The International Energy Agency (IEA) reports that global subsidy expenditure for fossil-fuel consumption increased to US$523 billion in 2011, up by 30% on the previous year. The International Institute for Sustainable Development’s Global Subsidies Initiative estimates that governments subsidise fossil-fuel production by about US$100 billion per year. Continuing significant subsidisation of fossil fuels is seriously undermining the necessary transition to a more sustainable energy future. IEA and OECD research suggests removing these subsidies could reduce global emissions by up to 10% by 2050. This would make a substantial contribution to keeping global warming below 2ºC in 2050. Reductions in fossil-fuel subsidies would remove significant fiscal burdens from governments and make funding available for redirection to climate change mitigation and other priorities.

If challenges to reform fossil fuel subsidies are to be overcome, such as minimizing the possible adverse impacts for vulnerable groups, best practice, success stories and innovative ideas must be shared and developed further. This session, organised by Denmark and the IISD-GSI with the involvement of the Friends of Fossil-Fuel Subsidy Reform*, aims to identify solutions to create further momentum for fossil-fuel subsidy reform. The panel discussions will address:

1. The engagement of political actors at an international level: in which forums and how can fossil-fuel subsidy reform be most effectively progressed?
2. Accelerating concrete initiatives for national reform: what strategies can countries use to overcome the political and social barriers to reform?

The Friends group includes the Governments of Costa Rica, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

PANEL

Introduction and co-moderator:
Martin Lidegaard, Minister of Climate, Energy and Buildings, Denmark
Co-moderator: Tim Groser, Minister of Trade and Climate Change, New Zealand
Speakers:
- Hon. Rene Castro, Minister of Environment, Costa Rica
- Jos Delbeke, Director General, Climate Action, European Commission
- Amb. Socorro Flores Liera, Special Advisor for Climate Change, Foreign Ministry of Mexico
- Jehan Sauvage, Trade Policy Analyst, OECD
- Majid Al-Suwaidi, Deputy Director of Energy and Climate Change. Ministry of Foreign Affairs UAE
- Kerryn Lang, Project Manager, Global Subsidies Initiative, International Institute for Sustainable Development
- World Bank (TBC)
- UNEP (TBC)

LOCATION: Room Lefkosia, EU Pavilion, Qatar National Convention Centre, Doha
DATE/TIME: Tuesday 4 December 2012, 13:00 – 15:00

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