

OUTREACH

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BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FRIDAY 15H APRIL

Stakeholder views on participation at CSD

There has been much discussion in the corridors and in the coffee bar as well as on the floor of the CSD about the kind of stakeholder engagement we are seeing in this year's CSD compared with previous ones. Stakeholder Forum ran an analysis on this issue in its Tuesday's Outreach edition. 'Taking Issue' – another newsletter did the same.

On Wednesday Stakeholder Forum drafted a set of points for governments to take into consideration. These points were discussed with, amended and agreed by the following Major Groups: Business and Industry (WBCSD), Local Governments, Scientists (ICSU), Trade Unions, Women, Youth and NGOs (SDIN facilitators' Third World Network, ANPED and ELCI) and by NRG4SD – the new stakeholder coalition launched at Johannesburg for Regional Government. The following consensus points came out of these consultations and were passed on to various governments on Thursday.

Stakeholders welcome the interactive sessions but have number of concerns relating to this year's and futures sessions of CSD

From the remaining session of CSD 13, stakeholders would like to see:

- All stakeholders being able to comment on the Chair's text in the Friday session
- During the negotiations and depending on time stakeholders should be able to react to the debate with interventions
- During the High Level session stakeholders should be able to fully participate
- Stakeholders should have space to contribute to and make statements in the final session of the CSD next week

For CSDD 14 and beyond stakeholders we would like to see:

- The reintroduction of the Multi Stakeholders Dialogues
- The Chair's summary document from the Multi Stakeholder Dialogue sessions to be entered to the government consultations and the views to be used by the Bureau as legitimate input to the final document.

The need for the CSD is to build on previous good experiences of the Multi Stakeholder Dialogue such as that under Simon Upton the former Columbian Environment Minister or Juan Mayr, the Bonn Water and Energy Conferences.

Response to the Chair's Text

Agenda 21 and JPOI made very clear the need to address all issues taking into account common but differentiated responsibilities. The aim of the CSD should be to review all its commitments through a poverty lens and the policy outcomes need to ensure a pro-poor approach.

The present Chair's text well describes the current state of the debate on water, sanitation and human settlement issues but is has following serious short comings;

- The document is not structured as CSD11 suggested – including addressing cross cutting issues
- It does not convey an adequate sense of the scale of the problems facing many countries on these issues in the years ahead or the urgency of the action needed to deal with them.
- It does not adequately capture the experience and lessons learned during the review year both as to problems and solutions.
- It does not identify clear priorities or set out a practical programme and commitments for action.
- It does not give any sort of time scale for the implementation of policy options
- It does not adequately deal with all the crosscutting issues especially the issues of sustainable production and consumption.
- The text does not set any clear targets and benchmarks to measure and monitor progress.
- On issue of financing the text fails to mention exactly how much money is needed and where exactly it can come from.
- There is also no mention about how resources should be distributed fairly.
- The text does not deal with issues of governance adequately.

The revised chair's text should consider the following recommendations made by members of Stakeholder Forum's UK Roundtable on water and sanitation.

1. The text should clearly prioritise policy outcomes.
2. The chair's text should request countries to input to a country-specific table of commitments that identifies

policy outcomes, national responsibilities, activities that countries have to under take, partners, time frame for the commitments to be fulfilled and expected results.

3. The chair's text should clearly state how the water sanitation and human settlement policy outcomes would contribute to the key cross cutting issues of poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education.
4. The text should clearly identify which implementation actors are required to advance the policy outcomes in each case. These implementation actors should be accountable for non action
5. The role assigned to UN Water should be to further coordination activities within its mandate. The text should reflect clearly where the responsibility of coordination and accountability lies and which UN Agency is doing what. CSD should request that UN Water hold regular briefings for governments and stakeholders.
6. The text should recommend an assessment activity to measure the scale of increase in investment spending that will be required over the next ten years to achieve the goals on water, sanitation and human settlement, and develop dialogue between donors as to how these

sums are to be mobilised and how they should be best administered.

