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**CSD Partnerships Fair Discussion on Partnerships Building Cleaner Industries for a Sustainable Future**



(Left to right) Mr. André Bourassa, Mr. Manuel Dengo, Ms. Christine Egan, Mr. Martyn Griffiths

cost-effective appliance standards and labeling for energy efficiency, as a contribution to global measures to address climate change. She identified five countries where CLASP has assisted in the development of national implementation of standards and labeling programmes, namely: China, India, Mexico, Tunisia and Ghana. CLASP has also provided support to several other countries and regional

organizations.

Ms. Egan defined the structure of the partnership, having an international governing board, a secretariat in Washington, DC, and opened to all standards and labeling stakeholders. The CLASP partners, she explained, include country partners (beneficiary), implementing partners (who provide technical assistance), sponsors (countries and other funding partners), and affiliates (manufacturers, retailers, etc).

Ms. Egan outlined the outcomes of the program, which since 1999 has assisted with the implementation of 24 standards and/or labels, with expected savings of 115 terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity and 30 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) annually by 2020 and will avoid the construction of the equivalent of 38 750-MW coal-fired power plants. She added that CLASP's future goal is to support programs that will save another 300 TWh of electricity/year and reduce total annual anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2% by 2030 (280 MtCO<sub>2</sub>) -

Mr. Manuel Dengo, Chief of the Water, Natural Resources and Small Island Development States Branch, UN/DESA/DSD, as chair of the session, opened the Partnerships Fair Interactive discussion on 3 May by welcoming the panelists and participants to a session focused on addressing the challenges and lessons learned in the effort to promote and develop cleaner industries and markets for sustainable technologies. He highlighted that the panelists in this session represented important models of collaboration to build cleaner industries from three different perspectives, namely the private sector, non-profit organizations and an inter-governmental forum.

Ms. Christine Egan, Executive Director of the Collaborative Appliance Standards Labeling Program (CLASP) opened her presentation outlining the mission of CLASP, which aims to serve as the primary international voice for and resource for practitioners engaged on energy efficiency standards and labeling (S&L) worldwide. She emphasized that CLASP provides technical assistance for

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***“Successes should be measured in quantitative terms...to draw a diversity of sponsors.”***

Ms. Christine Egan, CLASP

avoiding 180 new 750-megawatt power plants.

Ms. Egan emphasized the great importance of determining successes in terms of quantitative measures. She admitted that this is somewhat easier in the area of standards and labeling, which are easily quantifiable, than in other areas, but added that it has been an important aspect of the delivery and goals of CLASP.

An additional lesson learned, Ms. Egan explained, has been actions to attract a diversity of sponsors. She explained that CLASP was initially funded by primarily US sources, and that particularly in recent years, with declining levels of US funding, it has been very important for CLASP's continuity to have attracted the support from other sources, such as Australia, Europe, Japan, several foundations, the UN and other multilateral organizations as well as the private sector.

Ms. Egan identified some of the activities and accomplishments of CLASP which included: performance standards and energy efficiency labels in a number of countries (which, she explained, can take 3-7 years); the development of a popular website with searchable databases and

regular hits from around the world ([www.clasponline.org](http://www.clasponline.org)); a globally distributed guidebook on standards and labeling available in four languages, and assistance with regional standards and labeling projects. She provided examples of their capacity building work in India and the South Asian region.

Ms. Egan added that CLASP provides service guarantees to its donors, which ensure the highest quality of work by recognized experts, and which is subject to peer reviews. As an indication of their success, Ms. Egan gave the example of the Indian Ministry of Power which created a new budget line devoted to standards and labeling for energy efficiency, thanks to the information provided through working with CLASP.

Ms. Egan summarized her remarks with the following elements she considers essential to success for a partnership: diversification of funding, local and field representation by people who speak the local language, clear procedures for operations and administration, and measurable outcomes that contribute to the ultimate objective, which is in this case, an positive impact on the climate.

Mr. Martyn Griffiths, from Vinyl 2010, began his presentation with an introduction to PVC, the material that is the focus of this partnership. PVC, he explained, is the 2nd most used plastic in the world, which is lightweight, durable, versatile, strong, can be opaque to transparent, rough to smooth, rigid to soft, and it is used in building construction (pipes, windows, flooring, cables), recreational products, design and even fashionable items. He noted that the industry employs 530,000 in Europe and has a 74 billion Euro turnover.

Mr. Griffiths then presented Vinyl 2010, a 10-year voluntary partnership that was established in 2000, by four associations representing the PVC industry in Europe. Its main goals, he explained, are to minimize environmental impact of production and products, to use

chemicals responsibly, and to address the complete life cycle of PVC. He added that there is also a social responsibility component to the partnership that aims to ensure that worker standards are high, training is provided, and best practices are shared throughout Europe.

Mr. Griffiths emphasized the importance of ensuring transparency at Vinyl 2010 partnership, which aims to have a maximum of dialogue and involvement of stakeholders and policy



***“Transparency and working with stakeholders is key for industry initiatives”***

Mr. Martyn Griffiths, Vinyl 2010

makers, as well as the preparation of reports verified by a third party.

