

Briefing by H.E. Yashar Aliyev
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
on
Baku Symposium on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development at the
fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development
1 May 2006

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and other Members of the Bureau upon your election and express our confidence in your able leadership.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Azerbaijan and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) jointly convened the Baku Symposium on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development, from 28-30 March 2006 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Symposium was attended by the government representatives, industry leaders, academia, private sector and NGOs.

Participants discussed issues pertaining to energy efficiency and conservation, efficiency and security in energy supply systems, public-private partnerships in energy efficiency promotion, alternative energy sources and adopted the *Baku Declaration on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development in the Caspian Sea region and other oil producing and exporting countries*. The Declaration has been circulated as an official session document (E/CN.17/2006/14).

Mr. Chairman,

Participants emphasized that energy efficiency plays an important role in helping countries to achieve sustainable development goals and stressed that energy efficiency offers win-win solutions. It was also recognized that the potentials for energy efficiency promotion have yet to be explored and it would have a significant impact on achieving MDGs.

Participants shared the importance of increasing public awareness, including education and training; strengthening capacity-building, improving the performance of energy and materials use; integrating energy efficiency considerations into the planning, operation and maintenance of long-existing energy supply and use infrastructures.

It was highlighted that energy efficiency efforts will be more successful if they are backed by a supportive framework of policies and regulatory environment that may include: power sector reforms; utility demand-side management programmes; energy

efficiency policies, laws and targets; the establishment of energy efficiency agencies; voluntary agreements with industry; support and promotion of energy audits; and energy efficiency standards, codes, testing, certification and labeling.

Participants unambiguously recognized the importance of and need for access of oil producing and exporting countries to advanced, cleaner and more efficient fossil fuel technologies, at affordable price and the role of those technologies in securing sufficient energy supply to global market.

Moreover, the importance of technology transfer was highlighted in the context of gas production, supply, distribution and re-injection. Particular attention was given to the issue of controlling gas flaring and venting and expanding the necessary infrastructure to transport the gas to markets. Participants also had in-depth discussion on the initiatives and achievements of the Caspian region in the production and transportation of oil and gas resources, in particular Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipelines.

Participants underscored the importance of identifying mechanisms to finance energy efficiency projects and the use of renewable energy in oil industries as well as of policies encouraging entrepreneurship in the energy sector and facilitating institutional development, cooperation and networking among interested countries, stakeholders and their energy efficiency centers.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to stress that we were privileged to convene this Symposium and contribute to the international discussions on energy efficiency and sustainable development. For this, allow me on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to extend our appreciation to all participants and once again to UNDESA Division for Sustainable Development and personally to Ms. DiSano, for their cooperation and support.

We believe that the outcomes of the Symposium will contribute to our forthcoming deliberation.