



## KyotoPlus-Dinner

### „Equity and Solidarity in the Greenhouse – How to Reconcile Climate Protection and G77 Unity” Minutes of the dinner with Sivan Kartha, 6 April 2005

„Equity and Solidarity in the Greenhouse – How to Reconcile Climate Protection and G77 Unity“ – this was the title of the third „KyotoPlus-Dinner“ organised by the Heinrich Böll-Foundation and the Wuppertal Institute in a restaurant in the centre of Berlin. Sivan Kartha presented results of the project “South-North-Dialogue – Equity in the Greenhouse”, which was co-ordinated by the Wuppertal Institute and financed by GTZ and the German Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development, BMZ (<http://www.south-north-dialogue.net>). The attendees, 20 representatives from business, civil society, science and politics, discussed under the Chatham house rule that permits to quote everything that has been said, but without disclosing the speaker or his/her institution.

Sivan Kartha opened the evening with a look back at the Conference of the Parties, held at the end of 2004 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Despite the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by Russia, the



delegates were not in a partying mood. This was mainly because the commitments for industrialised countries to reduce emissions will end in 2012 – and no “post-2012 strategy” was visible anywhere. Especially for the involvement of developing countries no credible strategy had been developed so far – despite the fact that any effective climate policy in the mid-term would require the participation of highly developed and populous countries of the South. Even if all industrialised countries would vanish

tomorrow, he said, the world would not be sustainable because the current emissions of greenhouse gases from developing countries were twice as high as the allowable global total.

Based on this analysis Sivan Kartha presented the results of the South-North-Dialogue. Thirteen scientists from (mainly) the South and the North had developed a concrete proposal for a future

international climate regime. In two workshops and via a complex e-mail dialogue the participants had identified the fundamental cornerstones for the involvement of developing countries and the requirements for a political process to realise this goal. The central pillar of this proposal is a model for the fair allocation of obligations to protect the climate, based on a formula for the differentiation between developing countries.

These differentiated obligations for four groups of countries are dependent on the national circumstances of the particular countries: the potential to take effective measures, the historical responsibility for the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the capability to act with regard to financial and social resources. The proposal furthermore provides recommendations for policies to adapt to the inevitable consequences of climate change. There was a consensus within the group of researchers that future agreements would have to include such mechanisms for the most vulnerable countries, since otherwise they would not be regarded as fair and equitable. Finally, the proposal contains recommendations for a political strategy to pursue these goals at the international level.

Sivan Kartha finished his presentation with a plea for a system of differentiation based on equity and clear principles. This was the best and most promising path towards climate protection for developing countries – and for the world.

Nicole Wilke from the German Environment Ministry provided a first response to the presentation of Mr. Kartha. She acknowledged the value of the South-North-Dialogue proposal and confirmed



the need for differentiation between developing countries. The countries of the South, she said, were far from being homogenous but in fact hugely different. The South-North-Dialogue presented a workable approach to recognise these differences and to take them into account in negotiations on this issue. Mrs. Wilke also confirmed that it was not only important for industrialised countries to take on deeper commitments. They would furthermore bear responsibility to provide the financial and technological means for adaptation to vulnerable countries in the South. She emphasized, however, that the next round of negotiations (December 2005 in Montreal, Canada) would be difficult enough for the European Union – even without far-reaching demands for the support of developing countries.

The following issues were debated during the ensuing discussion:

- What are the costs for mitigation and adaptation in developing countries and how could this be financed;
- The value of cost-benefit analyses for individual countries;
- The necessity to mobilise private capital for climate protection in the South, because public money would increasingly be unavailable;
- The new negotiating power of developing countries, since the North is dependent on their participation in order to effectively protect the climate;
- How to replace the traditional logic of “burden sharing” by a more positive view: climate policy as a chance to provide positive impulses to the economies for innovation;
- The necessity of a “political will” and leadership of the EU regarding climate protection policies internally and internationally;
- The importance of the United States in the climate regime and to what extent the willingness of the South to engage is dependent on its participation;
- Incentives and proposals for the streamlining of other climate strategies with the international climate regime;
- The solidarity and unity within the G77: Whether the climate policy arena is too small for the resolution of these questions and whether this kind of differentiation must not be dealt with at the UN level in New York.

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