INPUT FOR DIALOGUE ON ENERGY: CSD-15 IPM

Tuesday, February 27, 2007 – Youth and Children

Providing more than 6 billion people with energy will require concrete action to ensure that we meet the needs of the poor and not only industry, and that we meet those needs without depriving future generations from having a clean planet to live on. In formulating policy designed to increase energy access, it must be recognized that increasing energy production alone often does not increase energy access for the impoverished.

Small-scale renewable energy projects in rural communities offer a sustainable solution to energy access; such local, feasible, and successful energy solutions should be strongly supported at the CSD. Small-scale hydropower, wind, biomass, and solar energy provide options to increase access in rural areas providing local, context-sensitive technological solutions that do not harm the environment, we need technology transfers, capacity building, and cooperation amongst all stakeholders.

But again, we need the market conditions, R&D, and ways to internalize the environmental costs of energy production.

Global energy supply can increase by regulating and improving how we use it. Energy efficiency denotes making supply more efficient and making consumption sustainable. Energy efficiency is not only a means of maximizing profit; it is a means of maximizing welfare and energy supply. Campaigns advancing responsible consumption and sustainable lifestyles should be supported, especially in countries where consumption patterns are highly unsustainable. Education, capacity building and technology transfer have been tools to increase energy efficiency. Changes in legislation for construction, industrial, transportation, and household consumption could achieve carbon emissions reductions of up to 45-53% by 2050, according to the International Energy Agency.

Yesterday we talked about a definition of what sustainable energy strives for; that definition must consider, as stated on JPOI Chapter II, Article 9, section a, the reliability, affordability, economic viability, social acceptability, and environmental soundness of the energy services and sources.

Timelines and measurable targets are needed to advance sustainable energy. Children and Youth have created campaigns to foster energy efficiency and emission reductions with clear targets for the next 10 years with great success. Implementing targets and timelines is a necessary step to provide market signals and must be a part of national sustainable development plans.