

OUTREACH 2005



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FRIDAY 30TH

CSD 12: END OF TERM REPORT

Looking Forward

So we've survived. CSD-12 comes to a peaceful close today. The session has certainly fulfilled our expectations in being a new experience, but has it fulfilled our expectations in being an effective review process? Or is it still too early to tell? With the High-level segment all but complete, we're now able to fully reflect on how the past two weeks have really gone, the value that it has added to achieving the JPOI, and the MDGs, what lessons we've learned from next time around, and most importantly to think about where we go from here.

In reflecting on the process - it's been interesting - you might even go so far as to say that it's been innovative, or innovative for the CSD at least. The CSD was once referred to as the breeding ground for junior diplomats. For the last 11 years, the CSD has been a largely unfocused processes consisting

of a great deal of talk and even more negotiations. The result of such deliberations has been a carefully drafted compromise document which has been pawed over for hour upon hour and day upon day, and night upon night. Countries positions have been adopted and alignments have been played out in some sort of political game.

Needless to say, the CSD has been a place full of weary faces propped up by endless intakes of caffeine. But we've stuck with it for 11 years and some would even say we've relished in it for 11 years. But as good as it is to talk, and as much as we all enjoy coming to New York (we know you do) to see old friends, and to sit deprived of sunlight and sleep for weeks on end - this has not brought about the action and the progress that is required to fulfil our commitments to Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Something had to change - and change it did. At CSD-11 we all agreed to a new work programme, and an organisational reform of the CSD. We agreed to focus our attention on a select cluster of issues during two year

implementation cycles. We agreed to ensure words translated into action, and to ensure that implementation was at the heart of our work. So are there any regrets? The answer to this most probably depends on who you ask, and at what point in the session you asked it.

The first week of CSD-12 could largely be heralded as a successes. There was an energy for sharing our experiences and for having an honest and frank discussion on the obstacles, challenges and constraints to implementation. There was an appetite for learning from one another, identifying areas of commonality in our implementation experiences, and seeking possible ways forward to overcoming these. We learned to become social creatures - rather than creatures of negotiation. The level of interaction within the formal review sessions was something to be commended and the discipline of the Chairs in keeping interventions short was remarkable - no mercy was



A clear agenda or the road to nowhere?

shown. The partnership fair was a success, and the learning centre was an illustration of how we all still have a lot to learn. But we went out to fast - we burnt the candles at both ends - and now we're tired. The level of enthusiasm has dwindled and the level of fatigue has risen over the past week. Delegations have huddled back in their respective missions in preparation for the arrival of Ministers. The party was over. Whilst every effort was made to continue the level of interaction in the formal review sessions - there was greater reluctance from the floor, and by and large we reverted back to prepared statements. As interesting as they were - especially those included pledges of additional financing - it is arguable that they added little to the overall review process - accept for a statement of political intent, and a surmising of the key priorities to be carried forward.

But perhaps this is useful enough. The Chairs Summary released on

(Continued on page 2)

Wednesday was remarked upon by some as a superfluous document which added little to progressing the implementation of the JPOI and the MDGs. It was but a verbatim record of the events and deliberations to date. However - strategically, this was the most intelligent move to have made. You could not disagree with it, and you were not being asked to sign up to it. Had a 5, 10 or a 15 page document been released which sought in some way to prioritise the issues that had been raised over the past two weeks, all of us craving for a textual negotiation would have leapt and the opportunity to do just that. The past three days would have been spent getting down to business as usual - this would not have been useful. Instead - we can expect the High-level segment to provide us with a focus and a direction upon which a consolidated text can be based, and upon which we can begin our deliberations and our preparations for the policy year to come.

And so this is where we must now turn our attention. It is not easy. The process is not clear, and the way in which we will work over the next year to ensure the momentum and the lessons learned at CSD-12 are carried forward and translated into practical policies and actions is still to be determined. There are a plethora of processes and issues which are in need of address if we are to make significant progress. The role of the Regional Implementation Forums (RIFs). Arguably, the RIFs were a useful mechanism for feeding in regional experiences into the CSD review. Different regions face different challenges to implementation, and appropriate solutions can often be found at the regional level to suit regional economic, environmental and social characteristics. But there are some lessons to be learned. The RIFs, to be truly effective and useful, need to follow a more coherent and consistent structure, as do their outcomes. In the absence of a reporting framework - the outcomes of the RIFs become largely incomparable. Having similar reports would allow us to identify areas of commonality where global solutions need to be found to global problems. In addition to this - the RIFs could be used to identify clear implementation gaps that stem from a lack of capacity. Those areas where skills need to be developed could provide the focus and the purpose of the learning centre at the CSD. The timing of the RIFs also needs to be thought out - before or after the Inter-sessionals.

