

# Comments and Proposals from NGOs<sup>1</sup> to the Outcome of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) to the UN CSD15

April 30, 2007

## **NGO comments to IPM Chairman's draft negotiated text:**

*We are deeply disappointed about the chair's draft document of the IPM CSD15. It lacks strategic vision and leadership towards a more sustainable energy future; a necessary key precondition to preventing disastrous climate change. If fossil fuels are to remain the major contributor in the energy mix for decades to come, as claimed by the chair, and global energy consumption continues to expand, this most of the AOSIS countries and many coastal regions, including Qatar will be flooded. Moreover the text does not provide a roadmap to sustainable industrial development and equitable access to energy.*

*In spite of the disappointing chairman's text from the IPM CSD15 can still be a success and provide important inputs towards the goal of sustainable development. This document presents a selection of issues that the CSD15 must address to be successful, it is not an exhaustive list*

## **NGO Proposals for important inputs from CSD15 to sustainable development**

### **A. Energy for Sustainable Development**

Energy is crucial for sustainable development.

NGOs state that the access to energy must be a shared responsibility, where the North takes an active part in cooperation with countries and civil society in the South. This must include Northern countries contributing more substantially to the solution, both economically as well as technologically.

NGOs support the target proposed by WHO to reduce by half by 2015 the number of people without basic energy services. They should have access to clean and affordable cooking solutions and to light for essential uses during the evenings and night (such as light for reading and for security). Studies have shown that if no or insufficient strategies are made to address this issue, the number of people without basic energy services will not decrease.

NGOs affirm that the best solutions to increase energy access are the efficient use of local resources used efficiently with modern methods that are part of sustainable systems. This must be based on renewable energy sources used in sustainable ways, where for instance biomass resources are replanted or otherwise able to regenerate fully. CSD should not refer to LPG as a solution for energy access to poor people in oil-importing countries. For these people LPG is mostly not a long-term solution.

NGOs want to stress that nuclear energy is NOT sustainable.

All forms of energy must be used sustainably. This will require the phase out of fossil fuel within the coming decades to protect the global climate and that renewable energies are used sustainably.

NGOs do not find carbon capture and storage a sustainable solution given the large uncertainties with stability of storages, costs, and environmental effects.

There have to be time-bound targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency, nationally, regionally, and globally.

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<sup>1</sup> This documents is supported by NGOs and NGO networks working on CSD in Citizens United on Renewable Energy and Sustainability (CURES), International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE), Third World Network, and ANPED. Several of the NGOs and networks have in addition developed their own comments with emphasis on issues that are of particular concern to them. See also: [www.inforse.org](http://www.inforse.org), [www.cures-network.org](http://www.cures-network.org)

#### Actions to be made:

- Strengthen institutional capacity nationally and internationally on access to energy for poverty reduction, on energy efficiency, and on development of renewable energy. This must include strengthening of existing institutional capacity as well as formation of new institutions, including local citizen user groups, and agreements for sustainable energy. The stronger institutions must be able to carry out the international cooperation needed for the implementation of the energy-related proposals in this text.
- Establish a World Program for Renewable Energy as proposed by the UN Secretary General and give guidance on its establishment. CSD should propose a strong and broad based leadership with countries from all parts of the world. The program must reach out far beyond the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 and become a truly international focus for capacity building in renewable energy policies and implementation.
- Integrate energy access into national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies, development planning frameworks, and on the donor side, into development cooperation policies. At least one international institution, such as an UN agency or programme, shall be designated to assist countries with this;
- Encourage integration of diversified energy policies into national sustainable development strategies poverty reduction strategies or other national planning frameworks;
- Support clear actions and measures for the expansion of energy services to the poor, in particular in rural and remote areas in developing countries, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS; specific means and mechanisms must be included for doing so;
- Expand the use of cleaner energy services for heating and cooking, including improved cook-stoves, retained heat cookers, solar cookers and biogas;
- Expand the sustainable use of renewable sources of energy, including sustainable bioenergy, small hydropower, geothermal, wind, solar and other forms of renewable energy;
- Further develop energy storage and transmission infrastructure, , only when needed for development of sustainable energy systems;
- Ensure increases in the share of renewable energy in accordance with the JPOI and national plans, leading to a transition to efficient use of renewable energy;
- Facilitate public participation in and understanding of energy policies and practices; including through the drafting of legislation and the development of national strategies and frameworks;
- Increase the involvement of women in planning, designing, and implementation of energy programs;
- Promote networking on energy for sustainable development;

