

POSITION PAPER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The topics before the Sustainable Development Committee are: Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development; Implementing the Concept of Green Growth; Implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. India is open for multinational discussions about the implementation of different concepts of sustainable development.

I. Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

India takes note of the in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro revealed agenda 21 for sustainable development and its explicit chapter XIV of promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. We recognize the endeavors of implementing new concepts of sustainable agriculture. As the second largest producer of Rice and Wheat India is well conscious of its leading role and its responsibility for coming generations especially with an annual population growth rate of about 1.55 percent means 18 million people. Furthermore it is to say that 60 percent of the population is working in the agricultural sector. We know that changes in climate are indispensable. That is why the government of India released a National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008. The NAPCC supports climate adaptation in agriculture by developing climate-resilient crops, expansion of weather insurance mechanisms, and agricultural practices. With this plan we plan to do our contribution on agricultural changes. According to the Agenda 21 Section II.14.3 the priority must be on maintaining and improving the capacity of the higher potential agricultural lands to support an expanding population. Therefore we have already begun to establish successfully biogas digesters to replace traditional oil by decomposing organic waste, such as animal and vegetable waste. Nevertheless we would like to remind that India is still listed as a developing country and high cutting changes can lead to a dangerous drop of economical growth. We hope that developed countries will have sympathy for not being in the position to fully adapt agenda 21. We would like to add that our rice and wheat production is mainly for our own need and mostly not exported.

II. Implementing the Concept of Green Growth

India appreciates the plan of green growth. As a country strongly dependant on agriculture and therefore on its own mineral resources we know that it is inevitable to take effective measures on our agricultural system. According to document A/42/427 (Development and International Co-operation: Environment) chapter 17.V.77. Solar energy use is small globally, but it is beginning to assume an important place in the energy consumption patterns of some countries. That is why we also began to use our natural advantages, such as sun power. With over 360 days of sun each year we attempt to use this natural power by set up solar equipment. Solar power use is already highly increasing, whether on rural areas to ensure electricity 24/7 and charging mobiles or even for hospitals in city centers to warm up water. With this progress experts expect India to emerge as the fourth largest generator of solar energy in coming after Germany, Japan and China. Nevertheless techniques like them are still dependant on nature and many solar equipment can not work during monsoon times and does replace just up to a certain extend. So the challenge maintains to fully adapt new technologies to enable in the future even isolated villages electricity without a landline.

Another plan to use natural resources is wind craft. One of the biggest wind farms in the world is Tamil Nadu in Muppandal in the southern tip of India. Muppandal hosts today 3500 wind turbines, with a generating capacity of 16.000 MW for electricity to more than a million homes. The turbines have enabled to use less coal.

In total, the solar equipment, the wind farms and the biomass diverters as well have all contributed to develop infrastructure, access to electricity and improve living standards all across the country.

III. Implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in Africa

India fully supports the Johannesburg Plan. We believe that the rising poverty, mostly in Africa and Asia must be combated as soon as possible. We especially base our hope on a world solidarity fund, mentioned in the Charta in II.7(b). To effectively fight against poverty it is necessary that developing countries like India can trust on international co-operative efforts and a faithful implementation of the summit to guarantee a fast economical growth. We think that it is a matter of global interest and not just of single nations who are not able to get out of poverty by themselves.

India believes that global trade plays a key role to accelerate developing nations' independency. In Chapter II. Power eradication, 9.(a) it is clearly said that one of the goals of the plan is to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources, taking into account national specificities and circumstances. As India still faces immense problems in electricity supply, in particular on the landside, developing new electricity sources is one of our main concerns. That is why also a free nuclear access would be of great interest of India to build nuclear power stations.