And what would be the role of the inter-sessionals? How would, or should it be used with regards to the 5 year review of the Millennium Development Goals?

And what about the review of the Millennium Development Goals? This has been at the heart of many of our deliberations at

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CSD-12. Critically we need some joined up thinking here. The review of the MDGs affords us the opportunity to put into practice our favourite words - coherence, consistency and collaboration. The role of the different UN Agencies, and other International Organisations is paramount here. 2005 will be a year which sees the coming together of multilateral agendas. It is not an opportunity to be passed up. These processes should not take place in parallel - but should be seen as a whole. UN Agencies, Governments, Stakeholders and other International Organisations - including the International Financial Institutions must - within their appropriate mandates build closer alliances and forge more effective relationships to ensure coherence in the process and consistency in the outcomes.

CSD-12 is not the litmus test of success - it is the way in which we bridge the gap between review and meaningful policy development. Yes we are faced with the additional challenge of tying this in with the review of the Millennium Development Goals - but we should not shy from this challenge. We should see it, and embrace it as an opportunity to ensure real progress and real change, as more importantly that against a back drop of political and public doubt - that multilateralism is a force for good, which can deliver practical actions to improve the lives of all.

Stakeholder Forum



SIDE
EVENT

Reframing the Debate

Tuesday evening, April 27th, the Education caucus held its side event on “Engaging People in Sustainability: Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements”, sponsored by the Canadian Government and the Global Youth Action Network, and co-sponsored by Earth Force, WSSCC and MIO-ECSDE. Richard Ballhoun, Canadian Delegation, chaired the forum addressed the point that while education is not a major group it is nonetheless relevant to all. Richard Meldrum, Earth Force, shared the results from the integrative approaches they have used in their program GREEN (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network) and Youth for Change. Dr. Malika Ladjali, M.D., spoke of the inter-relationships between gender, equity and addressing health problems from waterborne diseases. The challenge she noted was finding ways to engage people in the process and to work closely with the women and children. Professor Michael Scoullos who has worked many years in the Mediterranean Region as a water chemist noted the connection between North/South, education and culture as the context in which MIO-ECSDE has successfully developed a collaborative network to address the key issues of sustainability. Mr. Gourisankar Gosh highlighted the results and diverse approaches to issues of water and sanitation, including the WASH initiative.

The core theme that emerged from this forum reminded us to



A place to teach, or a place to learn?

development. Education during the CSD-12 has been highlighted as a priority and a challenge. As a priority issue, understanding the essential role education plays in contributing to meeting the MDGs and JPOI targets, means an exchange of views on how the Commission can integrate education as a cross-cutting issue from 2004-2017 in the Plan of Work. Educators and the CSD Education Caucus call for new specific proposals from governments and stakeholders to be addressed at CSD-13. 2005 offers a chance to reframe the debate by articulating the education policy direction and the commitment to “engage people” in sustainability.

Pam Puntanney, Education Caucus.

SOUNDBITES

Everything is on the record

look to and engage the youth and children in a process approach that is meaningful. The forum generated a lively discussion around how to increase the visibility of education and the essential role it can play in the future. It was noted that in the Chair’s Summary text that education was mentioned often but in its most simplistic forms as a cross-cutting issue. What is needed therefore is honesty and a good dialogue regarding the complexity of water, sanitation and human settlements and the role education plays. More importantly, how can we facilitate fragmentation and create a collaborative process among ministries, governments and concerned stakeholders to begin to engage people.

After the side event, a group of interested governments and stakeholders convened an informal strategy meeting on how to integrate education into the plan of work of the CSD. This served as a starting point to explore how best to integrate education for sustainable development into the CSD Plan of Work, 2004-2017; and to consider how the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development can support the MDGs, the CSD agenda, the CSD education agenda and the work of the CSD Education Caucus.

