

Report of panel discussions during the high-level segment

Panel 3: "Technology and climate change"

Thursday, 16 December 2004

Moderator:

H.E. Mr. Eduardo Campos

Minister of Science and Technology (Brazil)

Mister President,

Science and Technology Minister Eduardo Campos, who chaired Thursday afternoon's panel on Technology Transfer, has asked me to report on his behalf on the conclusions reached on that occasion, as he had to go back to Brazil on urgent official business. Minister Campos wishes to convey to you and all of the panelists and participants his deep appreciation for having had the opportunity to moderate a rich discussion on such an important and timely issue under the UNFCCC here at COP 10.

Thursday's dialogue offered an excellent opportunity to reflect on the central role that environmentally sound technologies (ESTs), both for mitigation and adaptation, can play in achieving the ultimate objectives of the Convention, as well as contributing towards sustainable development, social inclusion and poverty reduction.

Among the ideas presented throughout the debate, I would like to highlight the following:

- Several Parties indicated that the expectations of developing countries of accessing the appropriate technologies have not been adequately met in the first ten years of the Convention. It was observed that although technology transfer is essential for developing countries to meet their commitments under the Convention, until now it has happened only sporadically.
- The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol in February 2005 is an important step for the beginning of a new era in the dissemination of ESTs, since it offers the opportunity for broader interaction among economic actors through the CDM. Other opportunities such as Joint Implementation were also mentioned.
- The adoption of new ESTs is not limited to the fight against climate change. Several of these technologies are already available, for example in the area of energy efficiency and renewables, the challenge before us is to make these technologies available to all Parties.
- Innovative technologies such as hydrogen and capture and storage of CO₂ have a considerable potential to contribute to combating climate change.
- The promotion of collaborative research and development projects and joint ventures between developed and developing countries contributes overall to disseminating ESTs.
- The participation of the private sector by means of an intelligent combination of regulation and incentives can be an important factor for the success of this effort, and it should be encouraged and supported by governments. The importance of innovation and the search for market solutions was also stressed.

- An ideal cooperation model under the Convention should consist of building partnerships that bring together the skills, experiences and potentialities both in developed and developing countries in a balanced and complementary manner
- Capacity building, institutional development and access to information were mentioned as key components of successful technology transfer initiatives, together with the creation of appropriate financing and development mechanisms. The provision of these components depends on the political determination of the Parties to work together for the implementation of the existing commitments also through establishing appropriate institutional arrangements.
- The work of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT), established under the UNFCCC, was mentioned as a positive contribution to this process. The EGTT was encouraged to continue in its important work.
- We were also informed, Mr. President, on the initiatives and policies that many countries are undertaking. While recognizing these as a positive step, some delegations expressed the view that more effective actions from governments are needed for the implementation of the commitments provided for in the Convention.

In essence, a clear message emerged from the debate: our governments need to dedicate more efforts to the implementation of technology transfer commitments contained in the Convention so as to ensure the success of the international climate change regime as a whole.

Thank you.