

## **Australia statement on Energy**

Thank you Madam Chair

All governments are faced with the growing challenge of sustainably meeting the energy needs of their economies. Australia recognises that access to appropriate low cost and reliable energy technologies and services is necessary for achieving sustainable development. International policy on this point has been agreed in Agenda 21 in 1992, Rio+5 in 1997, CSD-9 in 2001, in Johannesburg in 2002, and at the World Summit in 2005.

The policy has been agreed, but practical implementation lags behind. There is no single solution to the challenge of providing access to low cost, clean energy services. All options, including renewables, cleaner fossil fuels and nuclear, must remain open. Individual countries must be able to tailor measures to suit their national geography, society and economy.

It is clear that the best route to energy security for both energy importing and energy exporting countries is through:

- Efficiently functioning markets
- Regulatory frameworks that ensure secure and predictable investment conditions and which promote the efficient allocation of resources, and
- Concerted action on the development of new clean low emissions technologies that enable the continued use of abundant and secure fossil fuels while meeting agreed climate change objectives and supporting economic growth.

The International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook issued late last year clearly shows that fossil fuels will remain the dominant source of energy to 2030.

Australia is pursuing a practical approach to drive the development and deployment of practical low emission technologies, including cleaner fossil fuels. We are doing this in partnership with international and regional partners. For example, the Asia- Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (AP6), brings together key developed and developing countries – Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and the US. In partnership with the private sector, these Governments are working on pro-growth, technology-driven solutions to climate change.

The APEC Energy Security Initiative (ESI), is another important forum for partnerships in energy management.

Australia is also focusing efforts on energy efficiency - achieving gains delivered at a net saving to the economy. Energy efficiency enhances not only energy security, but also reduces infrastructure outlays, improves the productivity of industries and lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

Most recently Australia has been active in working with other countries and multinational industry to establish agreed world best regulatory standards, under the banner of a community of practice. We will be sharing our experience on this issue at CSD 15.

Our experience suggests it is possible to reduce unintended trade barriers imposed by differing national and regional standards through such a community of practice approach. We would encourage other countries to maintain and enhance their energy efficiency efforts and consider undertaking similar initiatives.

Thank you.