

## **CSD-15 Conference Room Paper of the Regional Commissions**

**(ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA)**

- *Energy*
- *Industrial Development*
- *Air/Atmospheric Pollution*
- *Climate Change*

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## **Structure of the CRP by region (4 pages each)**

- 1. Sustainable development challenges for each Region**
- 2. Overview of issues and main findings on policy lessons for the cluster**
- 3. Cross-cutting issues**
- 4. Proposals for Policy and Strategies at Regional Level**

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## ECA findings

- **Energy**
  - Increase production, access, efficiency and renewables.
  - Make the biomass sector sustainable
  - Accelerate energy regional integration
- **Industry**
  - Increase/improve: productivity, environmental performance and investment, including FDI.
  - Move to less pollution-natural resource intense sectors.
- **Air**
  - Microfunding of improvements at SME's and homes.
  - Adopt: regional approaches, best practices in monitoring, and energy efficiency.
  - Increase and retain research capacity, skills and infrastructure.
- **Climate Change**
  - More: research, policy coherence and integration, access to Marrakech funds and carbon trade, capacities (scientific, human and institutional), international cooperation..
  - Support and accelerate National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)

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## ECA: Cross-cutting Issues

- Mobilization of adequate resources, both internally and externally, and for strengthening of partnerships for the implementation of programmes and projects
- Effective bilateral, multilateral and public-private partnerships are yet to be developed.
- Need for adequate policy, legal and institutional frameworks
- Inadequate science and technology. Low human and institutional capacities, low number of scientists and technologists, decaying university and research facilities, and absence of national innovation systems

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## ECA: Proposals for Policy and Strategies

- **Energy**
  - Design and implement energy access scale-up mechanisms
  - Enhance national capabilities of forestry services and energy agencies
  - Provide resources and capacities to Regional Economic Communities
- **Industrial Development**
  - Facilitate access to finance and technology transfer and acquisition
  - Strengthen certification, testing and quality assurance
  - Develop industrial environmental policy, regulation and guidelines
- **Air Pollution**
  - Establishment and fostering of regional networks of scientists and institutions dealing with air and atmospheric pollution
  - Development of data collection and observation capability
  - Promote the penetration of improved wood fuel stoves and cleaner energy resources for cooking and heating
- **Climate Change**
  - Increase the capabilities of countries to carry out assessments of the impacts of Climate Change
  - Establish climate forums to enhance regional cooperation on climate and early warning

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## ECE findings

- **Energy:** improve security, reliability and diversity of supply, potential for efficiency and savings, R,D&D of energy technologies
  - ECE Guidelines on Reforming Energy Prices and Subsidies
  - ECE facilitates financing of energy efficiency investments and development of coal mine methane projects.
- **Industry:** engine for poverty eradication and economic growth, but has to become more economically, environmentally and socially sound.
  - ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents: to improve industrial safety and harmonize safety standards.
- **Air pollution:**
  - Increasing from transport
  - ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols are effective across large areas in reducing air pollution
- **Climate change:**
  - Meeting Kyoto requires energy efficiency especially in Eastern/South Eastern Europe.
  - Improve: policy barriers, financial engineering skills, and financing mechanisms

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## **ECE: Cross-cutting Issues**

- National governments need to deploy a mix of policy instruments, combining best regulatory practice, market mechanisms and voluntary measures
- The development and deployment of affordable and environmentally sound technologies is essential for progress across the thematic cluster
- The UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development as a practical instrument to incorporate key themes of sustainable development in all education systems.

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## **ECE: Proposals for Policy and Strategies**

- Energy issues need to be better integrated into development planning
- Array of measures to overcome barriers to energy efficiency and energy savings delivering their full potential
- Security and reliability of energy supply of particular concern to ECE region – measures to reinforce this
- Diversification of energy supplies to include increasing share of renewable energy and decreasing environmental impact & carbon intensity of fossil fuels
- Need to facilitate more sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Further development of integrated approaches to reduce both air pollution and GHG emissions

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## ECLAC findings

- **Energy**
  - Improve: integration, renewables absorption, use of firewood, access to the poor and efficiency.
- **Industry**
  - Energy and Natural resource intensive industry, with more than 95 % of many polluting but employment-intensive SMEs.
  - Some success in controls: Industrial control practices and Cleaner Production policies. SR practices in progress
- **Air**
  - Urban decontamination plans and some Sustainable Mobility Programs have been successful and need reinforcement.
- **Climate change**
  - High vulnerability to increased natural disasters, specially in the Caribbean. Actions, infrastructure, procedure manuals and other initiatives are under development.
  - CDM initiatives are being developed in most countries and high interest in sinks.

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## ECLAC: Cross-cutting Issues

- Establishment of national funding rules or costing of externalities to foster cleaner investments, recovery of environmental liabilities, compensation for depletion of non-renewable resources
- Institutional stability, as a requirement for the permanence and strengthening of the policies
- Integration of public policies to reach sustainability goals, in particular when sectoral action is necessary for implementation
- Measurement of sustainability through appropriate indicators
- Strategic evaluation of externalities of policy options and development projects
- Education and training

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## ECLAC: Proposals for Policy and Strategies

- Express public-private commitment and policy integration by including externalities in project evaluations for energy and transport.
- Foster horizontal cooperation among countries to facilitate integration of environmental policy with energy and climate change topics
- Reinforce participation mechanisms and report regularly on sustainability of development (integrated accounting?).
- Increase accountability of cities and urban development patterns. Dynamize and deepen urban air quality programs including indoor pollution and estimates of future pollution growth. Improve public transportation and prioritize it in urban public investment
- Make regional environmental agreements that allow for stricter regulations while protecting industry competitiveness.
- Push for CDM reform to increase its relevance by simplifying it, including sinks. Explore programmatic and bundled approaches. Increase up-front funding for CDM projects.

