

**“Dialogue between NGOs/Civil Society and GBEP”**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development**  
**New York, UN Building, Conference Room E**  
**7 May 2007 - 15:00-17:00**

The Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) is organising a dialogue with NGOs/civil society on 7 May 2007, engaging key civil society stakeholders in the bioenergy field, on the occasion of the "Commission on Sustainable Development" that will take place in New York from 30 April to 11 May 2007.

The Global Bioenergy Partnership allows Partners to share expertise, results and resources to promote bioenergy for sustainable development and to achieve a greater impact at national, regional and global level. GBEP places high importance on the collaboration with civil society stakeholders.

The dialogue is organised to brief leading NGO/civil society representatives about the current and planned activity of the Partnership, and to learn how GBEP can best engage civil society stakeholders in its activities. Further, the dialogue is an invitation to NGOs/civil society to highlight issues perceived to be of particular importance to the sustainable development of bioenergy, and to suggest how the Partnership can reflect these matters in its future activities.

### **GUIDING QUESTIONS**

#### **Civil Society/NGOs – Fora/Institutions for interaction/Collaboration?**

Which international civil society associations are actively contributing to the debate on the development of the bioenergy market? How do these associations interact with public decision-makers?

#### **Sustainability - economic, environmental and social (including food security)**

How can we ensure environmental security of bioenergy avoiding a conflict between food security and energy security and taking into account social impacts of investments?  
What role for voluntary or binding sustainability criteria/certification?

#### **Trade**

Are there specific trade restrictions/barriers to trade which currently hinder a profitable development of bioenergy? What should be the key barriers to dismantle in order to facilitate trade and bioenergy development? How can sustainability criteria/certification best be established/implemented without creating unnecessary obstacles to trade?

#### **Information gaps**

What are the key information needs for a sustainable development of the bioenergy sector? What role for an international partnership in making available specific information?