7. The text should reaffirm the commitment to 0.7% ODA and a timeframe of no later than 2015 to reach that. The text should include clear recommendations on donor agreement that 70% of Water and Sanitation ODA to go to least develop and low income countries.
8. The text should stress on the full valuation of ecosystems and a greater emphasis to highlight the costs of doing nothing.
9. The text should stress the need to put in place a mechanism to monitor that the commitment of support made by donor governments is turned into actual financial pledges.
10. The text should come up with concrete recommendation as to how governance structures could be improved and donor harmonization issue addressed
11. With relation to consumption and production issue the need for water demand management (particularly in the North as much as the South) to cope with increasing demands at a time when climate and other changes are restricting supplies in many places should be clearly stated in the text.
12. The text needs to better address the trans-boundary cooperation – particularly where water management of river basins requires the cooperation of different nation states and conflict mitigation – which must be considered when implementing strategies particularly where watersheds and basin margins cross national borders.
13. There should be a section dealing with technology transfer under a preferential basis.

Trade Union

The Worker and Trade Unions Major Group proposes the following revisions to the *Chair's Draft Elements for Decision*. While we are pleased with several key elements, we note that: a number of key elements from the JPOI outcomes of the WSSD are not reflected, particularly those reflecting the Social Dimension of Sustainable Development. As well, while there is reference to other Major Groups, there is no mention of workers and their organizations. We therefore propose the following to be inserted after Par.2

3. Where activities affecting workers are contemplated herein, the expertise of workers and trade unions shall engaged in that process.

We refer to the following Elements for revision or special recognition:

A. Water

Access to basic water services

- b. (iv) We are pleased to see specific reference to “public-public partnerships”
- d. We are pleased with the reference to a “rights-based approach”, as it signifies that access to water is finally being recognized as a basic human right.

Integrated water resources management IWRM

f. (vii) Revise to “Involving **workers, women and their organizations**”

g. (iv) Revise to “Training farmer **and paid agricultural workers** ...”

h. (v) Replace “Disseminating information to” with “**Improving communication with**”

i. Revise to “Provide technical and management support to **workers and their organizations**, local authorities, and community-based organizations”

B. Sanitation: Access to basic sanitation

m. (iii) Revise to “Involving **workers, women and their organizations**”

n. (vii) At the end of this point, insert “**cross subsidization, with equitable distribution of aid to finance sanitation programs.**”

Sanitation and hygiene education

n. Remove the word “**developing**” to make this point apply to all countries

Create a **new n. (iii)** to include wording from the Chair's Report from the IPM: “utilize the experience of workers' organizations in promoting occupational health and safety, including through worker education and awareness raising, could pro-

vide valuable lessons for improving sanitation in the workplace.”

o. (ii) At the end of this point insert, **“utilize experience of workers and their organizations for this purpose.”**

C. Human settlements

p. (iii) Revise to “Ensuring the participation of all stakeholders, in particular **workers, women and their organizations**”

Affordable land, housing and services

q. (iv) Revise to “Promoting **public-public** and public-private partnerships ...”

Employment and enterprise promotion

r. (iv) At the end of this point insert **“with respect for core labour standards.”**

Insert new point **(vi) “Promoting green job creation ...”**

D. International Institutional Arrangements for Follow-Up of CSD-13 Decisions

s. (i) Revise to “Review with the relevant UN agencies, **including the ILO ...**”

s. (iv) Revise to “Conduct voluntary consultations with interested Governments, **workers and their organizations**”

NRG4SD

Welcomes the emphasis on integration across elements and themes, the importance of good governance at all levels to achieving this and the need for appropriate financial and regulatory mechanisms.

Would like to see *gender, education and sustainable production and consumption* identified as particularly important cross-cutting issues (text 1 (a)).

In view of the significant role played by state and provincial government in IWRM and in linking IWRM to other themes, would like to see specific reference to the *role of sub-national or sub-sovereign governments as a part of effective co-ordination mechanisms of IWRM* (text A (i)).

Believes that the primacy of water conservation and the need to reflect the impacts of climate change should be referenced (text A).

In view of the scope for shared experience at the state or provincial level of governance, would like to see inclusion of reference to networking among *sub-national or sub-sovereign governments* as well as local authorities (text C (p) (vi))

Mainstreaming climate impacts into sustainable water management

Water-related hazards – such as floods, droughts and storms – are on the increase. Although efforts are made to reduce vulnerability, human and economic costs are sharply rising year by year.

