

LAS/ANS SYMPOSIUM Buenos Aires June 2006
ENERGY CRISIS IN LATIN AMERICA AND NUCLEAR POWER

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND NUCLEAR POWER

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CSD-14

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) of the United Nations met in May 2006. The CSD-14 session focused on progress in the following areas:

- Energy for Sustainable Development;**
- Industrial Development;**
- Air Pollution/Atmosphere; and**
- Climate Change**

MAJOR GROUPS

Non-governmental groups have been given important roles to play as partners in sustainable development with the overall purpose of informing the Commission's decision-making processes.

Agenda 21 recognizes the following nine major groups of civil society:

- **Business & Industry**
- **Children & Youth**
- **Farmers**
- **Indigenous People**
- **Local Authorities**
- **NGOs**
- **Scientific & Technological Communities**
- **Women**
- **Workers & Trade Unions**

NUCLEAR POWER & MAJOR GROUPS

The Scientific and Technological Communities, which includes, among others, scientists, engineers, and policy makers stressed the eminently technical nature of the issues discussed that required a serious observance of scientific principles and engineering criteria, when searching for solutions of sustainability and development, namely within the context of nuclear energy.

Among several Major Groups, namely Children & Youth, Indigenous People, NGOs and Women, there is a strong vocal opposition to nuclear energy as a sustainable option. This opposition is not based on scientific grounds, but on ideals and beliefs that solutions excluding nuclear will be found for meeting the needs of sustainable energy to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

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CSD-14 MAIN ISSUES AND PROPOSITIONS
Sustainable Energy

- **The transition to cleaner energy technologies at affordable cost remains essential. Global energy needs are so large and energy prices so volatile that all energy options will need to be explored.**
- **A judicious mix of energy from all sources will be needed with advanced, cleaner fossil fuel technologies playing an important role.**
- **The importance of developing renewable sources of energy was highlighted, but it will be some time before renewable energy sources are able to deliver the large amounts of energy required for bulk energy needs for most countries.**

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- **Energy efficiency is to be considered indispensable to enhancing industrial development. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, behaviors and life styles within developed countries is a pressing goal.**
- **Nuclear energy was identified as a GHG-free supply option. The challenge lies in ensuring environmentally sound, socially acceptable and cost effective solutions, and in properly addressing nuclear safety, spent fuel and waste management as well as public concerns.**
- **Improving and simplifying CDM procedures could help to address community energy and sustainable development needs.**

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CSD-14 MAIN ISSUES AND PROPOSITIONS
Climate Change/Atmospheric Pollution

- **Rapid and more frequent climatic changes are now becoming increasingly apparent to most countries, and the next 5 to 20 years are expected to show more examples of adverse impacts, while current investments to mitigate the causes are said to be negligible.**
- **Cleaner energy technologies and renewable energy were emphasized for addressing the serious problem of urban air pollution, as well as problems of climate change.**

CONCLUSIONS

According to CSD-14:

- Energy security depends on the stability of supply, demand and pricing.**
- All available energy sources, if feasible, need to be considered in the quest for sustainable development provided they use technologies that**
 - in the case of fossil fuels, substantially reduce GHG emissions or are associated with carbon sequestration, or**
 - in the case of nuclear power, confine and control radioactive waste, and ensure highest state-of-the-art standards of safety and non-proliferation of nuclear weapon-grade materials, or**
 - in the case of hydropower, assure compromise designs for agricultural land usage and population displacement.**

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- **There is an urgent need to stabilize greenhouse gas concentration by requiring emissions to be only a fraction of today's levels, since a number of thresholds now being approached are likely to be dangerous in terms of ice-cap melting and global rise of sea level.**
- **Nuclear energy was identified as a GHG-free supply option.**