

Bo. Matussek

Buchvorstellung Prof. Brauch, 11.05.2009 / Side Event to CSD-17

Excellencies,

Dear Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Pleasure to welcome you all here.
- Side events always a good opportunity to dig on pressing issues apart from negotiations in conference rooms.
- Very happy to take the opportunity to welcome Prof. Hans Günter Brauch and Prof. Ursula Oswald-Spring, representing the authors that have written this impressive book “Facing Global Environmental Change”, which they will present us today.
- Glad that Dr. Joy Ogwu (PR of Nigeria) and Mr. Achim Steiner are here, who have contributed forewords to the book, as has the peace nobel laureate IPCC Chairman Mr. Rajendra Pachauri.
- Therefore not surprising that the recent book presentation has received great attention of the media and the press in Germany.
- As you can see – the book has 1542 pages and is quite big. To my mind this adequately reflects the complexity of the problems at stake:
Big problems require big thoughts !
- Let me make briefly just two points why this handbook should stand in every library:

- **It reflects adequately the multidimensional aspects of environmental challenges and climate change.**
- **It is impressive by the remarkable geographic and scientific diversity of all the authors and publishers.**
- **Climate Change has become a top priority on the international political agenda.**
- **It is first and foremost a sustainable development challenge: without sound environmental and climate policies, we will not achieve the Millennium Development Goals. But it is more than that: Climate Change is the most universal and most comprehensive of problems.**
- **During a recent common trip to Germany, I listened carefully to the concerns of my colleagues from the AOSIS States. The message was crystal clear: Time is of the essence !**
- **For many of these countries – much more vulnerable due to their geography – climate change is a matter of sheer existence. It has serious consequences on regional stability and security. We need to act now, and be aware of the consequences if we don't.**
- **Let me insure you that Germany is taking the issue very seriously.**
- **Germany has set itself very ambitious targets and is willing to take on responsibility on a global scale. We intend to reduce our emissions by**

40% by 2020 in order to give a good example. Hopefully others will follow !

- **We will do our utmost in order to have a substantial and comprehensive outcome in Copenhagen later this year.**
- **The remarkable geographic and scientific diversity of all authors and publishers (in 100 chapters, 132 authors from 49 countries – North and South – are represented) reflects the overall and worldwide importance we should attribute to the subject.**
- **This book permits a real global perspective, which is a necessary condition for a truly universal debate on the issue of environment and climate change.**
- **Let me once again congratulate all the authors for this outstanding book, which is – by the way – already the 4th volume of a series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace.**
- **I am very optimistic that the book will, as Hans Guenther Brauch puts it, “broaden the scope and sensitize the reader to the thinking in different disciplines, cultures, and global regions, especially on nature and humankind”.**
- **I hope that it has its place in every library and serve researchers, scientists, libraries, institutes, international organisations - as well as diplomats and negotiators - as a standard reference**
- **Thank you very much !**