

ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

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European Union's Initiative: Building a Global Climate Change Alliance

The European Union (EU) has taken a leadership role in promoting international action to tackle climate change. In March 2007 EU Heads of State and Government put forward proposals for a global and comprehensive post-2012 climate change agreement to limit global warming to 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and committing to significant cuts in the EU's GHG emissions, even in the absence of an international agreement.

EU proposes to establish a Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) between the EU and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, in particular the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The recent projections of the effects of climate change show that the LDCs and SIDS will be hit earliest and hardest. Moreover, these countries have the fewest resources to prepare for these alterations, and to adapt their way of life. In most cases, climate change superimposes itself on existing vulnerabilities. Climate change is therefore likely to further delay the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in many of these countries.

The proposed Alliance will provide for a platform for dialogue and exchange as well as practical cooperation to tackle the combined challenge of the fight against poverty and climate change, in support of the international negotiations on a post-2012 climate change agreement and the adoption of effective action at national level.

The overall objective of the Alliance will help to ensure that poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, in particular the LDCs and SIDS, increase their capacities to adapt to the effects of climate change, in support of the achievement of the MDGs by fostering effective dialogue and cooperation on climate change. Where it benefits their poverty reduction objectives, the Alliance will also help such countries to participate in the global climate change mitigation effort, even if, as in the case of LDCs, they will not be required to make emission reduction commitments under a post-2012 agreement.

The GCCA will provide for a platform for dialogue and exchange among the EU and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, in particular the LDCs and SIDS, on practical approaches to realizing the integration of development strategies and climate change. The results of this dialogue and exchange will feed into the development of a post-2012 climate agreement, supporting the converging of visions for the agreement between Europe and developing countries.

The GCCA is strictly complementary to and supportive of the ongoing process within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. The EU believes that establishing a forum for the exchange of views and experiences with LDCs and SIDS outside the negotiating context will help to advance the implementation of the UNFCCC and related agreements. Participation in the GCCA is intended for those countries effectively committed to taking measures to respond to climate change.

Beyond dialogue and exchange, the GCCA will provide technical and financial support for adaptation and mitigation measures, and for the integration of climate change into development strategies. Five priority areas and related actions are proposed under the Alliance. These will have to be further discussed and refined in the GCCA dialogue.

1. Adaptation to Climate Change

Objective: To help developing countries improve their knowledge base on the effects of climate change, to develop and implement adaptation strategies.

2. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation

Objective: To decrease CO₂ emissions from deforestation in developing countries, by creating economic incentives for forest protection, while preserving livelihoods and ecosystems depending on forests.

3. Enhancing Participation in the Clean Development Mechanism

Objective: To help developing countries to participate in and benefit from the global carbon market, through the Clean Development Mechanism.

4. Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Objective: To improve the preparedness of developing countries and societies for climate-related natural disasters, and to mitigate the risks and limit their impact.

5. Integrating Climate Change into Poverty Reduction Efforts

Objective: To assist developing countries in systematically integrating climate change into development strategies and investments, and to systematically integrate climate change into development cooperation.

The European Commission is planning to mobilize substantial resources to implement the GCCA in the priority areas proposed above. The Thematic Programme "Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including Energy" (ENRTP) will be the key delivery instrument for the GCCA. €50 million of additional resources have been included into the ENRTP and specifically earmarked for the GCCA over the period 2008-2010. Other ENRTP funds that can contribute to the aims of the GCCA include parts of: the €25 million under the heading of the EU Action Plan on Climate Change and Development and the Communication *Limiting Global Climate Change to 2° Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond*; and the €70 million under the forest heading.

In addition to ENRTP funding, the EC will explore avenues of complementary support through geographic programmes. As regards the 10th European Development Fund (EDF), in addition to country and regional envelopes that may contribute to the GCCA, the following indicative amounts have been proposed for programmes covering all ACP countries: €100 million for climate change and the environment; €100 million for Disaster Risk Reduction. For Asia, Latin America and other regions covered by the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), possibilities to complement the aims of the GCCA will also be assessed.

The Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) between the EU and poor developing countries will be certainly an opportunity for the LDCs and SIDS to averting climate change risks and promoting sustainable development. It is expected that Bangladesh will be benefited from GCCA dialogue, exchange and cooperation in 5 areas by playing a proactive role to address the climate change vulnerability and also mitigating Green House Gases (GHGs).

Target to Cover 60 Percentage Population under Electricity by 2010

The newly formed Advisory Committee on Power has targeted to ensure access of electricity to about 60 percent population by 2010. The 17-member Advisory Committee headed by Power and Energy Adviser and participants from the civil society, power experts, business leaders and power and energy officials has discussed the power situation in their first meeting on 24 October 2007.

This decision has been taken along with the Government earlier vision 'Electricity for All by 2020'. According to the official estimation of the government, around 42 percent people of the country have access to the electricity, although it is generally believed that the actual figure is much lower than 42 percent. The areas which are covered under electrification are suffering the acute electricity crisis especially during summer and presently the daily power shortage is around 1,000 MW.

It has been informed in the meeting that additional 1,093 MW electricity will be added to the national grid from a number of new power plants including small independent power plants and rental power plants. The total electricity generation in the country would be around 5,000 MW by then. With the continued efforts of the Caretaker Government, contracts for new power plants with a combined capacity of 1,470 MW in the public sector and 1,350 MW in the private sector will be finalized soon. These power plants will come into operation by 2010-2011, increasing the total power generation in the country to 8,000 MW. Through this new generation and expansion of national grid, the Power Division is predicting that 60 percent of the population would get access to electricity by 2010.



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