Delegates met in a High-Level Ministerial segment comprised of a brief morning opening Plenary to hear keynote speeches, and a morning and afternoon interactive ministerial dialogue on the issue of implementation. An Informal Plenary was held in the evening to consider elements for a political declaration and the modalities of work. The High-Level Segment, held in an afternoon session to discuss sustainable development governance. Discussion of partnerships was held during the afternoon, and informal-informal consultations to resolve outstanding issues on the "Draft Plan of Implementation for the WSSD" took place throughout the day and into the evening.

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

OPENING PLENARY: Following a video presentation on the state of the world’s peoples and environments, and the need for sustainable development, PrepCom Chair Emil Salim officially opened the High-Level Ministerial Segment.

Louise Frechette, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, shared findings from UNEP’s Global Environment Outlook. She elaborated on the premise that a model of development was not sustainable, “even for those living out its benefits.” Frechette underscored the human-environmental relationship as a core concern for Johannesburg, stressed concrete targets and timelines, and partnerships linked to the implementation plan. She underlined the role of governments, civil society and the private sector in ensuring sustainable development, calling on businesses to move beyond philanthropy and change current practices. She underlined the matchings aspirations with actions.

Her Excellency Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia, welcomed everyone to Indonesia, and expressed hope that success in Bali will lead to success in Johannesburg. She called for cooperative efforts for sustainable development, including capacity building and accessible and affordable science and technology.

Chair Salim invited statements from three Co-Chairs of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Ministerial Roundtable on Financing for Sustainable Development.

Mohammed Valli Moosa, Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa, noted that the Summit can ensure that actions for environmental sustainability achieve Millennium Development goals, and elaborated on the two sessions of the GEF Roundtable on Financing for Sustainable Development. Kjell Larsson, Minister for the Environment, Sweden, reported that the Roundtables called for actions concerning finance, policies and partnerships, underscoring that sustainability cannot be achieved by marginal financing.

Precious Ngelale, Minister of State for Water Resources, Nigeria, on behalf of the African Ministers Conference on Water, noted that water and sanitation in Africa’s main crises, highlighted the connections to water in the UN Secretary-General’s five focal areas, and stated that social, economic and environmental security are all linked to water. He presented the Abuja Ministerial Declaration on Water produced at the April 2002 meeting in Nigeria.

Chair Salim outlined the procedure for the interactive dialogue, and urged delegates to avoid making speeches. He stressed the need to finalize all documents and agree on the core objectives of the Plan of Implementation – the Draft Plan to make Johannesburg a success.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE: Japan noted its initiatives in global mapping projects and hosting the World Water Forum. Norway stressed: the importance of ratifying and implementing treaties; not reopening negotiated text; transparency; and good governance. He noted that states had agreed to the precautionary principle in Rio, and questioned why it is currently being debated. Venezuela, on behalf of the G-77/China, stated that “we cannot have another Summit without the commitment to act,” stressed adherence to the Rio Principles, and emphasized: respect for indigenous peoples; redress of external debt; access to international markets; efforts to combat HIV/AIDS; and assistance to Africa in fighting desertification. Seeking a coherent, mutually reinforcing policy among all outcomes, Spain, for the EU, stressed formulating a vision (achieving goals) and elaborating a rigorous plan for sustainable development. Colombia emphasized ethics in sustainable development, Egypt stressed implementing Rio recommendations, and not adopting new ones, while Libya questioned why there was no solidarity in the drive against eradication of poverty and famine.

China stressed that inter- and intra-generational equity have not been realized. Switzerland said the PrepCom must not call a question which has not been addressed at, inter alia, Commissions on Environment and Development, and Beijing. Slovakie emphasized that sectoral policies have prevailed in protection of land resources, and called for an integrated approach. The Dominican Republic urged countries to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and other agreements before the WSSD. United Arab Emirates said that wars, conflicts and occupation undermine sustainable development goals, and that women and youth must be engaged in the development process.

Indonesia appealed to delegates to build on the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Ministerial Agreements to implement Agenda 21. ECOSOC highlighted the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the upcoming ECOSOC session in July. Germany contended that the Kyoto Protocol is a manifestation of the precautionary principle, and that the deficit in implementation must be overcome.

High-level building, financial and technical support to compensate for foregone development opportunities through environmental conservation and urged the mention of mountain ecosystems in the political declaration. Highlighting the constraints to implementation, Nigeria called for: time-bound targets; progress beyond Doha and Monterrey; and support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). Romania called for: an implementation monitoring system; stronger enforcement of post-Rio multilateral environmental agreements; and support for the international environmental governance.

Uganda highlighted the plight of least developed countries, and
INFORMAL PLENARY

Chair Salim facilitated the evening session on inputs for consideration in a political declaration.

The EU suggested, inter alia: an assessment of accomplishments since Rio; renewal of Agenda 21 commitments; emphasis on peace and security, democracy, good governance, respect for human rights, ethics, and the fight against corruption and terrorism; commitment to the Global Deal and new partnerships; linkages between poverty and environmental degradation; the negative impact of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption on poverty and the environment; and gender equality. CANADA supported a pithy political declaration that is comprehensible to the average person, and, with BRAZIL, SWITZERLAND, and the REPUBLIC OF KOREA, urged brevity. The HOLY SEE noted the importance of recognition of human dignity. KENYA urged poverty eradication as a central theme.

