

Direction du Développement Durable

**Concluding address to the 23<sup>rd</sup> UNEP Consultative  
Meeting on Business and Industry**

by

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Chairman and CEO  
Gaz de France

Dear Mr Hoballah,

Dear Delegates from the industry,

Dear Participants,

We are very honoured indeed to host UNEP's twenty third consultation meeting with business and industry. It is important that these types of informal discussion take place so that the partners understand and appreciate each others constraints and opportunities to implement effectively environmental policies.

We note with satisfaction that trade union and environmental NGOs take part in the round tables, broadening the representation of the civil society in the discussions.

As the Chair and CEO of Gaz de France, let me share with you my vision of current environmental problems and the role industry has for a better world.

The level of development achieved by our societies in the North and the development too often needed in the South have a considerable impact on the planet and its natural bio system. At the same time, it offers to the population a path away of poverty, for a better life.

In terms of environment, we see today the impact at regional and global scale on water, air, soil, on the atmosphere with the ozone and with the green house effects, and on the bio-diversity.

If we want to both maintain the advantage of development and respect the constraints of environment, we have to imagine new ways with more sustainable means of production, and more sustainable attitude in consumption.

But to be implemented effectively, such evolutions should respect the constraints of economy, in term of cost and life cycle of capital investments.

In this process, business and industry play an important role in providing and implementing technical solutions, in assembling the needed capital and finally distributing services and goods to the clients, to the society.

Once we have such a vision there is a need for action at all levels.

In Gaz de France, we feel we should have a pro-active role in **understanding** the issues, in **developing** and in **promoting and implementing** environmentally friendly solutions while developing access to an affordable and secured energy.

This is how we implement with respect to environmental issues our commitment to the UN Global Compact.

**To expand,**

- this last Monday, Gaz de France and WWF-France have gathered economists, policymakers, engineers and civil society representatives to discuss the path to a reduction by four of the Greenhouse Gases emissions by 2050;
- Gaz de France participates directly or through professional organisms, ICC, WBCSD (World Business Council for Sustainable Development), WEC (World Energy Council), and IGU (International Gas Union) to debate such as today at global level, or at national and local level.

**To develop,**

I have asked the Research Division in complement to its activities for the operational division to demonstrate three major innovations in the field of:

- Biomass Gasification,
- Carbon Dioxide Capture, and
- Low Consumption Building.

**To promote and implement,**

- the Commercial Division proposes solar panels in association with gas;
- the Services Division develop, maintain, operate biomass boilers, invest in heat and power generation;
- together with Maïa Sonnier we are creating a new subsidiary, Maïa Eolis, to construct and operate wind farms;
- in the upstream end of our industry, we are disseminating our technologies through partnerships in countries where we operate: India, Algeria, Libya, ... and where simultaneously we are creating a positive dynamic with the local societies.

I could cite more operations or actions, but I would like to draw your attention to some lessons learnt from this practice.

First, new ideas, technologies, modes of consumption which have a positive impact on the environment, need to find **a market**. This means to be affordable, cost competitive and to offer a better product or service to the consumer or the community than existing solution.

In this context, let me underline the fact that these new technologies emerge in existing markets, and for us in existing energy systems from the production upstream to the use of appliances downstream which have developed over a long term. **Evolutions should then**

**respect this time scale** in order to allow transformation of capital use, and building of a new know how.

Similarly, political visions and targets proposed should be coherent with this long term perspective. I think here specifically of the discussion on climate change targets post 2012.

**Public Private Partnerships** are essential to bring together every capacity to implement solutions, more specifically for the energy infrastructure development.

Such partnerships should respect each partner appropriate role and responsibilities over the duration of the corresponding energy system.

Such partnerships will bring appropriate financing and technology at the effective project level.

Finally let me draw your attention to the complexity of the systems we want to manage. L

In the field of energy, local resources and needs, specific environmental, social and economical conditions influence the demand and supply. Such complexity and the challenges we face should leave a maximal flexibility for solutions to develop. **Therefore, policies should concentrate on the targets to be achieved and on the instruments associated with them, rather than on picking technologies.**

In our field of energy, Gaz de France combines and will further combine multi-energy solutions that include energy efficiency.

As a final word, I hope that this meeting has been a positive place for discussion and to develop common understanding between UNEP and Business & Industry.

I wish, you all will bear its fruits.

Thank You.