

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2003

The Message from WSSD: translating resolve into action for a sustainable future
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Online at <http://www.teriin.org/dsds>

In brief . . .

PLENARY SESSION 7

Climate change: many paths, many stakeholders

Chairperson Ms Joke Waller-Hunter

Speakers Dr John Ashton • Ambassador C Dasgupta • Dr James R Mahoney • Mr Andrei Marcu • Dr Chris Mottershead • Dr Nebojsa Nakicenovic

The session discussed three major challenges: (1) immediate action to achieve long-term objectives of the climate convention, (2) the need for adaptation, and (3) partnerships for moving towards a carbon-constrained economy. Indeed, climate change and sustainable development are intrinsically related.

The discussants recommended immediate action to introduce new technologies for reducing emissions and stabilizing atmospheric GHG (greenhouse gas) concentration. The main determinants of technological change are capital turnover, infrastructure, relative advantage over conventional technologies, application scale, and stakeholder interdependence. The transition would occur over 20–70 years, replacing about 80% of the energy capital stock.

Key developments in the US climate change programme recognize it as a key environmental issue for the present and future generations. Focusing on technology transitions and scientific evaluation, it addresses issues of integrating monitoring of global climate and ecosystems, and scientific analysis for planning/design. These efforts would result in 18% reduction in

emissions by 2010. The US' commitments include hydrogen-powered automobiles and carbon storage and sequestration.

The session also discussed the notion of partnerships that was evolved at Johannesburg and lays emphasis on appropriate measures by the business community to reduce emissions apart from due commitments from governments and NGOs. Partnerships would help align objectives other than that of climate change, such as poverty eradication, thereby ensuring holistic sustainable development.

The business community perspective was elaborated to highlight the creation of GHG markets in addressing climate change, which would also support sustainable development through capacity building, technology transfer, financing, and global engagement. The changing business perspective towards environmental issues was authenticated with the example of BP, which has gone beyond regulatory norms and undertaken voluntary actions to reduce GHG emissions by 10% below the 1990 level, by 2010. Besides, BP has converted environmental constraints into business opportunities and plans to involve customers in its efforts to reduce emissions.

The panellists voiced the need for depoliticized, technical discussions to identify additional mitigation measures consistent with national policies. The optional protocol proposes the formulation of an expert body – acting in individual capacity (not representing governments) – through which the ambitious actions taken by the US may be integrated with global efforts.



PLENARY SESSION 8

Ministerial Session

Chairperson Prof. Emil Salim

Speakers Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi • Mr Elliot Morley • Prof. Saifuddin Soz • Mr Pieter van Geel



We need to rebuild a strong and able civil society that carries with us the responsibility of sound environmental governance.

Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi,
Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa

Reflecting on the road map formulated at the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, this session accentuated the need for effective governance and collaborative actions to cope with future challenges and recommended the implementation of flexible, long-term measures that could accommodate unforeseen hurdles.

The panellists shared their valuable experiences on how the governments of The Netherlands, South Africa, India, and the UK are integrating the challenges of planning and coordination in addressing the pertinent issues of environmental protection and natural resource management. While South Africa has formed focused cabinet clusters, India is



We need more coherent strategies for technology transfer.

Mr Pieter van Geel, State Secretary, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, The Netherlands



We need more collaboration amongst the international community if we are to achieve sustainable development. Climate change is one area where the scientific community

has truly excelled at working together across national boundaries to deepen our shared knowledge and understanding.

Mr Elliot Morley, Parliamentary Under Secretary (House of Commons) for Fisheries, Water and natural Protection, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK

collaborating with developed nations to assess the global and local impacts of climate change. The UK is reviewing its sustainable development strategy and has launched a National Forest Programme. It is also encouraging collaborative efforts for the efficient use and management of water resources. Representatives of administration, forestry personnel, business leaders, and environmental organizations have joined hands to tackle four major challenges: illegal logging, forest certification, timber procurement, and forest protection/restoration.

As the Convention on Biological Diversity moves from policy issues towards implementation, the biodiversity strategies and action plans at the national and regional levels would help in meeting its 2010 targets. Continuing development and implementation of community forest management in South Asia would make a vital contribution to livelihood security and poverty alleviation. This effort has received a major boost from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

The session expressed the need for a three-fold approach focusing on necessary institutional frameworks, capacity building for role players, and an advocacy, information, and



reporting mechanism. A forceful appeal was made to make the most of the opportunities ahead with environment ministers spearheading the initiatives to meet the Millennium Development Goals by diffusing their horizons both vertically and horizontally, donning the hat of an environment activist at times, if required.

