



3<sup>rd</sup> Draft

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For the purpose of the conference held by Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010 Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with regards to the positions of participating actors, pronounces and suggests:

### Is it going to take a global environmental crisis?

All around the world, environmental issues take the lead in headlines, demands, conferences and concerns. According to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change it is very likely that the human activity has influenced and changed natural processes of our planet. During the past decade, the world has realised that it is interconnected in an unprecedented way and we must be aware of the fact that our actions influence us globally. Climate change, preserving the biodiversity or scarce water resources are issues global in scope and should be discussed on a global and the highest political level.

The participants of the Conference held the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century declare their willingness to act upon the environmental challenges with all the required means that may have positive impact. Being conscious of the worldwide interconnections among the discussed topic, the participants also declare their preparedness for international cooperation and help. Solving and acting upon the environmental issues brings positive effects on reduction of poverty or job creation in the developed as well as developing world.



### Emissions reduction

Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century regards immediate actions in emissions reductions as highly important for the favourable development of mankind on the Earth. Developed countries are responsible for 75% of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere today, excluding those from tropical deforestation and, at the same time, these nations have the most financial resources and the greatest technological capacity to cut their emissions. The Copenhagen Accord brought a promise to the world that nations would limit temperature rises to less than 2°C. For the goal to be fulfilled, negotiating countries stated in the Annex B of the Kyoto protocol commit themselves to cut their collective greenhouse gas emissions to 35% below the 1990 level by 2020 and by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990.

To add to the effectiveness to the process of tackling the climate change, Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century recognises the need for the developing countries to commit themselves for equally confident quantified emissions limitations as developed countries even though they face different national circumstances. The interest for developing countries lays in diminishing the impacts of floods, storms, droughts and the other effects of climate change, since they are more often stricken by these phenomena. According to the IEA “Highlights” version of *CO2 Emissions from Fuel Combustion* report the OECD countries have increased the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel combustion per capita by 0.2% in a percentage change from 1990 to 2008. The non-OECD countries have seen the increase of 29.7% in the same indicator over the 1990-2008 time period. Therefore, Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century suggests a commitment of



non-OECD countries to aim for the maximum of 5% increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel combustion per capita in the time period 2010-2020.

By 2020, GDP is expected to double in China and India, and rise by 50% in Brazil. According to the IPCC, the overall costs and risks of climate change will be equivalent to losing up to 20 % of global GDP each year, while the costs of taking action now can be limited to around 1 % of global GDP each year. In reality, the cost is likely to be even smaller and probably even negative since these estimates do not take into account the benefits of avoiding the damage that would be caused by climate change.



### **Technology transfer mechanism**

Experience revealed that putting a price on the greenhouse gases and emissions trading might bring benefits. The emissions trading scheme showed an effective way of motivating countries, industry and business sectors to invest in new technologies. On the other hand, the global situation of rising temperatures demands further commitments in the area of implementation of new technologies to reduce the levels of greenhouse gases. For this purpose the usage of the Clean Development Mechanism defined in the Kyoto Protocol, Art. 12 shall be mandatory for 5% of the emissions reductions agreed for the 2020 target. Moreover, to encourage even greater transfer of new “green” technologies from the developed countries to the developing nations the new system must override the existing economic and market barriers. The developed countries shall therefore support the transfer of technologies to the developing countries investing in building of infrastructure and providing capacity building programs and helping in negotiating with the licensing companies that the licensing terms be more flexible for the developing countries. On the other hand, as mentioned in the draft, the developing countries shall enhance the intellectual property rights, for example by making lectures or providing materials about protection of intellectual property rights.



### **Reforestation**

Deforestation and forest degradation play undoubtedly relevant role in the process of climate change. Developed countries have taken steps to stop the degradation of its forests. The developing nations are still in the process of developing sustainable forest management plans. Deforestation in developing countries generates 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions, more than all forms of transport combined. Forests are homes to diverse fauna and flora, therefore their conserving is crucial for conserving biodiversity and sustainable development. Reversing deforestation and forest degradation must be a long-term interest of all the countries, being developed or developing.

