

*Seminar of governmental experts  
Bonn, 16-17 May 2005*

***ADAPTATION AND  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT***

*Presentation on behalf of the EU*

***Outi Berghäll, Finland***

# Addressing climate change is an integral part of sustainable development

- Examples - CSD 13 thematic areas:
  - Water scarcity  $\leq$  climate change
  - Low-cost sanitation options  $\leq$  risk of floods  $\leq$  climate change
  - Risks for people living in areas prone to flooding, landslides and other disasters  $\leq$  climate change

# Urgency in addressing the problem

- "In order to prevent severe damage to the environment and society, and to ensure sustainable development even under changing climate conditions, adaptation strategies are required."  
(Europe's climate assessment )
- Intelligent development policies include planned adaptation.
- The feasibility of adaptation strategies depends on the level of mitigation.

# Opportunities

- Integration of climate change aspects into SD policies and into decision-making
  - enables to address the problem cost effectively and at the scale required.
  - helps to ensure that duplication of efforts and waste of scarce resources is avoided
- "Devise water, sanitation and human settlements policies and action taking account of the need to address the impacts of...climate change and climate variability..." (CSD13)

# **Need to increase awareness and knowledge of CC impacts**

- Need to involve decision-makers and stakeholders in all sectors and at all levels:
- Need to increase awareness and knowledge of climate change and its impacts;
- Need to develop and disseminate knowledge of promising approaches to address the impacts.

# International support for developing countries

- Impacts of climate change fall disproportionately upon developing countries and upon the poor.
  - Need to identify the most cost-effective way for the international community to act;
  - Need to integrate climate aspects into ODA and funding policies and create synergies when supporting sustainable development
  - The EU will continue to help developing countries to build their capacities to adapt and take adaptation measures.

# Questions for discussion

- How can the knowledge base be enhanced: vulnerabilities, impacts and cost-effective adaptation options? What is required to enhance adaptive capacity?
- How can awareness of the adaptation challenge be enhanced at all levels and in all sectors? How can practitioners be educated about the "how to"?
- How can cross-sectoral communication be developed at all levels?