

Statement by the Scientific & Technological Communities Major Group

IPM CSD19

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Mr Chairman

Thank you for letting the Scientific and Technological Communities present the following statement.

If the current trend is maintained, 2/3rds of the world population will live in urban environments by 2050. In several countries, the urban boundaries are expanding as peri-urban areas, which would subsequently evolve as new cities. It is thus important to develop a sound scientific modeling approach to allow designing integrated and inter-modal transport networks.

Transportation technologies are progressing on many fronts towards lower emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases. Despite this, there remains a strong need to reduce demand for personal vehicle transport and long-distance road transport of goods.

Nowadays, motorized transport depends on oil for its energy needs and contributes a growing share to global emissions of greenhouse gases. The contribution of biofuels and flex-fuel cars to sustainable development is a fact in some countries. However, introducing biomass production for fuels should be based on sound studies which have to evaluate risks of competition with food production and potential effects on crop prices.

Actions for promoting cleaner fuels and vehicles, including hybrid and electric cars, must also be complemented by policies to diversify mobility means, to introduce efficient and sustainable public transport in particular in urban zones, and to enhance public space management in cities with new modes instead of car usage.

The scientific, engineering and technological communities can play a key role in understanding the policy-implementation nexus, what has worked and what not, in order to provide the required information for developing new policies in this domain.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman