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CSD-15 Partnerships Fair

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CSD Partnerships Fair Discussion on Benefits of Partnering to Address Climate Change Challenges



(Left to right) Mr. Kevin Conrad, Coalition for Rainforest Nations, Mr. Matthew Quinn, nrg4SD, Wales, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado (Vice-Chair CSD-15), Erin Birgfeld, Methane to Markets

Mr. Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado (Brazil), Vice-Chair of CSD-15 opened once again the second session of the Partnerships Fair thematic discussions on 2 May in Conference room 7. Welcoming CSD participants, Vice-Chair Figueiredo indicated that this session aimed at considering the challenges and lessons learned as well as identifying key strategies that have proven effective in the effort to implement climate change goals and objectives through partnerships.

Ms. Erin Birgfeld of the Methane to Markets Partnership introduced the initiative by referring to the 14 original partner countries and the 6 additional partners that have joined since the partnership was launched in 2004. In addition to the country partners, she indicated, there is a vast project network, which includes companies, multilateral development banks, and other organizations that have an interest in methane reductions.

The objectives of the partnership, Ms. Birgfeld explained, are to advance recovery and use of methane as a valuable clean energy source and to encourage development of cost-

effective projects to this end focusing on four areas: agriculture, landfills, oil and gas, and coal mines.

Ms. Birgfeld outlined the rationale for creating a partnership with an exclusive focus on methane, explaining that as a gas, methane is 20 times more potent and has a nearer-term effect on the climate than CO₂. As importantly, she added, methane is also a valuable resource, as it is a primary constituent of natural gas, and there is sound market value for projects. She indicated that the marketability aspect tends to be a more important driver for projects than the need to address climate change.

Ms. Birgfeld emphasized some of the significant benefits and savings that can be obtained through methane projects, such as decreasing the waste of fuels, improving safety in coal mines, improving air quality, diminishing odors around landfills, and improving water quality benefits from reductions in runoffs from agricultural wastes. She added that the four sectors of the partnership were selected on the basis of being major sources of methane, for which technologies already exist to cost-

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effectively address methane emissions in the immediate term.

Despite their marketability and other benefits, Ms. Birgfeld noted, there are several remaining barriers to the development and implementation of projects, which include a lack of awareness of methane as a source of emissions, lack of awareness of existing technologies for methane capture, unwillingness to change within industries, and uncertain investment climates.

The genesis of the partnership, Ms. Birgfeld explained, was as an extension of four voluntary domestic programs of the

identifying specific activities and policies to support methane recovery.

She emphasized that Methane to Markets is very focused on near term project development, and has developed a database to help identify and promote specific sites, such as landfills, where potential projects can be developed.

She announced that the partnership will hold a major expo in Beijing in October 30-November 1, 2007 to highlight project opportunities and showcase methane-capture technologies.

Providing an example of a Methane to Markets project, Ms. Birgfeld presented the case of a Jincheng coal mining project in

Secretariat opened his presentation with the following key messages: reducing rates of deforestation is possible, positive incentives can counteract the drivers of deforestation, sustainable development measures can catalyze success, and funding should be available to better support reforestation.

Mr. Conrad explained that developing countries do not want to lose opportunities for development, but that cases of success exist, such as in Brazil and Costa Rica. He emphasized that to have an impact, the changes must be made through positive incentives, rather than regulatory measures, and that the higher the incentive, the more immediate the impact will be. He added that the opportunity for sustainable development must be taken into consideration in deforestation policies and measures.

With respect to measuring current rates of deforestation, Mr. Conrad explained that there is no certainty regarding exactly how much deforestation is occurring, and that the numbers that do exist tend not to measure forest degradation, which also has an impact on emissions. He emphasized that although deforestation accounts for 10-20% of the global carbon emissions, this is insufficiently reflected by global measures and financing aimed to address climate change. He argued that a comparable percentage of the globe climate change effort should aim to address deforestation.

Mr. Conrad gave the example of Papua New Guinea where perverse incentives to implement international development projects lead to the clearing of forests to grow coffee and other commodities, or even to build roads, without a full consideration of the larger impact of deforestation. Where agriculture is an important part

“Methane projects use simple technologies, are highly marketable and have a major impact on climate change”

Erin Birgfeld, Methane to Markets



US EPA since the early nineties. She added that, even in the absence of carbon financing, projects were already found to be profitable and having a significant impact on the reduction of methane emissions.

