Brazilian Perspectives on Biofuels

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- The importance of the dialogue in biofuels standards between Brazil, the US and the EU continues to grow. We have achieved very important results and increased collaboration at the technical level. The effort of harmonizing standards and codes continues at ISO. The Brazilian Government is very pleased with the results.

- Expect to continue this cooperation in new areas such as aviation biofuels, the main focus of this conference. It is a new field with a lot of potential for our regions. New technologies need to be tested to make this market a reality. But there are opportunities for greater synergies: R&D, fuel certification, for instance.

- Domestically, we continue to be committed to the sustainable production and use of ethanol and biodiesel. The share of ethanol in our energy mix is still high (more than 40% of the gasoline market) and we have implemented a 5% blend of biodiesel into fossil diesel countrywide.

- Measures to revamp ethanol production have been adopted, which included additional finance for the renewal of sugarcane fields and reenactment of a mandatory 25% ethanol blend in 2013 (the blend is currently set at 20%).

- We expect that sugarcane and soybean will continue to be the main source of ethanol and biodiesel, respectively (100% ethanol come from sugarcane; 80% biodiesel come from soybeans). Cellulosic material from sugarcane (leaves and bagasse) is expected to be the main source of cellulosic ethanol in the near future. Alternative crops, such as jatropha, are still in the trials phase.

- However, new uses for biomass under development in Brazil: cellulosic ethanol, bioplastics, aviation biofuels, woody biomass for co-firing, projects for the sustainable production of palm oil in the Amazon (palm oil agroecological zoning).

- Internationally, Brazil is still committed to the promotion of the sustainable production and use of biofuels, including from food crops. We believe that biofuels can work as an important tool for the sustainable development, as they can promote rural development, generate jobs and income, and increase the production and availability of food, especially in developing countries.

- Cooperation activities to assist other developing countries in setting their biofuels programs are at the top of Brazilian energy diplomacy. Some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Africa have already benefited from a series of feasibility studies that assessed their bioenergy potential and suggested projects to be implemented.

- Brazil is actively working through the GBEP to promote the sustainable production and use of bioenergy. We are fully committed to this multi stakeholder exercise.

- Brazil is also fully engaged in the discussions of sustainable criteria of bioenergy at the ISO. Approach that is consistent with multilateral trade rules.

- Another important issue that will certainly be followed closely by Brazil and also by our MERCOSUR partners is the discussions about the new EU renewable energy directive and its implications for the biofuels international market.