

**“GLOBE Brasilia Legislators Forum
of the G8 +5 Climate Change Dialogue”
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High level session on biofuels**

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here on behalf of Mr Corrado Clini, Chair of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP), and to participate in this high level discussion on biofuels. I would like to thank the President of Globe International and the Brazilian co-hosts of this important meeting for the invitation and for welcoming us in Brasilia.

Bioenergy is rapidly emerging as a top priority on the international agenda as countries face the triple challenges of ensuring food security, energy security and sustainable development. Scarce natural resources must be managed responsibly to meet these goals and to ensure that one is not attained at the expense of another.

The Global Bioenergy Partnership is an international initiative built upon the commitment to promote bioenergy for energy security, food security and sustainable development. Established to implement the commitments taken by the G8 +5 Countries in the 2005 G8 Summit in Gleneagles, GBEP was recently invited by the 2007 G8 Summit in Heiligendamm to “continue its work on biofuels best practices and take forward the successful and sustainable development of bioenergy”.

More than 20 Partners, representing most of the G8 +5 Countries, International Organizations, NGOs and business associations, agreed to work together in this Partnership to promote bioenergy for sustainable development. GBEP provides a framework to enhance coordination and development of bioenergy activities at an international level, facilitate multi-stakeholder involvement, and foster capacity building and technology transfer.

GBEP promotes sharing of knowledge, technologies and skills between stakeholders and countries in all directions – North-North, North-South, South-North and South-South - and we are therefore particularly delighted to be here today to offer our support and collaboration to this important forum towards the forthcoming G8 Summit in Japan.

I believe that today's high level session on biofuels is an excellent example of concrete willingness to work together in partnership to further the global goal of sustainable energy development.

Bioenergy is a clean source of energy and can contribute to sustainable development. As a low carbon or carbon-neutral source of energy, bioenergy can contribute to climate change mitigation by contributing to replace fossil fuels and through carbon sequestration in plants and soils in perennial energy plantations. Furthermore, perennial bioenergy cropping systems can help stabilise soils and reduce land degradation. Bioenergy feedstocks also present an opportunity for diversification of agricultural production at the large and small-scale levels.

Biofuels production and use is increasing inexorably all over the world and, although priorities may vary, its reasons are shared by most countries:

- first of all, **rising oil prices** and the concentration of supply force countries to look for alternative fuels and to diversify energy suppliers;
- secondly, biofuels can play a role in **rural development**, providing energy access to remote communities and creating new employment opportunities;
- last but certainly not least, **climate change**, is one of the main driving forces to replace fossil energy sources and to mitigate CO2 emissions as well as to contribute by responding to the increasing global energy demand.

However, we are aware that fast-growing supply and demand for bioenergy could also bear risks. Rising demand for bioenergy has already caused a surge in the use of grain and other food crops for energy, pushing up the price of staple foods and affecting food security. Bioenergy also poses environmental challenges, for instance where increasing mono-cropping practices and greater fertiliser and pesticide use may jeopardise water and soil quality over time, and threaten biodiversity.

In this respect, we consider sustainability a key element and it is wise to put in place the necessary safeguards to ensure sustainable management of the entire production chain – feedstock production, processing and use of biofuels. Therefore, life cycle analysis, labelling and “certification of origin” of biofuels should be discussed internationally and introduced into the global energy market. Labeling and certification could be used to ensure sustainable development, environmental gains and promote social equity. At the same time, sustainability criteria should not represent way to the introduction of unnecessary trade barriers and protectionism against developing countries export opportunities.

GBEP is already looking into the harmonization of methodologies to measure Greenhouse Gas (GHG) impacts of biofuels used for transportation. A specific Task Force

was established to define a minimum set of recommended parameters and inputs to be considered when conducting a GHG lifecycle analysis for any type of transport biofuel and to set a good practice guidance document for policy makers by early 2009.

Moreover, in November 2007 the Global Bioenergy Partnership issued its first official report providing an overview of current bioenergy policies, data and best practices in G8 +5 Countries. The report gives an overview of current policy framework governing sustainability concerns in bioenergy development. This overview is not only helping Partners to identify common ground in policy priorities and concerns and where there are opportunities for international cooperation, but it is also providing an important summary of the “state of play” in some of the largest markets for bioenergy. On the basis of inputs contained in this GBEP Report, Partners agreed to discuss sustainability principles of bioenergy development as well as to facilitate collaboration on bioenergy field projects. Exchanging information on best practices and collaborating on field projects has been recognized to facilitate the sustainable development of bioenergy.

A lot has been done, but an enormous amount of work awaits to develop, disseminate and implement sustainable development of bioenergy. We believe that the forthcoming G8 Summit, under the able Presidency of the Government of Japan, could play a crucial role in addressing biofuels as a top priority

The time to act on this issue is now and GBEP is ready to respond to a new, strong mandate from the forthcoming G8 +5 Summit.

I wish you a fruitful and successful session

Thank you.