

Key Note Address

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Excellencies,

Minister Moleleki,

Director General Yumkella,

Secretary General Kyrle,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to address the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on Sustainable Energy here in Vienna.

The GFSE has this year chosen the issue of energy efficiency with a particular focus on developing countries – and this is well chosen. Energy is high on the agenda of the international community, for many reasons:

- Its deep interlinkages with climate change
- An economic challenge and opportunity
- A truly global issue, a prerequisite for survival and development

In the face of the threatening future scenarios of the consequences of climate change, which were recently again highlighted by the IPCC, we realise more and more that efficient and effective answers must be designed for the long-term and for sustainability.

You may know that the European Union has set itself ambitious quantitative targets to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, increase energy efficiency and increase the share of renewable energies. Austria, in addition to this,

has also adopted a number of quantitative and time-bound targets in these three areas.

For Austria, as largely dependent on energy imports, energy security is an issue. Therefore, we must explore options of how to reduce energy dependency, as well as increase energy efficiency. To strengthen our efforts, the Austrian Government has for instance agreed to improve energy efficiency by 20 percent.

This has led the Austrian Government to adopt a number of supportive measures for instance also in the building sector. We actively encourage low energy and passive house standards for new constructions. By 2015 the Government has decided to provide funding only for large-volume buildings which meet established and ambitious passive house standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For offering worth-while input to this meeting I would like to tell you a little bit about my realm and sustainable energy within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management – what we do, but not only from the Austrian point of view but also where we see potential for bringing initiatives across boundaries.

Through the promotion of energy efficiency, increased use of renewables, research and innovation, Austria is an important technology provider. One focus of the Ministry is the strengthening of the environmental technologies segment. Between 2002 and 2004, electric power consumption increased by 7%, mainly due to transport,

households and industry. Our geographic and economic location predetermined from an early point in time to look closely into the development of energy-efficient technologies to reduce energy consumption. All these factors contributed to the fact that the environmental technologies sector is among the fastest growing industries in Austria.

Clearly, we do not only see this as necessary for the Austrian economy. A sustainable energy policy is essential for our international climate change commitments. Austria has also started a JI/CDM programme, where energy production projects in hydro, wind and biomass, as well as energy efficiency measures play a central role.

For these projects, our expertise and experience in environmental technologies, and renewable energy production come into bear. Later during this meeting, you will hear a presentation about our national JI/CDM programme with further information on project cycles, requirements, and opportunities. And we place particular interest on CDM projects in Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The GFSE meeting is an opportunity. It can help us not to reinvent the wheel but to build on what is already there, to share knowledge and experiences, to come up with ideas and solutions, ready for implementation and concrete action on the ground. And at the end of the day, implementation is what counts. Therefore, I am grateful for these opportunities where we can come together to learn about real needs and possible solutions. – Thank you!