

**CSD-14 Multi-stakeholder Dialogue**  
**3 May 2006, 11:30 am -1:00 pm**

At its fourteenth session, the Commission on Sustainable Development continued its tradition of including a multi-stakeholder dialogue segment as part of its official proceedings. The multi-stakeholder dialogue segment held on 3 May involved representatives of women, youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, scientific and technological communities, and farmers. Lead organizations from each sector were invited by the CSD Secretariat to consult with their constituencies to prepare “dialogue papers” and to organize the participation of their delegations. This dialogue provided an opportunity for a focused discussion on the role of major groups in promoting implementation activities in relation to the thematic cluster, including in the areas of education, raising public awareness, disseminating information and knowledge, and fostering partnership initiatives.

The segment was organized into three blocks of 30 minutes each, comprised of short presentations from three major groups followed by interactive discussion among governments and major groups. Local authorities, indigenous people and farmers addressed climate change, air pollution and atmosphere; business and industry, women, and scientific and technological communities spoke to energy for sustainable development; and NGOs, trade unions, and youth focused on industrial development.

During the discussion, major groups and Governments highlighted the following:

**Obstacles and Constraints**

Transformation of the global energy system can be linked directly to industrial development. Taking into account the impact of complex and difficult political situations with regard to energy, environment, and increasing population, the unsustainable nature of the present energy regime and the privatization of basic energy services are seen as obstacles to sustainable industrial development. The proliferation of nuclear energy technologies is considered by a number of major groups to be unsustainable.

Regarding climate change, the modalities and procedures for activities under the Clean Development Mechanism generally fail to address issues of social and environmental justice, including rights to land and self-determination. A lack of market access and poor regional coordination present obstacles to ensuring climate-friendly farming practices.

**Lessons Learned and Best Practices**

Important lessons have been learned by some Governments with regard to developing supportive national policies that promote integration of gender concerns into energy projects, introducing income-generating energy technologies that make energy services affordable for women and increase their social status, and recognizing that such technologies are most successful when they address the needs of the people meant to use them. The case of a small hydropower project is one example of sustainable energy that did not displace people, provided employment, used local resources, partnered with the private sector, reinvested profits in the community, and has strong potential for replication in other rural areas.

An increase in networking among sectors has also proven to accelerate progress in implementation. Collaborating through a worldwide network of 675 local governments, many cities have established emissions reduction targets and implemented climate protection policies. A Climate Impact Assessment carried out by the Arctic Council in partnership with indigenous communities provides a specific example of regional participatory cooperation that can be replicated in other parts of the world. Overall, there is growing acceptance of a multi-dimensional approach to the interlinked aspects of climate change,

atmosphere and air pollution, involving stakeholder participation in developing educational models and tools for training and capacity building to disseminate knowledge.

#### Means of Implementation

There remains an urgent need for capacity building in science and engineering, enhanced funding for research and development, and support for climate-related observational networks. While efforts are being made by some Governments to mainstream sustainable development education at all levels, to empower youth to pioneer new employment opportunities, jobs and services, and support long-term sustainability of industries, more progress is needed in this area. There is wide support for increased reporting on activities toward education for sustainable development.

#### Continuing Challenges

To meet rising energy demands and accelerated economic growth, Governments need to evolve, innovate and invest significantly to create a solid foundation of good governance without corruption, support frameworks that encourage competitiveness, employ a wide range of energy options and integrated energy policies, provide innovative finance solutions, and include all stakeholders in partnerships for sustainable energy development. Governments could increase support for development of clean and renewable technologies, enhance collaboration with major groups to ensure participation of indigenous people, farmers and women in implementation of energy projects, climate impact assessments, and actions to implement mitigation and adaptation strategies related to climate change. Industrial policy should strive to include social aspects of worker education and training programmes, focus on sustainable consumption and production, generate decent and meaningful jobs, create new market opportunities, and ensure reliable access by the poor to energy services. Women in particular must be given greater access to education on affordable energy services and cleaner fuels.

New York, 5 May 2006

Summary prepared by the CSD Secretariat