

Australian Statement to CSD15 on Energy for Sustainable Development

1 May 2007

Thank you Madam Chair

We have a lot in common when discussing the subject of energy. No matter the nature of our economies or our societies, we share the need for access to adequate, affordable and environmentally sound sources of energy in order to secure a sustainable future.

CSD members are diverse and whilst we may be striving for the same goal, there can be no single solution to the challenge of providing low cost, secure, clean, energy services. Each of us will choose from the available policy options and practical measures to suit our individual national circumstances.

With this in mind, at the WSSD we agreed to ensure the CSD added value by serving as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development, including sharing lessons learned, progress made and best practices.

It is hard to see how a lengthy negotiated decision from CSD15 would assist our implementation the comprehensive WSSD mandate. We need a concise decision that recommits us to practical implementation efforts.

Madam Chair,

Australia will continue to develop and implement a variety of technologies, promoting environmentally sound conventional energy (including clean coal), renewable energy, and energy efficiency.

We will continue to improve our policy and regulatory settings for achieving efficient markets for investment; involving the corporate sector, who are fundamental to the effective and efficient provision of modern energy services.

A further priority will be to work with our regional partners to assist build capacity and enhance access to sustainable energy, including through the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, APEC and our bilateral partnerships. In particular, in following up outcomes of the recent Pacific Island Energy Ministers meeting.

As several countries noted at the International Preparatory Meeting, increased energy efficiency can achieve win-win outcomes enhancing not only energy security, but also reducing infrastructure outlays, improving the productivity of industries and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

One practical measure that Australia has taken in this area is to work with other countries and multinational industry under the banner of a community of practice, to establish world best regulatory energy efficiency standards, having regard to national circumstances.

In the spirit of sharing lessons learned, we invite all delegates to attend our learning centre on "*Energy Efficient Products: Stimulating Demand and Facilitating Trade through Communities of Practice*" on Thursday 10 May.

Madam Chair,

In closing, I would like to congratulate the Commission on Sustainable Development on its matrix initiative, which Australia considers as an important mechanism for effectively communicating the excellent cooperative efforts currently underway. We suggest that it be further enhanced to provide more detailed information and be more user-friendly. We are happy to work with UNDESA in this regard.

Australia looks forward to constructive discussions over the next two weeks.

Thank you.