

STATEMENT on behalf of NGOs, Trade Union, Women, Youth, and Indigenous Peoples

For CSD14 High-level session, 10/5-05, morning

- 1) We want to remind you that, as prior agreed upon, sustainable development is **not sustained economic growth**, but aims to meet the basic needs of all people—women, men and children--within the carrying capacity of the planet. We remind delegates that the CSD review must mainly focus on Agenda 21 and JPOI targets with the comprehensive input necessary for a successful outcome. There has emerged in CSD 14 and many other international fora **overwhelming emphases** on market-based and technologically-driven solutions as the only way to implement sustainable development.
- 2) **Genuine sustainable development** involves the promotion of self-reliance and local economies; gender equality and women's empowerment; the removal of perverse subsidies; participatory decision-making, implementation and follow-up; the internalization of external costs; and the establishment of decentralized services such as renewable energy production, access to water, and access to modern energy services. **Review of national and international experiences should integrate these elements!**
- 3) Good governance is a pre-requisite for effective investments in sustainable energy and in actions to resolve issues of climate change and atmospheric pollution. Good governance is equally important at a corporate level. In the aftermath of Enron and WorldCom, it is essential for corporations and the private sector to continue to demonstrate real mechanisms for corporate accountability, and this should take place within a transparent and regulatory environmental framework with effective enforcement and compliance of environmental and health laws.
- 4) Securing investments for sustainable energy initiatives within indigenous peoples and local communities is a serious priority in both developing and developed countries. However, the current regime of industrial and energy related development within the territories of indigenous peoples, world wide, has a long history of human rights violations. There is a need for mechanisms for the private sector and investors to recognize the self-determination and rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the principles of human rights.

- 5) In particular inter-generational equity need to be adopted comprehensively by the private sector if it is to provide truly sustainable solutions. Currently the market is excessively focused on short-term profit, which leaves youth with an impoverished environment as their inheritance. We must remember that future generations will have to bear the consequences of our short sighted decisions today.

- 6) Workers and trade unions are involved in strengthening the social pillar and encourage employees to join up.
The existing CSR instruments need to be strengthened in terms of accountability, transparency and participation and have to focus on the core business activities.
To achieve sustainable industrial development and reach the MDGs we need decent jobs and environmental protection at all levels of economy.

- 7) NGOs would like to stress that in the current situation the world need urgently to move away from the fossil and nuclear energy systems, as part of sustainable development. New renewable energy solution are the only way to give access to modern energy services in a sustainable way for the two billion that are currently excluded from them.