

OUTREACH



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

THURSDAY 3RD

An American in the UN

A Jamaican in Charge



IISD/ENB

*Jonathon Margolis,
U.S. Special
Representative for
Sustainable
Development*

Johannesburg helped create new way of looking at issues. What kind of impact has it had, and should it have for the future?

Johannesburg challenged all of us to think anew and afresh about how we now take on responsibility for the actions that we all say we want to do and turn to implementation. We have a big challenge, and it's important to engage internationally to bring concrete results to people on the ground. What we're seeing now at the CSD are the fruits of an effort by broad-based international community to come to grips with this challenge. **We have entered the Era of Implementation and different requirements are needed.**

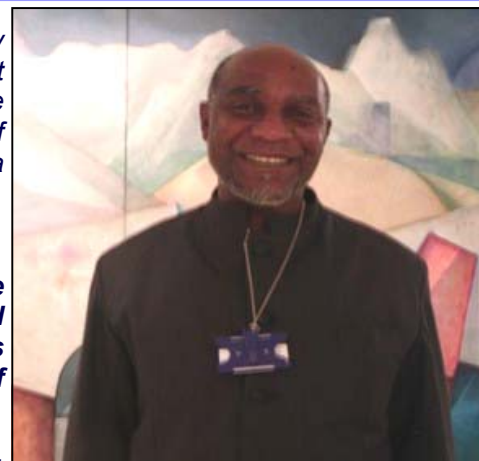
CSD faced a fundamental question 2 years ago when following up on Johannesburg of where to start. CSD met this challenge. While we recognise that all areas are important, we needed to pick a starting point, and identified water, sanitation and settlements as this place. The cycles will move on, but we identified where we're going to start.

Also important, we fundamentally realized it was not new agreements on water that were needed, but rather, **practical steps and mechanisms for delivery** that make it possible to deliver on the goals and targets in the JPOI and Millennium Declaration. We were gratified that at CSD-12 and the IPM we are not fighting over language, but discussing best practices/approaches that have worked, how to replicate them, and identifying concrete implementation steps.

(continued on page 2)

*Byron Blake, Deputy
Permanent
Representative of the
Government of
Jamaica*

*How do you see
CSD – IPM linked
into the positions
and priorities of
G77?*



CSD-13 is important in the sense that it forces us to look at implementation of targets in the three key issues of the MDGs: water, sanitation and human settlement. We are now looking at how we can deal with the problems identified at CSD-12.

The IPM and CSD-13 will be coming up with practical policy options. IPM is important in terms of trying to identify policies which could be applied, but we have to bear in mind that no single set of policies will be applicable to all developing countries.

The meeting is looking at three very integrated issues. From the point of view of the G77 and China group, it is very good to see that it is being recognized now that these must be treated as an integrated set of issues. We now have an opportunity to come up with practical solutions and institutional support to tackle these problems.

The most fundamental difficulty in meeting these goals in the developing countries is the level of poverty in urban slums, as well as in some rural areas. Solutions must reduce the level of poverty. A number of countries are now recognizing that we must move in that direction of integration and look at the MDGs as an integrated goal. That is important. For example, we must consider how international trade policy affects income of urban skilled and semi-skilled and rural agriculture and other service workers.

The comprehensiveness of the problem is being to be recognized. The CSD must come up with policies which can deal with issues in a coherent manner.

(Continued on page 3)

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

Margolis cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

What does the US want to get out of the IPM?

Here at the IPM there are three things to be accomplished. First of all, **the stated objective** – this IPM is to identify policy options and practical measures for implementation which the Chair will incorporate into his summary. After two days, we're already getting concrete options.

Secondly, **mechanisms for delivery**—we need to figure out ways to bring all of the different actors working together in a common framework. Some are starting to spring up. For example, over the past 8 to 10 months the US and other donors have worked with the Global water partnership along with the Global Environment Facility/UNDP as a delivery mechanism for IWRM. We are also working to identify activities on water and health, financing, as well as transboundary water.

Thirdly, thinking creatively to **maintain activities and momentum for water issues** after CSD moves on to the next cluster theme. We're starting to get ideas here as to what that may be. It's happening in informal conversations and side consultations. Along these lines, five years ago Secretary-General Annan, in sharing his vision for the UN future, put forward a need for there to be the "emergence of **global policy networks** -- coalitions for change -- that bring together international institutions, civil society, and private sector organizations, and national governments in pursuit of common goals." This sounds much like what is going on here. SG Annan's words point the direction for CSD in terms of how to deal with water issues after CSD moves on.

