

## **Statement by Saudi Arabia**

Statement on Energy for Sustainable Development

CSD-15

New York – Tuesday, May 01, 2007

I would like to associate myself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Pakistan on behalf of G77 & China.

Madam Chairperson,

None of the goals or aspirations under the three pillars of sustainable development is achievable without access to energy.

More Energy : More and better Development , No Energy : No Development

Countries have different definitions of their own sustainable development objectives and priorities, reflecting national resources and needs, aspirations, and social and economic conditions.

Sustainable development strategies are therefore structured to accommodate a wide range of definitions of what “desirable sustainable development” can encompass;

However, at the end, policy makers must try to strike the right balance in their strategic decision about “what is necessary and what is universally desirable”.

The real challenge in the future is in meeting the growing demand for energy, which is only driven by development needs and rights. To meet these needs, all energy sources are going to be essential, each playing its role and share in the mix in a complementary manner, rather than a competitive way.

As all forecasts, agree that world energy demand will grow by 50-60% over the coming 25 years; and that fossil fuels will continue to dominate the energy supply into coming decades.

The role of renewable energy in the future energy mix is important and their role will continue to grow particularly for providing supplies to remote and rural areas. Still, it is still small on the overall scale.

And thus, support for international investment in cleaner fossil fuel technology needs to be improved.

The developed world built its industry with the dependence on fossil fuels, at no point this was a security concern. This picture will not change for the coming decades. However, there appears to be calls for enforcing a change that is could create market

distortions with only one result, future energy demands that can't be met because the some decisions lead to actions in the wrong direction.

We keep hearing that we have a responsibility to future generation, so, are we ready with an answer to why we may not be able to meet future demands, knowing that we were on a path that would've made this possible.

What about the world responsibility for the 1.6 billion without access to energy, or the 2.6 billion who only relate on biomass.

The world seeks energy services that are: Reliable, Affordable, Economically feasible, Socially Acceptable, and Environment Friendly. We can strive to meet all these criteria, but if we can't, the priority order of these will differ from one region to another; and one country to another.

(For the 1.6 billion people without access to energy, I believe that the priority is simple) Access to those people is the real target that we should focus on,

For fossil fuels, huge capital investment and a lot of infrastructure expansions are required. Energy producers seek the right market signals before committing such major financial resources.

As there are calls for more incentives for renewable energy, we believe that there needs to be more incentives to keep fossil fuels on the path that consumers' demand. And the first and basic incentive is the correct political message.

A message that is followed by positive actions such as allocation of resources to cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and removal of market distortions like the heavy taxation on oil while providing subsidies for other energy sources.

Madam Chair,

We expect a clear message out of CSD. One that focuses on the reality on the ground. And reality tells us that fossil fuels are going to be with us for a long time. With that reality we have a responsibility, a focus and stronger emphasis on cleaner fossil fuel technologies, including CO2 capture and storage, is a necessity.

Technology such as CO2 Capture and Storage, which has the potential to reduce up to 45% of global CO2 emissions by 2050. This is proven technology that is ready for deployment, with a number of existing successful projects.

We have many pages of decisions on energy and a lot has been accomplished through partnerships and other good practices. But the gap is still wide and the last thing we need is to further widen it by focusing on slogans and aspirations, rather than real actions.