



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail australia@un.int

150 East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 www.AustraliaUN.org

Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the 17th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

27 February 2009

Cross-cutting Themes and Interlinkages Session

Statement by the Australian Delegation

Madam Chair and distinguished delegates.

The cluster of themes we have all been discussing are all inter-related and progress on all these themes is essential to address the priority issue before us of food security.

As we discuss cross cutting issues and how improve to improve on-ground operation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), Australia would like to highlight four key areas as cross-cutting issues:

Firstly, the importance of pursuing sustainable development through practical policy options and outcomes based on nationally identified solutions, that are consistent with international obligations, and that allow countries the flexibility to pursue policies according to their national settings. Good governance, action at the national level and effective partnerships are all critical to improving practical implementation of sustainable development.

Secondly, Australia considers that improving market efficiency will contribute to both global food security and sustainable development. Farmers need clear and unimpeded access to global markets over the long term, to see price signals and maximise global food supplies at stable prices and within the productive capacity of the natural resource base. Australia encourages the international community to take strong steps towards achieving this by liberalising international agricultural trade and reforming markets.

Thirdly, as we strive to improve food security, a related priority is to maintain environmental sustainability over the long term. Changes in climate will make this even more of a challenge. Integrating adaptation responses into agricultural and natural resource management policies and programs will be important in responding to climate risks and pressures.

Australia's fourth and last point on cross cutting is that holistic and integrated approaches on food security and sustainable development requires information for decision makers derived from continued investment in education, research and development, and innovation and technology transfer systems.

Thank you.