

ROUNDTABLE 3: 13/05/2010

Meeting the challenge of transportation needs in the 21st century

Statement by Minister Maria Teresa Mesquita Pessôa

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

In the context of growing motorization, sustainable development requires not just investment in transport infrastructure but also accelerated transition towards a low carbon transport system, which are significant challenges, especially for developing countries.

Different solutions, such as for example BRT will be essential in tackling these challenges. But, nevertheless, most of the alternative vehicle technologies are expensive and predominantly available in industrialized countries.

Thus, investment and policies regarding bio-fuels research, production and use are key measures to promoting sustainable development in developing countries.

Brazil's thirty-five years of experience in the production and use of bio-fuels is part of an array of policies to ensure the supply of sustainable energy in the long term. Research, production and commercialization of bio-fuels are part of that effort.

Flex-fuel technology is a significant evolution in this field and meets more than 50% of the energy needs of the national fleet of light vehicles.

When assessing the impact of the policies in the transport sector on sustainable development, the economic benefits and the social developments associated with the production and use of bio-fuels must be brought to mind. The production of biofuels could help diminish many countries' external dependence on oil supply and generate a new source of income for developing countries and their populations.

There is no doubt that the consolidation of a global market for biofuels would represent a great opportunity for developing nations to reinforce their economies and make progress in the path of sustainable development.

Brazil believes strongly in trilateral cooperation in the area of biofuels. Through the Memorandum of Understanding with the United States, we have not only put our scientists together and worked for the expansion of an international market for biofuels, but also supported a series of countries, such as the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis and Senegal.

Brazilian and American experts are handling feasibility studies taking into consideration the three pillars of sustainability for use, by those countries, in the drafting of their biofuels policies.

Thus, the promotion of research, production and use of biofuels stands as one of the best options available, especially for developing countries, in addressing the equation of transport and sustainable development.