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## ESCAP findings

- **Energy**
  - Improving energy security to support rapid economic growth
  - Regional and sub-regional cooperation in energy distribution systems to supplement national efforts in promoting energy development, diversification of fossil fuels and energy efficiency
- **Industry**
  - Labor-intensive manufacturing industry is leading economic growth, emerging as a global production centre
  - Pollution impact from production remains in the region, negative impact on limited carrying capacity
  - Improving ecological efficiency of production patterns is an urgent task in view of limited carrying capacity and rising natural resource prices
- **Air**
  - Urban air pollution major challenge, indoor air pollution emerging new issue
  - More: switching to cleaner fuels and fuel efficiency for transportation and industries; regulations on ambient air pollution and source emissions
  - Demand-side management to control private car and promote clean public transportation
- **Climate Change**
  - Climate change action compatible with energy efficiency and security as oil prices goes up
  - Promotion of unilateral CDM as an incentive mechanism to initiate emissions reduction projects for Non-Annex I countries.

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## **ESCAP: Cross-cutting Issues**

- Compatibility of rapid economic growth with limited ecological carrying capacity: promoting ecologically efficient economic growth pattern
- Moving towards ecological efficiency from economic efficiency & integrate ecological efficiency into development planning: new model of growth, Green Growth
- Promotion of sustainable production and consumption pattern: cleaner production & demand side management
- Promotion of cross-sectoral coordination among relevant ministries & multi-stakeholder partnership
- Promotion of consensus & political leadership

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## **ESCAP: Proposals for Policy and Strategies**

- Adoption of low carbon economy strategies to decouple rapid economic growth with mounting ecological impact
- Improve energy efficiency, strengthen regional cooperation, promote new technologies
- Adopt policies to harness FDI to improve industrial production pattern, support for SMEs,
- Investment strategies to integrate sustainability into energy, transport infrastructure development
- Fiscal policy that internalize ecological costs into market price to improve resource efficiency
- Strengthen compatibility of climate change actions and economic goals
- Promotion of financial intermediaries to support CDM projects
- Demand-side management to improve consumption pattern (urban air pollution)

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## ESCWA findings

- **Energy:** Progress in;
  - Switching to natural gas, upgrading oil refineries, improving fuel specifications and adopting vehicles inspection and maintenance programmes;
  - Renewable energy development, particularly in rural and remote areas;
  - Energy conservation and efficiency in various economic sectors
  - Integration projects on electricity grid interconnection and gas distribution.
- **Industry**
  - Needs to minimize waste through Cleaner production technologies, particularly SMEs.
  - Most Arab countries have adopted National Environmental Action Plans, some include provisions for industry modernization and requirements for environmentally friendly technologies, or the appropriate use of resources
  - Scarcity of financial sources for the modernization projects
- **Air**
  - Incipient plans to reduce impacts of power (switching to gas), transport and cities.
- **Climate change**
  - CDM projects in energy efficiency and renewables.

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## ESCWA: Cross-cutting Issues

- Technology transfer and capacity building for the selection of appropriate technologies in different areas of renewable energy, energy conservation, cleaner production, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and air pollution monitoring programs
- The provision of financial assistance to some Arab countries, especially least developed countries, is crucial in the planning and implementation of responses and mitigation measures for the potential impacts of climate change.
- Public awareness and participation should be promoted through increased flow of information from industry and government to the public and other stakeholders, and vice versa

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## ESCWA: Proposals for Policy and Strategies

- **Energy**
  - Enhance investments in oil and gas exploration and production activities, using cleaner technologies;
  - Promote the use of natural gas in the power and transport sectors; upgrading energy production & consumption efficiencies
  - Develop renewable energy technologies and promote their application
- **Industrial Development**
  - Encourage private sector development in sustainable industries, and extend financial and technical support to small and medium-sized enterprises;
  - Introduce strategic interventions at the policy level to improve processes and products
  - Institute a regional system for information network
- **Air pollution**
  - Upgrade air pollution monitoring and control programmes
  - Promote sound urban planning for cities with support systems that are environmentally sound and have low energy consumption.
  - Support of sustainable transport programs
- **Climate change**
  - Support Arab countries in the environmental and economic impact assessment of climate change and the corresponding adaptation measures needed
  - Support regional collaborations on climate change control and mitigation strategies and assisting them in joining the international efforts in this respect;
  - Mitigate the impact of policies and measures adopted by the industrialized countries to comply with the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention and compensating the losses incurred by the Arab nations due to these measures

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## The Regional opportunities

- Regional preparatory discussions are fruitful and help diffuse improved practices.
- Regional approaches should be more visible because they facilitate promoting SD. Regional documents make them readily available.
- Harmonizing economic and environmental policy design is still very needed. Regional Economic Commissions could be of help at national and regional levels.
- Cooperation between Regional Economic Commissions should be strengthened to contribute to global sustainability goals.

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