

## **Intervention in RPM 1 December 2011 on Green Economy, parallel round-table session 2, on behalf of ICCA (International Chemicals Association)**

Firstly, the involvement and contribution of business and industry is a condition for successful transition to a Green Economy. B&I via its companies and associations stand ready to support, build and accelerate cooperative initiatives to achieve the objectives of SD.

However, Governments have to provide the enabling environment necessary to accelerate and intensify the practice of corporate sustainability so that business can fully contribute to sustainable development.

As have been said before, one size does not fit all but we need a balanced mix of policies: a stable, fair and non-distortive regulatory framework, economic instruments that gives incentives to sustainable practices and frameworks that enables (all kinds of) partnerships. Open, non-discriminatory trade is indispensable for growing a green economy

The policy mix needs to support Social, Environmental and Economic innovation.

On the social side we need to raise the awareness and understanding of Sustainable Development generally. Education and training is paramount for making Green Economy operational and for a smooth transition. Employment is of course the critical element but policies aimed at creating so called “green jobs” should not come at the cost of a net reduction of jobs across the overall economy. It is crucial to green all sectors, for examples to advance resource efficiency and life cycle approaches.

This brings me to the main issues in Environmental innovation. Resource efficiency is crucial in enhancing sustainable use of scarce resources. The finite resources must be managed well. Policies driving and enabling innovation are key here. There should be a central focus on innovation and of policy frameworks to facilitate the production, diffusion and deployment of products and technologies that enhance sustainable outcomes (e.g. tax incentives for R&D).

On the side of Economic innovation, we also need supporting policies and regulatory frameworks that promote informed investment decisions for both public and private investors providing access to financing for companies. We need good governance including access to open, well-functioning and efficient markets. For a Green Economy to be operational we need indicators, metrics, accounting measures etc. to be developed that make sense in economic terms while ultimately includes the cost for externalities.

Economic growth is critical to solving social and environmental problems. Policy frameworks need to be clear, stable and predictable to foster innovation-led green growth and development

Finally, we need collaboration. Nobody can do all this on its own. As said, business and industry are willing to collaborate. New and inventive ways of collaboration are necessary, between industry and governments, within business and industry and with civil society.

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