

Priority actions and commitments to translate the WSSD outcomes into reality

“Framework for Discussion” paper by the Chair of CSD11 for the Inter-active Ministerial Roundtables

Six months ago in Johannesburg, Governments committed themselves to specific goals, targets and time-bound measures aimed at accelerated transition to sustainable development. While some of them reaffirm the Millennium Development Goals, the majority of these undertakings represent new commitments.

As ministers come together for CSD11, the first meeting of the CSD since Johannesburg, a key question demanding their urgent attention is: what should we collectively do in order to meet the Johannesburg targets and translate the WSSD outcomes into reality.

Indeed, this question is of relevance to all stakeholders - national Governments, international organisations, the 9 Major Groups and the partnerships launched in Johannesburg.

As emphasised in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), **Governments** hold the primary responsibility for achieving sustainable development. They are responsible for the identification of sustainable development priorities, reorientation of policies, implementation of national strategies for sustainable development and measures to strengthen national institutions and legal frameworks.

The JPOI also assigns considerable responsibilities to the **UN system**. It calls on UN organisations to enhance effectiveness in providing support to member States. UN funds, programmes and agencies should focus their operational activities on country needs, co-ordinate their activities and produce practical results. UN Regional Commissions should play a catalytic role in promoting regional co-operation and in strengthening their technical support to member States of the region. At the global level, a renewed effort is needed, both through the governing bodies of the UN programmes, funds, agencies and financial institutions, as well as through the UN system Chief Executives Board, to ensure system-wide policy coherence and consistency and to maximise synergies.

The 9 **major groups** made increasing contributions to sustainable development, and their active participation in the WSSD preparatory process further showcased their potential for promoting sustainable development. In meeting the Johannesburg targets, the 9 major groups can play multiple roles. They can mobilise efforts in the areas of education, information, and awareness raising; monitor progress towards the implementation of sustainable development; and proactively engage in implementation through launching partnership initiatives, as many did in Johannesburg.

Partnerships for sustainable development constitute an important outcome of the WSSD. As voluntary initiatives, they can serve as an important avenue to enhancing and broadening implementation. Though they do not substitute for inter-governmentally

agreed commitments, they can play an important role in achieving goals and targets agreed in Johannesburg.

During the high-level segment of CSD11, a series of ministerial roundtables would provide a timely opportunity to lay out a road-map for the implementation of the JPOI. High-level representatives from UN agencies and major groups will be joining Government ministers in inter-active dialogues, and it is hoped that such a groundbreaking step will give further impetus to the efforts to implement Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit. The discussions will be greatly enhanced by multi-sectoral representation and to this end delegations should be organised accordingly.

The ministerial roundtables should aim at identifying the critical bottlenecks impeding implementation for each of the goals. The intention is to identify the crucial areas requiring immediate attention by Governments, international organisations and major groups. These could include accelerated funding, capacity building, better networking among local authorities and community based organisations, stronger co-operative arrangements for technology assessment, research and extension, more visible and effective co-ordination of global actors, etc.

The aim is to discuss substantive goals, means of implementation and the measures required to enhance and maintain the momentum towards each of the agreed goals – in other words, who does what, when and how to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

The roundtable discussions would be organised around the main thematic areas of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. These areas along with relevant goals and targets are outlined below.

Poverty Eradication

1. Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than \$1 a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (*MDG*).
2. Establish a world solidarity fund.
3. Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water (*MDG*) and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation.
4. By 2020, achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers (*MDG*).

Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production

5. Encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production.
6. With a sense of urgency, substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources.

7. Aim to achieve by 2020 that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.
8. Ensure the entry into force of the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade by 2003 and that of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants by 2004.
9. Further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management by 2005.
10. Implement the new globally harmonised system for the classification and labelling of chemicals with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008.

Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development

11. Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005.
12. Encourage the application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach.
13. Maintain or restore fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015.
14. Put into effect the international plan of action for the management of fishing capacity by 2005 and the international plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by 2004.
15. Establish marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012.
16. Make every effort to achieve substantial progress by the next Global Programme of Action conference in 2006 to protect the marine environment from land-based activities.
17. Establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment.
18. States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge States that have not already done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in a timely manner.
19. Facilitate implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer by ensuring adequate replenishment of its fund by 2003/2005.
20. Improve access by developing countries to affordable, accessible, cost-effective, safe and environmentally sound alternatives to ozone-depleting substances by 2010.
21. Achieve by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity.
22. Accelerate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action by countries and by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and intensify efforts on reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests to contribute to an assessment of progress in 2005.

Sustainable Development in a Globalizing World

23. Support the successful completion of the work programme contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and the implementation of the Monterrey consensus.

Health and sustainable development

24. Achieve improved health literacy on a global basis by 2010.
25. Reduce, by the year 2015, mortality rates for infants and children under 5 by two thirds, and maternal mortality rates by three quarters, of the prevailing rate in 2000 (*MDG*).
26. Reduce HIV prevalence among young men and women aged 15-24 by 25 per cent in the most affected countries by 2005 and globally by 2010, as well as combat malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases (*GA*).

Sustainable development of small island developing States

27. Undertake by 2004 initiatives aimed at implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in small island developing States.
28. Develop community-based initiatives on sustainable tourism by 2004.
29. Undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2004.

Sustainable development for Africa

30. Implement NEPAD objectives on energy, which seek to secure access for at least 35 per cent of the African population within 20 years, especially in rural areas.
31. African countries should be in the process of developing and implementing food security strategies, within the context of national poverty eradication programmes, by 2005.

Means of implementation

32. Make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP as ODA to developing countries, and effectively implement their commitment on ODA to the least developed countries.
33. Work towards the objective of duty-free and quota-free access for all least developed countries' exports.
34. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling, and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education relevant to national needs (*MDG*).
35. Recommend to the United Nations General Assembly that it consider adopting a decade of education for sustainable development, starting in 2005.

Institutional framework for sustainable development

36. Take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development and begin their implementation by 2005.

It is expected that this high-level segment will set the tone and vision for the deliberations and outcomes of CSD11 which in turn will plot the path for this the Decade of Implementation. There is an expectation that the international community of nations will rise to this challenge ably.