

CSD IPM, 27 February 2009

Austria: Speaking Notes – Cross-cutting/interlinkages

Austria aligns herself with the statement held by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight two aspects in this discussion

- 1) Note and emphasise specific challenges of the Small Island Developing States; especially in the context of climate change.

Speaking on behalf of Italy and Austria in this respect, we would like to express that both our governments are very appreciative for having been able to participate in the important cooperation with the pacific SIDS that was highlighted throughout this week.

We are glad that this has been taken up so positively and that we were able to contribute to real impact on the ground. This maybe provides a good example to be replicated and taken up by others as well.

In this context: The Global Forum on Sustainable Energy will celebrate its tenth anniversary this year. The GFSE will convene in Vienna from 22 – 24 June 2009, dedicated to the theme „Towards an Integrated Energy Agenda Beyond 2020: Securing Sustainable Policies and Investments“

Further information soon be posted on the GFSE website (www.gfse.at).

- 2) we need to prepare for the future

that means we need to protect and preserve biological diversity so that we can build on it in the future and for economic development

not in a romantic manner, but we need to do this in a way that is environmentally sound and acceptable to societies that have for instance a keen interest in natural and organic products.

We need to make use of traditional knowledge often held by indigenous peoples and local communities that have a vital role as custodians of biodiversity

Mme Chair,

plant genetic resources for food and agriculture pivotal for future crop breeding that could meet the challenges of an ever changing environment, be it through climate change or new pests.

The ITPGRFA provides the fundamental mechanism for global exchange of those PGRFA. 119 states are already contracting parties to the Treaty.

It is important that this be extended further and lead ultimately to global membership, so that all countries are able to benefit from facilitated access to those genetic resources and from the benefits arising thereof.

Thank you