



Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2007

New Delhi, India

DSDS 2007



World Sustainable Development Forum
DSDS 2007



Inaugural session

Welcome address

Dr Arcot Ramachandran

Presidential address

Smt. Sheila Dikshit

Inaugural address

Mr A Raja

Vote of thanks

Dr R K Pachauri

Introduction by

Prof. Ralph J Begleiter

Special address

One planet living: G8 Gleneagles dialogue

Rt. Hon. David Miliband MP

Commentary

Prof. Jeffrey D Sachs

PANEL DISCUSSION

Creating a global resolve

Statements by heads of governments / heads of states

- HE Mr Kjell Magne Bondevik
- HE Mr Olafur Ragnar Grimsson
- HE Ms Tarja Halonen
- HE Mr Mamadou Lamine Loum
- HE Prof. Ruud F M Lubbers



Left: Inaugural session in progress; Right: Mr A Raja and Smt. Sheila Dikshit lighting the inaugural lamp



Rt. Hon. David Miliband MP



HE Mr Olafur Ragnar Grimsson



HE Ms Tarja Halonen

sustainable dialogues at the national and international levels for translating climate change policies into visible impacts on the lives of people.

As they said it...



Efficient markets ignore the poorest of the poor—they have no buying power. We need public policy actions to save them.

Prof. Jeffrey D Sachs, Director, The Earth Institute, and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, USA



A huge amount of resources – 100 billion dollars – that have been used in the Iraq war could have been used to achieve the MDGs.

Prof. Ralph J Begleiter, Rosenberg Professor of Communication, University of Delaware and Distinguished Journalist in Residence, USA

Since its commencement in 2001, the DSDS has emerged as an important annual event, inspiring leaders and mobilizing public opinion on the objectives of the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals). In the opening session of DSDS 2007, speakers noted that policy formulations are already beginning to stress the tenuous links between environmental concerns, economic development, and social justice. Since climate change is an ongoing process and there are multi-dimensional impacts associated with it, there

is need to develop adequate and appropriate coping strategies. This, it was felt, will help civilizations adapt better to climate change.

Speakers also pointed out that reduction in the ecological footprints is an important step towards sustainable development and should not be construed as a reduction in the standard of life. The mobilization of science and technology would have an important role to play in this context; a case in point being the need to bridge the divide between the developed and the developing countries.

The panel discussion, which followed the addresses by the speakers, continued the focus on issues of

sustainable development and climate change. It was acknowledged that policy and technology combine to create markets where even the deprived can participate.

It also emerged during the course of discussion that forms of governance also impact the sustainability of climate change policies. A democratic set-up is best suited to further the sustainable development agenda, as a clear division of roles between legislation, regulation, and implementation generates mutual trust and respect between political structure and people. The session concluded with the opinion that regardless of the system of governance, political leaders on the whole need to initiate

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Keynote address

Meeting Asia's challenge of sustainable development

Chairperson
Mr S Sundar
Speaker
Prof. Jeffrey D Sachs



Emphasizing that economic development should be considered a long-term objective even for the poorest of the poor, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs expressed concern over half of the population in Tropical Asia being below the poverty line. Hunger, malnutrition, non-availability of safe drinking water, and other basic needs are the major challenges in Asian countries. These problems demand low-cost solutions like availability of schools, rural health care, agricultural inputs, access to water, and safe technologies.

Prof. Sachs also focused on the current economic era of great convergence where the gap between the rich and the poor is narrowed. The only concern was that while the Asian countries account for 60% of the world's population, they make up for a mere 20% of the GNP (gross national product), which would increase up to 50% by 2050.

He urged that all countries should join hands to solve the problem of emissions and proposed a policy framework for a post-Kyoto

UNFCCC that would include agreeing on a mid-century target of 500 PPM (parts per million); rebate for the poor; standards for power plants, industries, and automobiles; avoiding deforestation; better technologies and their judicious transfer; price on carbon sequestration projects; and a global adaptation fund for low-income countries. Prof. Sachs identified water as the primary challenge for the Asian countries. He proposed the setting up of an IPCC-like body for water.

As they said it...



You can't address the water needs of the poor with taps and toilets. You need to manage the ecosystem that supplies it.

Mr James Leape
Director General, WWF International, Switzerland



Today's business paradigm is business *in* society rather than business *and* society.