Underscoring the requirement for the establishment of a mechanism whereby environmental issues are reflected in different aspects of politics, the session recommended that ministers should go beyond environmental establishments to institutionalize processes that invite, encourage, and incorporate innovative ideas and a far-sighted technological vision.

Highlighting the need to incorporate the basic issues of sustainable consumption and production in evaluating the progress of sustainable development measures, it was stressed that hard-hitting and targeted soul-searching should be incorporated in development assistance at both the giving and receiving ends. Donors must coordinate their efforts but when and how these translate into action is the million-dollar question that, when resolved, shall rain dollars, but will it or won't it is what holds the key to the discussion. For, any concrete change requires financing.

VALEDICTORY SESSION

Chairperson Prof. Klaus Töpfer

Speakers Mr Björn Stigson • Dr Claude Martin
• Ms Anu Aga • Mr V K Duggal

Vote of thanks Dr R K Pachauri

A summit like the DSDS is a vital agent of change and a much-needed medium for furthering implementation strategies that were conceptualized in Johannesburg. It aids the formulation of concrete action plans for realizing proposed commitments. It creates

opportunities for reflection, discussions, and creation of directions for change.

Revisiting Johannesburg, this session covered a gamut of issues related to sustainable development, especially key areas such as water and sanitation. Johannesburg committed the will and resources to make available fresh water and access to sanitation to the millions of people who lack it currently. To realize such ambitious commitments, it is critical to arrive at acceptable solutions to address them. This implies the need for innovative programmes, resources, technologies, and partnerships at the local, regional, and global levels.

With regard to the commitments made, the Indian government's stand was that at the national level, policies continue to focus on the poor or the underprivileged. However, there is a need for development to achieve higher standards of living without compromising environmental concerns.

The corporate sector has the necessary financing, technology, and management skills available to make a significant contribution to the goal of sustainable development. As urged by the Johannesburg Summit, now is the opportunity for corporates to embrace sustainability and accept its own accountability and obligation towards its partners and stakeholders. Indeed, 'the business of business is to promote the well-being of all stakeholders on this planet'.

Good governance and corporate social responsibility run parallel to sustainable development as they promote the accountability of businesses to a wide range of stakeholders – the environment, employees, communities, etc. – now and in the future. Business is the only organized sector that can make an impact because of its economic muscle and its power to influence change. In partnership with the government, NGOs, and civil society, corporates can make a real difference to the lives of millions.

Sustainable development issues are complex and must be tackled through integrated efforts



of business organizations, governments, and civil society. The session recommended the following 'actions' to enhance the efforts at Johannesburg.

- Enhanced and continued efforts in furthering partnerships
- Civil society participation in existing partnerships of NGOs, businesses, and governments
- Enhanced North-South partnerships
- Establishment of monitoring and measurement methods to forecast and assess long-term impacts of various actions
- Conservation at the local, regional, and global levels
- Meshing of legal, institutional, economic, scientific, and technological resources
- Involvement of various stakeholders
- Long-term, non-compartmental approaches.

DSDS 2003 has rekindled the issues discussed at Johannesburg. Some follow-up measures to take the summit deliberations further include the following.

- Bringing out a synoptic summary of the proceedings, highlighting concrete recommendations
- Communication of the summit's outcome to a larger audience of policy-makers, scientists, students, and mediapersons
- Development of indicators that can assess the progress on various issues at the national level.
- Follow-up actions to activate Indian policy-makers in their efforts and commitments to address the issues of sustainable development.

As they said it . . .

Without climate change mitigation measures, there can be no sustainable development.

Ms Joke Waller-Hunter, Executive Secretary,
United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change Secretariat, Bonn

Premature replacement of capital with new technology is too costly.

Dr Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Project Leader,
Transitions to New Technologies, International
Institute for Applied Systems
Analysis, Austria

The heart of the challenge is how to deliver the solution (to the problem of climate change).

Dr John Ashton, Director for Strategic
Partnerships, LEAD International, London

We need to sell (the options for reducing climate change) as an opportunity and not simply as a threat.

Dr Chris Mottershead, Distinguished
Advisor, Environment, BP plc., UK

Environment ministries cannot be effective if they operate in isolation.

Dr R K Pachauri,
Director-General, TERI

Resilience is an extremely challenging aspect of sustainability.

Mr V K Duggal, Special Secretary,
Ministry of Environment and Forests,
Government of India

The way you deal with the political agenda (of sustainable development) has a direct impact on market capitalization (of companies)... Business cannot succeed in societies that fail.

Mr Björn Stigson, President,
World Business Council for Sustainable
Development, Switzerland

The business of business is to promote the well-being of all stakeholders on this planet.

Ms Anu Aga, Chairperson, Thermax Ltd,
India

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