Compounding drivers including population growth, economic development, flood prone land use and climate change give rise to trends which change the nature of extreme events from incidental to much more frequent and from local to regional and even global.

The increasing water related vulnerabilities require comprehensive responses to improve management of risks. These responses should become part of Integrated Water Resources Management.

The CSD-13 side event “Mainstreaming climate impacts into sustainable water management” started with presentations, followed by discussion.

The meeting concluded that:

- The impending impacts of climate change upon hydrological systems threaten the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal 7. The audience was in agreement with **a new target under Millennium Development Goal 7 to halve the loss of life associated with natural disasters, meteorological and climatic origin**. The audience recommended to include in this target economic losses, and also recom-

mended that an indicator framework is required to monitor progress.

- Forecasting systems, early warning systems and public awareness campaigns are indispensable elements for effective risk management. To achieve the new target, investments in meteorological and hydrological warning systems as well as warning systems for a variety of other hazards should therefore be made. There is indeed increasing technical capacity and political will to invest in early warning and forecasting systems.
- Climate change impacts should be included into the national plans for sustainable development. A call was made to harmonize the National Adaptation Plans of Action and the Integrated Water Resources Management plans.
- The audience raised the importance of capacity building.

Side event organized by the Cooperative Programme on Water and Climate of UNESCO-IHE, the World Meteorological Organization and the Japan Water Forum.



UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water Education



Reforming the UNCSD Secretariat

By Felix von Geyer. involved in dialogue with the Rotary Society.

During the feedback session to the US delegation following today's release of the Chair's text for the UNCSD-13, various major groups provided their comments. A consensus has been maintained for the need for multistakeholder engagement with, however, little attention by many to implementation of sustainable initiatives. The need for more effective communication and feedback channels, which would effectively involve the reforming of the UNCSD Secretariat, was identified, particularly to foster public-private partnerships.

Data collection, capacity building and technology remain consistent themes for the Science and Technology Group, capacity building being further stressed by the representative from the World Federation of Engineering Organisations. To enable this, the need for technology transfer to countries with specific and particular conditions was mentioned, requiring the push for further public involvement. Quite to what end this push should achieve remains unclear.

Chaired by Jonathan Margolis, the US Department of State's Special Representative for Sustainable Development, the chair was keen to discover from the forum how the UNCSD could best promote capacity building and data collection.

The Business and Industry Group were represented by the ICCI (International Chamber of Commerce and Industry), US-CIB (US Council for International Business) and the WBCSD. indeed, the WBCSD's representative, Robert Martin, was keen to discuss the role business could play in terms of making information more available and have a discussion paper on programmes to identify where business can support sustainable water management. To this end, they felt that it is not always easy for business to participate at the UNCSD and to mobilise members towards particular initiatives.

The point was raised from Nairobi's Environmental Liaison Centre that the next UNCSD should integrate more time for multistakeholder engagement, particularly in relation to water management where the 'rights based approach' to water was essential and that women (in Africa) should be brought into the debate not only of water management but should also be engaged in discussions on sanitation.

It is this process of multistakeholder engagement that is important, with everyone wishing to have their voice. WaterAid and the WWF questioned what the principles for stakeholder involvement should be in planning, implementation and monitoring as 'users' were essential stakeholders omitted from many stakeholder concepts. Particularly the WWF stated the need for more funding and for more funding to be focussed on developing states. Omissions in the Chair's text on international follow-up were also noted. Returning to the concept of engagement and funding, WaterAid were keen to mention how they use the Rotary Society for both 'outreach' of their message and to raise funding, Mr Margolis from the Chair added that the US State department is also very in-

Daniel Roth from SustainUS, which is also representing the Youth Caucus, usefully pointed out the distinction between the right to access to water and the affordability of water as being two totally separate issues. He also noted that education was omitted from the Chair's text. When pressed as to what form of education he was referring, he suggested it should be in line with UNESCO's Decade for Sustainable Development.

The rights based issue was also raised by the NGO 'Human Rights Advocates', that sustainable development was not a charitable initiative but was fundamental to the 'dignity of the person'. It must be generally noted that, in the case of water, many NGOs are perceiving access to water as a basic human right and, therefore are in opposition to public-private partnerships as they perceive that the right to water will be replaced by the issue of affordability.

