



**Adopted resolution**

## **Secure energy supply and smart, green growth**

### **A new social democratic energy policy**

#### **Principles of a Social Democratic Approach to a New Energy Policy**

High energy prices and the evident consequences of our changing climate underline the urgency of a new energy strategy for Europe and our planet. European socialists and social democrats agree that this new strategy has to meet five different, but interdependent challenges:

- **it should tackle climate change and energy policy in an integrated way**
- **it has to address the security of energy supply concerns**
- **the new strategy should be based on the principle of sustainability**
- **it should focus on the economic opportunities this global challenge offers by developing new ecologically sound industrial policies**
- **the aim of the new strategy should be a common European market for energy that is based on the principle of solidarity and cooperation within the European Union**

While Liberals and Conservatives believe that deregulated markets are the only answer for our energy and climate problems, we think it is high time for a long-term strategy and immediate political action. They avoid a clear commitment to a strategy against climate change; Europe's socialists and social democrats commit themselves to ambitious targets, because we think that energy is the most pressing issue of our time.

Our conservative and liberal opponents offer no feasible alternatives to our mainly fossil energy sources. Key elements of our energy strategy, however, are renewable energy sources and the investment in energy efficiency. They are not only essential to meeting our climate change commitments but will also help to improve security of supply.



The PES believes that the instability of most energy supplying regions can only be tackled at its roots causes. Economic and social development, good governance, and fair agreements are much better safeguards for a secure energy supply than the exclusive reliance on military and political measures that many Conservatives propose.

**For social democrats and socialists the social dimension of energy policy is as important as the economic, environmental and security ones. High prices of fuels and electricity hit the poor households hardest, forcing them to cope with the high and some times unbearable heating and electricity bills, and rising public and private transport costs.** Consumer interests and a socially just distribution of energy resources must be at the centre of all future energy policy. Ours is the responsibility to guarantee secure energy at available and accessible conditions and also a bearable and predictable price. The PES urges EU member states to support the poorest parts of their population in their struggle with high energy costs. Each member state should find solutions in accordance with its respective social policy. Energy regulators in the Member States should ensure that universal service obligations are honoured and that vulnerable and poor consumers are adequately protected.

As we have to use fossil fuels for the foreseeable future, however, this should be done in a much cleaner and efficient way. Europe needs a smart, green, growth strategy to achieve its environmental and social ambitions and a secure energy supply. Investment in advanced technologies of energy production and distribution and further innovation in energy efficiency and renewable energies are necessary to keep up Europe's competitive edge. The fight against climate change and dependency on oil can offer the extra bonus of creating qualified jobs in Europe.

The PES offers realistic, clear objectives, avoiding empty promises. While recognizing member states' right to decide its own energy policy, including the energy mix best suitable for each one of them, it has a vision of a Common European Energy Approach. **Our approach is defined by long term thinking as opposed to short term profits and rent seeking. We pursue a smart, green growth strategy combining functioning markets and innovative state intervention.**

## **Elements of a new Social Democratic and Socialist energy strategy for Europe**

### **Tackling Climate Change**

Climate change is the most pressing problem. Public awareness for climate change and global warming is rising even faster than the global average temperature. Profound challenges lie ahead. Immediate cost-effective actions must be taken in order to curb the effect of human activity on our planet's climate. We must act now to revamp energy production and consumption in a way that reduces the formation of harmful carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.

The EU should take the lead in tackling climate change. It should aim for effective and global long-term quantified emission reduction targets for the post-Kyoto period from 2012 onwards. The efficient use of energy, the implementation of renewable energy sources which produce much less green house gases, and the introduction of cleaner energy production based on fossil fuels are essential preconditions for achieving the Kyoto targets.



The conclusions of the European Union's Spring Summit 2006 state that 15-30 % greenhouse gas reduction by industrialised countries by 2020 below 1990 levels is required in order to stay below a 2°C average temperature increase above pre-industrial levels. International climate change negotiations heavily need clear leadership. We need to change the mood from "You go ahead" to "I will do my share, too". Therefore the PES proposes that the EU agrees to reduce 30% greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and invites other countries to agree to similar ambitious targets. The EU should reach out to our international partners to agree on ambitious targets for 2020. To reach the ultimate objective of the UN Climate Change Convention, clear action is essential and Kyoto only a first step. However, Europe's efforts will not be sufficient without the support of the USA, China and other countries, which do not participate in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). We need binding targets for all the major emission-causing countries.

The Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is a key instrument to achieve the Kyoto commitments. Emission markets can be an efficient way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the commercial sector, but only if emission quotas are set in a very rigorous way. Its further development is a vehicle for the transition to a sustainable European energy system with low climate impact.

The setting of a price on carbon can make people more aware of the full costs of emitting CO<sub>2</sub>. Therefore there needs to be a long-term commitment to continue and expand the emission trading scheme. This would provide greater certainty for investors and producers. A central objective of international policy is to prepare for the time after the Kyoto commitment period, which ends in 2012. Our objective is to gain the adherence of all countries to an emissions-reducing policy so that climate change can be halted. **The ETS should be extended internationally and should run for a period of 20 years; and include all relevant sectors and all modes of freight transport, following a thorough impact assessment.**

At the same time, the Emission Trading System should be harmonized and simplified. It needs more transparency, better accuracy of data in order to avoid over allocation of emissions, greater auctioning of ETS credits, a ceiling for the trade of certificates, and a mechanism to allocate some of the revenues of the auctioning to R&D focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency. A percentage ceiling should be placed on the ability to use the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation in third countries.

The European Union should encourage the further development of an economical method of carbon capture and storage in relation to coal and gas and oil. The decision by the red-green coalition in Norway to finance jointly with industry a full scale carbon capture plant for a new combined heat and power plant is a major step in this direction. By 2015 there should be 10 large-scale demonstration plants in the EU. By 2020 our aim is to have carbon capture and storage as standard for any new fossil fuelled power plant.

### **Securing Europe's energy supply**

There is an emerging consensus that a common approach is needed to meet the challenges even if the energy mix of each member state remains an issue of national sovereignty. **Security of supply at bearable and predictable prices must be a major policy goal for the EU**, to prevent risks of disruption of supplies and abrupt price shocks.



Energy saving and the more efficient utilisation of domestic energy resources will reduce EU's dependence on imported oil. The Swedish Social Democrats' ambitious goal for a petroleum-free Sweden by 2020 can be a model for Europe. **The EU should agree on a timetable for reduction of fossil energy dependence over the coming decades.**

**Security of energy supply must become an integral part of the EU's common foreign and security policy, on the same level as development and trade policies.**

The EU must use its collective weight in dialogues with key energy suppliers, aiming at solid long-term partnerships and energy cooperation agreements. This requires a **common strategy** for relations with these countries and regions, in place of the disparate national approaches of Member States. On the other hand, transatlantic co-operation must be increased.

The EU and the United States depend on imported energy and at the same time they have the best economic and technological resources for finding joint solutions to improving their energy security.

The forthcoming agreement between the EU and Russia, should include a provision for mutual access to infrastructure, competition rules limiting the power of quasi-monopolistic companies which have not been unbundled having access to their respective energy markets and the issue of technical failures in the third countries, affecting cross-border supplies to the EU Member State. The EU Member States and the Union in its energy-related discussions with Russia, should demand the ratification and implementation of the Transit Protocol and the Energy Charter Treaty, which is instrumental to ensuring future much-needed foreign investment in Russia's energy infrastructure and ensuring an adequate gas supply to the EU in the future.

**Partnerships and cooperation agreements must be mutually beneficial**, especially with supplier countries like Russia, Algeria and Libya, with which the EU is interdependent. Norway is in a special position as a major strategic supplier of energy to Europe as it participates fully in the internal energy market through the EEA agreement. Agreements with Europe's energy suppliers must help to create stable but open regulatory frameworks in supply countries, to foster the massive investments needed in exploitation and transport infrastructures to secure long-term supplies. This must be complemented by agreements with transit countries to establish diversity of secure oil and gas pipelines. Partnerships and agreements should also be used as an opportunity to promote the EU's environmental agenda - establishing cooperation on renewable energies and promoting energy saving and energy efficiency at international level. We need a **new global energy dialogue** that helps to make global energy markets stable, secure and transparent. Member States in cooperation with EU institutions, should have a list of priority areas where they have reached agreement in terms of external energy policy.

