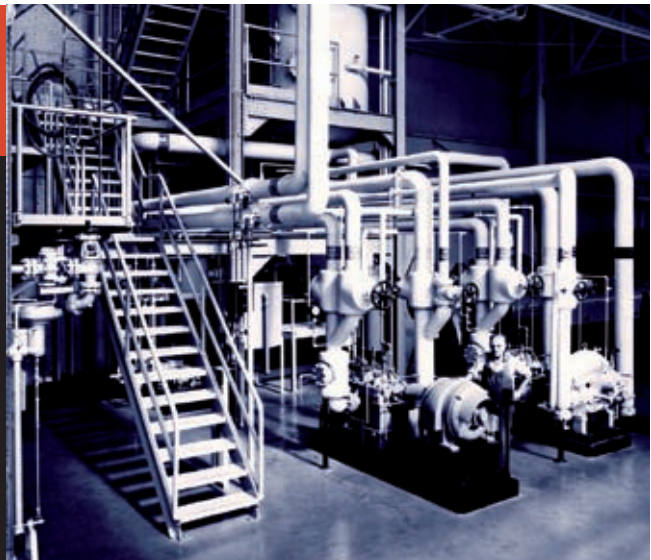


BUSINESS ACTION FOR ENERGY

Working for Sustainable Solutions

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



The Issue

The challenge ahead in industrial development is to support and promote the growth of businesses, particularly in developing countries, that contribute to the economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Agenda 21 and other UN deliberations have framed actions for governments and businesses to undertake. Companies of all sectors, sizes and nationalities can make a contribution and have to be engaged. The business community's central economic, social and environmental roles in industrial development make the inclusion of business views and expertise indispensable. The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) should recognize and support the enormous and extremely diverse contribution that business continues to make in addressing global sustainable development challenges.

Key Policy Recommendations

1. Strengthen enabling frameworks: Creating an enabling environment within which enterprises of all sizes and sectors can develop, create jobs and pursue technological innovation and cooperation, coupled with sound governance and policies to reduce barriers to international trade and foreign direct investment (FDI), traces a significant route out of poverty.
2. Encourage voluntary initiatives and partnerships: involving business as complements to cost-effective and enforced regulation.
3. Support continued business-to-business capacity building and dialogue on eco – and resource efficiency, environmental management systems, and cleaner production.
4. Promote the business community's technological innovation and management systems in industrial development contexts by encouraging partnerships and pursuing trade liberalization and market access.
5. Engage and grow business community involvement in capacity building, technological cooperation and FDI. This is critical to help developing countries progress social and economic development and improve environmental practices.
6. Open dialogue with business on continuous improvement in resource and eco-efficiency in industrial settings. Efficiency is a bottom-line consideration that lends itself very well to the pursuit of sustainability, and which many companies have integrated with other considerations including cleaner production, life-cycle thinking and waste minimization. These practices can make good business sense in keeping costs down and in enhancing competitiveness.

BAE is an ad-hoc, temporary business initiative bringing together a comprehensive network of global businesses. It brings together international, regional and sector organizations and major energy producers and consumers.



Successful Partnership

The International Renewable Energy Industry Alliance (IREA)

The IREA is a partnership to enhance policy and information on renewable energy, as well as to provide a combined voice for renewable energy research, business and industry. The goal of the IREA is to foster collaboration by removing market barriers, identifying and promoting successful implementation strategies, enhancing business conditions and developing markets. This is to be achieved by the provision of reliable and up-to-date facts and considerations for more informed decision-making at all levels of national and international policy and to further the principles and goals declared in the 2004 Bonn Declaration on Renewable Energies. The partnership brings together the International Solar Energy Society, the International Geothermal Association, the World Wind Energy Association and the International Hydropower Association.



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