



The Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations

**Statement by
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at the

**Fourteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable
Development**

**Theme: Addressing inter-linkages between climate change and sustainable
development**

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I tend to agree with my friend and panelist from Iceland, Halldor Þorgeirsson, when he argues that the economics are not right when it comes to ways and means of tackling climate change and the relationship between climate and energy use.

But I would also agree with him that a lot of the "action" today is taking place in the market-place and the private sector, including many of the best practices. But this also is part of the economics, which suggests that at least some part of the economics is in fact right.

This brings on the question of whether we might not think more about how we can give the private sector greater leverage in showing us the way out of the bind we now find ourselves in. What I have in mind in particular is the need to create the right incentives, the need to eliminate subsidies in the conventional energy sector and create a level playing field for clean, renewable energy resources in the international market-place.

Maybe our distinguished panelists could share with us some of their thoughts on this question.