

Session on Interlinkages and Cross-cutting issues

1 March, 2007

Intervention by Italy

Mr Paolo Soprano

Thank you Mr Chairman,

Italy fully subscribes to the intervention made by Germany on behalf of the EU and would like to pick up on some issues that are very important for Italy and for the EU as a whole.

As the EU Presidency has already said, there is the need to build human and institutional capacity for sustainable development.

In this context, we believe that providing all societal groups with an improved understanding of the linkages between social, economic and environmental aspects of lifestyles and individual behaviour as proactive contributions to sustainable development is a key action. We consider the role of education – formal, informal and non formal - and raising awareness on sustainable development critical in this respect. We also consider the achievement of primary education for all by 2015 as a specific target to measure concrete efforts in this direction.

Mr Chairman,

We are of the view that efforts towards sustainable production and consumption patterns should be further strengthened. Indeed, the Marrakech process and its seven taskforces are particularly useful in this direction.

Italy believes that it is important to recognize the task forces and the lead countries that have committed themselves to their successful outcomes.

Finland is chairing the task force on sustainable building and construction, France the one on sustainable tourism, Germany the one on cooperation with Africa, Italy the one on education for sustainable consumption, Sweden the one on sustainable lifestyles and the United Kingdom the one on sustainable products. Outside the EU, Switzerland is leading the task force on public procurement.

We recognize the Marrakech process as a fundamental forum where developed countries are building proactive approaches in partnership with developing countries and civil society in order to change behaviours and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and social inequity.

Finally, Mr Chairman, allow me to recall that Italy had the honour, last year during CSD14, to announce the establishment of the Marrakech Task force on education for sustainable consumption. I would like now to inform all distinguished delegates that its first meeting will take place next 16th - 17th of April in Genoa. Government and civil society representatives are invited to join the meeting.

On the table in the back of the room a flyer is available with relevant information.