Ms. Birgfeld went on to explain that the structure of the Methane to Markets partnership is comprised of a US-based steering committee and subcommittees chaired by partner countries for each of the four sectors as well as project networks to support the work of each subcommittee. She added that a special effort is being made to provide value-added activities and side events to attract industry and other participants to the project networks.

She outlined the work of the subcommittees, which have developed action plans and developed country profiles for each of the four sectors,

China, the largest coal mine methane project in the world. She explained that China has the highest coal mining emissions in the world, and is therefore an important target sector and country. She added that the project is a valuable example of how Methane to Markets assisted China to bring together technical assistance from a variety of sources, including the World Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Asian Development Bank and the US Trade and Development Agency.

In her conclusion remarks, Ms. Birgfeld summarized that Methane to Markets is focused on near-term outcomes, is a voluntary initiative with easy procedures to join and is an example of a public-private partnership working well, with multiple win-win benefits.

Mr. Kevin Conrad, the Executive Director of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations

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of the economy, he added, it is unrealistic to expect countries to stop deforestation without some predictable alternative or incentive in return. Mr. Conrad raised the question of how to de-link economic growth from carbon emissions. He noted that in some developing countries the fossil fuel-based economy is less embedded than in developed countries, and that it should therefore be easier to shift to other sources of energy.

Mr. Conrad emphasized that the impacts of deforestation have a direct effect in reductions in water quantity and quality with the associated health problems, increases in

extreme weather, diminishing of coral reefs and subsequent degradation of fisheries, as well as declines in biodiversity, increases in infectious diseases, and reductions in quality of rural land that leads to a significant migration to overcrowded cities. He argued that these impacts are measured in the ledgers of different Government departments but are not typically seen as a result of deforestation. The remedies, he added, do not therefore address the root cause of deforestation.

The Coalition for Rainforest Nations, Mr. Conrad explained, aims to address the unfair discrimination against forested nations that exists within the Kyoto Protocol. He argued that the agreement tends to favour nations with heavy industrial emissions over those which gain their livelihoods from forest economies. He added that the current procedures and structure of the CDM are negatively impacting the ability of African nations to benefit from projects to reduce deforestation, in a continent that has greater deforestation rates than all of South America. Mr. Conrad asserted that a new tool is needed to address global

deforestation and that the first Kyoto Protocol commitment period can provide a testing ground for pilot instruments, which should be a blend of market and non-market instruments, as a complement to the CDM.

Mr. Conrad concluded his remarks emphasizing that deforestation is an important source of emissions which does not entail high-tech solutions but requires financial incentives to provide



“The CDM is not working for the ‘green’ ”

Mr. Kevin Conrad, Coalition for Rainforest Nations

developing countries with the necessary resources to invest in reforestation efforts.

Mr. Matthew Quinn, representative of the Network for Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) partnership, began his presentation introducing the history of the partnership. Mr. Quinn explained that the Network covers a broad range of policy issues and is not uniquely focussed on a specific topic within the climate change agenda.

Mr. Quinn outlined the objective of the partnership to generate policy dialogue at a distinctive regional level which is not currently represented at the UN. He explained that at present regional governments are not represented as a major group or in any other form in UN deliberations, and that their only entry point into the CSD process was to channel their contributions through a registered partnership.

He indicated that the level of governance between the municipality and the national government has the possibility

to engage in concrete actions and to make a significant contribution to climate change, particularly at a time when greater responsibilities are being devolved to regional governments.

Mr. Quinn provided an example from his own region of Wales, where they have responsibility for pollution control and strategic planning of environmental projects. He argued that the region has, therefore, a very strategic level of government as an actor in sustainable development and a conduit for delivery. Mr. Quinn emphasized the objectives of the nrg4SD, which aims at sharing knowledge between the different regional government partners within the network as well as to work collaboratively on the development of policy positions. He added that the network creates a forum for North-South dialogue to which regional governments might otherwise not have access. As an example, he added, Wales could benefit from Southern regions experiences that have explored rural solutions for off-grid electricity systems, which could lead to a shift in the paradigm for energy supply.

