



B E L A R U S

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United Nations General Assembly
67-th session

Workshop 4
The way forward: Strengthening the
international architecture for
environmentally sound technology
development, transfer and dissemination

31 May 2013

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Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished colleagues,

This is not a power-point presentation. I'm going to use only soft power which is very popular today.

Wise men say that among all people you have met or you have listened to usually you are able to recall only those who were in the beginning and in the end. Being one of the last speakers of the event I do hope that you will remember me as well as – and this is much more important – some modest propositions and thoughts that I'll share.

During the general debate of the 62 session of the United Nations General Assembly the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus noticed that the most promising way of addressing the dilemma 'economic growth – environment' is to establish international cooperation on global proliferation of technologies of energy saving, alternative and renewable sources of energy. More than 5 years ago he suggested that an integral and key element of such cooperation should be the ensuring of fair access of all Member States to these technologies through the creation within the framework of the United Nations of the appropriate regulatory mechanism.

Let me quote his speech delivered here in New York in 2007 and you will see for yourself how up-to-date and relevant it sounds in terms of our discussion. And I quote

“We are convinced that it is time for our common Organisation – the United Nations – to begin looking for the ways of dealing – based on engagement, of course, – with the *de facto* the most topical problem of mankind – the energy problem. Antagonism of suppliers and consumers of energy resources and the price race do not solve the energy problem. And this antagonism itself is a superficial phenomenon. At the end of the day we all are consumers of energy. And in this, in principle, we have common interests.

How to solve this problem in conditions of fast growth of the world economy and the rush for energy sources it provokes? It is clear that the future belongs to the alternative and renewable sources of energy.

This means that it is today that the United Nations must work out practical arrangements for the transfer and distribution of technologies of alternative and renewable energy sources on a global scale. This is the major prerequisite of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Such practical measures should include the methods of dealing with the obvious problem of concentration of these technologies in the hands of a sufficiently small group of states. Otherwise, tomorrow the pricing for these technologies will emulate today’s exorbitant prices for traditional energy resources.” End of quote.

Our event is clear evidence that the Belarusian idea expressed almost six years ago has received a powerful backing and pronounced support. Yes, today it looks updated and tuned. But its global substance remains unchanged. On these grounds I would suggest to consider carefully other ideas of my delegation here in New York. It might be the case that we don’t have to wait another six years to implement them.

Before considering the issue *“if there is a need for a new and additional mechanism to facilitate the transfer and deployment of clean and environmentally sound technologies”* we should deeply analyze reasons of the specific, non-transparent situation with the implementation of existing international legal instruments which mechanisms contain provisions urging the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

I take this opportunity to bring your attention to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol to this Convention – legal instruments that stipulates promotion of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, know-how, practices and processes pertinent to climate change.

Last sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP 18) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 8) (November 26 – December 8, 2012, Qatar, Doha) have in fact excluded a number of countries, first of all the countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy (including Belarus), from the list of potential recipients of clear and green technologies in accordance with the mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol as the adopted amendments to that document doubts the participation of the above mentioned group of countries in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

Our analysis of the outcomes of the Doha Conference shows that the amendments were adopted despite the deviation from accepted procedure of adoption of such decisions. Moreover certain important provisions of the Doha amendment contain internal contradictions and could not be unambiguously interpreted.

That fact causes our concern. And if we are discussing mechanisms of facilitation of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies I would like to stress that creation of such artificial barriers in this field is unacceptable within the UN system framework.

Careful reading of the report presented by Secretary General on possible options of technological facilitation mechanism proves that the United Nations system is an able creator of ideas on how to make a decisive technological leapfrog in global scales and to sustain the progress made. Unfortunately, again we need more time and energy to understand its rationale to start approaching their implementation.

In particular the report states that “in the absence of an effective coordination mechanism, coordination between United Nations organizations occurs primarily on an informal level”. We should change it. Otherwise all our agreements in the field of sustainable development will remain simple words in the air.

It is clear that to combine the efforts of all stakeholders, including governments, private sector and major groups this facilitation mechanism should be intergovernmental in nature. This will provide necessary coherence and effectiveness in coordinating technological cooperation at global and regional levels.

The facilitation mechanism should have a substantial research component networking scientists from developing, developed and middle-income countries. The facilitation mechanism needs adequate support, including financial one in order to encourage development of technologies and to provide their affordability to all Member States, including to least development countries and middle-income countries.

For this purpose a global voluntary fund needs to be established. The fund should be open to contributions by states, civil society and private sector. Its primary responsibility could be financing of international R&D and introduction of technologies in all Member States, requested for such assistance, striving for global transition to clean and environmentally sound technologies.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that facilitation mechanism should follow a systemic approach shaping the critical mass to provide global transition to sustainable development. Our discussions here in New York demonstrated that this is not the case, as the role of middle-income countries, as well as their needs and challenges they face in introducing clean and environmentally sound technologies are underestimated. Despite of a considerable scientific and industrial basis supported by an effective national governance, those countries need further technological support to make a leapfrog in the technological development and sustain it for the future of the planet.