What does the US want CSD-13 to do?

There are a few things we want.

1. For the US at least, we'd like to see **options for policies and practical undertaking** come out of IPM in the Chairman's summary and recorded at CSD-13.

2. **Voluntary commitments** are very important to the U.S. as CSD-13 is all about setting up mechanisms for delivery. There is no requirement for countries and international organization like GEF, UNDP or WHO to do so, but if we can get the whole international community including governments, civil society, business, etc to establish a sense of commitment for working through mechanisms, this

would be an indication of success -- a means by which to continue.

3. The intergovernmental **policy decisions** to be made. There is real value in sending the right guidance to DESA in terms of what is expected of them, based upon what was accomplished at CSD-13 and into the future. The **Secretariat of the Future—what does it look like and how does it function?** It seems to the U.S. a key issue is how to make use of all the different already-existing networks? We need a way to assemble existing information and disseminate it—using internet, new technologies, etc. If the Secretariat embraces this approach, and schedules future meetings with the idea of how to bring information to those working on the ground, fundamentally this is an important job which CSD-13 can give guidance to.

What role does IWRM have?

From the U.S. perspective, IWRM is crucial. Through IWRM we are trying to bring all relevant players/stakeholders together to take part in the discussions. Essentially, through IWRM we're **creating a model of participatory decision-making** which is a function of access to information, transparency and accountability at the grassroots level.

In this regard, IWRM is a hallmark of good governance, and in specific, of good water governance, and arguably of democracy in the broader sense of institutions being responsive to the needs of their people. In this way, through IWRM we are advancing even broader goals of development.

The GWP's efforts are an example to which we can point where we have been working with 18 to 20 countries. This is **evidence of how the new CSD can work: developing a mechanism for delivery of action, involving multiple governmental, Non-governmental, and international organization actors.**

How can CSD contribute to the Millennium Development Summit?

The best contribution CSD can make is to point to practical measures, outcomes, and mechanisms to deliver on commitments. If CSD can show it can deliver on concrete areas, the message to bring to the major event of 2005 is **"Here is what implementation looks like."**

How does the US seeing environment being one of the priorities for the MDG Summit?

From US perspective, there are four overarching goals in our foreign policy, of which advancing security is of course one. But **second is advancing sustainable development.** For the US, sustainable development has three pillars: economic development, social development, and environmental protection. We're moving forward to develop approaches that take into consideration all 3 pillars.

Outreach

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Blake cont'd

(continued from page 1)

Do you feel the integration of these issues is actually happening at this IPM?

We're getting much closer. Many participants are now speaking about an integrated approach. One challenge for most countries is that integrated planning isn't something they have experience with. It is fairly new and expensive to execute. But is certainly better to plan for all areas now, than undertake remedial work later. We also have to recognize that **we can not prioritize between urban and rural areas**. If we don't take care of rural areas migration to urban areas will increase and will result in worsening of slums. We must recognise this at national and international levels.

There is a growing call for increase in resource mobilization through ODA and domestically to tackle problems of water, sanitation and human settlement. What are your views on this?

One of the clearest points that emerged from CSD 12 and also from Millennium review report is that the MDGs can only be met with additional resources. There is now general agreement on the need for additional resources. It is also clear that developing countries will be unable to mobilize these resources internally. These two points are clear, so CSD-13 can focus on how to generate additional external resources. CSD-13 is not a pledging conference, but looking at implementation of the three target areas, it must look at ways of solving this major constraint. Some participants have raised the issue of debt reduction or cancellation as a positive step to that direction.

In addition to financial resources the developing countries will also require the technological resources. The exchange of technology should not be just limited to north to south but also south to south. **Many southern countries have developed very practical technological solutions** to many of the issues we are discussing here. South - south exchanges could be highly beneficial but will need to be facilitated.

Coordination of the activities of international institutions and the provision of direct technical assistance by them is another factor to be considered. Also, though it has a role to play, given the scale of the problem and limited scope for cost recovery, **the private sector cannot be a major contributor in the short timeframe required for fulfilment of the targets**. Private sector finances can be helpful supplement but not a replacement for the public sector in the provision of basic facilities of water and sanitation.

How do you see CSD-13 feeding into the Millennium Development Summit? Is the link being established, or will what we achieved here be lost in the run up to the summit?

We believe that the linkages are important and should happen, but how exactly it will happen is not yet clear. To

the extent that CSD-13 will be reviewing and seeking to resolve in a practical manner the difficulties in the implementation of the three key issues, that information should be of value to the Summit. The G77 and China has not yet completed its consideration as to how this factual information might best be conveyed.

