

Statement to the Commission on Sustainable Development

**Statement by
Representative of Canada
to the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the fifteenth session of
the Commission on Sustainable Development
on energy for sustainable development**

New York, February 27, 2007

Energy is a longstanding pillar of the Canadian economy. We, as in the case of many other countries, continue to face the challenge, yet recognize the importance, of the sustainable development of our abundant energy resources. Canada's energy policy is based on freely functioning markets and providing an enabling environment for investments. The Government of Canada works with provinces, industry, and civil society to create a balanced approach between meeting our energy demands and minimizing environmental impacts on air, water, land, and climate.

Technology will be key to achieving sustainable development of our energy resources. To further accelerate the development and market-readiness of technology solutions in clean energy, the Canadian Government's technology priorities include carbon dioxide sequestration, clean coal, cleaner oil sands production and renewable energy. As well, Canada will continue to strive to accelerate the development and commercialization of innovative energy technologies through our international technology partnerships, (e.g. the International Energy Agency (IEA), Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF), Methane to Markets, and Generation IV (Gen IV)).

Synergies and momentum are building in the international community around the issues of clean energy technologies to address climate change. The work of the UNFCCC's Expert Group on Technology Transfer in addressing issues and barriers related to technology transfer can contribute significantly to enhancing discussions on enabling environments for the financing, development and deployment of clean energy technologies. Canada believes that the removal of barriers, such as inconsistently applied and unclear regulatory and legal frameworks, will help to create the right enabling environment for investment in technologies, mobilize private and public sector investment and ensure the deployment of cleaner energy technology. The appropriate capacity building in recipient markets is another key to future success.

Finally, one of the largest untapped sources of energy for all countries is the energy we waste, so it is imperative that we continue to take action on energy efficiency and encourage conservation. Improving energy efficiency reduces GHG emissions, benefits the economy and contributes to energy security.

Canada will pursue initiatives that focus on assisting homeowners, small businesses, and industry in making energy efficiency improvements, and improving information sharing processes for industry. Canada will also work towards strengthening energy efficiency standards and labeling requirements for commercial products as well as regulating the fuel consumption of motor vehicles.

Canada continues to make a concerted effort to ensure sustainable development of our energy resources in a manner that reflects economic, social, and environmental considerations. We will continue to push the boundaries of clean energy technology development, as well as further exploitation of renewable energy and energy efficiency gains. Governments need to continue to work together to share experiences on energy efficiency efforts and successes. We must continue to work closely together to advance technology developments that can reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and enable the transition to less GHG-intensive energy sources.