

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A G8 ACTION PLAN

June 2, 2003

We recognize the need, as acknowledged in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Plan of Implementation, to support the development of cleaner, sustainable and more efficient technologies. Co-operative scientific research on transformational technologies offers potential to improve public health by cutting pollution and reduce greenhouse emissions to address the challenge of global climate change. Our countries must optimize the use of natural resources including through recycling.

We will focus our efforts on three areas that present great opportunities for progress: co-ordination of global observation strategies; cleaner, sustainable and more efficient energy use; agricultural sustainability, productivity and biodiversity conservation.

In undertaking these activities, we are committed to working co-operatively with other developed countries. We are conscious that, to meet the objectives of the WSSD, developing countries and countries with economies in transition need to build and strengthen their capacity to assimilate and generate knowledge for sustainable development. We reaffirm our commitment made at the WSSD to assist them through international co-operation in enhancing their research capacities.

1. Strengthen international co-operation on global observation

We will:

- 1.1 Develop close co-ordination of our respective global observation strategies for the next ten years; identify new observations to minimize data gaps;
- 1.2 Build on existing work to produce reliable data products on atmosphere, land, fresh water, oceans and ecosystems;
- 1.3 Improve the world-wide reporting and archiving of these data and fill observational gaps of coverage in existing systems;
- 1.4 Favor interoperability with reciprocal data-sharing;
- 1.5 Develop an implementation plan to achieve these objectives by next spring's Tokyo ministerial conference.