Mr. Quinn outlined some of the network's efforts in the field on climate change and energy for sustainable development, including a website (www.regional-renewables.org), created by the Government of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, where users can get and exchange best practices information about these two thematic issues of the CSD-15. The nrg4SD, he added, encourages its members to work together in partnership to implement projects and he noted that the network has signed agreements with UNEP and UNDP.

Mr. Quinn highlighted major intra-regional meetings organized by the nrg4SD and informed that the next event will take place in Siberia in 2007 with a focus on adaptation to climate change. Mr. Quinn concluded his

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“Regional governments, as the delivery agencies and regulators, offer valuable lessons-learned for climate change.”

Mr. Matthew Quinn, nrg4SD,
Wales

presentation inviting participants from other regional governments to join the partnership and to implement concrete actions taking advantage of this strategic level.

Margarita Maria Parra, representing ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability and the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, provided a brief overview of the partnership, indicating the close collaboration already established with the Methane to Markets partnership, in particular for a project being implemented in Sao Paolo, Brazil. Ms. Parra outlined the major objectives of the partnership, which aims to inform and develop policy options at the local level among cities around the world as well as represent local governments during negotiations at the CSD-15.



Ms Parra provided a history of the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, which began in the US, but has since extended around the world, with over 800 members at present. She added that South Africa is one of the most active countries involved in the partnership. Ms Parra also indicated that they provide greenhouse gas inventories for cities and help to identify solutions, tools and materials that are customized for individual cities. She added that ICLEI had recently launched a major greenhouse gas inventory for New York City. She noted that ICLEI also works with smaller cities that do not have the same level of resources to invest in climate initiatives as larger cities.

Ms. Parra concluded by explaining the voluntary nature of the initiative which is performance-oriented and aims for achievable results. Although the

decision to act is left to the local government themselves, she added, ICLEI aims to assist cities in identifying and facilitating relevant tools to implement sustainable development projects.

Vice-Chair Figueiredo opened the floor for questions and a very fruitful discussion ensued. The first question addressed the levels of subsidy or incentive that would be needed to prevent deforestation in developing countries. Mr. Conrad responded that developing countries need to see a predictable revenue stream and would have to carefully structure incentives. He cited a successful example from Costa Rica where a proportion of fuel taxes is used to provide land owners with the necessary resources to maintain/ conserve the forests.

Vice-Chair Figueiredo added that

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Touch Screen Terminals: Information at your Fingertips



As a new addition to the CSD this year, the Division for Sustainable Development, with the generous support of the European Foundation for E-Government, has installed five touch screen terminals in the Neck Area.

During negotiations, members of delegations as well as representatives of major groups and UN organizations would be able to access the entire UN DESA/DSD website, in particular download all CSD official documentation on USB keys, check the latest information on the CSD calendar of events, Partnerships Fair, Major Groups as well as send e-mails. We encourage CSD participants to take advantage of this new and innovative way to support and facilitate your work. Please send us your feedback on this new service.

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addressing deforestation with subsidies is a difficult and expensive way to address climate change issues. He argued that it is less expensive to change the fuel which runs a factory than to change the economy of an entire country, where there will always be a tendency to switch back to traditional forms of income.

An audience member raised the issue of the linguistics of climate change, arguing that it is time to change the language to reflect the urgency of the problem, and suggested that "climate crisis" would be a more appropriate name than "climate change". He also raised the point that there should be equality in the amount of CO2 emissions allocated to each person on the planet, and therefore developing nations should be entitled to continue to increase their emissions as their economies grow. Comparing the total "allowable" future emissions (to reach a cap of 2 degrees increase in temperature) to a pie, Mr. Conrad responded that as the remaining pie is further reduced, industrialized nations should have to pay a high price for the right to "eat it".

Mr. Quinn explained that the climate of Wales is actually likely to improve with climate change, and that the Government's every action to address the issues is based upon this concept of equity. Mr. Quinn also agreed that there should be an increase in the sense of urgency to address climate change in the CSD and other international discussions.

He added that particularly now that the population is much more engaged in and informed of the issue, Governments can and should respond in a more ambitious way.

