

Statement of Business and Industry
On Integrated Policy Making

Thank you very much Dr. Nabarro, as always you are an engaging moderator.

On behalf of the business and industry major group, we appreciate the comments of all the panelists and agree that more integrated policy approaches better reflect the realities of modern operations. Many businesses have turned to matrix management systems and integrated teams to address these challenges within their operations.

We certainly want to support the calls for greater engagement with the private sector and civil society in conducting integrated planning. Particularly when contemplating implementation, it is important that those actors who are able to follow up are directly engaged in program design. The failure to engage them early inevitably leads to ideas that are inefficient or hard to implement.

Starting, up front, with good research is essential and we agree whole-heartedly with the representative from the science community that research is key.

Ms Ramma also spoke of the role of best practices and the need for cross cutting research. We would like to echo her comments, noting that a suite of best practices is the best way to achieve impacts across a range of factors. Even sectoral policies can benefit from looking at the breadth of interactions. For instance, in agriculture a move to zero tillage practices can avoid soil erosion, and improve soil health, retain more water in the soil and save fossil fuel use. This is a great example of best practices having impacts on the agriculture, water, energy nexus.

Finally, we would like to emphasize the role of continuous improvement models in sustainable development. It is inevitable that there will be new factors and unforeseen consequences when working across traditional policy siloes. The ability to work together to address them and find new solutions is essential to making these new models work.