The requested actions the Education Caucus drafted for the current dialogue reflect the substance of these discussions and the continuing work of the Caucus on education.

1. Recognizing that the community of educators within the CSD is highly involved in the activities of the nine major groups to advance the CSD Plan of Work and often play a significant role in advising their own governments on critical issues, we call on governments at the CSD to incorporate the education community at all levels of the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
2. We encourage the Commission to identify action-oriented roles that educators can play in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in each of the fields of water, sanitation and human settlements.
3. We ask governments to promote dialogue between all relevant ministries and the education community at the national level regarding the design, implementation and monitoring of national sustainable development strategies.

Education is the most important tool for capacity building and

O2005: What has CSD 12 meant to you?

“I have been very encouraged by the quality of the debate at CSD this year. We’ve seen a much closer engagement with agencies such as UNDP and World Bank, and a focus on implementation and in working in partnership. Now we must crystallise this into a manageable action plan of key priorities to be tackled in the 2005 policy year. Action on the ground is what is needed and there is no time to lose if we are to meet the challenging targets for water, sanitation and human settlements.”

Rt. Hon. Margaret Beckett MP, UK Sec. of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

O2005: Best part of CSD 12?

“The interactive seminars in the first week, especially the Major group participation. We would have expected a more informal environment, but it is still a new beginning.”

Krishnan, UN Habitat

O2005: Has CSD 12 been worthwhile?

“I’m unquotable. I don’t have any thoughts”

A Former South African NGO

O2005: Has CSD12 been useful?

“Yes (laughs). Because finally they realise that they have to get their hands dirty and they have to work with us. Nothing happens if it doesn’t happen at the local level. Water and Sanitation are not abstractions.”

Kaarin Taipale, ICLEI

O2005: Have NGOs made a difference?

“That I would not be able to comment on, but don’t quote me on that.”

Peiter van der Gaag, ANPED

O2005: Have scientists made a difference?

"I thought the involvement of major groups much better than previously. I welcome the new modalities for involving them, which Brende has introduced. Regarding water and sanitation, per se, this session has shown recognition for meeting the MDGs. For this you need, as one mechanisms, science and technology, which is currently under-utilised or incorrectly applied. There is a knowledge divide between North and South which continues to widen."

Gisbert Glaser, ICSU

O2005: What has CSD 12 meant to you?

"I'm saying nothing"

Anon, Water industry

O2005: Enjoyed yourself?

"Yes, I have. But don't quote me on that!"

Morten Nordstog, Norwegian Government

O2005: CSD 12 - Has it changed?

"It has been a substantially more dynamic and interesting CSD than we've had in years. There is a real engagement between countries, to look at obstacles. Obviously we'll only get the full impact at CSD 13, but I think, certainly in terms of the work programme we developed at CSD 11, this process is delivering what we agreed. I think we are on track."

Dr. Crispin Olver, South African Government

O2005: Education at the CSD?

"Education is not teaching, it's not training, its learning."

Pam Puntanney, Education Caucus

O2005: Best bit of CSD 12?

"The buzz in the corridors. People are happy. People are enthusiastic."

Jonathan Margolis, US Delegation

O2005: Do you care more for CSD now than you did 2 weeks ago?

"On the plus side it was a more open and frank discussion than we had last year. Partly due to the format, partly due to the chair's charisma. Ultimately it is how we link CSDs 12 & 13 and the MDG+5 review. The important thing now is to maintain the momentum over the next 12 months."

Andrew Deutz, IUCN

O2005: Have NGOs made a difference?

"Yeah, I think so. Let me reflect."

Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, ANPED

O2005: Business and CSD12?

"Business has become much clearer in that it doesn't want to own water resources or the outright ownership of water infrastructure. This has led to some helpful convergence of opinion, particularly with local government, over the focus on local communities being able to choose the most efficient means for them to secure the most efficient delivering of water and sanitation services."

Andy Wales, Severn Trent

O2005: Has CSD 12 been worth 2-sleepless weeks?

"Depends on what comes out, but yes. If the chair's summary is concentrated, focussed, targeted and measurable, then at the CSD 13 inter-sessional and the main session we will have a clear idea of what we are trying to achieve. Its been very useful to have the partnership fair, learning centre and side events in sharing experience and best practice, which are often lost in big plenary sessions. What we would like to see is the experience and shared knowledge in these three fora reflected and not lost from the official process."