Mr. Griffiths highlighted three areas of focus of the program: resin manufacturing, waste management, and management and financial schemes. Waste management, he explained, is the largest budgetary areas, with more than 20 recycling projects around Europe. Mr. Griffiths emphasized that Vinyl 2010's target is

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to recycle 200,000 tonnes of collectable, available PVC post-consumer waste, by 2010. Mr. Griffiths identified a number of key achievements of the partnership since 2000, including the targets and phase outs of lead and cadmium stabilisers, phthalate risk assessments, and major increases in recycling. Mr. Griffiths added that during this period of time, a new organisation was created, Recovynyl, to promote PVC wastes collection and recycling. The partnership is also working on sustainability, eco-efficiency and life cycle processes, in cooperation with other recycling associations.

Mr. Griffiths pointed out at present the Vinyl 2010 voluntary engagement has been extended to all members of the European Union. Mr. Griffiths concluded his presentation showcasing the next steps of the partnership to improve the eco-efficiency of PVC resin, plasticizers and stabilisers manufacturing, to improve PVC waste management, and to implement effective mechanical and feedstock recycling technologies. Mr. Griffiths added that although the PVC industry was once considered as the "black sheep" in the past, it is working hard to ensure that this image changes, so that it can become the "white sheep" of industry.

Mr. André Bourassa introduced his partnership, the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development, as a partnership that is focused on assisting the developing countries. He emphasized that development is essential for poverty alleviation, and that many developing countries are resources rich. Therefore, he explained, mining can present a good opportunity for sustainable development, as long as it is well managed. Significant capacity building is needed to ensure the good governance that is necessary for sustainable mining.

Mr. Bourassa presented the history of his

partnership, which was created in 2002 and is a forum of national governments. Initially, he explained, the Forum was promoted by Canada and South Africa, both of which have major mining industries, and it has now been joined by 34 other countries in a global dialogue.

Mr. Bourassa outlined that the objective of this forum is to promote the contribution of mining, minerals and metals to sustainable development by enhancing the capacity for governance, by sharing lessons learned and by providing recommendations on best practices. He said that developing countries can benefit most from clearly defined actions as well as simplifying implementation, regulation and management of mining industries. In this regard, the forum attempts to provide

***"Voluntary initiatives  
help to overcome  
sovereignty concerns to  
encourage collaboration  
in capacity building."***

Mr. André Bourassa

practical support in the way of policy/regulatory templates that countries can follow and implement. Mr. Bourassa gave a few examples of key topics for capacity building within the Forum, such as mines closure and rehabilitation, the equitable distribution of the benefits from mining, accident prevention and management, and the improvement of company reputations.

Mr. Bourassa pointed out other significant challenges related to mining, in particular, the environmental and social issues, which derive from the activity. He explained that mines are often located far away from the cities, and that entire new towns may need to be created when a mine is opened, with all of the services required to support the population. He

added that when it closes all the population often leaves, particularly in developing countries, and Governments are left to deal with the migration and the remaining unemployment.

Mr. Bourassa went on to emphasize the advantages and the disadvantages to work on a voluntary initiative. He said that it would be nearly impossible to have formed the Forum with compulsory membership due to sovereignty concerns of nations for the management of their own natural resources. He added that the voluntary nature makes the Forum more flexible in terms of finance and that partners are less likely to compete as rivals. He added that on the other hand it is more difficult to raise funds for a voluntary partnership, and decisions cannot be enforced. He



recommended a mix of voluntary initiatives such as the Forum, with other domestic regulatory measures to support the industry.

Mr. Bourassa concluded his presentation by giving the website of the initiative: [www.globaldialogue.info](http://www.globaldialogue.info), where best practices in the mining sector can be found.

When the Chair opened the floor for discussion, a question was raised to all panelists to identify one or two aspects of their future activities that they would like to advance for a more sustainable future. Mr. Griffiths said he would like to see a leveled playing field between materials, for those to be judged on the basis of practical issues rather than

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emotions. Ms. Egan said she would like to see a dramatic decrease in CO2 emissions to mitigate climate change. Mr. Bourassa would like to see better knowledge and capacity about the risks of unregulated mining.

When asked to explain the level of local community contribution to their activities, Mr. Griffiths indicated that as an older industry, it tends to be well entrenched locally, working with local officials to keep the community abreast of industry developments to avoid surprises from factory closures or other disruptions.

Mr. Bourassa answered the same question indicating that community involvement is a vital issue for an industry, such as mining, that can have such a transformative process on a community. He emphasized that mining companies often have to play a semi-governmental role when they build a new mine in very rural areas, providing roads, schools, housing, and other services. He added that local outreach is essential and a worthwhile investment, because although it can take years before a community accepts a project it is still less expensive than hiring security to protect the assets for the lifespan of the mine. He said that

in the private sector language, this would be referred to as 'managing social risk'. He added that Canada is well positioned to advise governments on these matters, because it still faces issues arising from the rights of the indigenous people to manage their natural resources in many remote and small communities.

Mr. Bourassa was also asked to discuss the extent to which the Forum recommends investment in research and development for recycling. He explained that due to the high market value for metals, they have always been recycled, and therefore companies do not need to promote further the collection of metals.

## In the Partnerships Fair Today—Friday, May 4

### Partnering Solutions to Reduce Air Pollution and Emissions

John Mitchell, Partnership for Clean Indoor Air, US EPA

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

Jane Metcalfe, Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, US EPA

10:30 am –12:30 pm, Conference Room 7

## 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.