The EU and its Member States must ensure that their diplomatic, aid and trade relations with energy-supplying countries promote fiscal transparency, good governance and the role of local civil society as a watchdog over energy revenue management. This is essential to counter corruption and mismanagement of energy revenues which can destabilize such countries, undermining sustainable development and fomenting unrest that threatens the security of energy supplies.



This theme should be embedded in all the EU's neighbourhood agreements, but also additional measures should be considered such as capacity-building assistance to help civil society groups in the resource revenue-dependent countries to act as independent monitors of their energy industries, but also helping the energy and industry ministries of these countries to increase their transparency and good governance."

**Co-operation with developing countries depending on energy imports must support investments in a domestic ecologically sustainable energy production. Their access to energy imports must be safeguarded while a hurtful competition between them and developed countries must be prevented.**

### **Investing in Energy efficiency**

Sustainable development requires a **third industrial revolution**. Its key elements are energy efficiency and the intelligent use of resources. We must understand that the problems of industrial societies can only be solved by the means of the industrial societies. Then the economical potential of the inevitable structural change to an ecologically sound economy is huge. New growth, new products and technologies will result in new jobs. We need to invest in ecological industrial policies to achieve this. Thus we will adapt our industrial structures to the ecological and economical challenges of the future.

The third industrial revolution has new lead sectors: new technologies in energy production and power plants; recycling and waste management; transport and mobility; water supply and sewage technology; ecological engineering and systems engineering; energy efficiency. The state and its energy and environment policies are important factors of investment and innovation in these fields.

Energy efficiency is the easiest and quickest way to tackle climate change and reduce our dependency on oil. Therefore it should be the priority measure of all energy policy.

The EU could save at least 20% of its current energy use in buildings, transport and industry, with huge gains for businesses and consumers alike, and with the creation of hundreds of thousands of new jobs. Half of this reduction in consumption can be achieved simply by implementation of existing legislation. The other half would need to come from innovative solutions.

**The EUs' and its member states' energy research and development policies need to undergo a re-think if they are to live up to the challenges of the new global energy reality. The next Spring Summit, in March 2007, must ensure that Europe's future energy policy is backed up by an ambitious R&D strategy.**

The EU can already rely on a set of legislative texts on energy efficiency - on buildings, co-generation, eco-design, energy end-use efficiency and labelling of household appliances. As a first step towards greater energy efficiency, member states should implement existing directives as a matter of urgency.



Even though the high level of energy prices make energy savings pay, political action is needed to achieve the results needed. This requires the full involvement of the levels of governance closest to the citizens, that is, the local and regional authorities. All member states also need coordinated public sector R&D input to promote the development and implementation of energy-saving technology.

The European Commission launched a **new EU Action Plan on energy efficiency**. PES member parties support major elements of this plan: Key policy elements are:

**Energy efficient products:** Public awareness of environmental issues increases the readiness of consumer's to change their preferences. More and more people wish, through their own personal choices, to reduce, for example, atmospheric pollution. From the consumer's standpoint, the biggest decisions, apart from home heating, are connected with transport and household electrical appliances. European institutions and national governments should support this shift of consumer's behaviour. Consumers need transparency for the right choice. National and European authorities should give them the power to choose with adequate regulation.

New technology need to be developed allowing for two-way communications between households and electricity suppliers in order to run household equipment during hours of low demand , and thereby reducing prices and demand at peak hours.

Energy labelling and services for energy end-use efficiency support consumer choices and encourages people to use energy-saving equipment. In future, we will need a clearer analysis than at present of the energy consumption of such equipment over its entire life cycle.

"New legislation should support the most energy efficient products; the PES supports the setting of Top-Runner-Standards for household electrical appliances and the plans of the EU Commission to negotiate internationally energy efficiency standards such as the EU-US "Energy Star" Programme for energy efficient office equipment.

**Buildings, planning and construction:** Energy consumption of buildings could be reduced by more than 25% by 2020. This would reduce total EU final energy consumption by around 6,5%. In particular in the new member states, there is still a huge saving potential in housing and urban infrastructure to be developed. This can be partly financed through the European Regional Development Fund and other European programmes under adequate conditions.

