

15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development

*Turning Commitments into Action,  
Working together in Partnership*

Statement by

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New York, 9 May 2007

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to speak to you on this occasion of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

We meet every year to promote international **sustainable development** - in other words to promote global economic growth that is in tune with environmental protection and social policies.

**Environmental protection** can only be implemented successfully when being **integrated into all other policies**.

One leading example is **climate protection**.

To strengthen our efforts, the **Austrian Government** has agreed to, by 2020, double the **share of renewable energy** usage by 45 percent, to improve energy efficiency by 20 percent and to increase the share of alternative fuels to 20 percent. Austria is also of the firm view that **nuclear energy** does not represent a form of sustainable energy and should not be used to meet growing energy demands. Instead we should build upon increased use of renewable energies, energy efficiency and saving as well as alternative fuels to meet our climate change goals.

But successful **climate protection requires firm and strong international engagement**. Austria, as the EU, is fully committed to start negotiations on a global and comprehensive post 2012 agreement at COP/MOP 3 this December in Bali, with the objective of reaching an

agreement that will bring about the necessary emission reductions not to exceed the two degrees Celsius objective, while supporting sustainable development and poverty reduction.

With the Convention and the Protocol being the main decision-making bodies for further action on climate change, I believe that the Ministers at CSD must promote **integrated climate change policies** taking into account the interlinkages with other policy areas.

I am proud that **Austria** has **offered to be the host** of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol and of the workshop under the Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to **invite you** to promote active participation of all delegations **at these meetings later this year**.

Mr. Chairman,

**Environmental protection** is a growth market and an ever increasing opportunity to **secure and create jobs**. The market for products and services related to environmental protection is growing steadily. These close interlinkages need to be reflected in our governments' policies and also need to find reflection in international policies and the upcoming WTO negotiations. In particular related to the energy topic, we need to strike the balance between energy supply and agricultural policies.

Every government bears global responsibility. We should explore ways and means to strengthen mutual benefits of environmental protection. I

see a huge potential in the field of **environmental technologies**: 3.5 million people are working in this area EU-wide and generate 216 million Euros a year. This area represents an important part of the Austrian JI/CDM programme for instance and bears mutual ecological and economic benefits. We are working constantly to expand these benefits and promote renewable energy usage and energy efficiency.

In this respect I would also like to take the opportunity to **invite** you all to my **side event** on Thursday evening at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Penthouse on presentations of innovative approaches to improve energy efficiency in the building sector with important speakers and Austrian refreshments.

I am looking forward to interesting discussions between the ministers in particular at the Round Tables and thank you for your attention.

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