

**COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
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**Inter-linkages between Climate Change and sustainable development**

- Climate change is a serious and long term challenge with the potential to affect every part of the globe. It has the potential to set back many years of international development and seriously undermine poverty reduction efforts. In some regions, climate change may prevent achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- We face a serious and linked challenge in tackling climate change and air pollution. The EU believes it is all but impossible for us to talk about these links without also talking about the links with energy and industrial development.
- We need to enhance synergies between and to take an integrated approach to climate change and energy objectives, recognising that strategies to invest worldwide in cleaner and more sustainable energy services can support a range of objectives, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the global environment, enhancing energy security and competitiveness and cutting air pollution. We need to do this in a way which supports our vigorous efforts to eradicate poverty.
- Education, as a cross-cutting tool, could support this integrated approach, focussing on substantial aspects as for example on energy saving and reduction of GHG emissions. Training and capacity building could support new skills and knowledge in terms of energy efficiency, e.g. young people at every stage of their education must be informed about the challenges of a sustainable energy policy. Therefore, countries are encouraged to include energy-related topics, in the context of sustainable development, in the education curricula.
- Work within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is key for limiting the impacts of green house gas emissions and climate change and consequently for global sustainable development. The EU is implementing its climate change commitments under the UNFCCC and strongly believes that climate friendly policies can be implemented in a cost-effective manner now and in the future, if we ensure a global response and use flexible mechanisms such as those provided for under the Kyoto Protocol.
- The Kyoto greenhouse gas reduction regime is vital for achieving our overall objectives in a viable global economic system. The costs of inaction and related effects on economies severely impact on developed and developing countries alike. In order to promote informed national decision-making processes and to build human and institutional capacities in partner countries for the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, the EU has developed an Action Plan on Climate Change and Development Cooperation.
- The global mean surface temperature should not increase beyond 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Recent scientific research and work under the IPCC indicate that

keeping this long-term temperature objective within reach will require global greenhouse gas emissions to peak within the next two decades, followed by substantial reductions in the order of at least 15% and perhaps by as much as 50% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.

- To achieve this, a joint global effort is required, with economically more developed countries taking the lead to significantly reduce global emissions of green house gases.
- Without prejudging new approaches for differentiation between Parties in a future fair and flexible framework, the EU believes that, in this context, reduction pathways for the group of developed countries in the order of 15-30% by 2020 compared to the base years used in the Kyoto Protocol, and by 2050, in the spirit of the Conclusions of the March 2005 (Environment) Council, should be considered.
- However, the developed countries that presently have commitments inscribed in Annex B and have ratified the Kyoto Protocol will not be able to combat climate change effectively on their own. These countries accounted for only about 30% of global emissions in the year 2000. Today's 25 Member States of the European Union accounted for 14% of global emissions in 2000. This share is expected to decrease substantially over the coming decades. A broader strategy for global measures, involving both developed and developing countries, is required. Such a strategy should include more research and innovation, energy policy reforms and the development and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.
- The EU believes that climate change and energy strategy development must be closely linked. A key priority for the EU is to give a firm signal about the medium and long term direction of EU policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the continuing role of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in delivering emissions cuts beyond 2012.
- We welcome the World Summit Outcome commitment to support developing country efforts to implement comprehensive national development strategies, which include sustainable natural resource management. It will be important for climate change, including mitigation and adaptation measures, to be integrated into these strategies
- This CSD cycle provides the opportunity for us to look at why we're not meeting this objective. It also provides an opportunity for us to agree what more needs to be done to implement our energy, climate change, air pollution and industrial development commitments in an integrated way which can lead us to our end goal of sustainable development
- Adaptive capacity resides in people's livelihood strategies and supporting policy, legal, institutional and organization context, and should, therefore, be built into the development process. This ensures that adaptation efforts are focused on reducing the risk of climate change impacts on a country's national development priorities, as set out in their Poverty Reduction Strategy or equivalent.

- This mainstreaming of climate risks into national development policies ensures consistency between adaptation and national development objectives such as poverty eradication. Separation of the two runs the risk of adaptation policies inadvertently conflicting with development and poverty policies, or conversely, development policies inadvertently increasing vulnerability to climatic conditions. Appropriate entry points for integrating adaptation to climate variability and climate change into development co-operation activities need to be identified, including in country assistance strategies, sectoral policy frameworks, Poverty Reduction Strategies, long-term investment plans, technical consultations and sector reviews, as well as strategic and project-level environmental impact assessments.
- Both adaptation and greenhouse gas emissions mitigation are required to respond to climate change. These measures are needed within both developed and developing countries, consistent with the ultimate objective and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

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