

13th International Energy Forum

14th March 2012

Session 3: Achieving Environmental and Social Sustainability:

lower emissions and access for all.

Introductory remarks by Minister Yousfi, Chairman of the session.

Excellencies,

Honorable speakers and moderator,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to chair this session 3 on sustainability, a theme of paramount importance that could constitute a fair criterion to evaluate our policies. I understand that sustainability is a broad concern that goes beyond the two concepts of “lower emissions and access for all” to include environment, social and economic aspirations.

I was pleased to note the work of the IEF since the previous ministerial Forum on sustainability, as highlighted in the Secretariat background paper, focused on the three issues of energy poverty (access for all), carbon capture and storage (or lower emissions) and energy efficiency.

As noted two years ago, there are still today billions of humans lacking access to modern energy forms, in particular to electricity; a situation with severe consequences and that undermines the potential for development. However, it is encouraging to observe the increasing awareness of the global community on this challenge, as illustrated by the UN having 2012 as “*the International Year of Universal Energy Access for All*”. Besides, there are multiple initiatives that are contributing to help reducing energy poverty.

The challenge of Lower Emissions (of carbon) is another common issue that needs to be met through balanced solutions, taking into consideration the concerns of all stakeholders. I understand that the technology of Carbon capture and Storage is a promising option that could respond to those concerns. As stated in the IEF paper, “*CCS has the greatest potential within the oil and gas and power industries to significantly stem the emission of CO₂ in the atmosphere*”. However, there is still much work ahead to achieve confidence in the deployment of the CCS technology on a commercial scale that requires stronger coordinated efforts of all of us.

A third important element of sustainability is the efficient production, transformation, transport and use of energy that not only will reduce emissions – and all other harmful side effects – but also extend exhaustible resource life and contribute thus to promote equity between generations. There are wide ranging policy instruments to accelerate the implementation of energy efficiency which should be one of our major concerns. Adequate solutions should consider an appropriate combination of approaches adapted to each country situation that includes pricing, regulation and technological advances.

Our session will have to address some crucial questions such as:

- What are the best ways and means to alleviate energy poverty?
- What policy to adopt, in view of accelerating the deployment of emission reduction like CCS?
- And how to mobilize the huge potential of energy efficiency?

These are some brief remarks to introduce our session which has gathered a group of high caliber panelists and speakers with wide ranging qualifications and experiences. The session moderator is M. Mandil.

I don't need to introduce M. Mandil. He is very well known in the energy field. Previous Executive director of IEA, he held various responsibilities in his country and continues to play an eminent role in policy making. I am confident that having such a moderator will make our discussions very fruitful. He will introduce the honorable speakers and panelists as they take the floor.

Thank you.

Mr Mandil, the floor is yours.