When the point was raised to the Chair and the forum of the need for more efficient communication and feedback channels to be implemented, the Chair, Mr Margolis, agreed that this issue of knowledge management was a profound point in the need to reform the UNCSD to become more effective. The wider point was raised to the Business and Industry Group if they were in a position to mobilise their members into universal and issue-specific groups in order to mobilise their private sector members, who are able to generate the resources to implement projects. These knowledge management channels therefore must foster public-private partnerships, again raising the mistrust of some NGOs concerning transparency.

One glaring example where public-private partnerships are needed was noted by Mr Margolis. Where the US Department of State is a member of the Global Water Partnership, this is a body that greatly requires the involvement not only of the private sector, but NGOs such as Water Aid and the WWF in order to implement projects, manage data and enable the development of evermore effective water management strategies.

It seems that the debate over multistakeholder engagement, rights based theory and public-private partnerships will continue. However, if anything is to happen, it cannot continue for long. Certainly the position of the US delegation was succinctly put by Mr Margolis, that 'the US government would like to know how to improve and how to have dialogue.'

Wash Roundtable Mobilizing Women Leaders For the Millennium Development Goals

19th april 2005, 1.15 pm to 2.45 pm
In Conference Room 2

Partnership and Environmental Citizenship



By Dr. Emad Adly
General Coordinator The Arab Network for
Environment and Development (RAED)

Peoples are the goal and the mean to achieve the Sustainable development, and for thousands of years the Arab Region Civilization is based on the outstanding and diversified human expertise and also on the richness of its resources and treasures with a very unique social, economic, cultural and environmental aspects.

The Arab Civil Society movement believes that sustainable development is based on an integrated management approach for the resources and ecosystems which include the conservation of water, energy, agriculture and biodiversity.

The Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) as an umbrella network for the Arab NGOs has focused in the last few years on the "Environmental Citizenship" as one of the tools to achieve sustainable Development through the enhancement of values, attitudes and behaviours in a positive way towards environment.

It was noticed during the several events that the Arab NGOs are very committed to empower the public in the projects that are working in the field of water and sanitation. And in its last conference in Beirut last month "RAED" members confirmed to call upon the Arab Governments to:

- Support the funding mechanisms directed to sustainable development with special emphasis on the social aspects related to education in general and to environmental education and awareness in specific.
- Include the right of living in a healthy sustainable environment as one of the human rights to ensure the objectives of the environmental citizenship which also go in parallel with the objectives of the MDGs.
- Support the process of good governance, transparency, and partnerships which are the elements for the Arab Regional Project on Environmental Citizenship which focuses on the water and sanitation issues.
- Modifying and creating the relevant legislations, policies, strategies and action plans which empower women and youth, promote the participation of the private sector that has a social responsibility, and adopt the indicators needed to measure the progress.

RAED also believes in the role played by the regional and international organizations to:

- Implement what were approved in the JPOI in the fields of technical and financial support to the devel-

oping countries including the Arab countries and the programs of capacity building to develop their institutional and human capacities.

- To provide the needed support to the Arab Network for Environment and Development "RAED" as a model of supporting the partnership and cooperation between the international and donor agencies to be able to implement the Arab Regional Project for Environmental Citizenship.

Please see the Arabic version of this article below

الشراكة والمواطنة البيئية د. عماد الدين عدلى المنسق العام الشبكة العربية للبيئة والتنمية (رائد)

الإنسانية تعتمد على الخبرات البشرية المتميزة والمتعددة داخل هذه المنطقة الغنية بكل مصادرها وثرواتها كما أن هناك خصوصية تتميز بها هذه المنطقة بأبعادها الاجتماعية والإقتصادية والثقافية والبيئية. وتؤمن حركة المجتمع المدني بأن تحقيق التنمية المستدامة يعتمد أساساً على الإدارة المتكاملة للموارد والنظم البيئية، ويتضمن ذلك الحفاظ على المياه والطاقة والزراعة والتنوع البيولوجي. وتهتم الشبكة العربية للبيئة والتنمية (رائد) على تفعيل المواطنة البيئية بوصفها إحدى اليات تحقيق التنمية المستدامة، عن طريق تعزيز القيم والاتجاهات والسلوكيات بشكل ايجابي تجاه البيئة. ولقد لاحظنا من خلال اللقاءات المتعددة حرص والتزام الجمعيات الأهلية العربية على تفعيل دور المواطنين في المشروعات ذات العلاقة بالمياه والإصحاح.