What is your view on monitoring and a follow-up framework to policy priorities at CSD-13? Due to the two year implementation cycle of thematic clusters of CSD, the fear is that the focus on water, sanitation and human settlement will be lost.

G77 is aware of these issues, but has not yet completed its considerations. Clearly CSD is the body to do the follow up and monitoring at the policy level. CSD was given the responsibility by the WSSD, but how CSD will do it needs to be discussed by the CSD.

Coordination of UN agencies will be very important in terms of implementation of policy priorities from CSD-13. How do you see this happening?

There is a general understanding that for the entire set of MDGs, there is a need for a much higher level of coordination among UN agencies. The Secretary General will need to provide guidance on how best to address the issue of co-ordination. The Summit will actually be a good forum to look at this.

How do you feel the issues of water, sanitation and human settlement of Small Island Developing States are being addressed?

Most of the SIDS are members of the G77 and China group. The Mauritius conference looked at the issues in detail specifically as they relate to the sustainable development of these states. The water issue for example is a part of the Mauritius implementation strategy. The overall issue of the vulnerability of SIDS was central to that strategy. It will be important therefore to recognize the Mauritius strategy in the overall approach to advancing the MDGs.

Are you optimistic about the whole process and that through our combined efforts the world will eventually be a better place?

Never get optimistic or pessimistic about meetings -- each builds some momentum. Now there's a significant amount of momentum. There has been a lot of discussion and political identification and it's now clear that we all need to act.

French National Strategy for Sustainable Development

The following gives the view of a Belgian "peer" -- Nadine Gouzée -- on the recent development and test of a methodology for the review of NSDSs launched by France in association with the governments of Belgium, Ghana, Mauritius and the United Kingdom.

What process are we speaking about: a "shared learning" or a "peer review"?

Frankly, the name of this process does not really matter. What is important is that it is a new, lively and interesting process in which several countries have paved the way for a new mechanism to understand each other better and together improve their implementation of sustainable development principles and commitments.



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Four countries have been invited by France to participate to this process, including Belgium. This means that eight "peers" (one representative from the government and one from the civil society of each of the four countries) have worked together intensively during a few months of 2004 and 2005 on the French Strategy. We did not "judge" this national strategy -it was not a top-down process. As "peers" from five partner countries, we were on equal ground, sharing our experiences from present and passed confrontations, whether in the minute details or larger obstacles that are encountered when you have to turn this overarching concept into an operational reality.

How did the process work?

The process had, fortunately, been well prepared by the French Government and facilitated by the skill of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). All the peers involved were also particularly experienced on the social, environmental and economic components of sustainable development. Additionally, the Workshops were also attended by experts and officials of UN-DESA and the European Commission. A Methodology Workshop, which in two days in November 2004 agreed upon the appropriate methodological framework, has been followed by a "Peer Review Workshop." This Workshop consisted of five full days of intensive work, where most of the shared learning occurred.

Meanwhile, the peers had studied the background report prepared by IIED which drew from questionnaires addressed to key actors of the French NSDS, as well as from the key official documents. The Workshop participation was largely opened to representatives of French Civil Society. The Peers were given as much liberty in questioning French civil society as they were in questioning the French public authorities. It was a challenging process, but there was an enjoyable dynamic amongst all participants.

What are the results of this process?

First, we all learned a lot, not only about the French strategy but also about our own successes and failures, in our own countries' strategies. Second, we delivered six pages of focussed recommendations addressed to the French Government (recognizing that several of those could as well be addressed to our own Governments), which will discuss them and respond in March. Third you will know more about all of it if you attend the Side event organised by France at CSD-13 in April, where you will have the opportunity to meet not only the French authorities who are in charge of this process but also many of the peers who participated.

SANITATION – A TRADE UNION VIEW

Contributor: Steve Bloomfield, ICFTU/PSI-UNISON

Trade Unions are often accused of talking shit, but this is important shit and we make no apologies. Despite the international pledge made at the WSSD to halve those without access to sanitation, there is little sign that countries and donors are giving this the priority it deserves.

Most developing countries have delegated responsibility for sanitation to municipalities, but with little direction or guidance, and without the necessary measures. This problem is magnified by the fragmentation of responsibility between many council departments. It is vital that municipalities properly coordinate their sanitation activities. Public authorities cannot deal with this themselves.

There is a need for full stakeholder involvement and particu-

larly from women and trade unions. Women know what is needed and workers know how to provide it.