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- Accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies;
- Expand sustainable production and use of bioenergy that serve the poor and is part of poverty reduction. Small-scale, locally controlled, and decentralised biofuel production is an energy option for the poor that increases their livelihood options;
- Without adequate risk, environmental, and social impact assessments, the large-scale production of biofuel is too often unsustainable and can impact the environment, the poor, their livelihoods, and ecosystems they depend on in a negative manner. Unsustainable and socially harmful biofuel production must be phased out fast;
- Strengthen support for the transfer of environmentally sound and affordable technologies through North-South and South-South Cooperation; including specific means and mechanisms for implementation and funding;
- Request International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and the GEF to expand their support for energy access, energy efficiency, and renewable energy, to facilitate access to funding for developing countries including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and to phase out funding for fossil and nuclear energy;
- Establish an international program to assist governments in removing socially and environmentally harmful and market-distorting energy subsidies until 2010, such as subsidies for nuclear power, fossil

fuels, and large hydro, and to re-direct the funds towards funding of conservation and sustainable forms of energy, and especially to support energy access for poor and low-income consumers.

- Reflect in all energy policy and pricing decisions external costs due to negative health, environmental and social impacts resulting from production and consumption of unsustainable forms of energy.

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- in the hydrocarbon industry, immediate phase out gas venting and flaring.
- Strengthen the modernization, rehabilitation and capacity expansion of the electric power sector through energy efficiency improvements;
- Strengthen decentralized power generation and energy service delivery, including support for community based organisations, consumer cooperatives in charge of energy service delivery, energy service companies and other local structures.
- Increase support for international information sharing and benchmarking to reduce energy costs including environmental costs and to enhance efficiency in all sectors including in the energy-intensive industries.
- Strengthen building codes and support for improving insulation and efficiency of energy use in commercial and residential buildings;
- Ensure effective energy efficiency standards for consumer and other products, including vehicles;
- Encourage policies and regulatory environments that include energy efficiency in the power sector, and efficiency standards and certification, and effective promotion policies for renewable energy such as feed-in tariff schemes for renewable electricity
- Increase international support for national efforts to adopt standards and labelling for energy efficient appliances and consumer equipment;
- Implement public procurement and demonstration projects that put energy efficiency and conservation in practice;
- Raise consumer awareness and participation in energy efficiency and energy conservation campaigns;
- Strengthening national and regional energy efficiency and conservation programmes and support investment in, and the transfer of, modern energy efficiency technologies;

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- Mobilize additional financial resources, including by the public and private sectors and through micro-credit and innovative funding means for energy access, renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy conservation, and for job training for a just transition to sustainable energy systems;
- Utilize and support energy for effective and inclusive sustainable development partnerships and ensure review of their performance and effectiveness;
- Encourage the creation of an enabling environment for investment by removing barriers and consistently developing/strengthening appropriate frameworks.

## **B. Industrial development**

For the Southern countries industrial development is crucial for their economic growth, eradicating poverty and employment creation. For the Northern countries the big challenge is to transform their industrial development into sustainable production patterns. This means resource management (efficiency and conservation) to give more “environmental space” for the industrial development in the South and avoid environmental damage by overexploitation of natural resources. It is recognised that the actual industrial activities in the developed countries are the major cause of air pollution and climate change.

In that context, countries have the right to decide their own industrial development strategies based on the level, rate and pace of their development as well as capacity. Northern countries have the duty to transform their strategies into sustainable ones.

Global sustainable natural resources management offers an essential path to reduce costs, increase competitiveness and employment, reduce environmental degradation and has to lead to equity in natural resources use.

National government have to formulate national policy frameworks that create an enabling environment for sustainable industrial development and diversification, including through appropriate regulations and enhancing domestic environmental governance by creating incentives for adoption of improved environmental management practices and environmentally sound technologies; International social agreements have to be respected.

The promotion of more sustainable patterns of production and consumption has to be integrated into the national sustainable development strategy process.

To avoid unnecessary transport around the world, short production chains has to be promoted.

#### Actions to be made:

- Develop and strengthen the productive capacity of developing countries by scaling up the technical and financial resource flows for basic infrastructure and facilitating investments;
- Encourage United Nations continuing efforts to assist developing countries in building capacities for environmental and social impact assessments;
- Develop policies that focus on the utilization of marine resources, aquaculture industries, seafood processing, and trade-investment promotion especially in SIDS;
- Strengthen investment in capacity building, education and skills development to enhance the industrial skill base, to improve employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women and youth, and to reduce any negative social and environmental impacts when applicable related to industrial restructuring;
- Support technological upgrading for sustainable industrial development including through building capacity of standards, testing and certification bodies, and stronger industry-academia collaboration on R&D;
- Promote more sustainable patterns of production and consumption, with developed countries taking the lead, including through more efficient use of natural resources, pollution reduction, waste minimization and recycling. This can be achieved through education and awareness raising to change consumer behaviour toward more sustainable lifestyles, as well with other measures like tax reform, polluter pays principle, short production chains. The Marrakesh process has to be fully taken into account.
- Promote eco-tourism in developing countries, including in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. This must be done with full understanding of the ecological footprints and social networks. So that eco-tourism cannot initiate more harm to people and their economies.
- Provide technical, managerial and financial support to SMEs and micro-enterprises, in particular for adoption of more efficient production methods, including through enhanced involvement of financial institutions;
- Enhance access to credit, including micro-financing, to small-scale entrepreneurs, including women.
- Industrial and economic development is closely linked to the further integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in national, regional and international sustainable trade.
- Support trade-related capacity building, including for customs procedures simplification, , product certification, and quality control so that products can meet international standards;
- Support technology transfer on favourable terms and mobilize financial resources for sustainable industrial development in developing countries; with operationalising and funding of the Bali Strategic Plan.
- Strengthen North-South and South-South technology cooperation, including between R&D institutions in developed and developing countries, with sharing of intellectual property and know how;
- making corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability mandatory, taking also into account ILO core labour standards;
- Greater emphasis should be placed by the United Nations system on promotional information–dissemination activities relating to sustainable investment opportunities in developing countries.

### C. Air pollution/atmosphere

Air pollution is a major threat to human health and the environment that should be addressed in an integrated manner at national, regional and international levels. More unsustainable industrial development will cause more air pollution, which shows us the clear link between the two.

#### Actions to be made:

- Integrate reduction of indoor air pollution into NSDSs, PRSPs and other national development plans, emphasizing access of women and the poor to clean cooking and heating technologies;
- Accelerate the switch from traditional biomass to cleaner practices for cooking and heating, and support efforts to disseminate improved cook-stoves, retained heat cookers, solar cookers and biogas;
- Address gender-specific aspects of air pollution and improve women's access to modern energy services;
- Improve knowledge on health effects and sources of indoor air pollution, and provide financial resources to prevent adverse health impacts due to indoor air pollution in developing countries;
- Replicate and scale-up successful approaches and best practices on indoor air pollution, including the Partnership for Clean Indoor Air;
- Ensure that the proportion of the world's people cooking with traditional biomass solutions is reduced by half by 2015, as mentioned above in the chapter on energy.

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- Promote air quality standards to control emissions from industry and transport
- Improve control of emissions from different sources to mitigate air pollution,
- Support the Marrakech Process to address issues of sustainable production and consumption;
- Reduce air pollution in urban areas through improved and comprehensive land-use planning;
- Improve urban air quality through utilization of cleaner fuels for vehicles and thermo-power generation;
- Expand the use of cleaner technologies, especially renewable energy technologies
- Assist developing countries in the transfer of efficient and environmentally sound technologies, traffic management know-how and related capacity-building;
- Implement WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines as the basis for national air quality standards;
- Promote public and mass transport systems;
- Strengthen vehicle inspection procedures and improve maintenance;
- Promote use of low emission, energy efficient vehicles through market incentives;
- Support the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles in phasing out the remaining use of leaded gasoline and work to reduce sulphur content in fuels;
- Increase efforts to control emissions from extraction and refining of oil;
- Assist developing countries to build capacity for monitoring, measuring and assessing the impacts of air pollution, including health impacts;
- Enhance capacity building, strengthen institutions and involve all relevant stakeholders in the work of improving air quality, including in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

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- Improve compilation and analysis of data in monitoring air pollution and human health;
- Increase cooperation on sound and updated scientific knowledge;
- Promote training to improve methodologies for assessing atmospheric pollution;
- Strengthen systematic observation of the Earth's atmosphere by means of ground-based and satellite monitoring systems;
- Support efforts to reduce air pollutants from aviation and maritime sources with the establishment of international regimes for introducing the polluter-pays-principle in international transport and for limiting sulphur in shipping fuel;
- Assist countries with significant desert areas to build capacity for early warning and monitoring of dust and sands storms;

