

Increased Efforts for Sustainable Development

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Vienna, Austria on 5 May 2014:

Noting that:

- The world has changed since the Millennium Development Goals were adopted. Countries and continents are more interconnected than ever before, and we are more interdependent than we have ever been.
- Global warming is likely to exceed two degrees if actions are not implemented immediately, with consequences for ecosystems, food production, water supply, and health, and with an increased risk of weather-related natural disasters.
- If global average temperature increases further it is predominantly sensitive areas and Third World Countries that will be affected most severely.
- Climate change needs to be limited in order to create the conditions for poverty alleviation and sustainable development.
- Environmental and climate-related problems may lead to migration, conflict, famines and severe health problems.
- Industrialised countries of the UN have promised to support Third World Countries with US\$ 100 billion annually from 2020 for climate adaptation and mitigation.
- The majority of the world's poor are women. Furthermore, they account for the majority of food production in the world's poor countries, and climate change will therefore especially affect women. Women and girls are forced to work more when the water supply declines. We also know that lack of access to water, toilets and adequate sanitation is a contributing factor to girls being forced to leave school.
- Access to modern and renewable energy, electricity and clean fuel is essential for many people to lift themselves out of poverty.
- With 60 percent of world aid, the EU and its Member States are important when it comes to climate aid.
- Many of the services that are essential to meeting the Millennium Development Goals such as the health system, sanitation, education, transport, energy, and water and waste management, are provided by sub-state authorities, and that the global diplomacy that is increasingly practiced between cities helps promote social cohesion and environmental sustainability.
- One important reason for partly missing the MDGs are the social disparities and inequalities within many developing countries due to the lack of democracy and political accountability, as well as widespread corruption.

Stresses that:

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- A long-term sustainable use of natural resources is an important factor for people to lift themselves out of poverty.
- International negotiations in environment and climate matters progress too slowly as ambitions and experience vary widely between industrialised and poorer countries.
- The next development agenda should bring together the review of the Millennium Development Goals with the commitments made at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20). The three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental) should be integrated and expressed in a set of universal goals valid for everyone.
- The EU and Member States should promote renewable energy in their development policies, particularly because the bad state of infrastructure in many of these under-developed countries makes it very difficult for centrally-managed energy to reach a dispersed population.

Calls on:

- The EU and Member States to give priority to sustainable climate adaptation and environmental measures in both national and EU budgets, in addition to development aid, to prevent setbacks in the international fight against poverty and as a way to alleviate poverty and food insecurity.
- The EU and Member States to ensure that climate perspective is integrated into recipient countries' own development strategies and that efforts being made in the fields of environment, water, and energy have a clear climate profile.
- The EU to actively promote its fundamental values of democracy, human rights, the rule of law and decentralized government, through its development policy.