

Australian Intervention
Enhancing means of implementation through cooperation
Friday, 5 May 2006, 10am

Australia agrees that collaborative partnerships between countries and organisations at all levels are an essential part of national and international approaches to improving implementation of the JPOI, especially in relation to energy.

Countries with small economies of scale especially, need to take advantage of the opportunities that international engagement and collaboration provides.

Such collaboration is an important means for smaller countries to learn and share ideas and experiences, access new technology, promote local innovation and influence the development and acceptance of new technologies to meet their own needs.

Australia is party to a number of partnerships that enhance our ability to share with, and learn from others, and to leverage our contributions against other contributions. Initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate could provide a model for engaging business to address sustainable development issues.

Agree with the World Bank that effective political and institutional governance and a policy environment that is conducive to growth are essential for attracting investment and achieving sustainable development. Governance systems at the national level need to provide policy makers with independence,, investors with confidence and donors with assurances.

Measures to reduce corruption are essential to ensure the entire prosperity of nations is not undermined by the actions of a few. Some of the World Bank figures on investments lost through corruption are breathtaking and we agree with the delegate from RSA about all of us having responsibilities to fight corruption.

The role and importance of national policy and regulatory settings for achieving efficient energy markets should not be overlooked. Australia provides assistance to strengthen political governance in our partner governments and is looking to increase this support to leverage private sector investment as both Mr Saghir and Mr Karlsson noted was needed.

For example, Australia worked with other donors to support the implementation of a new Enterprise Law which simplified establishment procedures and business and abolished a range of sub-licences. Since the law took effect, 80,000 new enterprises have been created and one million new jobs created.

And finally, the Chair just posed a question about the difficulty facing developing countries in accessing aid. This provides challenges to us all. A key issue for Australia is to increase donor coordination as one way to improve aid effectiveness and simplify developing country requirements.

Thank you.