CSD-11 HIGHLIGHTS: WEDNESDAY, 30 APRIL 2003

On Wednesday morning, delegates heard statements by ministers and other high-level representatives on “Visions for the future CSD.” They also attended an interactive ministerial round table, which considered means of implementation and an institutional framework for sustainable development. In the afternoon, delegates participated in three regional implementation forums focusing on the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) regions. In the late afternoon, Chair Moosa presented his summary of the high-level segment.

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS: On Wednesday morning, ministers and other high-level government officials continued to present their views on the future modalities and work programme of the CSD. Many speakers supported a practical and flexible work programme for the CSD, and emphasized the need for its work to focus on implementation. Several delegates also stressed inter-agency coordination, and monitoring of progress in the implementation of commitments. LESOTHO urged development of globally-recognized indicators of sustainable development. MONGOLIA recommended that CSD sessions include the exchange of best practices, information dissemination and capacity building activities. FIJI, on behalf of the PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM, proposed that the CSD act as the preparatory process for the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action.

On the selection of issues for future CSD sessions, many speakers supported water and energy. MALAWI suggested a focus on African issues and LIBYA stressed the need to address NEPAD priorities. The MARSHALL ISLANDS, on behalf of SIDS, urged that climate change be accorded the highest priority. DENMARK supported addressing each theme through the cross-cutting issues of poverty eradication, gender equality, and sustainable consumption and production.

On regional implementation, COTE D’IVOIRE said NEPAD is an appropriate framework, and ICELAND outlined how the Arctic Council can contribute to implementation of WSSD outcomes.

A number of speakers called for broader participation by Major Groups and other stakeholders in the CSD process, with KENYA suggesting that educators and scientists be involved in panel discussions, and that multi-stakeholder dialogues be interspersed throughout the CSD session, and not organized as stand-alone segments. The HOLY SEE called for criteria and guidelines for monitoring the implementation of partnerships. CHILE proposed that the CSD develop a clearinghouse for recording and monitoring partnerships. EGYP urged the CSD to prioritize the needs of developing countries, and SYRIA and MALAWI stressed financial resources, capacity building, and technology transfer. IRAN said developed countries should report on the implementation of financial and technical commitments, and the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC called for an increase in ODA.

INTERACTIVE MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE: Means of implementation and an institutional framework for sustainable development: Speakers discussed a variety of issues, including ODA, private sector investment, partnerships and collaboration, national strategies for sustainable development (NSSDs), governance, and technology transfer.

On ODA, several speakers noted that an additional US$50 billion per year is required to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MILLENNIUM PROJECT emphasized that these goals are achievable, and called for a significant increase in ODA, improved market access and technology transfer. UNDP confirmed the “quantum jump” required in ODA, adding that “we can’t pretend the private sector can substitute for that.” He reported on the World Solidarity Fund, which is seeking to secure additional resources, and drew attention to a UK proposal to borrow money to meet agreed targets, which would be repaid after 2015. The EU reaffirmed its commitment to increasing ODA. The US said resources could not come from governments alone, and supported a framework encouraging private sector investment. He also called for an end to trade-distorting subsidies in the agricultural sector.

On collaboration and coordination, a number of speakers supported improved cooperation within the UN system and between the UN and other organizations. DESA said it was necessary to determine how existing instruments and mechanisms can be used in meeting goals under the JPOI. ECLAC said the UN regional commissions could be put to good use by employing the available regional and subregional architecture, and by facilitating interregional cooperation.

On actions at the national level, many speakers stressed the importance of integrated NSSDs, with FRANCE suggesting peer reviews of NSSDs. The WORLD BANK supported country ownership and stewardship in achieving implementation and the GEF drew attention to its support for national capacity building needs assessments.

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FORUMS: Three regional implementation forums took place on Wednesday afternoon, with participants discussing initial steps taken in the ECA, ESCWA and ESCAP regions to implement the JPOI.

ECA: This session was chaired by Babacar Ndiaye, Honorary President of the African Development Bank. In his opening remarks, Wiseman Nkhulu, NEPAD, noted that NEPAD is Africa’s vehicle for implementing the WSSD. Josue Dione, ECA, highlighted programmes addressing integrated water resources
In the ensuing discussion, the REPUBLIC OF KOREA emphasized the role of national councils for sustainable development. Reflecting on how regional implementation might be integrated with the CSD process, AUSTRALIA, supported by FIJI, NEW ZEALAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA and TUVALU, stressed the need to recognize subregional and trans-regional groupings, with SAMOA adding that SIDS should not be subsumed under the UN regional commissions. ESCAP noted its role in promoting interregional and subregional cooperation.

**SUMMARY OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT:** On Wednesday afternoon, Chair Moosa presented his summary of CSD-11’s high-level segment. He noted delegates’ endorsement of CSD’s role supporting coordination and implementation of sustainable development objectives, and a commitment to a revitalized CSD with an action-oriented work programme. He referred to numerous statements highlighting the importance of NSSDs, and drew attention to the 2005 deadline for completing these.

Chair Moosa also highlighted participants’ support for: an ongoing political commitment to the CSD process; sustained and strengthened multi-sectoral involvement; and a gender focus. While reporting strong support for regional implementation forums, he also took note of some countries’ concerns that existing UN regions might not be ideally-suited to this work. He also highlighted statements endorsing the CSD’s role as a focal point for partnership initiatives, and greater coordination within the UN. Thanking participants for their constructive, action-oriented and focused contributions, he said the high-level segment had provided valuable political direction for the CSD.

**IN THE CORRIDORS**
Chair Moosa’s summary of the high-level segment provoked a great deal of talk in the corridors late Wednesday afternoon. It received resounding applause from many ministers and other delegates, which some suggested showed a consensus developing on the outcomes of CSD-11. However, a number of delegations were baulking at the suggestion to identify climate change and renewable energy as priority issues under the second cycle. In addition, his suggestion to include sustainable consumption and production as a cross-cutting issue was not well received by some countries. While these countries are open to discussing this as a key focus area at some future work cycle, the idea of addressing it at every CSD does not seem to have universal support. With the Chair’s draft not yet released, Thursday, it remains to be seen how his oral summary will translate into specific text. As one delegate observed, with the ministers gone, the experts are eager to sink their teeth into the text, and get down to detailed negotiations.

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY**
Chair’s Summary of the High-Level Segment: A copy of the Chair’s summary of the high-level segment will be available at 10:00 am in Conference Room 1.

Multi-stakeholder Dialogue: Major Groups will present their views on the future work programme, including arrangements for the involvement of Major Groups and other stakeholders, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm in Conference Room 1.

Presentation of Draft Decision: Chair Moosa will present the session’s draft decision in Conference Room 4. Exact time is to be determined.