

**Statement by
H.E. THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS,**

AMBASSADOR JOÃO SALGUEIRO

AT THE

**HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 14TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Check against delivery

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates

Allow me first to express Portugal's support for the statement made by Austria on behalf of the European Union.

The themes for the current CSD two year cycle are of key importance for sustainable development as policymakers and stakeholders around the world witness on a daily basis.

Finding reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy solutions is urgent in a world in which rapid economic growth and other political circumstances result in daily increases in the price of fossil fuels.

Nevertheless, we should look on this as an opportunity to place yet further emphasis on energy efficiency, on the competitiveness of alternative, renewable energy and on research and development of new, clean technologies.

What we see, however, is that $\frac{1}{4}$ of the world's population still has no access to electricity and, hence, to the well being provided by energy services.

Portugal considers that the right course consists of comprehensive and cooperative approaches between developed and developing countries, both by means of transferring new technologies and by supporting the improvement of technical and institutional capacity.

The CSD can play an important role in this regard as a synergetic mechanism for action.

As we have heard during these sessions, lessons can be learned from the widely varying experiences and circumstances around the globe.

To focus a bit on our experience, Portugal recently updated its National Sustainable Development Strategy. At its core is the commitment to promote energy efficiency and increase the use of renewables. We are already seeing the results of such an ambitious policy goal.

Indeed, in 2004, Portugal was ranked second in the world for wind power capacity growth. We are on track to reach our 2010 renewable target of 39% in electricity production.

Additionally, my Government has recently approved plans on energy and technology which raise the renewable targets to 44% and allocate over 4 billion euros for investment.

Strong support for renewable energy is a clear “win-win” policy. Renewables contribute to climate mitigation, local air pollution abatement, and ultimately energy security.

We realise nonetheless that a balanced mix of private and public financing is essential for the “take-off” of energy projects, particularly in many developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Climate Change poses enormous challenges to our societies. Its impacts are felt daily both in developed and developing countries and require urgent mitigation and adaptation action across the globe.

Portugal’s experience in implementing the Kyoto Protocol shows the paramount importance – and challenges – of establishing policies and actions that are genuinely coherent and interlinked in sectors such as energy, climate change and transportation.

Portugal is also deeply committed to enhancing and streamlining climate development cooperation with developing countries. In this regard, Portugal is an active member of two innovative networks: the Portuguese-Speaking Countries Network on Climate Change and the Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices. These initiatives deal with a broad range of issues, focusing particularly on capacity building and on adaptation to climate change.

Mr. Chairman,

Portugal attaches great importance on multilateral approaches to tackle the global challenge of sustainable development. CSD 14 should prepare the ground for substantive progress next year on the very important issues we have been discussing.