There are two examples of community involvement that deserve attention! Both Cordoba in Spain and Porto Alegre in Brazil operate what has been called "participatory democracy." This system is open and transparent and allows communities to influence what is spent on water and sanitation and also what type of systems are appropriate.

The Trade Union group are looking for support to get a reference to the contribution of workers and trade unions in the UN targets for water and sanitation. It is already there in the section on Human Settlements.

Ultimately, national governments and donors must be prepared to adequately fund sanitation at the local level. This is money well spent as it makes a huge contribution to the alleviation of water born diseases like cholera.

W(h)ither ecosystems?

Contributor: Chris Tydeman, WWF

While it is often stated, and seemingly accepted, that water **and ecosystems** are vital for all life on earth current practices often seem to ignore this in favour of short term solutions so that the natural resources base, which is crucial for the water cycle, continues to be lost. In cases of water shortage and degradation of ecosystems it is the poorest that are typically the first to suffer, while at the same time inland waters are the most threatened of all ecosystems with the highest rate of biodiversity loss. The majority of poor people that live in rural areas in developing countries depend on wetlands. Many of the amenities, functions and values of wetlands are crucial, not only for the environmental and food security of these people, but also for the survival of their cultures and as a basis for poverty reduction. Rural poverty is increasingly a factor in the degradation of wetland resources and biodiversity values. Growing human populations that are trapped in systems of impoverishment have no alternatives than to (over-)exploit the natural resources which are available to them. Degradation of wetlands enhances poverty, as the natural resource base is often the only livelihood base available to the poor.

While there are a number of international treaties that deal with ecosystem protection, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar 1971) and there is a biodiversity target included in the JPOI it will not come under scrutiny at CSD for some considerable time - and after the deadline for the target in 2010. However consideration of ecosystem function and biodiversity must run in parallel with other work programmes in CSD - protecting and managing the natural resource base is a genuine cross-cutting issue.

The 13th meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development will continue to consider the cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements by building on the review carried out at CSD 12 in which considerable emphasis was, quite rightly, placed on the 1.1 billion lacking access to safe drinking water and the 2.2 billion without basic sanitation; also on the target agreed in Johannesburg to develop Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Water Efficiency Plans by 2005. This latter process is absolutely critical to enable the achievement of the water and sanitation MDG targets to be achieved in a sustainable way and yet current information suggests that this target will fail to be met, by some margin, in a significant number of countries. It is clear that broad acceptance of the concept of IWRM as a methodology has emerged and now the challenge is to move forward from this conceptual stage, to avoid it remaining merely a vision or concept only or even just a policy approach.

Given that, as far as environmental protection is concerned, IWRM is the only significant mechanism under discussion it is critical that for CSD 13 there is a clear understanding of what IWRM means in practice - including the recognition of ecosystems as the source of water, and also their interactions with all users of water. While IWRM may be a well recognised framework there is no consensus as to its scope or methodologies to be employed leaving the term IWRM open to wide interpretation and potentially devalued as just another term. This is reflected in the Secretary General's Report which states that progress towards this

target is "hampered... by limited understanding of what integrated water resources management (IWRM) means in practice.....".

There is a significant requirement for everyone to have the same understanding about IWRM and through it to establish coherence in policies and programmes. This need applies at national level, between ministries of agriculture and environment, finance, health, education, water and natural resources, but also in donor policy, and between the international institutions, the Conventions, and in the UN system. At national level, cross-sectoral policies need to become visible in sustainable development plans, and poverty reduction strategies. Especially in the PRSPs thus far water and sanitation have been lacking as priorities biodiversity and environment are generally poorly reflected and the need for integrated approaches to effectively address poverty-environment issues is ignored.

[IWRM](#) should be based on the perception of water as an integral part of the ecosystem, a natural resource and a social and economic good, whose quantity and quality determine the nature of its utilisation.

CSD should:

- Reaffirm the 2005 target for producing IWRM and water efficiency plans
- Establish a mechanism for tracking progress on meeting this target after CSD 13
- Establish a mechanism for monitoring implementation of these plans
- Agree a common understanding of what is meant by IWRM and what is required in the plans including specific mention of ecosystem services and management, and environmental flows
- Request the Global Water Partnership to review the methodologies for IWRM to ensure that the conservation of ecosystems such as wetlands and forests is incorporated adequately
- Ensure due recognition of the need for integrated approaches to effectively address poverty-environment issues, particularly in wetlands, including the linkage between environmental degradation and poverty, as well as the linkage between environmental sustainability and human well-being
- Urge donor countries to provide technical assistance especially for capacity building, and funding to ensure that the plans are in place as quickly as possible, and operationalised
- