

## 11<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### SUMMARY

#### **1.0 Introduction**

**Chairperson:** Valli Moosa (Minister of the Environment, South Africa)

The 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) met at the UN HQ, New York between 28<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2003. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and make decisions on the organisational reform and future work programme of the CSD as mandated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). The objective of the CSD is to review and expedite implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Future Implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI, through the adoption and promotion of system-wide coordination across the UN, and the promotion of consistency in policy and decision-making at all levels.

The Session was initiated with a three days High-Level Ministerial Session. The session was effective in providing momentum, political will and direction to the negotiations on the future work programme of the CSD. Major Groups were invited to present, and interact with some of the High-Level Session. The initial draft decision released by the Chairperson on Thursday 1 May reflects the discussions of the Ministers and the Major Groups.

Inter-governmental sessions during week 2 resulted in agreement of the Resolution 'Future Programme, Organisation and Methods of Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development'. Strong chairing by Valli Moosa and the use of well facilitated contact groups were fundamental in the achievement of this. The Resolution was agreed on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2003

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#### **2.0 Future Programme, Organisation And Methods of Work of The Commission on Sustainable Development**

##### **2.1 Introduction**

Recalls:

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- Agenda 21
- Programme of the Future Implementation of Agenda 21
- Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development
- Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development

Reaffirms:

- Commitment to achieving internationally agreed development goals
- Commitments to achieving MDG's
- Commitment to achieving outcomes of major United Nations conferences and agreements since 1992
- Mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development
- General Assembly resolution 47/191
- General Assembly resolution 57/253

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##### **2.2 Future Organisation of Work of the CSD**

Refer to Flow Diagram - CSD Work Cycle (Fig 1.)

### **2.3 Note to Accompany Fig. 1.**

The organisation of work of the CSD should contribute to advancing implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI at all levels.

Whilst reviewing over all progress towards implementation, the CSD's work programme will focus on:

- Constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation
- Thematic cluster of issues for each two-year action orientated 'Implementation Cycle'

#### **2.3.1 Implementation Cycles**

The CSD will adopt a series of two-year action orientated 'Implementation Cycles' (Fig 1.) focusing on thematic clusters issue (refer to table 1.).

**Year 1.** The **Commission Review Session** whilst undertaking overall review of implementation, evaluation of progress should enable an improved understanding of priority concerns in the implementation of the selected thematic cluster of issues, and pave the way for an effective policy discussion in the course of the Policy year, with a view of strengthening implementation in these areas

**Year 2.** The **Commission Policy Session** will take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation in the selected thematic clusters of issues

**High Levels Segments** will be organised to give guidance, and allow political oversight of in decision-making, and encourage interaction with major groups, agencies, funds, programmes and other organisations within the UN systems, and international finance and trade institutions.

**Thematic Cluster of Issues** will be periodically considered and recommendations made to ECOSOC on these, and on it's role in promoting system-wide coordination.

#### **2.3.2 UN Regional Commission**

- Invited to consider, but not formerly mandated, to organise 'Regional Implementation Meetings' in collaboration with the secretariat of the CSD, prior to and input to the Secretary General's State of Implementation Report. There is sufficient flexibility in the organisation of work to allow UN Regional Commissions to contribute in a timely manner, in accordance with formal UN Regional Commission Meetings.

#### **2.3.3 Resources**

- *Participation of representatives* of CSD member states in respective regional meetings, once per cycle, *could* be supported by resources previously devoted to the former Ad-Hoc Inter-sessional Working Groups of the CSD.
- Resources released by the termination of the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development *could* be used to support the work of the CSD.

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## **2.4 Multi-Year Programme of Work of the CSD for the period after 2003**

Multi-Year Programme of Work of the CSD – refer to Table 1.

#### ***2.4.1 Considerations to guide the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work***

- Review will be dealt in accordance with relevant provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and the JPOI
- Thematic clusters should be addressed in a way that considers all dimensions of sustainable development
- The selection of clusters of issues does not undermine the importance of *all* issues identified in Agenda 21 and the JPOI. The implementation process should cover all issues equally.
- Means of Implementation identified in JOPI should be considered in every cycle, as well as additional cross-cutting issues, and other regional activities, including SIDS, Africa and LDC. Refer to Table.1
- CSD should focus on issues where it could add value to inter-governmental deliberations on cross-cutting issues
- The CSD should take into account the outcomes of the work of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the integrated and coordinated implementation of, and follow-up to, the outcomes of the major UN Conference and Summits in the Economic and Social Fields
- The Commission may decide to incorporate new challenges and opportunities related to implementation into its Multi-Year Programme of Work

