

**G8 Conference on the  
Role of Foreign Policy in Guaranteeing a Secure Energy Supply  
and Protecting the Global Climate  
*3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007, Berlin***

**Chair's Summary**

Ministers and high ranking representatives of the G8 countries, the European Union and Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa met on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 in Berlin to discuss the possible contribution of foreign policy in guaranteeing a secure energy supply and protecting the global climate.

Participants agreed that a secure energy supply and the protection of the global climate are closely linked to each other. It is therefore important to address this issue through integrated policies.

On the basis of the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it was understood that climate change is one of the greatest global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It needs to be addressed globally, with a particular sense of urgency.

Climate change is not only an environmental issue, it has fundamental consequences for the world economy, for social development and political stability. Climate change has the potential to undermine governments' ability to secure national, and by consequence, international peace and security. Therefore, countries acknowledged that it is one central issue to be considered in foreign policy.

Concrete steps to incorporate climate change issues in our foreign policies were discussed. Such steps could include preventive measures that address the impacts of climate change, the collection of improved data about the impact of climate change on conflict-prone areas, the establishment of early warning systems and the active development of strategies to relieve the distress of environmental refugees. Experiences were exchanged on how to best integrate climate protection goals and action in our foreign policies.

As a means of mitigation, a dramatic reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions would be an important contribution to avoid the most severe threats of climate change to international peace and security. A willingness to aspire at least a 50% reduction in global emissions by 2050 was expressed by a number of countries.

Participants emphasized that all parties should take into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances. Adaptation should be treated as a high priority issue.

Partners identified a need to amplify efforts to develop and transfer climate-friendly technologies in accordance with the international rules on intellectual property. Energy efficiency and market mechanisms, including emission trading systems were identified as possible keys to mastering both climate change and energy security. Climate-friendly

technologies are a key to enhance their contribution to climate protection to strive to moderate their emissions relative to economic growth. Renewable energy technologies also offer great potential for CO<sub>2</sub>-abatement and reduction of fossil fuel dependency.

Participants acknowledged that developing countries, particularly least-developed countries, are the most vulnerable to climate change. It was agreed that more efforts were needed to support those countries in their endeavours to adapt to the most severe consequences of climate change.

International diplomacy must contribute to finding solutions to the global challenge of climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change offers the institutional framework within which a global solution should be achieved. Means to best support and facilitate the UN climate process were discussed. With a view to the UN climate conference on Bali, it was underlined that it is necessary to remove the remaining obstacles standing in the way of negotiations on a comprehensive, efficient and fair post-2012 agreement to be concluded by 2009 ("Bali Road Map").

The German G8 presidency welcomed the opportunity to continue the fruitful dialogue between all stakeholders on the issue of energy security that previous G8 presidencies had initiated earlier.

A sufficient, reliable and environmentally responsible energy supply is an important challenge for all countries. Participants also stressed the importance of diversification. The global nature of this challenge and the growing interdependence between producing, consuming and transiting countries require more dialogue, cooperation and partnership between the different stakeholders. Participants agreed that energy, both on the supply and demand side, should not be used for political purposes.

Foreign Policy can provide added value to the above mentioned goal of energy security by strongly supporting those international agencies that help to facilitate the discussion process between stakeholders. In this respect, the importance of transparency in different international energy markets was underlined.

The discussion also showed that all three interrelated central issues have to be tackled by foreign policies at the same time: energy security, economic growth and environmental protection. Participants agreed that integrated efforts are needed to better balance those issues on a global scale and that foreign policies are key to that.

Transparent, efficient and competitive global energy markets are seen as being the best way to guarantee a secure, reliable and affordable energy supply for countries and their consumers. In this context the role of the principles of the G8 St. Petersburg Declaration 2006 were discussed.

In this respect participants acknowledged that concrete efforts for continuous international cooperation and dialogue have to be stepped up to ensure that reconciliation in conflict situations and an orderly settlement of disputes are fruitful. Multilateral mechanisms to ensure such efforts should be taken into consideration.