Mr Herman Mulder
Senior Advisor to the UN Global Compact and WBCSD

Session 1 MDGs: the distance yet to be traversed

Chairperson
Dr Prodipto Ghosh
A report on CEO Forum 2007: Business and society—partnering for a sustainable future
Mr Björn Stigson
Speakers
• Mr Ashok Alexander
• Dr James Baker
• Mr James Leape
• Mr Herman Mulder
• Mr Hideaki Oda
• Mr Michael P Schulhof



The session began with a report on the CEO Forum 2007, the curtain raiser event to DSDS 2007. While presenting the report, Mr Björn Stigson, co-chair of the Forum, noted that the overriding sentiment that emerged from CEO Forum 2007 was that 'business and society' was yesterday's paradigm. Today, it has changed to 'business in society'.

Speakers at the session touched

upon many aspects of the MDGs, discussing on the prospects of meeting these on time. One such aspect is the race to effectively combat and contain the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This is much more complex in India than in other regions of the world, because of the stigma associated with the disease.

The possibilities to overcome the disease can be broadened, if it is fought with classic management principles upheld, keeping affected communities central to social and economic activities.

Speakers also focused on MDG 1: eradicating extreme poverty and

hunger. It was argued that poverty reduction could not be achieved if development continued to shirk sustainable pathways. The world required perspective and understanding on sustainable development. The role of the media in bringing about this perspective was stressed.

Critical issues relating to water were also a dominating topic of the discussion, especially since more than one-third of the MDGs can be achieved by solving the water and sanitation problem. To tackle the water challenges of the day, it was suggested that businesses, governments, and the civil society work in tandem at all levels.

Other subjects that were discussed include the urgent need to move towards sustainable energy choices, greater support for R&D to monitor the planet's changing climate, and the importance of global networking to form a consensus on sustainable development.

Keynote address

Turning challenge into opportunity: the business role in sustainable development

Chairperson
Mr Anil Razdan
Speaker
Mr John A Manzoni



The highlight of the session was an analysis of the inherent strengths of the corporate sector that could be effectively harnessed to achieve

sustainable development. Businesses can make, and in many cases have already made, significant contributions to sustainable development, but there still remains untapped potential.

While costs of such new technologies remain high, it is hoped that their increased use would have the positive effect of decreasing the incremental cost of deploying them.

Speakers were of the opinion that the energy and power sectors need to accelerate R&D to bring cleaner technologies into the production process. Technologies, such as biofuels, and carbon capture and storage that have shown promise need to be supported by business.

Speakers were also keen to argue that business support for sustainable development strategies must be, in turn, aided by a policy environment that encourages innovation and facilitates corporate involvement in tackling development challenges. Likewise, the civil society too must form partnerships with businesses to advance the sustainable development agenda.

The session concluded with the consensus that the corporate sector needs to look at sustainable development challenges not as a component of corporate social responsibility practices, but as a business opportunity. Like in all business opportunities, first movers will hold the advantage in the coming business model in which social and environmental sustainability are integral to the bottom line.

Session 2

Climate change and sustainable development

Chairperson

Mr Roger Harrabin

Setting the theme

Mr Yvo de Boer

Speakers

- Mr Howard Bamsey
- Ms Preety Bhandari
- Dr Klaus S Lackner
- Prof. Akio Morishima
- Dr Pal Prestrud
- Dr Camilla Toulmin

Discussions in the session revolved around the vexing issue of climate change, which is posing a hurdle to sustainable development. Climate change reflects a threat that can no longer be ignored or understated. With a slew of scientific evidence pointing out that the adverse impacts of climate change are not far away but are already manifesting themselves, the issue has become too urgent to be postponed further. Speakers were unanimous in this assessment, and elaborated on the grave consequences of climate change that are being observed currently. The rapid melting of snow, the rise in sea levels, and inconsistent weather patterns are directly impacting human productive activity in agriculture and allied sectors. The global scale of climate change poses huge challenges to every country in the world, especially those in the developing world, hence impeding the achievement of the MDGs.

Speakers suggested a dual approach to tackle climate change, with emphasis on strategies for mitigation and adaptation. For instance, development aspirations often reflect increase in energy consumption. Yet, instead of

old solutions, governments and corporations have an opportunity to develop and try new alternative modes of low-carbon energy technologies. Technologies such as carbon capture and storage can likewise be tapped for this purpose. To access financial resources and technologies to think beyond conventional energy, speakers cited opportunities presented by international arrangements such as the CDM (clean development mechanism). Similarly, recent efforts like the Asia-Pacific Partnership also offer prospects, especially to the private sector, to play a key role in climate change mitigation.

Discussions also focused on the role of governments in bringing about international consensus on climate

change and sustainable development. With climate change dialogue often marked by disagreements and expectations, countries could partner each other and foster global cooperation to arrive at common solutions to a threat that does not distinguish between the rich and the poor. Speakers called for commitment at the highest political level to achieve global cooperation. Developing countries must be provided an appropriate incentive structure to encourage participation in climate change mitigation.

