

Wednesday, 2 May 2007 (cont.)
10:00am – 1:00pm (Parallel Sessions)

Conference Room 4

**Inter-linkages and cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation:
comments and discussions on policy options and possible actions contained in the
Chairman's draft negotiating document**

Thank you, Chair.

Italy fully supports and aligns itself with the statement made by Germany on behalf of the European Union, and the proposal for elements that should be included in the CSD15 outcomes.

The decision of working on thematic issues during the two years session of *review and policy* gives to countries the opportunity to better identify the clear and strong inter-linkages between each issue and define the appropriate way forward to address the cross cutting aspects.

A complex point of view and a systemic approach both to the problems and the solutions needs to be implemented into this policy session. It is very important to focus on these key areas to increase the awareness of our task and better plan future steps forward.

Means of implementation and cross-cutting issues, as identified by CSD-11, show that sectoral policies have significant effects also into each of the different sectors and aspects.

Italy believes that an overarching approach to achieve progress in the field of industrial development, energy, and consequently air pollution and climate change, resides in changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

Under the umbrella of the broad concept of education for all as a life-long learning process and considering the key role of education as an essential instrument to achieve sustainable development, Italy had the pleasure to launch at the past fourteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the Marrakech Task Force on Education for Sustainable Consumption in order to ensure ongoing contribution to, foster progress and support the ten year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production, through long term investments in terms of sustainability, culture and awareness on an equal gender basis.

Today, a year has passed, and again it is my pleasure to inform this Commission that the structure of the TF has been set up. The first International meeting was held in Genova (16-17 April, 2007) with the participation of over 100 delegates representing national governments and regional and international agencies, NGOs, academic and private sector and members from local authorities.

The Italian Task Force now provides a bridge between the Marrakech process and the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development, integrating with other different processes like the UNECE Strategy for ESD, by focusing the education debates on Sustainable Consumption issues.

The ambition of the MTF to engage institutional authorities and relevant stakeholders, together with the private sector, was accomplished and the work is now focused on finding ways for introducing SC into the national education curricula. and considering education for sustainable consumption as a means of implementation applicable within the framework of sectoral strategies.

The MTF on ESC will welcome interested countries to join the TF with the shared aim to provide technical assistance to help countries to leap-frog the obstacles and address the negative effects of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Thank you.