

Plenary session (101):

**“Energy Solutions for Sustainable Environment”**

Date:

**October 7, 2007, 13:20 – 14:30 (70 min)**

Venue:

**Kyoto International Conference Center, main Hall**

Speaker:

**H.E. Prof. Hany Helal (Minister of Higher  
Education and Scientific Research)**

Statement ONE:

*“We are living in the same global village “Planet EARTH”. Coming from developed or developing country, our economies thrive on the same energy resources and we share the same environment”*

There is a new tendency of producing renewable energy from edible products (like sugar cane and corn), which will have a serious negative impact on development and may impede economic growth and even cause increased poverty in certain countries.

Statement TWO:

*“The only way to support economic growth, which is an energy-dependent process with inevitable environmental pressures on our planet, is by implementing environment friendly solutions but someone has to take care of the bill”*

The developed countries, who bare the major responsibility for historic emissions, should provide economic support for developing countries to deviate them from using the same path of development--using fossil fuels. In essence, they have used up all the atmospheric space for development. And if we want to stop putting up coal plants, and put up wind generators, concentrated solar power generators, and other low carbon sources then they have to pay the difference. Without that, we won't get any reduction in environmental pressures.

Statement THREE:

*“Necessity, demand and resources are not the only requirements to achieve sustainable environment, international cooperation and joint efforts are the most crucial elements to attain our goals”*

International cooperation will not only collate our resources with every one share and contribution, but also boost our efforts and deals with the urgency of the situation as needs to be. Global climate change is eminent and will not discriminate between race or territory; we should put our act together and prioritize our goals and align it with our resources to reach our targets.

**Statement FOUR:**

*“Our investment in RDI to develop efficient and affordable energy solutions is still lower than expected to achieve desired outcomes”*

We have to consider an emergency plan to support RDI of energy solution. The share of such burden should be born by all interested parties, namely; governments, funding agencies, commercial and industrial enterprises, civil society and end users. The more we invest the quicker the fruits we can gain. Areas of support should cover, but not be limited to, affordable stand alone clean-energy modules (solar and wind), advanced and more efficient materials using nanotechnology, renewable, hydrogen, safe nuclear power and geothermal energy.

**Statement FIVE:**

*“How could we do that in Egypt, our experience and plans?”*

Egypt has committed itself to the very ambitious target of 20% renewable energy share in the year 2020. This goes in line with the European target. To achieve this target, Egypt will need to attract investments of 23 Billion US\$ in the next 12 years in the renewable energy sector to establish about 10,000 MW, where 75% will come from wind parks at the Red Sea and the rest from concentrated solar and photovoltaic power plants. Funding is not the only constraint, more important we have to build human capacity, secure appropriate technologies and expand our research, development and innovation capabilities. At the same time, Egypt has embarked on a very challenging energy saving and efficiency improvement program targeting an overall 6% reduction (equals about 35% reduction in the industrial sectors) in the first phase, equaling to a reduction of 15 Million Tones of CO2 emission annually. To achieve this, international cooperation, technology transfer and human resources are crucial elements. Could you imagine the impact of this on sustainable development if all the other countries follow the same path?