

MEMORANDUM FOR RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

FROM: GROUP 9

SUBJECT: Establish/strengthen partnerships between the private sector, governments, international institutions, and the young people

I. Need for Coordination Between Sectors

The Kyoto Protocol, as a global effort towards mitigating anthropogenic global heating has made substantial progress. However, without accountability and successful communication and cooperation between the International community, governments, the private sector, and youth, many nations will not be able to realize their initial goals and targets.

II. Background

The most recent IPCC report states that global heating is “unequivocally” happening and most likely due to anthropogenic sources. The G8 summit in June 2007 announced that the “UN climate process is the appropriate forum for negotiating future global action on climate change”, and that all nations must participate “actively and constructively.” The time is right to synchronize the different sectors with increased accountability.

Policy makers are faced with a range of problems that affect all sectors together as well as independently. Some of these issues include contrasting political systems, uneven geographic distribution of polluters and victims, apathy among polluters on an individual and national scale, the difficulty of acquiring initial investments for cleaner technologies, a lack of communication infrastructure between sectors, a lack of technology and knowledge transfer between sectors and nations, and the necessity of a long-term commitments to ensure action. Past successful attempts towards global environmental action and initiatives to reduce global climate change include, the banning of CFCs, Germany’ legislation for renewable energy, the EU’s success at reducing emissions, and Iceland’s conversion to non-carbon energy.

III. Recommendations

The private sector can engage youth through hiring practices, the media, and through entertainment opportunities, including fundraising activities at bars/nightclubs. The youth can also engage with the private sector through consumer choice. In order to promote communication and collaboration between youth and the international community, we must focus on engaging youth in international environmental affairs. By involving youth in international decision-making through internships, youth forums/conferences and involvement in youth-initiated campaigns, young people can contribute their opinions to international policy making.

There are several strategies for governments and youth to interact. The government can educate youth by placing environmental science in public school and university curriculums and on standardized testing. Furthermore, they can use the media to educate, creating national images to promote environmental sustainability, such as the US Forest service’s Smokey the Bear, and by creating on-line forums for information sharing between youth. Youth can express their opinions by protesting, campaigning and voting. As a way for the private sector to get involved in this issue, governments must subsidize private industries and sectors that are interested in becoming environmental friendly, either through financial incentives or taxation. The development of an international enforcement agency with continental or national representation from governmental agencies, will provide a platform for accountability. Establishing bilateral environmental cooperation (akin to “sister cities”) would allow the two-way exchange of knowledge, ideas and resources.

The main barrier in building communication and cooperation infrastructures amongst the different sectors is motivation and participation by all parties, but as the climate crises escalates, action will follow.