



Permanent Mission of
the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations

 2007 DE

Commission on Sustainable Development
Fifteenth Session

30 April to 11 May 2007

Speaking Points of the
Federal Republic of Germany
on behalf of the European Union

Cross-Cutting Issues and Interlinkages

New York, 02 May 2007

Cross-cutting Issues and Interlinkages

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Progress in each thematic area of the CSD requires an integrated approach taking into account the interlinkages and the crosscutting issues. To achieve this we need to mainstream thematic cluster issues into national sustainable development strategies, PRS and national development plans. Environment and poverty linkages have to be integrated in plans, programmes and processes.

The EU believes that the outcome of CSD 15 should include the following elements:

Improve investment and financial resources for sustainable development

- Improve levels of investment and access to finance in utilising and further developing innovative economic instruments (such as CDM, Environmental Fiscal Reform, funds, payments for ecosystem services, Access and Benefit Sharing and certification) as well as to mobilise additional private and public funding;
- Improve understanding of the negative impacts of inappropriate use of incentives, eliminate harmful subsidies and develop the use of market instruments to encourage clean investment;
- Encourage the assessment of real versus perceived costs of policy options by applying SEA to plans and programs where practicable.

Achieving good governance

- Create "enabling environments" for investment, private international financial flows, public-private partnerships, and effective use of ODA;
- Enhance networks and adopt a bottom-up approach to improve cooperation on the development of action-oriented measures to overcome regional specific sustainable development challenges.

Building human, institution, and infrastructure capacity

- Build the capacity of environment and other relevant departments to better influence national decision making, and improve coordination between government departments to ensure policy coherence;
- Build the administrative capacity of authorities on all levels to enforce national legislation and ensure compliance;
- Strive for an improved understanding of the linkages between social, economic and environmental aspects of lifestyles and individual behaviour in introducing education for sustainable development into formal curricula and ensuring life-long learning through formal, informal and non formal education establishments, NGOs and the workplace, taking into account the Framework of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;
- Achieve primary education for all by 2015.

Improve access to affordable environmentally sound technologies

- Improve research and development in new technologies, including by improving investment in research and development and bridging the gap between research and development and deployment;
- Develop mechanisms for leveraging of private sector funds, including those from local investors and financial institutions;

- Create partnerships with regional banks to promote the application of low-carbon, energy efficient technologies, i.e. by making full use of the Clean Development Mechanism;
- Promote the internalisation of external costs through the enforcement of economic instruments with the consideration that the polluter will bear the expenses for the pollutants and also consider / highlight the cost of in-action.

Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production

- Emphasize that all countries should develop strategies and measures for SCP which includes decision on coherent policies, regulation, other instruments and tools including information and also investments in infrastructure and business development;
- Drive and actively contribute to the Marrakech Process, e.g. the development of a 10-year framework of programmes on SCP, and in this express a support for the process;
- Emphasize the importance of sustainable consumption – above all the developed countries affluent consumption of goods and services, energy and other natural resources, but also the need to counteract the development of unsustainable consumption patterns in countries in transition.

Improve gender equality in business and remove all forms of discrimination on grounds of gender

- Promote women's equal access to and full participation in decision making and mainstream gender perspectives in all policies and strategies;
- Promote women in business and industrial development including through the use of micro-credit, education and capacity building.