

International Policy Dialogue A Global Green New Deal

24.-25. November 2009

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin

Hiroshimastr. 17, 10785 Berlin

The search for a sustainable climate and energy policy has been on top of the international agenda for some time. The sharp increase of global fossil energy consumption, the volatility of commodity prices and the foreseeable end of fossil fuels reserves are vital questions for many societies. Ever since the Report of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) has been published, the devastating effects of climate change on specific countries are common knowledge. Approaches to tackle these challenges – sustainable energy paths, and significant emission cuts – are widely known.

Still, only a few countries are on a trajectory towards sustainable energy paths and low-carbon growth. As a result, climate change negotiations have largely been stalled, and political steering towards low-carbon and resource efficient growth remains lackluster. Clash of interests between industrial, emerging and developing countries point to competing final goals: sustainable energy supply and climate protection on the one side versus development and economic growth on the other.

The financial and economic crises have changed this debate in several ways. On the national level, the buzzword of „green recovery“ nurtured hopes that the vast resources necessary to revive economies could better be used for sustainable restructuring rather than perpetuating obsolete structures. “Green recovery” can be defined in different ways, but in most cases describes a win-win situation: substantial investments into efficient and sustainable energy structures, green-tech industries and technologies to cut emissions would not only fight the recession, but also enhance energy security, mitigate climate change, and prepare developed economies for the global division of labor in the 21st Century.

On the global level, the pressing economic problems have pushed climate and energy policy from the top of the agenda. However, the global crises also offers a chance for a *Global Green New Deal*. Such a „*Green Marshall Plan*“ aims at a global stimulus package that eases the impact of the global economic crisis and at the same time sets course for sustainable and efficient energy systems in developed and developing countries. Under a *Global Green New Deal*, industrial countries can effectively counter the rise of carbon emissions and energy consumption by investing significant resources in efficient energy systems of developing countries, and, at the same time, generate demand for their own nascent green industries. To emerging countries, the transfer of low-emission technologies and foreign investment in efficient energy systems offer improved energy security and an easing of growing environmental problems. Combined with their own interest in mitigating climate change and the global economic crisis, a *Global Green New Deal* could be in the interest of North and South.

Together with policy makers and experts from industrial and emerging countries, we aim to identify obstacles and common interests and explore what kind of incentives need to be set up to facilitate a *Global Green New Deal*. This dialogue is part of a series of international policy dialogues on climate and energy policy facilitated by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. In 2009, conferences have been held in Beijing on renewable energies and energy efficiency, in Lausanne on Trade and Climate Change and in Brussels on nuclear energy and proliferation risks.

Draft Program

Tuesday, Nov 24: Public Panel Discussion

6:00 pm **Welcome Address**

Christiane Kesper, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

6:10 pm **Green Recovery: Laying the foundation for sustainable growth**

How can we set course for sustainable growth under the conditions of climate change and the foreseeable end of fossil energy? How can economies be prepared for the global division of labor in the 21st century?

Chair: **Hans Eichel**, Former Federal Finance Minister, Germany

- **Matthias Machnig**, Minister for Economy, Labor and Technology of the Federal State Thuringia, Germany
- **Alejandro Encinas**, Chairman of PRD parliamentary group, Mexico (tbc)
- **Kirit S. Parikh**, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India.
- **Xia Kunbao**, Member of the Board of Directors, All-China Environment Federation

8:00 pm **Reception**

Wednesday, Nov 25: International Policy Dialogue „A Global Green New Deal“

- 10:00 am **Welcome Address**
Jürgen Stetten, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
- 10:15 am **Panel I: A Green Marshall Plan as a global stimulus package?**
 Are considerable investment into energy efficiency of the Global South adequate to ease the global economic crisis? Are the necessary resources available under the conditions of the financial crisis and credit crunch? Are investments into energy and resource efficiency of emerging countries a way to drive demand for the nascent green industries in developed countries?
Chair: Marc Saxer, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
- **Zeinab Safar**, MoP, Egypt
 - **Jorge Viana**, former governor of Acre, Brazil
 - N.N., South Africa
- 11:00 am *Discussion*
- 12:00 am **Lunch**
- 1:00 pm **Panel II: Green Industrial Policy or Green Protectionism?**
 Do the economic, climate and energy crises open a window of opportunity for accelerated development of green industries and technologies? Are standards and labels, subsidies or border adjustment measures necessary to propel nascent green industries or a pretext for a “new green protectionism”?
Chair: Aaron Best, ECOLOGIC Institute, Berlin
- **Natalia Piskulova**, MGIMO, Russia
 - **Xia Kunbao**, Member of the Board of Directors, All-China Environment Federation, China
 - **Richard Campbell**, Congressional Research Service, Energy/Climate Research Division
- 1:40 pm *Discussion*
- 2:40 pm **Tea break**
- 3:00 pm **Panel III: Global Green New Deal: Utopian buzzword or realistic win-win?**
 Can developed countries be won for a Green Marshall Plan that would push its nascent green industries and help to develop green foreign markets? Would emerging countries settle for emission cuts enabled by foreign investment in energy efficiency and transfer of low-carbon technologies? Which economic and geopolitical obstacles run counter to such a deal? How does the financial crisis affect perspectives and interests?
Chair: Dagmar Dehmer, Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin
- **Ulrich Kelber**, MoP, Deputy Chair, SPD-Parliamentary Group, Germany
 - **Alejandro Encinas**, Chairman of PRD parliamentary group, Mexico (tbc)
 - **Kirit S. Parikh**, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India
 - **Poul Nyrup Rasmussen**, Chair, Party of European Socialists (tbc).
- 3:30 pm *Discussion*
- 5:00 pm **End**
The conference will be held in English. Translation will be available for Portuguese and German.