Vice-Chair Figueiredo added that the issue of emissions is a complex one, since even for rural areas in developing countries to simply satisfy the basic conditions and needs for human life, emissions will be increased and that this has been recognized by the UNFCCC.

When asked whether Methane to Markets had best practice guides, particularly with South-South examples, Ms. Birgfeld noted that there is a landfill methane analysis guide that has been developed for Mexico that could be applicable for similar climates, as well as oil and gas guides that are being developed with Brazil. Ms. Birgfeld also explained that it is very easy for countries to establish a country program with Methane to Markets, requiring only a letter from the Government and participation on applicable subcommittees. She added that cities are also encouraged to become members of the Methane to Markets network.

Ms. Parra explained the relationship between ICLEI and the C40, an alliance of large cities that was initiated by the Mayor of London, emphasizing the close working relationship and the significant overlap of members between both organizations. However, she indicated, ICLEI also works with smaller cities.

An audience member raised the complexity and the challenges for Africa to access the Clean Development Mechanism. Vice-Chair Figueiredo explained that it is necessary to develop comprehensive evaluation criteria for projects to qualify for CSDM in order to establish that real offsets are occurring. He added that it is therefore to be expected that the countries that are the largest emitters, such as China, Brazil, India and Mexico are the ones that benefit more from the CDM. He indicated that the CDM will not always be an effective tool for development of other countries.

With respect to the high transaction costs to certify a CDM project, Vice-Chair Figueiredo added that industrialized countries are not paying these costs as the system intended, and instead Brazil has funded 2/3 of its own CDM projects. He explained that this is a further reason why the CDM is not working for development of the poorest countries. The point was raised that better measures could be developed to help aggregate projects so that smaller scale projects would also be considered for accessing the CDM.

Mr. Conrad added that the CDM was designed to address the 'brown' (emissions) rather than the 'green' (reforestation). He added that the global dialogue is evolving and could be reaching a tipping point.

Partnerships Team Launches E-Forum



The CSD Partnerships team is pleased to announce the launch of the Partnerships e-Forum. The purpose of this service is to foster communication and strategic alliances between CSD Partnerships and to offer an online platform for the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

The first set of e-Forum topics provides the opportunity for discussion of the Partnerships Fair interactive sessions of the CSD-15 on the themes of: Partnering Solutions to Growing Energy Demands, Benefits of Partnering to Address Climate Change Challenges, Partnerships Building Cleaner Industries for a Sustainable Future, Partnering Solutions to Reduce Air Pollution and Emissions, Addressing Challenges and Lessons Learned from Partnering with the Private Sector, and Identifying New Technologies for Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States. The CSD Partnerships team invites you to login to join the online discussion with other partnerships. Access the e-forum at this address: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/eforum/index.htm>.

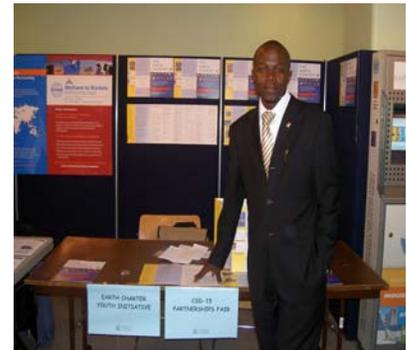
CSD-15 Partnerships Fair Information Desks Wednesday, May 2



Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program



Methane to Markets



Earth Charter Youth Initiative

In the Partnerships Fair Today Thursday, May 3

Partnerships Building Cleaner Industries for a Sustainable Future

Christine Egan, Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP)

Andre Bourassa, Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development

Martyn Griffiths, Vinyl 2010

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm Conference Room 7

CSD-15 Partnerships Fair Information Desks Today Thursday, May 3



Vinyl 2010



Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development



Environment and Energy Partnership with Central America



SIDA Partnership: Implementation of New Technologies for Sustainable Development

In the Partnerships Fair Tomorrow Friday, May 4

Partnering Solutions to Reduce Air Pollution and Emissions

John Mitchell, Partnerships for Clean Indoor Air

Philip Coleman, PePS-Promoting an Energy-efficient Public Sector

Jane Metcalfe, Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles

10:30 am - 12:30 pm Conference Room 7