- Enforce international control over illegal trade of ozone-depleting substances, including through provision of resources and appropriate technology transfer;
- Involve IFIs and international financial mechanisms in efforts to address air and atmospheric pollution;
- Enhance regional cooperation to reduce air pollution, including through the joint research and monitoring, and technical assistance;
- Encourage the sharing of regional experiences to address transboundary air pollution, such as the UN ECE Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution (CLRTAP) and build regional and inter-regional cooperation to limit transboundary air pollution to sustainable levels
- Transfer affordable, efficient and environmentally-sound technologies on favourable terms, as mutually agreed, to mitigate air pollution; and
- Encourage governments to adopt appropriate regulation to mitigate air pollution.

#### D. Climate Change

Climate change is not just an environmental issue it is a social issue too. So it is an issue firmly placed in the context of sustainable development and it requires the urgent attention of the international community.

Decisions taken by CSD are meant to complement, and not to duplicate the work of UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.

NGOs support the idea of **A Fair Global Deal for a below 2°C Energy Vision<sup>2</sup>**. Human activities, in particular the burning of fossil fuels are causing climate change at an alarming rate. If global average temperature is not kept below a 1.5 - 2 degree rise in comparison to pre-industrial levels the damage and loss to people and ecosystems will be extreme. The poor are beginning to suffer the impacts of climate change and will continue to do so unless drastic action is taken. With the economic costs of climate change estimated to represent the equivalent of the two world wars and the depression combined, the case for action is clear.

#### Actions to be made:

- Emphasize the necessity that the rise of global greenhouse gas emissions must be halted by 2020;
- Future action must be in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as relevant principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration;
- Complete negotiations for the second commitment period of the Kyoto protocol in time for a post-2012 agreement, to include binding emissions limits for industrialised countries;
- Enhance technology cooperation and information-sharing on climate-friendly and low carbon technologies;
- Strengthen North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in research, development and demonstration initiatives;
- Support and accelerate the development, deployment, and diffusion of energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- Increase financial incentives for the use of energy efficiency and conservation and renewable energy technologies, recognising that they provide the best means for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
- Policies and actions should be based on the principles of sustainable development, and recognize that poverty eradication and economic development are the overriding priorities of developing countries;
- Implement climate policies and actions that yield co-benefits, including improved public health, in the areas of energy efficiency, air pollution and industrial development;
- Promote fuel efficiency and conservation in the transport sector as part of sustainable transport strategies;
- Enhance carbon sinks through improved land-use management, afforestation and reforestation;
- Encourage participatory approaches to address climate change, including regional cooperation and partnerships,

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<sup>2</sup> STATEMENT MADE ON INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING »COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE EMERGING GLOBAL ENERGY POLICY«, BONN 23-25 MARCH 2007

- Promote the participation of all stakeholders in combating climate change;
- Involve women in all aspects of decision-making relating to adaptation and mitigation, including with respect to disaster risk reduction and choice of adaptation technologies;
- Encourage the integration of climate policies and actions into national sustainable development strategies (NSDS) and poverty reduction strategies (PRS) with respect to both adaptation and mitigation;
- Mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation into development cooperation activities, including the immediate phase-out of funding of fossil energy projects as part of development assistance;
- Improve access to financial and technological assistance available for adaptation, especially by developing countries;
- Integrate lessons learned and experiences accumulated under disaster reduction activities into adaptation planning and response measures;
- Increase community resilience to climate change-related disasters by protecting natural resources, including through activities such as mangrove restoration, reforestation and rangeland rehabilitation;
- Build capacity to enable prediction of the timing, frequency and scale of impacts, as well as training for technical capabilities to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change;
- Promote the dissemination of studies on the long-term impacts of climate change with a view to informing policy goals;
- Support research and analysis of specific impacts of climate change in different regions through observation, information-sharing and technical training;
- Strengthen climate systematic observation networks by enhancing research and dissemination of related information;
- Enhance capacity building at the national and community level in all areas related to climate change;

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- Identify new and additional financial initiatives specifically dedicated to climate change in the context of the UNFCCC;
- Develop and strengthen national institutional capacities for participation in the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation, where appropriate;
- Strengthen existing funding mechanisms for adaptation activities, as well as improving accessibility of developing countries to these funds, *inter alia*, for economic diversification to minimize adverse impacts of response measures;
- Utilize insurance markets to minimize the risks associated with climate change impacts;
- Support early warning, risk management and disaster reduction and response measures for developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable such as SIDS and LDCs.

