



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
THE ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable Development and Climate Change:
National and International Perspectives

Oslo, 6 March 2008

Key messages

- The OECD Environmental Outlook reinforces and strengthens the message from the IPCC, Stern, IEA and earlier OECD work: Meeting the challenge of climate change will be very demanding, but options are available, achievable and affordable
- This requires the participation of all major countries and implementation of an ambitious and cost-effective policy mix, with short-term, medium-term and long-term targets and commitments, during the next five to ten years

Key messages

- The BRIICS countries, as well as the rest of the world, will be essential to get on board, to manage this vitally important global common good
- The co-benefits of climate mitigation and adaptation policies for health, water scarcity and biodiversity are highly significant, not least in giving BRIICS countries and other developing countries strong reasons to join the global effort to meet the threat of global warming

Key messages

- The most difficult issue may not be the cost level as such, but burden-sharing and a fair distribution of these costs: The OECD countries must take the lead and give other countries real incentives to join, through financing and technology transfer commitments
- The crucial issue is to get a price on carbon (and the other greenhouse gases) that, as the OECD puts it, taxes the bad, not just subsidises the good

Key messages

- Getting the carbon price right can and must be done in many ways, not just by carbon taxes, but also through emissions trading, standards, regulations and contractual agreements with particular industries
- Increased public funding for climate- and energy-related R&D and incentives for eco-innovation must also be central to the overall mix of policies, including support for new renewable energy technologies and Carbon Capture and Storage, without picking specific technologies

Key messages

- The most cost-effective mix of policy instruments may differ between countries, but will include both the general economy-wide instruments already mentioned, and a range of sector-specific measures, e.g. in building and construction, transport, energy, agriculture, forestry and other land use policies, and waste policies
- Both nationally and globally, all sections of society must take part in a common effort, based on a much broader and deeper understanding and awareness of the issue and of the local, national and global benefits of an ambitious and effective climate policy.