

STATEMENT MADE BY MINISTER ANTONIO SIMOES, DEPUTY
HEAD OF THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION TO THE XV SESSION OF
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LAUNCHING THE INTERNATIONAL BIOFUELS FORUM

With a view to develop the sustainable use and production of biofuels on an international scale, Brazil, China, India, South Africa, the United States and the European Commission will announce on a Press Conference to be held at 11am on Friday, March 2nd, in room S-226, in New York, the launching of the International Biofuels Forum.

The initiative creates a mechanism to structure the dialogue among the biggest producers and consumers of biofuels interested in promoting the creation of an international market for those products. The emergence of an world market will contribute to increase the efficiency of production, distribution and use of biofuels on a global scale. With a view to achieving these goals, it is necessary to strengthen international coordination in order to allow their international expansion, in a sustainable manner, thus enhancing its economic, social and environmental benefits.

Biofuels constitute a viable economic alternative for the immediate partial substitution of fossil fuels and the diversification of the world's energy mix. The introduction of biofuels is highly advantageous both for developing and developed countries.

For developing countries, to use biofuels means significantly reducing their dependence on imported oil, redressing their trade imbalances and saving income in order to increase investments in health, education and social development. Besides generating environmental benefits, producing biofuels creates income and reduces the migration of rural populations to urban areas.

For developed countries the use of biofuels is also attractive, since it increases energy security by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, biofuels have the potential to mobilize investments in research and development of associated technologies, thus accelerating the process of a paradigm shift in relation to the global use of energy.

At a time that climate change is very high in the international agenda, Brasil, China, India, South Africa, the United States and the European Commission are showing a clear commitment to the promotion of the use and production of biofuels on an international scale.