

25 February 2008

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to Part II (February 25 to March 14) of the e-discussion on ‘**Achieving Sustainable Development**,’ a contribution toward the 2008 ECOSOC [Annual Ministerial Review](#) process. As Guest Moderators, we will guide and contribute to the second half of the discussion.

The first part of this e-discussion highlighted challenges to implementation of sustainable development. Your contributions of ideas and concrete country experiences have enriched the debate outlined in the [Background Paper](#).

Over the course of discussion, we are keen to read about your views and recommendations on concrete policy initiatives that can help States to achieve sustainable development.

In our view, the following factors are essential if countries are going to make progress against the sustainable development agenda: sound policies, institutions and investments enabling markets to work for sustainable development, predictable financial resources from ODA and access to environmentally sound technologies.

Aid for sustainable development must be targeted to areas which are conducive to long-term sustainable development. Aid on Climate change mitigation and adaptation is an example of an area in need of new and additional funding. Research and development is needed to find solutions to old and new challenges. Human and institutional capacity to respond to challenges with which we are confronted must be strengthened. The first part of the discussion has highlighted the challenges and needs; here let us discuss concrete steps that can be taken to meet them.

In the interest of providing the intergovernmental process -- especially ECOSOC -- with tangible suggestions on what the global community can do to achieve sustainable development, we seek your experience of and views on the following:

- 1. How can the international community ensure that more funding for advancing sustainable development is made available on a predictable basis? What steps by which actors can be taken to facilitate, on a concessional and preferential basis, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, especially to developing countries?**
- 2. What specific initiatives can ECOSOC promote to be launched to facilitate realization of the goal of sustainable development? How can we foster human and institutional competencies to execute supportive policies?**

3. How can we promote equity in the distribution of benefits from environmental resources? Is it advisable to promote payment for environmental services? If so, what is/are the most effective way(s) to do so?

We encourage you to be creative, to take this special opportunity to make suggestions that may be considered for action by the Economic and Social Council. In addition, the 2008 AMR has the potential to catalyze initiatives to be launched by groups of governments, the UN system or multi-stakeholder partnerships, so do think beyond the intergovernmental process. Achieving sustainable development, after all, requires the cooperation of all stakeholders.

We look forward to your ideas and suggestions. We wish you all the best for a productive and action-oriented discussion.

Warm Regards,

Adil Najam
The Frederick S. Pardee
Professor for Global
Public Policy
Director, The Frederick S.
Pardee Center for the
Study of the Longer-Range
Future
Professor, Department of
International Relations
Professor, Department of
Geography and
Environment
anajam@bu.edu

Albert Binger
Director, Centre for
Environment
and Development,
University of the West
Indies
Jamaica
yengar@hotmail.com

Linda Ghanime
Senior Policy Adviser
Environment & Energy Group
Bureau for Development Policy
United Nation Development
Program
New York
linda.ghanime@undp.org