For social democrats it is unacceptable that in particular low-income families and individuals cannot achieve substantial energy savings in their homes, thereby reducing their energy bills and their exposure to future price increases. EU member states should follow the British example and support them with this purpose.

Societies in Europe have to take decisions and, notably, to put in place a more cohesive community structure. The failure of land policy, especially in large urban areas, is reflected in society's car-centricity and in the growing share of electrical heating. Over the next few years, social policy must accord a central place to an ecologically efficient and tightly knit community structure that facilitates the expansion of district heating networks. Sustainable urban and municipal planning is essential with a view to reducing unnecessary transportation and more efficient forms of heating. The role of the local and regional levels of governance in raising awareness, as well as drawing up and implementing energy saving measures should be taken into consideration.





**Transport:** The transport sector is responsible for nearly 60% of Europe's consumption of oil. If current trends prevail, oil consumption in this sector is expected to rise by at least 30% until 2030. The transport sector still offers a substantial potential to save energy and to increase the efficiency of used energy, combined with the urgent need of reducing CO2 emissions under the Kyoto protocol.

In order to soften the negative environmental and energy impacts of transport, environmentally friendly alternatives to road transport - such as rail, inland waterways and maritime transport - must be further strengthened. To achieve this, we need fair competition rules between transport modes. Furthermore, there are also numerous possibilities to increase the production of domestic bio-fuels for transport purposes in the forestry and agricultural sectors.

New legislation and fiscal incentives at national levels should support the most energy efficient and clean transport modes; the PES supports the targets of the EU Action Plan for Energy Efficiency to introduce binding legislation in the automotive sector to cut carbon emissions to 120 carbon grams per KM by 2012 in the automotive fleet of a company, and by a further reduced target by 2020. Regulations for cleaner aviation and ship emissions are urgently needed.

Promoting the production of alternative fuels from bio-mass will reduce the EU's dependence on oil and can make a significant contribution to the reduction of CO2 emissions.

**Improving energy production:** Energy production uses around one-third of all primary energy. The average efficiency for electricity generation is currently around 40%. A new generation of energy capacity can reach efficiency close to 60%. Losses in the transmission and distribution of electricity, which amount up to 10%, can also be reduced. The European Union and its member states must create favorable conditions which encourage investment in this new generation of power plants.

**Consumers' awareness is the key** for introducing more efficient appliances and to reduce the energy consumption in buildings and transport. Campaigns for public awareness are needed. National energy efficiency plans, required as from 2007, should be made widely known to the general public in all Member States.

Citizens' individual energy choices can be influenced by the 'energy culture' of their local communities. Here again, the role of local and regional governance is key to promoting awareness as well as facilitating energy efficiency and energy conservation choices.

A truly ecological tax system that avoids harmful tax competition, could contribute to a change in citizens' behaviour. Ecologically motivated taxation can in particular lead to a better economic balance between modes of transports which emit carbon such as cars, freight by road, boat or air, and transport which is softer on the environment, or even based on renewable energies.

**The PES starts an initiative of cities and regions to promote efficient use of energy in public buildings, public transport, and planning. Here we need benchmarking initiatives which can reduce energy consumption in urban areas combined with strategies on urban planning and transport. The PES encourages an exchange of best practice among local and regional authorities how to give citizens a prominent role in changing energy consumption patterns and the reduction of green house gases.**



## Promoting renewable energies

The demand for renewable and more efficient technologies is rising steadily. **The EU must ensure that it keeps its current competitive edge and technological lead in this field.** This can best be achieved by creating a stable regulatory framework for a significant expansion of renewables in the EU in order to give investors the confidence to invest more heavily in renewable energy R&D and production capacity.

A shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources is an essential precondition for meeting our climate change commitments. Even though a switch to these new sources of energy requires heavy investments, it offers great economic opportunities at the same time. Environmental policy becomes economic policy, because the fight against climate change means new investments, jobs, technology, and export markets.