Brain McKeon, Irish Government

O2005: Which was your best cat-nap of CSD 12?

"Do you know, I haven't slept for the last 2 days, so I'm allowed to take as many cat naps as I want."

Michael Strauss, Earth Media

O2005: Has it been worth being out of the office for the past 2 weeks?

"This has been more of a social event than anything else. But don't quote me."

Anon, Industry

O2005: Have Trade Unions found CSD 12 worthwhile?

"Yes, we feel that the process has taken a giant leap forward. But we still don't know if it will make a difference. There needs to be an evolution of what impact more speaking slots and opportunities for contact on actual decision making."

Lucien Royer, ICFTU

O2005: Have women enjoyed sharing at the CSD?

"For us the CSD should be about collaborative sharing and capacity building. The spirit is here but the action is still to come."

"The CSD is about working for people back home."

Monique Essed-Fernando, WEDO Suriname

O2005: CSD 12, discuss?

"The new format is becoming more successful. At the beginning it seemed to be difficult for governments to get used to this new format, but it has started to work. For the next review session we should have even more experts from the local and national level who deal with implementation."

O2005: CSD - Reborn?

“A bit frustrating. Event though it’s the review year we didn’t see that much was accomplished. Most of what we heard does not relate to what’s happening, its been more about conceptions. It was frustrating that the interactive session was still just reading of statements. The importance of education was mentioned by everyone, but don’t just say its important, implement it.”

Camilla Godinho, Youth Delegate

O2005: Was it worth flying across the Atlantic for CSD 12?

“The government discussions were more vibrant than other CSDs, and were more open and transparent. But I still heard we are still using the same language from before Johannesburg. I hate to see it. We have to address our housekeeping to make this better.

Imad Adly, Arab Network.

Interviews by Toby Middleton, Stakeholder Forum



Hilltops 2 Oceans UK Stakeholder Roundtable

During the first week of the CSD governments considered the complex inter-linkages between issues, partnerships, implementation and review. Discussion on water, sanitation and human settlements revealed the paradoxical relationship between the wide range of initiatives currently underway and the infancy with which they are understood with regards to policy formation.

In order to redress such policy/practice conflicts, Stakeholder Forum, in partnership with UK DEFRA, hosted a one-day stakeholder roundtable in preparation for UNEP’s Hilltops to Oceans (H2O) partnership conference. The event sought to provide an effective interface between intergovernmental processes at the international level and action at by all stakeholders at the national level.

A key objective of the H2O initiative is to further engage stakeholders in the implementation of the GPA. The Roundtable was convened to provide UK stakeholders with an opportunity both to gain a better understanding of the H2O initiative, and to inform and influence the UK Governments preparations for the event.

Launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the H2O partnership initiative seeks to strengthen national and regional governance frameworks that protect coastal and marine environments by:

- Highlighting the link between freshwater and marine ecosystems;
- Building multi-stakeholder capacity for integrated water resource management (IWRM) and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM);
- Exploring the use of time-bound Wastewater Emission Targets as a tool for managing water from the hilltops to the oceans.

Roundtable Structure

The event was structured to complement the proposed agenda of the H2O conference, as well as directing participants to table clear issue and action based recommendations.

The event was opened by panel presentations from Georgina Ayre on behalf of Stakeholder Forum, who welcomed participants and introduced the structure of the day, David Osborn representing UNEP’s GPA office, who outlined the purpose of the H2O event, and finally Chris Tompkins for DEFRA, providing the UK governments objectives for convening the event.

Morning break-out groups invited delegates to prioritise issues concerning:

1. Freshwater/Marine Inter-linkages
2. Land-based pollution
3. Wastewater & Sanitation

The afternoon plenary focussed on action and implementation recommendations for:

1. National Programmes of Action
2. Wastewater Emission Targets
3. Good Governance

Each session was chaired by a facilitator and supported by a rapporteur. This report is based on the compiled facilitator’s summaries and rapporteur’s notes.

Conclusion

The roundtable included participants from a wide range of



stakeholder groups, including: business, local government, NGO's, UN, Women, Academia, Scientists and Faith based groups, representing a range of views. However, a number of themes recurred throughout the day.

