

**IPM / COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**  
**New York, 26 February – 2 March**

**UK Speaking Note on Climate Change**

The UK associates itself with the statement made by Germany on behalf of the EU and its Member states and welcomes the opportunity to emphasise further the importance that the UK Government pays to the issue of climate change.

The latest science shows us that climate change is a bigger issue and more urgent than had been previously understood. The IPCC fourth assessment report provides more certainty on the link between human related emissions of greenhouse gases and climate change.

The economics are also clearer. The Stern Review shows how the costs of inaction far outweigh the costs of action. So we must take strong action, and now.

Development is a legitimate and desirable priority for all countries in the world. Meeting growing energy demand whilst at the same time avoiding dangerous climate change necessitates a major shift in the way that energy is produced and consumed. Energy investments made now will typically be locked-in for a minimum 30 – 50 years. We therefore face a 10-15 year window for influencing our ability to avoid dangerous climate change – delaying action is not an option.

The IEA estimates that US\$20 trillion investment is required within the energy sector over the next 25 years, with half of this in the developing world. The UNFCCC must provide long-term policy certainty to support global investment in low carbon technology and a value for carbon. But market forces alone will not suffice to reduce emissions on the scale and pace required – governments need to do more to promote energy efficiency, and to deploy existing and develop new technologies.

As major actors, developed countries need to work together, and in partnership with major emerging economies, to take urgent action to achieve substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions necessary to avoid dangerous climate change.

Multilateral agencies, notably the World Bank and Regional Development Banks also have a key role to play in shifting global investment patterns consistent with meeting the challenges.

The impacts of climate change are already being felt – it is clear that climate change is more than an environmental concern, threatening international prosperity, security and development. All countries will be affected and will need to adapt to the climate change that we are unable to avoid. But it is the poorest that will be affected most. Without urgent action to tackle climate change the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals are under threat.

2007 is a vital year if we are going to succeed in avoiding dangerous climate change. The G8 summit in June is an important forum for building momentum on the elements of a future framework, which amongst other issues should include a

stabilisation goal, the role of the carbon market, technology transfer, deforestation and adaptation.

The UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol provide the international framework for the collective international action which is essential - in particular a decision at the Bali COP in December to launch negotiations on a comprehensive future framework for conclusion by 2009.

The CSD has its own, different, role to play by pointing and committing to mutually reinforcing actions on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution and atmosphere, and to tackle climate change. In this way, all countries can adopt a path of development that is significantly lower carbon than now.