

## **World Bank President, Robert B. Zoellick - Video Message**

### **Brazil Climate Change Forum, February 21, 2008**

I appreciate this opportunity to address legislators from the G8 and emerging economies, business leaders, civil society representatives, and the media gathered in Brasilia. The fact that the GLOBE forum is taking place in Brazil for the first time is a good sign for developing countries. The dialogue promoted by GLOBE and hosted by Brazilian legislators provides an important informal platform to generate confidence among key constituencies interested in a practical and fruitful post-2012 agreement on climate change.

The forum will also focus on forestry, which is at the center of this debate. Legislators from African forest-rich countries, business leaders, and Brazilian high-level officials will have the opportunity to strengthen their cooperation.

Brazil is a great example of a country with a clean energy matrix, which has moved to energy independence through the expansion of alternative energy sources such as hydroelectricity, ethanol, and bio-diesel. Therefore, Brazil is not part of the problem, it is a solutions provider.

It has shown unique leadership in the ethanol market and its penetration in the global market could increase dramatically, bringing additional benefits, if trade barriers in developed economies are removed.

Developing countries and particularly Brazil recognize that climate change is a global threat and they are concerned about its impact on the economy, the livelihoods, and the quality of life of their people.

A couple of months ago I participated in the Bali Climate Change conference and I heard directly from developing countries that they also want—and rightly so—to continue to grow their economies, and that the benefits of sustained growth reach all citizens.

They call it “the right to development” and in order to progress they will need to satisfy the increase in energy needs of their industries, the service sector, and the population at large.

Rich countries need to understand that no global negotiation will be successful if developing countries continue to perceive a potential threat to economic and social development in emerging economies behind the climate change policies promoted by industrialized countries.

A fair global approach means that, in the context of a shared responsibility, rich countries will begin to exert real leadership in providing support to developing countries in exchange for the global benefit of greener, sustainable growth in those countries.

Climate change policies cannot be the frosting on the cake of development; they must be baked into the recipe of growth and social development. And therefore it is imperative to integrate adaptation and mitigation into core development work.

The World Bank, as a global cooperative of developed and developing countries, is ready to help shift countries to a development paradigm based on low-carbon growth and adaptation to climate change. We are working with the UK, the US, and Japan on large-scale concessional financing mechanisms through which the multilateral development banks can support clean technology investments and the transition to low-carbon growth paths.

The Global Environment Facility and Carbon Funds have been instrumental in increasing the global benefits of environmental initiatives supported by the World Bank Group. After completing a successful replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), the arm of the World Bank that helps the world's poorest countries, we are now able to scale up climate change support for these nations without diverting development assistance from other needs.

In Bali, we launched a new Carbon Forest Partnership Facility that will pilot incentives to communities for reducing emissions from deforestation while improving rural livelihoods and safeguarding indigenous peoples.

We are also working, together with other partners, on new financing and incentive schemes to *facilitate technology deployment and transfer* to developing countries.

A Carbon Partnership Facility will move carbon finance from retail to wholesale – allowing purchase of emission reductions from entire sectors rather than project-by-project. This pilot will expand the reach of the carbon market and the tools for climate change mitigation.

Through policy changes and through the International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, we will help create an enabling environment to tap the private sector.

We will also work with developing countries to support *policy research on climate change and development*, to help share information and tools for analyzing the impacts of climate change and developing cost-effective mitigation and adaptation strategies. We are now working with six countries—Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, and South Africa—on customized assessments of pathways to low-carbon growth.

As lawmakers you know that the decisions we make today on energy policies, forestry management, and technology will have major consequences for the sustainability not only of economic growth but of the planet itself.

I wish you success in your discussions and look forward to hearing your conclusions, which I am confident, will result in proposals to engage all nations in the fight against climate change.

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