وفي المؤتمر الأخير للشبكة العربية (رائد) في نهاية الشهر الماضي والذي عقد في بيروت أكد المشاركون على دعوة الحكومات العربية إلى:

- دعم برامج التمويل الموجهة إلى التنمية المستدامة مع التركيز على الأبعاد الاجتماعية خاصة فيما يتعلق بالتعليم بصفة عامة والتربية والتوعية البيئية بشكل خاص.
- إدراج حق الإنسان في البيئة السليمة والتنمية المستدامة كحق من الحقوق الأساسية لتدعيم أهداف المواطنة البيئية، بما يتوافق مع الأهداف التنموية لللفية.
- تعزيز أسس الحكم الرشيد ومبادئ الشفافية والمشاركة والشراكة لتنفيذ المشروع القومي للمواطنة البيئية، والذي يعطى لقضايا المياه والإصحاح أهمية خاصة.
- سن وتعديل التشريعات ووضع السياسات اللازمة وتبنى الاستراتيجيات وخطط العمل التنموية التي تعزز دور المرأة والشباب ومشاركة القطاع الخاص بمسئولية اجتماعية، مع اعتماد المؤشرات اللازمة لقياس مدى تحقيق التقدم في هذا المجال.

كما أكد المجتمعون على الدور الهام الذي تلعبه المنظمات الإقليمية والدولية ويؤكدوا على:

- قيامها بدورها حسبما ورد في مقررات الامم المتحدة ومقررات قمم البيئة والتنمية، والتنمية المستدامة، في مجالات الدعم التقني والمادي وتطوير القدرات البشرية والمؤسسية في المنطقة العربية.
- دعم الشبكة العربية للبيئة والتنمية (رائد) كإطار إقليمي غير حكومي لتعزيز التعاون بين الجمعيات الأهلية العربية والمنظمات الإقليمية والدولية والجهات المانحة، لتنفيذ المشروع القومي للمواطنة البيئية.

Social Regularization and Upgrading of Slums

*Contributed by Habitat Working Group –
German NGO Forum Environment & Development*

Security of tenure should focus on legal regularizations which keep and strengthen social control of urban land use. Legalization of irregular settlements and security of tenure should not be reduced to private property and titling, but depending on the local conditions should use various options to secure social tenure.

Although security of tenure is meanwhile internationally mostly accepted as key to the improvement of informal settlements forced mass evictions are still usual in many countries especially in Asia. In-ternational community must address forced evictions as gross violations of human rights which in most cases does not contribute to find solutions. International monitoring must not only focus on the results but also on the reasons of forced evictions, may they be of economical or political nature. "Cities without slums" sometimes gets misused and does not mean anything else but cleaning up cities from the poor. Upgrading of marginalized or poor neighbourhoods must always be based on socially balanced processes requiring a high level of participation of the inhabitants in decision making. Demolishing of needed housing stocks and eviction of inhabitants can never be a solution. At the same time much more attention must be directed to the consequences of legalizations of irregular settlements through individual land titling without social balance.

Many examples show that land titling serves only a part of the original population if no regularization of land speculation is implemented at the same time. After regularization parts of the population - especially informal tenants or losers in market competition - the population does not enjoy more security but is pushed out of the settlements. Others are marginalized within the settlements. Often another negative effect is the development of an inadequate density, a loss of public space and generally a weakening of community orientation. Expectations on high profits through regularization in the form of individual land titling even motivates large land owners to promote irregular settlements.

