

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres, the three pillars of sustainable development, and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas:

- it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and to take stock of policy options;
- it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges;
- and it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

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United Nations

Side Event at UNFCCC
COP-13/MOP-3

How can climate policies and sustainable development objectives be mutually supportive?



A High-Level
Roundtable
organized by
United Nations
Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Bali International Convention
Center
13 December 2007
18.00—19.30 h

Climate Policies and Sustainable Development

Climate change hinders progress towards achieving sustainable development. On the other hand, growth pathways, including production and consumption patterns, have undeniable impacts on the climate system. The central challenge is to design policy options that integrate climate change policies into sustainable development strategies so as to achieve co-benefits of such policies. Curbing growing greenhouse gas emissions requires unprecedented levels of investments in the



development and deployment of advanced low-carbon energy technologies. Effective policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation should be pursued in conjunction with social and economic development, enhancing achievements in poverty eradication, employment generation, public health, and economic growth and prosperity. The multifaceted challenges associated with climate change policies and social and economic growth makes a deeper analysis of the nexus between climate change and sustainable development all the more imperative.

Global Debate: Important Questions

The High-Level Roundtable organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) aims to explore effective means of addressing climate change through sustainable development. Distinguished panelists will share their perspectives on the linkages between climate change and sustainable development and the role of technologies. The Roundtable will provoke discussion, including on the following:

Impacts of Climate Change

The impacts of climate change will be unevenly distributed with the poorest countries suffering the earliest and the most. How can climate policies be integrated into sustainable development strategies?

Low Carbon Economy

Global energy demand, predominantly met by fossil fuels, has continued to rise and is projected to increase dramatically by 2030. Is the prospect of a transition to a low-carbon economy realistic?

Advanced Energy Technologies

Technology will be crucial in combating climate change. Many advanced energy technologies to enhance sustainable development and mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are already available. How can we accelerate the process of innovation, deployment and commercialization?

Access to Technologies

How can clean energy technologies be made more accessible to developing countries? Do intellectual property rights have an impact?

Climate Co-Benefits of Pollution Control, Energy Efficiency and Afforestation

Policies in the area of air pollution control, energy efficiency and afforestation have great potential for public health, poverty reduction and climate co-benefits. Can we create incentives for social and economic policies with climate co-benefits?

Funding Mechanisms

Currently available resources for adaptation to climate

change in the developing countries are inadequate. How do we close the resource and financing gap? Are the existing funding mechanisms sufficient?

Moderator

Mr. Sha Zukang

Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs

Panelists

Invited panelists include heads of delegations and distinguished representatives of:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Brazil
- China
- India
- Indonesia
- Nigeria
- United States of America

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