



PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON THE
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

14th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14)
Statement by the Representative of the Dominican Republic

Date: 4 May 2006

Session: Thematic discussions: Promoting Industrial Development and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Delivered by: John R. Gagain Jr., Executive Director, Presidential Commission on the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development (COPDES)

www.copdes.gov.do

(English Text)

Mr. Chairman

I would like to congratulate you for your leadership during this session, as well as, relay our appreciation to all the panelists.

Mr. Chairman, you have asked us to reflect upon the constraints before us when considering the synergy between “industrial development” and the “sustainable management of natural resources”. First, simply the title of this session *“Promoting Industrial Development and Sustainable Natural Resource Management”* tends to instill a sense of doubt due to the fact that promoting both is not quite that easy because of the various challenges before us, particularly the lack of availability of financial resources, which hampers incentives to invest and investment in renewable energy technologies, making it difficult to meet the MDGs and promote industrial development.

As we have stated before Mr. Chairman, over 35% of our National Budget in the Dominican Republic is dedicated to financing energy, including the importation of 100% of combustibles; and over 30% of the National Budget is used for servicing our debt. Together, this accrues to over 65%, which does not even leave 35% for the key investments in health, education, environment, water, etc. that need to be made to achieve the MDGs.

Noting a lack of access to financial capital as our primary challenge, we would like to express that the horizon is not that grim, and that we have a very promising opportunity in the Dominican Republic. Mr. Chairman, we would like to associate our experience with the presentation of Dr. Vallampadugai Arunachalam, Chairman for the Study of Science and Technology Policy from India, who described the potential of Jatropha Curcas as a means of producing bio-fuels.

In the Dominican Republic, Jatropha Curcas is an endemic tree-plant that exists on the impoverished border community between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as well as, in some of the poorest provinces in the



PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON THE
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

14th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14)
Statement by the Representative of the Dominican Republic

Date: 4 May 2006

Session: Thematic discussions: Promoting Industrial Development and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Delivered by: John R. Gagain Jr., Executive Director, Presidential Commission on the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development (COPDES)

www.copdes.gov.do

central and eastern most side of the country. We have begun to work with and support private sector entities and civil society organizations that possess the special expertise of converting this tree-plant into bio-diesel.

We have also begun to integrate Jatropha Curcas bio-diesel and Ethanol production into local MDG Needs Assessments and Costing Analyses that will serve to ensure that renewable energy, especially bio-fuels, serve as a viable mechanism for eradicating poverty, (but also, and in accordance with the purpose of this session Mr. President) for combating deforestation, reversing desertification; protecting our ecosystem, freshwater, and natural resources, while simultaneously reducing our current 100% dependence on imported fuels for energy generation.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

(*Texto Español*)

Sr. Presidente,

Quisiera felicitarlo a usted por su liderazgo durante esta sesión, y de la misma manera transmitir nuestros sentimientos de aprecio a todos los panelistas.

Sr. Presidente, nos ha pedido que reflexionemos sobre las restricciones ante nosotros cuando consideramos la sinergia entre “desarrollo industrial” y el “manejo sostenible de los recursos naturales”. Primero, el simple título de esta sesión “*Promoviendo Desarrollo Industrial y Manejo Sostenible de los Recursos Naturales*”, tiende a inculcar un sentimiento de incertidumbre dado a que promover los dos no es tan fácil por los diferentes obstáculos que tenemos frente a nosotros, particularmente la falta de disponibilidad de recursos financieros, lo cual dificulta los incentivos a invertir y la inversión en tecnologías de energía renovable, haciendo mucho más difícil el alcanzar los ODM y la promoción del desarrollo industrial.



PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON THE
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

14th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14)
Statement by the Representative of the Dominican Republic

Date: 4 May 2006

Session: Thematic discussions: Promoting Industrial Development and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Delivered by: John R. Gagain Jr., Executive Director, Presidential Commission on the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development (COPDES)

www.copdes.gov.do

Como hemos dicho anteriormente, Sr. Presidente, más de un 35% del presupuesto nacional de la República Dominicana se encuentra destinado al financiamiento de la energía, incluyendo la importación del 100% de los combustibles; y más del 30% del presupuesto nacional se encuentra destinado al pago de la deuda externa. Juntos suman más de un 65%, dejando a duras penas un 35% para ser utilizado en inversiones claves en las áreas de salud, educación, medio ambiente, agua, etc. que deben hacerse para alcanzar los ODM.

Como obstáculo principal enfrentamos la falta de acceso a capital financiero. El futuro no es tan sombrío como parece, ya que tenemos oportunidades muy prometedoras en la República Dominicana. Sr. Presidente, nos gustaría asociar nuestra experiencia con la presentación del Dr. Vallampadugai Arunachalam, Director del Centro de Estudios de Políticas de Ciencia y Tecnología de la India, el cual describió el potencial de la planta Jatropha Curcas para producir bio-diesel.

En la República Dominicana, Jatropha Curcas es una planta endémica que crece en las empobrecidas comunidades cerca de la frontera con Haití, así como en algunas de las provincias pobres localizadas en el centro y este del país. Hemos comenzado a trabajar y apoyar con entidades del sector privado y organizaciones de la sociedad civil que poseen experiencia convirtiendo esta planta en bio-diesel.

También hemos comenzado a integrar el bio-diesel de Jatropha Curcas y la producción de etanol en la Evaluación de Necesidades y Costos de los ODM a nivel local, el cual servirá para asegurar que las energías renovables, en especial los biocombustibles, sirvan como un mecanismo viable para la erradicación de la pobreza, pero también, y en concordancia con el propósito de esta sesión Sr. Presidente, para combatir la deforestación, lucha contra la desertificación, proteger nuestro ecosistema, agua y recursos naturales, al mismo tiempo que reducir nuestra total dependencia en combustibles importados para la generación de energía.

Muchísimas gracias, Sr. Presidente.