

CSD15 Energy II

2 May 2007

UK Intervention, given by Helen Marquard, Head of Delegation

Madame Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The UK supports the statements by Germany on behalf of the EU.

Over the last two days we have heard a broad range of perspectives that truly reflects the complex and diverse nature of the energy sustainability debate.

As an international community we face a shared dilemma. To ensure well being for a growing population with unfulfilled needs and aspirations we must ensure economic growth and stability. Should we fail, we will be unable to meet the Millennium Development Goals and we will face increasing risk of instability and depravation. To grow our economies we must continue to use more energy. But if we continue to use energy in an unsustainable manner, with rising emissions and environmental degradation, we risk the very growth and stability we are trying to achieve.

This session of CSD presents an opportunity to move towards greater energy sustainability. By incorporating energy and its wider social, economic and environmental impacts into country led development strategies and development assistance strategies, countries can improve access to energy for poverty reduction and economic growth without jeopardising sustainability. At the same time developed countries must decouple economic activity from environmental degradation at both local and global levels.

The UK believes that governments must maximise the use of sustainable and economically viable solutions in increasing energy access and energy for economic development, including by facilitating access to financing mechanisms such as the World Bank's Clean Energy Investment Framework and the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund. We appeal to all relevant actors to increase their support for existing multi-stakeholder partnerships and other collaborative efforts to assist the spread of low CO₂ technologies, with a particular emphasis in the short term on increasing the profile of energy efficiency.

The EU's proposal that CSD15 should agree a high-level review mechanism to track progress on energy for sustainable development underpinned by a compilation of voluntary commitments based on national priorities and objectives would be a useful supporting tool. Such a review will allow the CSD, governments and other relevant bodies and initiatives to learn from, and most importantly act upon, the lessons gained from implementation. We urge DESA to begin work on such a compilation along the lines suggested by the EU.

Madame Chair. We look forward to beginning work on a negotiated outcome that is ambitious rather than conservative and reflects the true potential for action and change. This way CSD will agree a progressive outcome which will ensure implementation of our agreements.

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