

Statement by S&T Community  
CSD-15 (May 10)

Scientists, engineers, and technology innovators consider sustainable energy to be essential for sustainable development. Meeting the world's growing energy demands requires the use of all feasible energy resources. At the same time, addressing the challenge of climate change will require a transition to a low-carbon emission economy.

A critically important point, for all to understand, is that the goal of securing sustainable energy on a global scale, will only be met if there is strong, sustained support for research and development efforts, aimed at bringing new, affordable energy technologies to the market.

The optimal energy mix for any country will depend on many criteria, including the local resource base and socio-economic context. Thus, each country must explore a diverse portfolio of options, including energy efficiency, advanced renewable energy systems, cleaner fossil fuels, carbon sequestration, and advanced safe nuclear energy systems.

The scientific findings are clear: The IPCC confirmed that climate change is largely due to human activities, and observational evidence now shows that many natural systems are already being affected by climate changes. We have a short window of opportunity to limit global warming to less than 2°C, which most scientists consider the limit for keeping climate change from becoming a global catastrophe with huge socio-economic costs, and with developing countries being the most vulnerable to harmful impacts.

More research on understanding climate changes and impacts at regional and local levels, and strengthening of global observing systems, are urgently required. There is also a great urgency to adopt policies and to implement measures in both mitigation and adaptation. Adaptation measures must be pursued in both developing and developed countries, in order to reduce the harm from unavoidable climate change -- measures such as finding solutions for low-lying coastal areas and adjusting agricultural practices to changing climatological patterns. Likewise, adaptation of the world's infrastructure is necessary, to withstand the impacts of extreme weather events resulting from climate change.

The North-South gap in science and technology capacity continues to widen. Governments concerned in the developing world should increase public investments in education and research and development efforts. North-South and South-South S&T cooperation, as well as private-public S&T partnerships, should be enhanced significantly.

Strengthening science, engineering, and technology is also a foundation for industrial development. However, making industrial development truly clean and sustainable can, in many contexts pose a significant added financial burden. Developing countries should receive enhanced support from developed countries, for their efforts to make recycling and reuse of resources normal practice, as well as for enhancing energy efficiency in the industrial sector.

As for air pollution, it makes sense to pursue strategies to simultaneously meet air quality control and greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. This goal will be aided by active dissemination of integrated atmospheric modeling tools, advanced air quality monitoring and pollution prevention technologies, and information on best practices in air quality management.

The Scientific and Technological Community is fully committed to work with all stakeholders concerned in addressing these pressing problems of sustainable development.