

Policy makers need to identify clear and well-defined energy goals, and create a broad consensus to achieve this transformation. The use of pilot projects and analyses on the effectiveness of the policies adopted are fundamental tools for the creation of efficient and functional policies.

2) Increase access to energy

Many developing countries are working to expand energy infrastructure; to increase private investment, countries are also reforming regulatory frameworks to lower the costs of such investments. At the same time, distributed generation can arrive today in the most remote locations that cannot be reached by infrastructure in an economically sustainable manner. But expanding infrastructure is not enough, countries will have to look for innovative mechanisms to allow people to use energy and its benefits to start activities that generate revenue and economic development.

3) Increase economic accessibility

Many countries with low GDP and low levels of energy equity are working to improve the economic accessibility of energy, through funding or by creating contexts to attract investment and develop energy infrastructure. In the short term, state subsidies can be fundamental for less well-off consumers and to support social and development policies. But in the long term, subsidies can also be counterproductive, becoming very expensive, difficult to remove or reduce and could even stimulate inefficient uses of energy;

4) Increase energy efficiency and demand management

Efficiency and demand management are among the most important priorities worldwide, thanks to their enormous potential. However, the savings achieved alone are not always able to stimulate investments and efficient behavior: legislators must continue their commitment to align the interests of producers, users and regulators, through the combination of energy efficiency standards, labeling programs and incentives. They must also continue to increase awareness of energy efficiency both at the industrial and final consumer levels.

5) Decarbonization of the energy sector

COP21 gave a further boost to the global transition to a low-carbon economy. Investment policies for a flexible and dynamic renewable generation are fundamental to respond to the evolution of market dynamics and technological developments. The objectives of COP21 will require a clear path to reach a significant and effective carbon price signal.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Nowadays, climate change and global warming are huge problems that can affect our present development and our entire future. The more negative effects of this scenario, however, regard only specific sectors of the earth population, because they will be particularly destabilizing on weak countries and weak social sectors, as well as they will be dangerously irreversible on environment and human health (which is differently accessible for different social sectors).

The answer to these problems can only be sustainable development, that has to be intended as a strong interaction between economic, social and environmental development.

A fundamental condition to obtain sustainable development is related to the common and coherent actions of policy-makers and decision-makers, with particular attention to the behaviors of the world leading countries in terms of

industrialization and energy intensity of the GDP. However, we believe that a more important success condition is strictly linked with the capability of the scientific community to coordinate and direct the necessary actions to realize sustainable development on the basis of science-based solutions as opposed to politics-based solutions.

The five points that the World Energy Council has identified as fundamental goals of our future are definitely well-posed and commonly acceptable, but the way to reach those goals should be scientific first and political next, never vice versa.

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