## **E. Inter-linkages and Cross Cutting Issues, including means of implementation**

An integrated approach to the four thematic issues, addressing in a balanced way the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development, would enhance effectiveness and assist in realization of co-benefits of policy action. Cross-cutting issues need to be mainstreamed into policy approaches, programmes, and development cooperation activities. The means of implementation are critical to turning commitments into actions and must thus be included as specific elements of programme of action that will be funded and implemented.

### Actions to be made:

#### Concerning: Means of Implementation:

- Reinforce efforts to implement commitments in the Monterrey Consensus, notably early and full realization of the 0.7% ODA target. Specific means must be established to ensure that this is done;
- Ensure greater access to sources of finance for developing countries, including through means of leveraging public and private resources;
- Provide better access to funds and simplified reporting procedures for SIDS and LDCs under multilateral funding mechanisms;
- Develop innovative sources of finance for implementing measures in the four thematic areas in an integrated manner;

- Enhance adequate financial resources to support African countries, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS in the effective implementation of national sustainable development strategies;
- Promote technical capacity building and know how, including through support from multi-lateral financial institutions
- Establish financial mechanisms including disbursement of loans with extended repayment time frames, micro-finance schemes and revolving funds. Five years ago UNDP determined that there was only enough micro financing available to meet 5% of the identified interests and needs, thus specific means and funding mechanisms must be established for this;
- Strengthen arrangements and incentives for technology transfer on favourable terms to developing countries, including the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, taking into account the need to balance rewards to innovators and the need for affordable access to technologies by developing countries;
- Endorse as a principle for international cooperation that LDCs must not be used for dumping or as testing fields for experimental and unsuitable technologies and practices;
- Increase investments in R&D to develop the new, advanced and cleaner energy technologies and other key technologies to address implementation in the thematic cluster;
- Strengthen technology cooperation, including R&D collaboration, on technologies of importance to addressing implementation in the thematic cluster;
- Promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as regional and sub-regional cooperation;
- The international agencies to provide greater support to South-South and triangular technology cooperation and sharing;
- Support through technical assistance the strengthening of scientific and technological capabilities in developing countries, including through establishment of world class centres of excellence and 'virtual universities';
- Promote effective and full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building;

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Concerning: Interlinkages and cross cutting issues:

- Mainstream the issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change into national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies, and enhance access to energy as a means of achieving the MDGs;
- Strengthen governance at all levels and in both the public and private sectors to advance progress on the sustainable development agenda in the four thematic areas;
- Build public sector capacity for integrated planning and coordination of policy making on sustainable development across all relevant departments and ministries;
- Build partnerships at all levels and involve all interested and committed stakeholders in addressing implementation challenges in this thematic cluster;
- Involve the private sector more actively in implementation through enhancement of corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability;
- Recognize the importance of sustainable patterns of production and consumption and, in this context, and support the Marrakech process and its task forces;
- Recognize and utilize effectively the knowledge and experience of the nine major groups as identified in Agenda 21 with respect to natural resource management, and the need for their effective participation in decision-making processes;
- Encourage the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable investments by removing barriers and consistently developing/strengthening appropriate frameworks;
- Strengthen educational initiatives in sustainable development in general, including in the context of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, as well as scholarship programmes and educational exchanges;
- Improve understanding about the linkages between economic social and environmental aspects of lifestyles and individual behaviour through strengthening the role of education and raising awareness on sustainable development;
- Agree upon incentives and favourable terms for technology transfer to developing countries, including addressing the obstacles posed by stringent intellectual property right systems;
- Enhance gender mainstreaming in all areas of sustainable development.



## **F. Review and follow-up**

Review and follow-up on progress in the implementation of international commitments on energy, [climate], air pollution/atmosphere, and industry, particularly the JPOI, during one or two-days in CSD sessions in 2010/2011 and 2014/2015.

The contributions of national governments, international partnerships and international organizations to progress towards meeting commitments should be reviewed.

A global target on energy access should provide a benchmark against which to review, recognising that UNFCCC will be the forum for reviewing renewable energy and energy efficiency objectives.

Include in the review the process regarding the proposed global targets on energy access and the phase-out subsidies.

In addition to the reviews on specific issues, there should be a review on which countries have completed their national Strategies on Sustainable Development, as all agreed to do so by 2005.