BRAZIL said the political declaration should be able to be published in a newspaper, and should reaffirm Rio agreements, and with COLOMBIA, highlighted the ethical dimension of sustainable development. SWITZERLAND said the political declaration should: be action-oriented, based on, but not reiterating, the implementation plan and overarching objectives of poverty eradication and sustainable patterns of production and consumption; express renewed political commitment to implementing Agenda 21; refer to the major conferences of the past decade; and commit to providing means for the implementation plan.

ALGÉRIE supported an action-oriented declaration and called for concrete actions to achieve internationally agreed goals, and expressed commitment to the Global Deal and new partnerships; linkages between poverty and the environment; and gender equality. CANADA emphasized including references to full Agenda 21 commitments; governance; and the resources needed to achieve the vision. The PHILIPPINES emphasized including references to full Agenda 21 commitments; governance; and the resources needed to achieve the vision.

The US said the declaration should start with visionary statements, followed by, inter alia: concrete actions for poverty eradication; references to previous conferences; reference to good governance; and the resources needed to achieve the vision.

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PHILIPPINES called for further input from the G-77/China and emphasized communities as important partners. UNITAR said ownership should belong to recipients, and should not be exclusive.

The NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL sought clarification about the linkages between the UN, CHINA and NGOs; and strengthened cooperation among UNEP, CANADA, and NGOs. SWITZERLAND made suggestions, based on consultations, on keeping or replacing the term “coherence,” which appears in a number of paragraphs. Some delegates indicated which instances were acceptable, and the EU conditioned its agreement on acceptance of the whole package by all delegations.

The Chair announced that the Group will continue as a facilitator’s group to clean up remaining text at 10:00 am on Thursday, 6 June, with the issues of good governance, trade and means of implementation to be taken up in the “Vienna Group,” convened on Wednesday, 5 June at 8:00 pm.

IN THE CORRIDORS I

The Friends of the Chair contact group was reconstituted on Wednesday, as an informal-informal consultation, and access for delegations permitted, following vehement complaints by some interest groups about the lack of transparency in the way the FOC had gone about resolving the copious amount of bracketed text in the Bali Commitment. Negotiators are applying the so-called “Vienna rules,” whereby delegates sit around a table and one person speaks on behalf of each key negotiating group. The model is reportedly not working well due to the disparate positions within groups, which began to emerge when the troika (the EU, G-77/China and US) “secretly” reached agreement earlier in the week on the contentious issue of health.

IN THE CORRIDORS II

Ministers did not turn up in large numbers for a “no food” breakfast meeting with Chief Executives of UN agencies scheduled for Wednesday morning. The ministers who spoke stressed their countries’ positions on issues under discussion, from domestic governance to GEF replenishment to the three pillars of sustainable development. There were strong calls for better coherence, coordination and even “ownership” from the UN family, of the three outcome documents. One country suggested the preparation of a plan encompassing the UN system. The calls raised eyebrows among UN Agency staff, who feel they have not been invited to actively participate in the drafting process for the Bali Commitment, which they are now being asked to implement. Agencies have also noted that they are rarely cited in the text.

IN THE CORRIDORS III

Plans by Indonesian NGOs to mark World Environment Day with a demonstration outside the Bali International Conference Center were reportedly foiled on Wednesday. A representative of the Indonesian National Coordination team for the WSSD has indicated that NGOs are likely to sue their Government after police intervened to prevent demonstrators from approaching the Convention Center, allegedly infringing constitutional rights to freedom of speech and assembly.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY

HIGH-LEVEL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE: Ministers will meet from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm and from 3:00 – 6:00 pm in Nusa Indah for an interactive dialogue on partnerships.

INFORMAL PLENARY: The Informal Plenary will meet in Nusantara 2 from 8:00 – 11:00 pm to continue discussions on the political declaration and modalities of work for the Summit.

FACILITATORS’ GROUP MEETING: A facilitators’ group on the institutional framework for sustainable development will meet at 10:00 am in the Geneva Room to discuss the remaining issues in Chapter X of the draft implementation plan.
Presentation of a new UNDP initiative “Capacity 2015”, a platform to develop the capacities needed by developing countries to meet their sustainable development goals under Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals. Building on the success of Capacity 21, Capacity 2015 will support key capacity development initiatives, including developing capacities for local sustainable development, sustainable development strategies, local capacity development for Multilateral Environmental Agreements and developing capacities to reduce vulnerability in small island developing states. WSSD Johannesburg will be the occasion for national leaders to announce support for Capacity 2015.

Buses will depart from entrance of Sheraton Nusa Dua Hotel (connected to BICC) – starting from 6:00 pm until 6:30 pm. Buses will depart the Bali Hilton for the Sheraton from 8:30 pm

Welcoming remarks:
Dr Alvaro Umana, Group Leader, Environmentally Sustainable Development Group, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP
H.E. Dr N. Hassan Wirajuda, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia

Keynote speaker:
Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Talal, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Presentations:
Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, UNDP Administrator
Sir Mark Moody Stuart, Chair, of the World Business Action for Sustainable Development
H.E Fevzi Aytekin, Minister of Environment, Republic of Turkey
Ambassador Kaoru Ishikawa, Deputy Director General, Multilateral Co-operation Department, Japan.
Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director, Tebtebba Foundation, Philippines

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