Sustainable forest management will successfully contribute to lowering CO<sub>2</sub> levels only if the aspiration is supported throughout the international spectrum. Participants of the Conference support increased financial participation of the developed countries in projects stopping deforestation practices in developing countries. Finances will be directed to the UN-REDD



programme which will be financed by the participants of the Conference on yearly basis. The Conference participants invite other developed countries to join the financing system of the programme. Forum also recognizes the proposal of developing a Global Forest Carbon Mechanism, a financial mechanism through which developing countries would be rewarded for taking action to reduce deforestation and forest degradation especially in the matter of converting forests to plantations.



### **Biodiversity**

Forum for the 21st century recognizes that each year biodiversity is becoming a more pressing matter. Experts state that changes and loss of biodiversity is occurring faster mainly due to the combination of factors affecting it. The largest impact is formed by large-scale fishing, freshwater use and agriculture. Direct effects include an increased risk of sudden environmental changes such as fisheries collapses, floods, droughts, wildfires and desertification. Conservation of ecosystems and diverse species contribute in many ways to the well-being of humans. Particularly the use of ecosystem services brings incalculable value to millions of people. Better theories and models are needed to understand the links between ecosystem change and impacts on human well-being and to assess the economic consequences of ecosystem change. The participants of the Conference agree to stronger cooperation in the field of calculating the value of sustaining the biodiversity that would be then used on a worldwide basis and creating globally acknowledged inventories of areas in need of biodiversity protection.

Even though the long term goal is welcome, intermediate milestones with time specific and measurable sector or commodity based targets would enhance the implementation. The participating countries will develop sustainable commitments to include the conservation programmes to stop the degradation of biodiversity such as protected areas and national parks into national biodiversity strategies by 2015 and to evaluate the implementation of these strategies by 2020 with the expert help of Conference participating organizations. To accomplish sustainable biodiversity, the strategies should be integrated into agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors.

According to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment unprecedented additional efforts need to be exercised to achieve significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity sustaining and restoration. Countries should adopt a system of certification and reward for private companies through biodiversity certificate which would grant the private sector financial support for their further biodiversity projects. Last but not least, participants commit themselves for stronger control of the implementation of already existing and future national strategies by groups of experts representing governmental, corporate and NGO sectors active in the field of sustaining and restoration of biodiversity. The sharing of knowledge and information on all the matters concerning biodiversity among participating countries and organizations will be acknowledged by the Conference participants.



### **Water resources**

Many people believe water will soon become source of exceptional political and economic power. Water resources are crucial for the sole existence of life on our planet. Series of trends comprising climate change, pollution, deforestation, urban growth and others put our water resources under serious threats. Most of the water resources are affected indirectly thus it is difficult to recognize the impairment of these important resources and their effects on our health. High investments by all the participants should be made and elaborate solutions accepted. Countries commit themselves to finance the meetings of experts from UNESCO IHE Institute for water Education and Integrated Water Resources management Organization with the individuals responsible for water management in their governing bodies. Even though, decreasing capacity of water resources seem as differing regional issues of developing countries, neglecting of these regional problems may eventuate into global crisis due to the nature of natural water cycles. Participants will thus prepare legislation that would ensure that the disposal of sewage sludge to surface waters is banned; cities and agglomerations with high population density are supplied with collecting systems for wastewater, the sources of clean water are protected and ensure the legislation is respected within their borders. Technical help will be provided by developed countries for the developing countries to ensure the quality and realization of the legislation.



### **Energy efficiency**

Volatile markets and prices of energy force countries to decide and act on their own energy security policies. Even though the energy intensity of most economic sectors is decreasing, this is true only for developed countries which have passed the industrial and post industrial times and are profiting from information society driven by newest technologies. However, some countries are not able to afford the newest technologies, others are not pushed and persuaded to lower the amount of energy used per unit. Participating countries agree to implement higher usage of clean and renewable energy sources, strengthen the existing or introduce energy efficiency/performance standards for appliances and buildings. Participants will address energy efficiency as one of their environmental priorities and appeal to the rest of the actors of the international community to do so as well. To promote the sustainable energy usage, the participants will include energy efficiency topic into their education and schooling schemes as well as commit themselves to follow the guidelines of energy saving by all the institutions falling under the governance of the participants.