While the value and need for meaningful stakeholder participation was widely recognised, there is a need to build capacity and raise awareness to ensure effective engagement. This recommendation was particularly recognised in developing countries. Associated to this was a further recommendation that solutions be delivered at the local level, employing low-tech solutions that supported subsidiary.

Market mechanisms could be more extensively employed, linked to an economic valuation of natural resources that empower and give ownership at the local level. It was felt that this would supplement the existing Polluter Pays principal with a more precautionary approach that would encourage relevant stakeholders, particularly the private sector to recognise and preserve the long-term economic value of water resources.

Lastly, there was general consensus that, within the UK, there was a lack of clear institutional responsibility for coastal zones. With no clear lead agency or government department, it is difficult to develop strategies that support an integrated approach across and between a range of relevant parties and stakeholders.

An overarching note needs to be made of the fundamental value of the kind of stakeholder consultation which this roundtable facilitated. Discussions have been started with UNEP's GPA office to consider this at the H20 event in Cairns, using this roundtable as a case study on which best practice can be assessed.

This needs to be expanded to include a section on how the recommendations are going to be carried forward – i.e. making a summary of Chris's summary at the end of the meeting.

Toby Middleton, Stakeholder Forum

STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

Why aren't we talking about population?

Population dynamics affect all aspects of sustainable development- economic, social and environmental- as was recognized in Agenda 21. Between 2000 and 2015 we will have added another billion people to the planet. That is another billion people who will need clean water, sanitation and shelter. Population growth is most definitely a cross-cutting issue, so why aren't we talking about it at CSD-12?

At a global level population growth and consumption patterns exacerbate climate change, pollution, loss of agricultural lands, forest and habitat. At a national level, growing population increases the cost to basic infrastructure and social services, diverts scarce resources away from capital investment and hinders poverty alleviation. At a community level, population growth can negate any progress made through increased sustainable practices and

increased services. And at a personal level, it is hard for a woman to contribute to society if she cannot control her own fertility.

The UN and civil society are talking about population growth. Thoraya Obaid, the Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) was in the CSD's Thursday mornings session reiterating that population was recognized at Rio as a sustainable development issue. UNFPA co-sponsored a partnership event with the Population and Sustainability Network on Tuesday. UNFPA works in over 140 countries with governments and NGOs to deliver reproductive health services and education, as well as research and advocacy.

Governments are addressing population at home. A UNFPA survey, to which 169 countries responded, showed that a vast majority of countries are taking action to integrate population concerns into development plans. Progress is being made. The global population growth rate has fallen from 2.2 percent in the early 1960s to 1.2 percent today (A growth rate of 1.2 percent means we are adding 73 million people to the planet each year).

Roughly half of the global population is under the age of 25 and just beginning their reproductive years. The choices they make will affect the future of this planet, and those choices will be influenced by the education and access to reproductive health services available to them. Sustainable development is about ensuring a future to our children- how can any discussion of that future not include a discussion on population?

In her closing statement to the Commission on Population and Development on March 26, 2004, Obaid stated, "There is a widespread agreement that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals- to reduce extreme poverty and hunger, maternal and child mortality, and the spread of AIDS – cannot be achieved unless greater action is taken to ensure women's rights, and to ensure universal access to education and reproductive health services."

Until we address population growth and over consumption, all of our progress here is temporary. So why isn't the CSD addressing population?

Leslie Adams, POWER, Canada

FINAL COMMENT

The biggest criticism of these meetings is that there is too much talk and not enough action, so I will keep this brief. Although perhaps this belief is the result of a lack of understanding of the function of the UN system and multi-lateral processes in general.

Stakeholder Forum will be focusing on 2005 as a critical period for multi-lateralism where our intention will positively be for people to talk more. Here at CSD we have learnt a lot from listening and from trying new business. Didn't hurt much did it.

We look forward to listening to your views and developing more productive fora to share them, as we all move forward together to create a more sustainable world.

