



ACADEMIA ENGELBERG

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Statement

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I am here on behalf of a partnership that is evolving, and we are very pleased to be able take part in this third Dialogue on Science in Engelberg as a vehicle for this announcement.

The theme here is "Will Climate Change the World". These partners believe that it will, and perhaps we can make the analogy that our efforts are akin to trying out a kind of sandal to climb Mount Titlis. So who are these partners? They are the United Nations, in particular UNCTAD, the prestigious Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) and the UN Council in Geneva. They have formed a capacity-building partnership on climate change to enable governments, business and civil society to respond to the challenges and opportunities of global climate change.

So who are they, and what are they doing? I do not think I have to elaborate on who they are. The actions needed to achieve the objectives of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol are global. Yet the knowledge and training required to implement win-win solutions continue to lag behind. That is our firm belief. The capacity-building partnership on climate change between UNCTAD, the Earth Council and the ETH Zurich Center of Sustainability exists precisely to address this gap.

What do we intend to do? The partnership is developing three programmes.

- 1. Climate change literacy: Graduates of the modules in Science and Management will be knowledgeable about the science of climate change and its potential impact, legal requirements, policy objectives and so on.
- 2. Capacity building for a clean development mechanism: this programme will offer advanced courses to existing and prospective CDM project developers and service providers on the methods, the skills and the technologies needed to implement CDM projects.
- 3. Support group programme for the designated national authorities (DNAs) for CDMs: the platform to exchange ideas and experiences on the design and management of transparent and efficient DNAs and CDMs particularly in developing countries. And to explore the advantages and disadvantages of various approaches for sustainability assessment as a key part of the optimal CDM management scheme.

We will launch this partnership and its programmes in 2005. I hope that we will be able to report on progress at the next Dialogue on Science in Engelberg.