

CSD15 IPM Energy for Sustainable Development

27th Feb 2007

UK Intervention, given by Helen Marquard, Head of UK Delegation.

- UK aligns ourselves with the opening statement of the European Union and would like to further elaborate on elements of this.
- As CSD14 highlighted, energy underlies many of the issues within this thematic cluster. Clean, affordable, sustainable energy is essential for development and economic growth, yet the ways in which we currently produce and use energy are having negative impacts on the environment, including climate as well as on social and development objectives. For sustainable development to be realised these issues must be reconciled; we can not pursue economic, social and environmental objectives separately.
- As regards to energy for sustainable development renewables and other clean energy solutions provide a means to decarbonise energy production, decentralisation of energy systems is likely to play an increasingly important role and demand management will play a central role in helping to decouple economic growth from energy growth.
- Reliable and affordable energy supplies are of crucial importance to economic growth and to the reduction of all aspects of poverty, particularly for women and children in developing countries. The full range of sustainable energy sources and technologies will be needed for services to be improved, especially in rural areas which are particularly difficult to reach. More efficient use of conventional fuels will reduce pollution and conserve resources in the short term. In addition there are unexploited viable opportunities for developing countries to use renewable energy and energy efficiency to help meet their energy service needs. Such opportunities should not be missed as it is vital that we avoid lock in of carbon intensive technologies. Co-operation, through partnerships and other initiatives to spread this technology and the necessary business and policy models is of key importance.
- In the future sustainable energy must play a central role in the development of country-led poverty reduction strategies and development strategies. The work of the World Bank on developing the Clean Energy Investment Framework and the European Commission's recently launched Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund will be important contributions to this. We would also stress the importance of co-operation and exchange of best practice through initiatives such as the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership and the Global Village Energy Partnership, amongst others, to increase capacity for public and private sector engagement and replicate successful models for energy sector development.

- Pakistan spoke of the need for translation of commitments into action on the ground. In that vein we believe it is vital that the approaches and measures agreed by CSD15 to enhance energy's contribution to sustainable development are followed up and tracked to ensure that barriers and opportunities for implementation are identified. This will be of great value, both to governments and to institutions and initiatives active in this field, enabling them to address these key challenges and target their efforts in the most effective way. The basket of commitments that the EU has proposed will provide a solid basis for future assessments.
- As outlined in the EU statement – the well developed global community around renewable energy is of great value in ensuring renewables are taken into consideration wherever possible. We agree with the assessment that energy efficiency lacks such a community and that it would greatly benefit from a high level global network to bring together key stakeholders and give energy efficiency a voice on the global stage. We believe that such a network ought to make the most of existing structures and initiatives; the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, with its pre-existing network and infrastructure, could be a potential vehicle for facilitation of such a network to promote energy efficiency.

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