The Stern-Report for the British government has shown that we face a simple choice: either we invest in renewable energy sources and reduce the emission of GHG, or the world economy will run into the severest economical crisis in modern history. In the long run there should be no conflict between affordable energy prices and a progressive climate policy. **Therefore, the PES considers renewable energy the key element of its new energy strategy.**

**The PES urges EU member states to increase their effort, not only to meet existing targets, but to further promote renewable energies over the long term, by considering new and more ambitious targets. We support the ambition of the EU Spring Council 2006 to raise the share of renewable energy to 15% and bio-fuels to 8% by 2015. The share of renewable energy sources in total energy consumption could rise to at least 50% by 2040. Such a goal can only be reached if all actors subscribe to it.**

The EU must set a long term stable policy framework which will give investors a clear orientation where the market should invest. This framework will contain an EU target for energy efficiency of minimum 20% improvement by 2020, binding sector targets for renewables in order to achieve **25% of renewables in primary energy** in 2020.

Bio-energy sources can provide an environmentally sustainable alternative to fossil energy sources. Bio-energy has the potential to reduce our dependence on oil and gas. It has the ability to reduce pollution, but it can also exacerbate a range of other environmental problems if not developed carefully.

The use of bio-energy has to meet the same standards of efficiency, sustainability and carbon emission as other energy sources. The energy balance must reduce fossil fuel emissions and not lead to spoilage of watercourses due to over fertilisation.

Investment in and use of renewable sources of energy are necessary for creating an environmentally sustainable society and can also be beneficial for growth and job creation. Investment in bio-energy will contribute to attaining a secure and a sustainable energy supply as well as growth and job creation. Bio-mass already provides the major part of total renewable energy input to the EU25 and has a significant potential for becoming even more important.





Although resources and conditions for biomass production vary greatly between the European countries, some form of bio-energy can be produced almost all over Europe. Increased use of bio-fuels for transport, and the use of a larger part of the agricultural area of the EU for production of bio-energy when motivated from a cost-effective point of view are of particular interest. The production of bio-energy can also lead to an increase of working opportunities in rural areas.

**The present level of five per cent per volume of ethanol in petrol constitutes a severe barrier to meeting the target set by the European Council, i.e. that by 2010 5.75 % of all fuel used for transport should be bio-fuels. It is therefore of crucial importance that current rules are changed so that 10 percent bio-fuel can be blended into ordinary petrol.**

The EU should direct more of its subsidies for research and development to alternative fuels: the development of second generation bio-fuels needs a political and financial push to introduce it into the markets. An option is the mandatory use of alternative fuels. The EU has already set a target of 5,75 % share of bio-fuel use in cars, buses and lorries. Such targets together with more R&D create a virtuous circle where targets are incentive for new technology and new technology enables more ambitious targets.

The EU and its Member States must

- **ensure a fair access of renewable electricity to the power grids**
- **provide significant additional public investment in R&D in renewables**
- **promote the use of bio-energy by developing a coherent policy approach covering energy, transport, agriculture, forestry, development and trade**
- **tap the full potential of renewable energy for heating and cooling.**

### **Diversifying Europe's energy mix**

There is not one best way for a sustainable energy supply. Different countries find different solutions suiting them best. Each country's mix depends on its size, history, development, culture and its natural and human resources; it ought to give priority to those that emit little or no CO<sub>2</sub>. The use of fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas all contributes to worsen the climate change, however. Therefore a more efficient use of energy and the implementation of renewable energies is our priority.

Hydro, wind and solar power are important renewable parts of the energy mix of European countries. The extent of the use of these sources is depending on natural circumstances and national policy choices. We want to use synergies of national and European programmes to change the energy mix accordingly all over Europe.

Traditional energy sources will be used for a foreseeable future, even if priority is given to renewable energy. Technological progress can reduce the environmental and climate impact of fossil fuels. Industry should be encouraged to invest in clean coal technology and coal gasification, with CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage.

Thermal plants need to yield more; cogeneration and tri-generation must be encouraged, using the heat produced to fuel industrial processing, or even large-scale heating and cooling. **More rational use of currently dominant energy sources could make a significant contribution to energy saving and energy efficiency**, thus reducing environmentally harmful emissions. A whole range of new innovative technologies are emerging and need to be promoted through appropriate policies and regulations.



Decentralised power technologies are likely to develop, and it is our duty to contribute to this. Energy-generating housing system would, for instance, deserve further investigation.

Nuclear power is an important element of the energy mix of several EU member states, while others have declined using it. Nuclear safety is a common concern for all member states. Also in the future the selection of the energy mix shall be considered a case for subsidiarity.

