

Climate Change Diplomacy

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MALTA - SALINA BAY CONCLUSIONS

Participants at the International Conference on Climate Change Diplomacy, held in Malta on 8 – 9 February 2008:

- highlighted the need for a **multistakeholder, multi-disciplinary, holistic and systematic approach** to climate change taking into account all possible opportunities for strengthening synergies with environmental and other global processes;
- emphasised the importance of the multistakeholder approach as a **channel for vertical communication among different layers** of decision-making and implementation (local-national-regional-global);
- shared the conviction that the involvement of multiple stakeholders should **not replace, but rather complement and broaden traditional international relations** conducted by sovereign states;
- asserted that pragmatic and action-oriented multistakeholder coalitions should base their work on their **comparative advantages** in terms of expertise, networking resources, grass-root connections, financing and other resources;
- promoted **understanding of processes** which support successful multistakeholder partnerships and **highlight lessons learned, including obstacles**, in developing the partnerships;
- suggested the implementation of an **assessment of training, education and capacity-building needs** in the field of climate change diplomacy, in particular, those of decision-makers and diplomats from least developed countries and small island developing states;
- suggested the introduction of **training and capacity-building programmes** in climate change diplomacy based on identified needs; in particular through the use of online and other modern training techniques;
- suggested the **introduction of online platforms and tools** to assist climate change negotiators manage large volumes of scientific and other data.

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