#### ***2.4.2 Reporting***

- Further work on and effective use of indicators at the national level is encouraged
- Effective system of reporting detailed as essential for reviewing, evaluating and monitoring progress on implementation, sharing lessons learned and best practice, identifying actions taken, opportunities, obstacles and constraints.
- Voluntary submission of national reports on progress, achievements, constraints, challenges and opportunities – including information on status of national strategies for sustainable development
- Secretariat in cooperation with other organisations in the UN system to:
  - Streamline reporting
  - Highlight trends, constraints, challenges, emerging issues
  - Provide technical assistance in national reporting
  - Provide, in consultation with others, national reporting guidelines and questionnaires

*Considerations to guide reporting:*

- Report on three dimensions of sustainable development
- Include input from all levels as appropriate, and from UN Agencies, programmes and funds, the GEF, international and trade institutes, major groups including educators and scientific experts
- Use existing reporting systems to their fullest extent
- Focus on concrete progress and implementation
- Include:
  - Information sharing, lessons learned & best practice
- Identify:
  - Action taken, constraints, challenges & opportunities

#### ***2.4.3 Adoption of a collaborative approach***

Enhance collaboration in all areas:

- UN Agencies, programmes and funds, GEF, international and regional financial and trade institutions to participate actively with and inform the CSD of their activities
- Promotion of stronger links between implementation at national to international levels
- Strengthen coherence and collaboration between organisations
- Identify gaps in implementation
- Mobilise/increase efficient use of resources for implementation
- Promotion of system wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination taking into account UN reform and utilising the United Nations System Chief Executive Board for Coordination
- Secretary General to include in his report proposals outlining an integrated and comprehensive response of the UN system to sustainable development

### 2.4.3 *Involvement of Major Groups*

Involvement of the Major Groups should:

- Include the **scientific community** and **educators**
- Be strengthened, through involvement in dialogue during the High-level Segments
- Be more action and implementation orientated during multi-stakeholder dialogues
- Be enhanced in implementation, including civil society and relevant stakeholders
- Promote transparency
- Promote broad public participation
- Ensure balanced regional representation and for gender balance
- Ensure active involvement in partnership-related and capacity building activities

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## 2.5 Partnerships (Type II's)

Activities aimed at the strengthening of partnerships in the context of the WSSD process and its follow-up. CSD is the focal point for discussions on partnerships. Partnerships should be developed and implemented in accordance with the following criteria and principles, which take into account the Bali Guidelines;

*Partnerships should:*

- Be voluntary and multi-stakeholder initiatives
- Contribute to the implementation of \*Agenda 21, Programme of Work for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI
- Be complementary to not a substitute for commitments to the implementation of the above \*international commitments
- Have concrete value addition to implementation
- Be new
- Balance the three dimensions of sustainable development in design/implementation
- Be based on predictable and sustained resources
- In developing countries there is a need to, where relevant:
  - Mobilise new resources;
  - Result in transfer of technology;
  - Result in capacity building
- Have sectoral geographic balance
- Be transparent and accountable, exchanging relevant information with governments and stakeholders

*Partnerships should:*

- Be publicly announced – detailing their contribution to implementation
- Be consistent with national laws and national strategies for implementation
- Lead partners should inform national focal points for sustainable development in all involved countries, and bear in mind guidance by governments
- UN funds, programmes and agencies should conform to their inter-governmentally agreed mandates and should not divert funds from mandated programmes to partnerships.

Information and reporting by partnerships registered to the CSD should be:

- Transparent
- Participatory
- Credible

Registered partnerships to the CSD should take into account:

- Registration should be voluntary and be based on reporting
- Reporting should focus on the contribution to implementation
- Partnerships should preferably report on at least a biennial basis
- The CSD Secretariat should make information on partnerships available to all interested parties
- The CSD Secretariat is requested to produce a summary report on partnerships
- The CSD should consider the contributions of partnerships during the review year. These considerations should inform and provide guidance during the policy year

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All resources referenced in this report, including Outreach (daily news letter on events and discussions at CSD 11) will be made available at [www.earthsummit2002.org](http://www.earthsummit2002.org)

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This report was produced by Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future, in the first instance all comments should be made to Georgina Ayre or Rosalie Gardiner.

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**3.0 Cross-Reference; Stakeholder Forums' Priorities Issues and the Resolution**

The following statements offer an explanatory note on how well priority issues for Stakeholder Forum are reflected in the Resolution 'Future Programme, Organisation And Methods Of Work Of The Commission on Sustainable Development'.

These key issues were determined in part through a questionnaire and a multi-stakeholder dialogue process facilitated by Stakeholder Forum, in partnerships with IUCN and the Heinrick Boell Foundation, addressing the organisational reform and future work programme of the CSD. Other issues relate directly to the work programme of Stakeholder Programme, for example – the regional level.

