

REFORM PAPERS



Paper 6

Paper 7

Building Bridges: CSD-12 to CSD-13 and Beyond

BACK-GROUND

As mandated by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, at its 11th Session the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-11) passed a decision on its future work programme and organisational reform. Within the decision it was agreed that the work of the Commission will be organised into two year action orientated 'implementation cycles' consisting of a review year followed by a policy year. Each implementation cycle is to focus on a pre-determined 'thematic cluster of issues'. For the period 2003-2005 the thematic cluster is made up of: Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements.

The purpose of the **review session** is to identify the obstacles, constraints, lessons learned and recommendations to the implementation of agreements within the select thematic cluster of issues. Through the identification of priority concerns discussions in the course of the review year should pave the way for an effective policy discussion in the course of the Policy year, with a view to strengthening implementation in these areas.

The **policy session** seeks to take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation of agreements within the selected thematic cluster of issues.

Whilst it is the mandate of the CSD to review and expedite implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Future Implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI, through the adoption and promotion of system-wide coordination across the UN, and the promotion of consistency in policy and decision-making at all levels, a number of other UN Agencies contribute to and influence this process. The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** was charged with the task – during the 8th Special Session of its Governing Council – to review the environmental aspect of the thematic cluster of issues, and to make recommendations on this basis to the CSD.

At the 57th Session of the UN General Assembly, it was proposed by the Secretary General that a 'summit level' event be hosted in September 2005 to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration (Res57/.....). In April 2004, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/58/L.8/Rev.1 deciding to convene a **High Level Meeting** in New York in 2005 as a follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit in 2000.

Clear inter-linkages exist between the work of the CSD, UNEP and the high-level follow-up to the Millennium Summit. However, no direction has been provided as to how these processes will be delivered in a mutually supportive manner.

The purpose of this paper is three fold: To explore the options for ensuring the policy session of the CSD responds effectively to priority concerns identified during the review session; to discuss and make recommendations on the adoption of an integrated approach towards the high-level follow-up to the Millennium Summit; to explore the role of UNEP within this process.

CSD-12

The 12th Session of the CSD convened in New York on 19-30 April 2004. The purpose of the session was to undertake a frank and honest review of the obstacles, challenges and constraints as well as the successes, lessons learned and recommendations for improvement in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and in implementing Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements.

This first session under the new multi-year work programme was characterised by a sharing of information and experience between governments, agencies and civil society through the use of 'interactive' dialogue, expert panels, learning centres, partnership fairs and side-events. It was generally agreed that this first attempt at having a non-negotiating session was a success.

The outcome of the session was a two part Chairs Report providing a non-negotiated summary of discussions and events. Whilst the reports are not progressive in content, they were strategically appropriate in ensuring that lengthy negotiations were not entered into. However, the Summary left a number of questions unanswered, namely; how procedurally will CSD-12 and 13 be linked?; what are the priority concerns or areas that need specific attention over the next year? and will the regional implementation forums be a continuous element of the work programme? As a non-negotiated text, there is still a great deal of speculation and divergence of views as to how the Chairs Report can or should be used. Four options are suggested:

- Option 1: Used to inform the development of the Secretary Generals papers on water, sanitation and human settlements and then not formally used again;
- Option 2: Directly used during CSD-13 intersessional to base negotiations on and used as a reference text here after;
- Option 3: Used by Minister Ashe to inform his contributions at CSD-13;
- Option 4: Offered as a document to base negotiated outcomes of CSD-13 on;

Recommendation

The Chairs Report of CSD-12 contains a wealth of information and experience which should neither be neglected nor lost. However, as a non negotiated document it would not be appropriate to use the text in its entirety. Instead, it is recommended that the Secretary Generals Reports be based upon the Chairs Summary, that Member States use the Chairs Summary as a platform from which to formulate their own policy recommendations and action plans for CSD-13, that Minister Ashe draw upon the Chairs Summary to inform his own interventions during CSD-13, and that the Summary be presented as a reference document.

CSD-13 INTERSESSIONAL

The intersessional meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development will be hosted in New York on 28 February – 4 March. This falls back to back with the Governing Council of UNEP (see below). As Chair of CSD-13, Minister John Ashe of Barbados and Tobago is charged with the task of using the intersessional as a mechanism to ensure an ambitious yet pragmatic outcome of CSD-13.

In December 2004 it is expected that the Secretary General will release three documents to address water, sanitation and human settlements. The documents will capture the outcomes of CSD-12, regional and national priorities and contributions of major groups (17 September 2004) and will attempt to frame the preparations for and debate at CSD-13. It is expected that Governments, UN agencies and other stakeholders will reflect on and respond to these documents through written statements prior to and verbal interventions during the intersessional meeting. It is anticipated that the Secretary Generals Reports will not attempt to raise new challenges but instead will articulate policy based solutions to those obstacles and constraints identified at CSD-12.

It is suggested that the intersession could be used in three different ways, leading to three different types of outcomes.

- Option 1: Generic discussion on priority concerns and the structure of CSD-13;
 Revision of the Secretary Generals Papers to reflect these discussions;

- Option 2: More focused discussion on priority concerns and possible solutions, as well as the structure of CSD-13;
 Production of two 'Chairs Reports'; Summary of discussions; potential issues for address at CSD-13

- Option 3: Focused negotiations on priority concerns and policy options, as well as the structure of CSD-13;
 Production of a 'Chairs Paper' for negotiation at CSD-13.

Recommendations

The Secretary Generals Reports should not seek to include new or additional issues to those raised during CSD-12. Instead they should take into full account the Chairs Summary of CSD-12 and offer policy solutions and guidance to overcome those priority concerns high-lighted during the review year.

Taking into account the Secretary Generals Reports, the intersessional should be used to identify and agree upon a select number of keys obstacles and challenges *identified during CSD-12*, and to formulate negotiating options around these. Further more, CSD-13 should agree upon the format of CSD-13, and discuss the role of the Commission in the 5 year review of the Millennium Declaration and other major UN conferences in the social and economic fields.

An appropriate outcome from the intersessional would be two documents:

1. Decision on the structure and intended outcome of CSD-13;
2. 'Chairs Compilation Text' reflecting priority issues and proposed/negotiated policy recommendations and action plans.

CSD-13

Critically CSD-13 should not be used as an opportunity to reaffirm previous commitments – the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation serves this purpose. Instead, CSD-13 should seek to develop concrete action plans to enable policies and commitments to be enacted. In some cases this will involve the replication or scaling up of existing programmes high-lighted during CSD-12. In others, new solutions are required. Drawing upon sectoral experts, CSD-13 should promote the use of innovative mechanisms, processes and technologies to expedite the implementation of previous agreements.

Recommendations

The major event in 2005 will be responsible for the following:

1. Review of the progress made in the fulfilment of all commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration;
2. Review of progress made in fulfilment of the internationally agreed development goals and the global partnership required for their achievement;
3. Review of progress made in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes and commitments of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

ORGANISATION of WORK 2004 – 2005

Preparation for the 5 Year Review of the Millennium Declaration and Major UN Conferences

