

CSD-15; draft negotiation document of 2 March 2007: Swiss Position on Climate Change

Swiss Statement on Climate Change, 1.5.2007:

Climate change is probably the single most important challenge that the human community is facing today. The UNFCCC has been signed 15 years ago, answers to address the challenges have been developed, but commitment and cooperation to effectively respond to climate change have so far been insufficient.

Action on Climate Change is urgent. Switzerland believes that the CSD can and should make an important contribution in supporting the efforts to address climate change undertaken within the UNFCCC and Kyoto framework. Namely, we expect the CSD to send a clear message concerning the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially by enhancing energy efficiency and by accelerating development and diffusion of renewable and environmentally sound energies and low carbon technologies.

Switzerland believes that the CSD should send a clear and focused political message with regard to climate change and we agree with your suggestion that we should not get lost in technical details and political questions dealt with competently in the framework of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. Thus, we believe that the present draft negotiation document could be shortened and formulated in a more political manner by:

- underlining that climate change is a fundamental threat to sustainable development all over the world;
- highlighting that the poorest will suffer most from climate change;
- underlining the interlinkages between energy, industrial development, air pollution and climate change;
- confirming and building on the existing scientific evidence that climate change is caused by human activities;
- emphasizing the necessity and the urgency of addressing the challenges of climate change;
- reflecting our common commitment to cooperate and to strengthen our efforts with regard to mitigation and adaptation measures
- stressing that the future regime on climate change will have to be fair, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and inclusive, namely, it will have to include clear commitments of all major emitters.

Let me conclude by reiterating that we have to make sure that this CSD will not duplicate or even weaken, but support and stimulate the commitments and the work undertaken within the UNFCCC and Kyoto framework.

Specific Swiss Comments on the Chairman's Draft Negotiating Document of 2 March 2007:

The part on Climate Change should begin with a statement along the following lines:

“Climate Change *is a fundamental threat to sustainable development all over the world. The poorest will suffer most from climate change. It* is not just an environmental issue; it is an issue firmly placed in the context of sustainable development. **It is inherently interlinked with energy, industrial development and air pollution.** Climate change requires urgent attention of the international community. Decisions taken by the CSD are meant to **complement stimulate and support**, but not duplicate, the work of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.”

The 7th bullet should be amended along the following line;

- “Future action must be in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities ~~and respective capabilities~~, as well as relevant principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration **and thus include commitments by all major emitters of greenhouse gases**”.