In Europe large-scale solutions will be on the agenda when decisions are taken concerning the renewal of fossil fuel-fired power plants that are reaching the end of their technological or economic life. **We need a clear political framework for investments in new power plants.** Responsibility for the financing and technical implementation of the new energy production plants will rest with companies in the energy sector, however.

### **Value added: a European dimension of energy policy**

A common European energy strategy is not an end in itself. It is necessary because Europe will not be able to secure its energy supply and to implement an effective climate strategy without political solidarity among its member states. Our consumers need political regulation of our energy markets to create effective competition for bearable energy prices. Social democrats think ahead of markets.

A common European market increases the chances to get a fair deal with our energy producers on the basis of mutual interests. It will also enable Europe to develop an energy policy based on solidarity with the developing countries. Only with common action can the European Union face the global challenge of climate change and insecure energy supplies. Only with a coordination of the national research and development efforts can we speed up the introduction of new sustainable energy sources. The only feasible way to control energy monopolies is a concerted action of EU and its member states. The stability of our electricity grids depends as much on common European action as the security of our gas and oil supply. Together, Europe can use its competitive advantages in global energy and technology markets.

In the absence of a clear European-wide energy policy strategy, Member States continue to pursue their own national strategic advantage based on national policy choices and imperatives, thereby leaving **very little scope for policy cooperation at EU level.** There is, however, an emerging consensus that a common approach is needed to meet these challenges even if the energy mix of each member state remains an issue of national sovereignty.

Our institutions at national and European level face a common responsibility in pursuing a pro-active and long-term public policy on energy. The quality of public policy in this field, from conception to implementation, will be the key to success. The next European Spring Council has to live up to these high expectations. **In March 2007, Member States should come up with a broader vision of the common European interest in the energy field, in order to place the completion of the internal market in the clear political framework that is currently lacking.** The European Union can complement national energy strategies effectively, and thus create added value.



The common goal of the EU must be to create the best possible energy mix which is intelligent and feasible, and as economic, efficient and ecological as possible. Within the EU, energy challenges are common in nature, despite the somewhat heterogeneous energy situations among member states. Each member state should assume its own responsibilities, according to its resources and its climatic, hydraulic, geological and geographical conditions, but as part of a common European strategy.

As a result of the obvious diversity among the Member States, the emergence of regional energy markets (in the Iberian Peninsula, in the Nordic and Baltic countries, France, Germany, and the countries of the Benelux...) is proceeding. The PES welcomes this process, because the regionalization of the internal market can contribute to accelerating the integration of the EU energy market if no new barriers will arise.

The deregulation of the energy market within the EU has so far failed to meet the expectations. Former national or regional energy monopolies still control access to their networks for competitors. A competitive European market has not yet been established. The consumers pay for this failure. Contrary to expectations, prices have not fallen across the board. They continue to vary significantly between Member States. There is very limited internal market integration in terms of interconnections between national suppliers as part of a European grid of electricity and gas. Improvement of the functioning of national and regional energy markets must however be given priority to further interconnection. It is also important that further interconnection is combined with a national responsibility to increase the domestic production of renewable energy. Fair access to networks must be guaranteed for all energy producers as part of a well-functioning internal energy market.

Markets are only part of the answer. As conventional energy producers continue to control production and transmission of electricity, due to a lack of unbundling of generation from transmission of energy, **the market continues to discriminate against electricity provided by renewable energy** producers in a number of Member States. Free access to networks must be guaranteed as part of a well-functioning internal energy market.

Competencies and actions of national regulators should be coordinated, and, if necessary, the introduction of a European Regulator be considered. National energy regulators should be given a role of advising competition authorities in the Member States and of ensuring that energy companies have a statutory obligation to give energy saving advice to customers. EU must be capable of reinforcing our energy security, assuring the development of our networks, programming our production and supply tools, ensuring the possibility of energy purchasing, and also to stimulating our research and innovation capacities. The EU and its Member States should implement their political commitments regarding the development of the missing energy interconnections, paying special attention in the isolated and border regions of the EU.

It is a common challenge for the European Union and the member states to create stable and predictable circumstances for the large investments needed to ensure reliable and sustainable energy supply for the European citizens and it is a common challenge for us all to combat the climate change now. It is our common responsibility to save the planet for current and future generations.