Broadly, speakers identified integrating action on mitigation and adaptation into the policy-planning process as the focus for long-term, country-level strategies to deal effectively with climate change. Internationally, buttressing long-term cooperative programmes that seek to strengthen the protections on the global environment must be given a priority.



As they said it...



We have a notion that if politicians fail, the scientists can bail us out.

Mr Roger Harrabin, Senior Environment Analyst, BBC, UK



If we all lived like people in sub-Saharan Africa, we would use only half the planet.

Dr Camilla Toulmin, Director, International Institute for Environment and Development, UK



There are three issues that link energy and sustainable development: energy sustainability, energy equity, and climate change.

Mr John A Manzoni, Group Managing Director, BP Plc, UK

Dinner session

Chairperson

Mr A Raja

Guest of honour

HE Mr Ahmed Abdullah

Speaker

Mr Achim Steiner

Mr Achim Steiner, in the dinner address, pointed out two separate worlds in India today: the traditional India steeped in natural riches and heritage but lacking in economic power and the new emerging nation that is globally recognized as a powerhouse in science, technology, and innovation. He said that the key to a sustainable future for India lies in bridging the gap between these 'two Indias'. He expressed confidence that India would be able to harness the enormous potential of its poorer communities and emerge as the 'hope of the world' for sustainable development.

A revolution of sorts is occurring in India, Mr Steiner said, and it is leading to positive outcomes for the nation's environment. Through television, magazines, and the Internet, the concept of environment conservation and sustainable development is now understood and appreciated by many



ordinary Indians. Returning to his contention that India is now a source of hope for the world, he also said that India today has the potential to shape the future through subtle changes in development trajectories that reflect the desire to restore a balance between human progress and the planet's health. India could take a leading role in tackling climate change, which requires all the nations of the world to take collective decisions grounded in united thought. Mr Steiner concluded by hoping that the year 2007 would be a year of increased momentum in India on issues of sustainable development.

Guest of Honour of the session, HE Mr Ahmed Abdullah, Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives, said that Maldives has taken inspiration from India's example in sustainable development. He said that urgent international efforts are needed to save vulnerable countries like the Maldives. The world must engage in peace, not war, for sustainable development.

Launch of the India Council for Sustainable Development



Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia

The ICSD (India Council for Sustainable Development) is a newly formed platform that seeks to perform an advisory function as a non-governmental entity and contribute analysis and guidance to usher in sustainable development in India.

The ICSD was launched at the sidelines of DSDS 2007 by Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Government of India. Dr R K Pachauri, Director-General, TERI and the co-chair of the ICSD, introduced assembled delegates to the members of the body, and gave a broad overview of the ICSD. Prof. Jeffrey D Sachs, Director, The Earth Institute and co-chair of the ICSD, spoke about the need for India to plan for its environmental challenges in terms of decades, and not centuries, and expressed confidence that the ICSD would be able to make a contribution in this regard.

For more information on the ICSD, please visit <<http://www.icsusdev.org>>.

As they said it...

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The present corporate practice of contributing 1% of the profit to corporate social responsibility is like a drop in the ocean.

Mr Anil Razdan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India



At this time of unknown wealth, environmental destruction has reached a degree that threatens the very existence of humans.

Mr Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Kenya



Peace and security are no doubt essential for sustainable development. Intensified international effort is needed to meet global environmental challenges.

HE Mr Ahmed Abdullah, Minister of Environment, Energy, and Water, Republic of Maldives

SPECIAL EVENT

Technology transfer for climate change mitigation

Highlighting technology transfer as a key instrument in mitigating climate change, the special event focused on ‘financing’ and ‘intellectual property rights’ for the effectiveness of the same. On the financing front, various funding options were discussed, such as venture capitalist funds, risk guarantee funds, and also multilateral funds like the GEF (Global Environment Fund).

To implement new and promising technology, speakers highlighted the role of initiatives such as standards and labelling. These, it was pointed out, would encourage adoption and further refinement of clean technologies. At the other end of the technology-transfer spectrum, as cleaner technologies become widely available, inefficient technology would be gradually phased out, leading to a big step forward in mitigating climate change. In addition to mechanisms that promote clean technology, there remains the need to cover the risks

involved in bringing such technologies on line. Here, the risk guarantee fund was cited as a possible mechanism.

To address climate change challenges at the local level, speakers noted the pressing need to design products that are locally adaptable and easily absorbed by local communities.

Coming to knowledge creation and transfer, speakers concurred that knowledge transfer is imperative in the CDM if it is to facilitate technology transfer. In other words, along with the ‘know-how’, it is also important to transfer the ‘know-why’, the cognitive processes that result in technical innovation.



TERI TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION

Snapshot



Cultural programme

Traditional dances from various states of India marked the evening of day one...

