate change*

18. All countries that are signatories to the Kyoto Protocol must be held accountable to their commitments and not allow non-signatories to direct progress. It is essential to promote the early benefits implicit in the Protocol concerning the transformation of global energy systems in areas such as the generation of employment, market opportunities, reduced emissions and greater energy selfreliance.

19. The climate must be stabilized by keeping man-made climate change well below 2 degrees Celsius as a global average. Hence, no country can claim post-2012 Kyoto negotiation privileges, but allocation of emission rights should be based on equitable principles. Action is needed immediately to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases while simultaneously meeting the demands of the Millennium Development Goals.

20. The most vulnerable and poor communities must receive support in their efforts to adapt to climate change.

21. The transfer of costs for mitigation to developing countries must be prevented through the Clean Development Mechanism, and the development of socially and environmentally sound clean development mechanism projects that respect the “gold standard” must be supported.

### *In interlinkages*

22. Good governance, including respect for social justice, human rights, gender equality, democratic institutions and sustainable policies, must be achieved.

23. The financial instruments of Governments must be made more effective in promoting sustainable policies through, inter alia, the implementation of

environmental fiscal reforms as suggested by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in its guidelines.

24. System-wide coherence (within and outside the United Nations system) must be improved, and compatibility within international institutions in line with Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation must be achieved.

25. Education for sustainable development must be included in all curricula, as sustainable development is not possible without the awareness and contribution of current and future generations.