T. Middleton, Editor

CDI DASHBOARD

Commitment to Development Index Combined Indicators

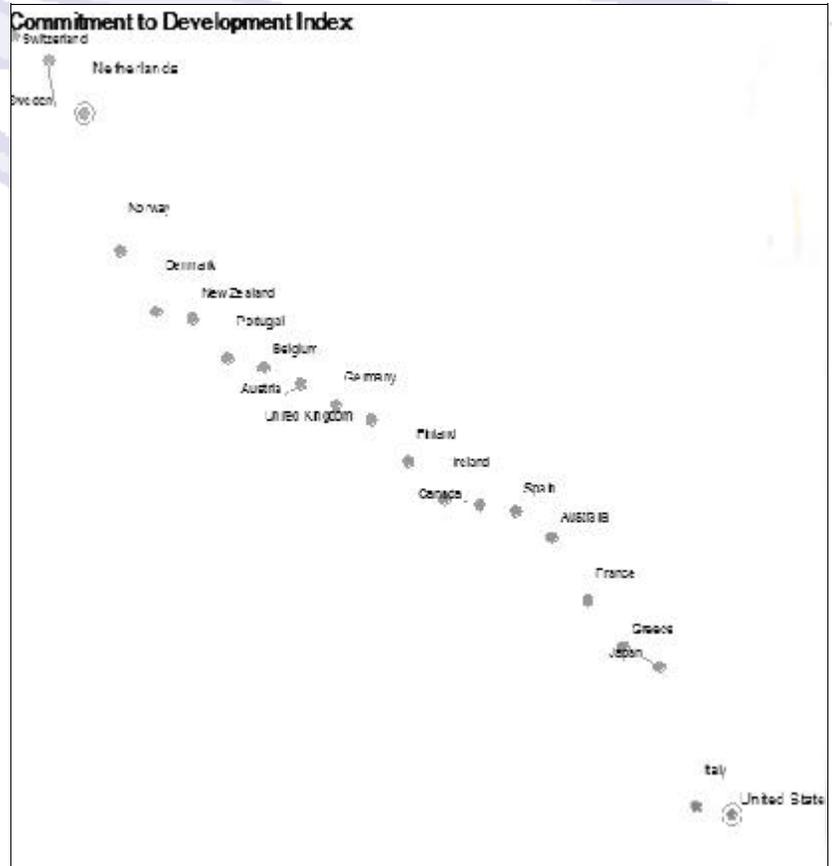
The CDI Dashboard is a tool to enable governments and stakeholders to understand critical issues that the 2005 agenda will address. The Dashboard works by creating an index of government performance and delivery against a defined set of criteria. Outreach will be running a different index each day, around issues critical to the 2005 agenda.

Index Criteria:

- Aid
- Trade
- Investment
- Environment
- Peace keeping
- Migration

Rank	Points	Country
1	615	Switzerland
2	604	Sweden
3	582	Netherlands
4	523	Norway
5	497	Denmark
6	494	New Zealand
7	477	Portugal
8	473	Belgium
9	466	Austria
...
13	417	Ireland
14	415	Canada
15	412	Spain
16	401	Australia
17	374	France
18	354	Greece
19	346	Japan
20	286	Italy
21	283	United States

Data source: Centre for
Global Development



Courtesy SGSDI – Consultative Group, IISD
www.iisd.org/cgsdi/dashboard.htm

RIO GRINDS

The light-hearted side of Sustainable Development

As the session reaches its close, what has been the main focus? Partnerships? Nope. Learning Centre? Nah. The Ministerial sessions? Not a bit of it. Outreach has keenly observed that what occupies the minds of most delegates: Deprived of R&R for over 2-weeks solid, what is the best place to fall asleep at the UN. Outreach comes to your aid:

1. Indonesian Lounge
2. UNCA Club
3. Committee Room E
4. Studio 4
5. Behind the chairman
6. Reading Outreach/ENB/Taking Issue (Circle one)

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

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FRIDAY'S DIARY

8:30-10:00	CR 1: Informal Ministerial Meeting - Summing up
10:00-11.30	CR 1: Statements and interactive discussions focussing on Sanitation
11:30-1:00	CR 1: Statements and interactive discussions focussing on Human Settlements
10:00-1.00	CR D: Use of GEF processes for collaboration on trans-boundary waters
1.15-2.45	CR 1: High-level round table on 'Inter-linkages between drought, Desertification and Water
1.15-2.45	CR 2: A business plan for ending world poverty: Achieving the MDGs by 2015
1.15-2.45	CR 6: 'ECO-Detectives' - Mobilising children for sustainable development
3.00-4.00	CR 1: Status on the international meeting in Mauritius - SIDS
4.00-6.00	CR 1: Closing - Chair introduces summary of high level segment.

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