One answer to these problems would be to develop various forms of socially controlled land rights combining individual ownership with legal frames and reducing speculation or unacceptable forms of land use. For example: public rent on long term basis, cooperatives of/for land owners, community land ownerships etc. Another method is to limit land titling to one or a few claims per household. Claims can be limited by

legislation, taxation or contracting speculative vacancy or misuse. In this context it is important to promote credit systems which do not depend on individual land titling. Many examples show that access to credits can be organized without individual property rights, as far as another form of legal security of tenure is guaranteed, Generally it is important to raise taxes on speculative land sales. Through taxes on the extra profits achieved by sales, speculation can be limited and at the same times municipalities mobilize revenues to finance the provision of necessary infrastructure in new settlements. Another good example is the building of communal land funds, which keep reserves of land for the development of new settlements, buy and sale at low prizes and provide necessary infrastructure by reinvesting the profits. These revolving land funds must be protected against demands to sell them before realization of a development plan. Generally development aid should promote the building and maintenance of communal land funds and not promote their privatization. Regularization of irregular settlements always should be accompanied by participative planning of improvements, which even keep and develop public space. Much more attention must be paid to the fact that often a high share of irregular dwellers are tenants of the squatters. Because irregular, these tenants often do not enjoy any settlement right. Through land titling they do not receive benefits. Minimum standards for tenants rights are needed world wide.

French Lead the Way on Peer Review/Shared Learning

Thursday afternoon the French government hosted an intriguing session on the concept and implementation of the Peer Review/Shared Learning Process. Recently, France completed what was apparently a very successful peer review session with representatives from Ghana, Mauritius, and the United Kingdom. Each country, along with the European Union, had representatives on the panel.

In turn, each representative spoke glowingly about the process and of their hopes for its continuation and expansion. Each representative appreciated the unique, knowledgeable and unbiased perspective that each member of the session brought to the table. Despite the limited knowledge of certain aspects of the respective countries' cultures and the governmental processes of some of the participants, each representative testified that this did not impede what turned out to be a very productive dialogue.

Out of this process also came a useful methodology. The French presented it in the hope that it will be used as a model by other countries.

Of importance to stakeholders, two of the most interesting aspects of the methodology were the stipulation that **one**, there be a balance of developed and developing countries

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(ideally two of each); and **two**, that each country send one governmental and one **non-governmental representative** to the session. From a multi-stakeholder perspective, this is an exciting and major step to the creation of National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS).

The reaction from the audience was very positive. Four people were keen to stand up and offer their respective organization's support in the advancement and promotion of the process.

It is certainly our hope that more countries will take the time to learn more about this exciting process and will include it and relevant stakeholders as a part of the development of their NSDS.

If you are interested in learning about the Peer Review/ Shared Learning Process you can refer to the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development website at <http://www.france.diplomatie.fr>, where they have posted a very thorough and interesting report on the subject. The report is available in both French and English.

Negotiating and Implementing MEAs

A Training Workshop for NGOs working on Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Saturday 16th April 2005 starting at 9 am
Followed by dinner at 7 pm

To register send an e-mail to fdodds@stakeholderforum.org or
mprice@stakeholderforum.org
Or call at 011 44 7950 320 648

Please register early as spaces are limited

RIO GRINDS—the light hearted side of sustainable development



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A M	10:00 1:00	Conf. Room 1	Negotiations Introduction of the Chair's draft elements for decision Commence negotiations on the Chair' draft elements for decision – Water and Sanitation (Upon the conclusion of the plenary meeting)
		Conf. Room 2	Commence negotiations on the Chair's draft elements for decision – Human Settlements (Upon the conclusion of the plenary meeting)
P M	3:00 6:00	Conf. Room 1	Negotiations Continue negotiations on the Chair's draft elements for decision – Water and Sanitation
		Conf. Room 2	Continue negotiations on the Chair' draft elements for decision - Human Settlements

Side Events

P M	1:15 2:45	Conf. Room C	The Role of Education in Building Sustainable Human Settlements Organized by United Nations University, UNESCO Chair, UN CSD Education Caucus
		Conf. Room 2	Fifth Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management Organized by the Government of Jamaica

Partnership Events

A M	9:30 1:30	Neck Area	Partnerships Information Desks: Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (NRG4SD) EcoSanRes - International Network for Communications, Research and Capacity Development in Ecological Sanitation
			P M
3:30 5:30	Conf. Room 6	Partnerships in Practice: Communication and Outreach: Fostering creative exchange of partnership information	

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