



## **NGO Declaration to UN CSD 15 from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova**

### **Introduction**

We, representatives of NGOs from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, participants of the Consultative Meeting on the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UN CSD) issues (Ivanteevka, Russia, February 16-18, 2007) welcome the UN CSD Secretary General Report towards UN CSD 15 "Policy Options and Possible Actions to Expedite Implementation" (UN Document E/CN.17/2007/). We support the main points of the NGO Statement "A New Paradigm" (UN Document E/CN.17/2007/, Chapter IV). In addition, we stress the importance of taking into account the current situation in our countries and the NGO position that Sustainable Development Principles shall be observed in our sub-region. We express our regret that, in spite of the situation in the European Union, our Governments do not have a common position on the CSD-15 issues and are not active in the realisation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. National Sustainable Development Strategies are not adopted in Russia and Ukraine, and no measures for the implementation of Sustainable Production and Consumption principles exist. That is why the NGOs play the leading role in the initiation of the New Paradigm in the sub-region.

### **Energy for Sustainable Development**

#### **I. General Sub-Regional NGOs Position:**

- **to consider unacceptable** from the perspective of sustainable development the construction of new and further exploitation of nuclear power plants and plane hydropower dams;
- **to consider impossible** to use GMO plants to produce biofuel
- **we recommend for our governments:**
  - o to create conditions for public access to renewable sources of energy;
  - o to form the national energy sector on the basis of domestic renewable sources of energy, without exploitation of natural resources of other countries, in particular coal and uranium;

- to review the construction guidelines (both residential and industrial) with the aim to introduce modern energy saving and renewable energy technologies.
- **we think that it is important worldwide:**
  - to stop subsidizing the energy production from fossil fuels, including nuclear energy and to re-direct the resources to develop and implement energy saving and alternative energy technologies;
  - to develop local networks and autonomous renewable energy sources for remote settlements (especially in Russia);
  - to limit the construction of long distance electrical power lines.
- **we recommend to the UN**
  - to create a UN Commission (or Agency) on Energy Efficiency, Energy Saving and Renewable Energy which will have as its aims to promote Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy worldwide, to develop a legal base and international standards of Renewable Energy usage, and to develop mechanisms of financial support for R&D on Renewable Energy;
  - to create a UN Commission (or Agency) on nuclear energy phase out, with the responsibilities to control over national programs of nuclear waste management (including spent nuclear fuel), the decommissioning of NPPs and the upkeep and mapping of nuclear waste dump sites and areas polluted with radioactivity.

## Industrial Development

- I. Industrial development does not lead automatically to sustainable development and poverty reduction; standards of Sustainable Production and Consumption (SPAC) shall be the base for all the industrial sectors.

Among the basic principles of the industrial development we stress:

- Earth potential preservation and fair distribution of the load of environmental consequences;
- Producers' responsibility for the all life-cycle of the products (including waste utilization);
- Assessment of emissions and discharges in all the countries shall follow correct scientific methodic;
- Industrial development shall lead to Zero waste – stop of all emissions and discharges;
- Places of old waste dumps shall be founded and re-cultivated;

## **Air/Atmosphere Pollution**

The position of the NGOs is to undertake all the possible measures to minimize air/atmosphere pollution.

1. **Indoor air pollution:** it is necessary to undertake efforts to reduce level of air pollution in subways, industrial premises and other separated areas.

2. To combat the **atmosphere pollution** we suggest series of measures:

- to create a legal and financial mechanism (quotas, limits) to control emissions from all the mobile sources / transports (air, automobile, sea, pipelines, etc.);
- to develop accessible public transport to reduce private car usage;
- do support and create conditions for bicycles usage (especially in large cities);
- to carry out and promote “automobile free days”);
- to develop oil extraction technologies with reduced emissions;
- to minimize atmosphere pollution caused by disarmament activity (military techniques and installation decommission, missiles destruction);
- to launch international mechanisms to ban smoking in public places;
- to fight the thermal atmosphere pollution (especially in large cities);
- to refuse the thermal methods of industrial and household waste utilization.

## **Climate Change**

The position of the NGOs is to minimize climate change by reducing of the “environmental footprint” and wild nature ecosystems preservation and recovering. We are convinced that national and local powers should pay more attention to the spatial planning at all levels to minimize the impact on climate through the development of standards and policies, and the dissemination of “best practices” in this field.

## **General recommendations**

- to take measures to recover natural ecosystems of the river basins;
- to support sustainable land use in the regions with draught threat by optimization of the ratio of agriculture and natural land (forests, steppe, etc.);
- to limit the recreation at special protected areas;
- to ban natural and old forest cutting, to achieve sustainable forest usage at international level;
- to create an international stabilization fund to compensate climate change damage.

We also suggest using the basic principle to plan any economy activity to minimize the negative impact on the environment.