



Commission on Sustainable Development
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Speaking Points of the Delegation of the
Federal Republic of Germany
on behalf of the European Union

Climate Change

New York, 01 May 2007

The EU notes that climate change is an environmental problem and a development challenge that needs to be addressed in order to ensure the achievement of the MDGs. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol are the main instruments to address climate change. There is an urgent need for a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement. Such an agreement must be reached in time to prevent a gap between the first and second commitment periods under the Kyoto Protocol and that to this end negotiations on a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement need to be launched at the COP 13-COP/MOP 3 at the end of 2007 and completed by 2009. To this aim the CSD should send a clear political indication in support of this process.

The EU underlines its willingness to commit to a reduction of 30% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 as its contribution to a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012, provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and economically more advanced developing countries adequately contribute according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities. The EU has decided that until a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement is concluded to make a firm independent commitment to achieve at least a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990.

The work on climate change under the CSD should complement the work under the UNFCCC and provide momentum into efforts to address climate change at all levels:

- Integrate policies addressing climate change within national and international development policy and planning, including mitigation and adaptation measures;
- Integrate climate change risks within PRS and/or national strategies for sustainable development to address both adaptation and mitigation issues. Adaptation strategies should seek to manage existing climate change risks and support countries' efforts to build resilience to longer-term climate change impacts;
- Develop long-term predictable policy frameworks at the national level to enable a shift towards a low carbon emission society. Developing countries should be assisted in such efforts;
- Recognize the very important role of forests, sustainable forest management and soil protection in sinks of carbon dioxide and climate change mitigation;
- Coordinate and enhance dialogue between the Kyoto Protocol and Montreal Protocol on ozone depleting substances that are also greenhouse gases;
- Encourage initiatives focused on improving the relevance and usability of information on impacts of climate variability and climate change for use by development practitioners;
- Expedite the work on the adaptation fund to enter into the operational phase as soon as possible.