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1. **Balancing poverty eradication with integrated natural resources management and Sustainable Production and Consumption.** This principle was successfully included in the preamble of the final decision
  2. **Coherence with Agenda 21 follow-up and JPOI, MDGs, other UN processes, as well as Bretton Woods Institutions and WTO.** There is agreed text on supporting achievement of the Millennium Summit commitments, as well as references to international (and regional) trade and financial institutions e.g. paras 7 & 14, and other UN bodies.
  3. **Local and sub-national level.** There were attempts to have these sections included. They were not retained, in part because of a strong lobby from China. However, references from JPOI should cover this governance gap.
  4. **Broader ministerial participation.** This is clearly endorsed in the text calling for "relevant" ministers to attend, para 7.
  5. **Global Public Policy Networks / Task forces.** No reference to this option ever made it into the decision despite considerable soundings from governments and stakeholders in favour of the idea. However, some of the broad references to the involvement of major groups and civil society at the relevant level could allow for convening of Task Forces. Further to this the potential for convening task forces that can draw in a wider policy audience could be encouraged to re-emerge as a CSD recommendation in future sessions.
  6. **A two-year Bureau term of office.** This issue remained undecided in the text - to be resolved by ECOSOC. The survey on the future of the CSD carried out by Stakeholder Forum indicated that most stakeholders were in favour of a consistent bureau group for each two-year cycle.
  7. **Participation.** References to a more flexible approach to stakeholder engagement were dropped in several parts of the text despite, or perhaps because of, USA's strong lobbying in this area. The text was saved to some extent by reference to para's 139.g, 149(c)&(d) in the JPOI e.g. para 17.
  8. **Limited number of issues per session.** Consultations had revealed agreement that fewer issues should be covered in more comprehensively. This has not been the outcome of the final cycle. However, after the first two cycles have run there may be an opportunity to redress this. Especially to encourage the cycle series to conclude at the same time as the MDG's review in 2015, rather than 2017.
  9. **The 'Lens approach'.** The survey indicated a strong consensus about addressing cross-sectoral and certain thematic issues through the lens of a specific theme. This has been reflected in the final programme of work annex. Our survey and workshop also supported the CSD focuses on topics where it can bring extra value - which is reflected in the final decision.
  10. **Additional finance for regional and other processes.** Although additional finance has been made available through the closure of two committees, there is little clarity about whether this money will be sufficient to ensure effective facilitation, review and implementation work by the CSD and the Regional Commissions.

## Multi-Year Programme of Work of the CSD

### Table 1.

Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Cross-Cutting Issues
2004/2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Sanitation</li> <li>• Human Settlements</li> </ul>	Poverty Eradication. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protection and managing the nature resource base of economic and social development. Sustainable Development in a globalising world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable Development of SIDS, Sustainable Development for Africa, Other regional initiatives. Means of Implementation, Institutions Frameworks for Sustainable Development, Gender Equality, and Education
2006/2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy for sustainable development</li> <li>• Industrial Development</li> <li>• Air Pollution/Atmosphere</li> <li>• Climate Change</li> </ul>	Poverty Eradication. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protection and managing the nature resource base of economic and social development. Sustainable Development in a globalising world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable Development of SIDS, Sustainable Development for Africa, Other regional initiatives. Means of Implementation, Institutions Frameworks for Sustainable Development, Gender Equality, and Education
2008/2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Rural Development</li> <li>• Land</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Desertification</li> <li>• Africa</li> </ul>	Poverty Eradication. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protection and managing the nature resource base of economic and social development. Sustainable Development in a globalising world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable Development of SIDS, Sustainable Development for Africa, Other regional initiatives. Means of Implementation, Institutions Frameworks for Sustainable Development, Gender Equality, and Education
2010/2011*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Chemicals</li> <li>• Waste Management</li> <li>• Mining</li> <li>• A Ten Year Framework for programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns</li> </ul>	Poverty Eradication. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protection and managing the nature resource base of economic and social development. Sustainable Development in a globalising world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable Development of SIDS, Sustainable Development for Africa, Other regional initiatives. Means of Implementation, Institutions Frameworks for Sustainable Development, Gender Equality, and Education
2012/2013*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Biotechnology</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Mountains</li> </ul>	Poverty Eradication. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protection and managing the nature resource base of economic and social development. Sustainable Development in a globalising world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable Development of SIDS, Sustainable Development for Africa, Other regional initiatives. Means of Implementation, Institutions Frameworks for Sustainable Development, Gender Equality, and Education
2014/2015*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oceans and Seas</li> <li>• Marine Resources</li> <li>• SIDS</li> <li>• Disaster Management and Vulnerability</li> </ul>	Poverty Eradication. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protection and managing the nature resource base of economic and social development. Sustainable Development in a globalising world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable Development of SIDS, Sustainable Development for Africa, Other regional initiatives. Means of Implementation, Institutions Frameworks for Sustainable Development, Gender Equality, and Education
2016/2017	Overall appraisal of implementation of Agenda 21, The Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda and the JPOI.	

\* This thematic cluster will remain as part of the Multi-Year Programme of Work as scheduled unless otherwise agreed by the Commission. (applies for clusters 4,5, and 6)

## WORK-CYCLE/ORGANISATION OF THE CSD

Fig 1.

