

**Statement by Gary Pringle, Representative of Canada
to the Fourteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development
May 1, 2006**

Mr. Chairman

On behalf of the Canadian delegation, I am pleased to have an opportunity to share our perspectives on energy for sustainable development and its relations to industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

Clearly, energy has a primary role to play in most aspects of human endeavour. Improving energy efficiency, developing conventional and non-conventional energy resources, and being responsible energy consumers situates energy in the context of industrial development. Meanwhile, the development and deployment of innovative, cleaner, more efficient energy technologies, including renewables, as well as the cleaner use of fossil fuels, helps to address the important issues of air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

Energy for Sustainable Development

Having the right mix of policies is integral to allowing us to meet our environmental and social objectives while harnessing the benefit of markets for economic development. Canada has extensive energy resources and expertise, from renewables such as biomass, solar, wind power and hydroelectricity, to the responsible production and use of nuclear energy, natural gas, petroleum and coal.

We are well aware of the major challenge posed by the need for new energy infrastructure as well as access to affordable energy services, so necessary for eradicating energy-poverty around the world. Through our development assistance program, we focus on supporting policies aimed at building legal and regulatory environments attractive to both domestic private sector investment and foreign direct investment. Canada believes that the developing world has a unique opportunity to employ innovative and transformative technologies to build a cleaner and more environmentally sustainable energy infrastructure from the existing base.

Industrial Development

Industry is a major user of energy and as such can be a prime player in actions to reduce air pollution and mitigate the effects of climate change. Industry also makes a significant contribution to social development by providing employment and thus alleviating poverty. Canada works with industry both at home and abroad to develop and deploy cleaner and more efficient technologies to enhance sustainability. We have had particular success with voluntary agreements with industry, in concert with appropriate regulation.

Air Pollution/Atmosphere

Although the air quality in Canada is good, the fact is that we are seeing more pollution affecting Canadians than in the past. We all know that poor air quality is having direct health effects in many places and addressing this issue is a priority for Canada.

The mandate that the Prime Minister has given for the environment is very clear, and that is to clean up the air that Canadians breathe. A Clean Air Act will be the first action under this mandate and it will be looking at regulation for industry that will ensure Canadian industry is operating at the level of its competitors, or higher.

Working with others to address air pollution and the atmosphere will be essential - air pollution knows no boundaries. Already, in terms of the North American continent, Canada has met with the United States at the highest level to make progress on the issue of air pollution and the atmosphere.

Climate Change

Climate change is a global challenge that requires a global solution. As international discussions turn toward the future, cooperative approaches that promote long-term economic transformation are needed to address this issue. Canada will work within the UN, under both the Kyoto Protocol and Convention tracks, and outside of it, to develop a more effective and inclusive approach to addressing global climate change.

Addressing climate change in the face of ever-rising global energy demand will require a transformation in the way the world produces and consumes energy. Climate-friendly technologies will not only address the environmental imperative, but will also support energy security and economic development. Canada continues to place a significant emphasis on promoting clean energy technologies through leading-edge research, market-based incentives, international technology partnerships, and our development assistance programs.

Conclusion

Canada believes that an environmentally responsible approach to energy production and use is essential to our quality of life. We also believe that due consideration should be given to the full energy mix in address the challenges of sustainable development as we open the door to new social and environmental benefits and a stronger, more innovative economy.