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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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English - Or. English

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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Round Table on Sustainable Development

DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT R&D PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT THE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES OF THE FUTURE?

AGENDA

**14-15 June 2006
World Bank Conference Centre**

JT03210538

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**18TH ROUND TABLE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
ON
R&D PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMES AND FUTURE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES**

to be held at the World Bank Conference Centre
66, avenue Iéna Paris 75016
on 14-15 June 2006

14 June

19:30

APERITIF

20:00

DINNER

21:30

AFTER DINNER SPEECH ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Mr. Horace Herring, the Open University

15 June

9:30

Discussion (see attached issues sheet)

1. *Are there technical possibilities within reach that would enable us to meet expected demand for energy in more secure and less polluting ways?*
2. *Are global investments in researching, developing and deploying these technologies focused where they are likely to leverage the most significant gains, and is the critical mass of investment sufficient given the timescales in which we may wish to effect changes to the energy supply?*

Background paper

Background paper

13:00

LUNCHEON

Please note: At the Chair's discretion, there will be a fifteen-minute break for refreshments during the meeting.

**18TH ROUND TABLE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
ON
R&D PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMES AND FUTURE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES**

1. Are there technical possibilities within reach that would enable us to meet expected demand for energy in more secure and less polluting ways?

A. The background paper concludes that because fossil alternatives to conventional oil and gas are widespread and can substitute for them using a range of technologies that become economic at moderately higher prices, security of supply issues are limited in the medium to long term. Is this a reasonable assumption?

B. Evidence suggests that the next 50 years will continue to be dominated by energy from fossil sources. The paper leads to the conclusion that, in the absence of a carbon charge, the technologies likely to significantly curtail CO₂ emissions will not penetrate the market within the sort of timeframe needed to prevent GHG concentrations more than doubling. Is this an accurate conclusion?

C. To what extent should energy efficiency be relied upon given the possible rebound effect of increased demand simply eating up the gains?

2. Are global investments in researching, developing and deploying these technologies focused where they are likely to leverage the most significant gains, and is the critical mass of investment sufficient given the timescales in which we may wish to effect changes to the energy supply?

A. Do any of the technology options – for instance solar – suffer from significant underinvestment in research and development given their potential?

B. What is needed to bring carbon capture and storage on stream in time? Is this an R&D issue or a simple question of pricing carbon?

C. Is the level of international R&D cooperation sufficient to bring any of these technologies to the market in time to make a difference?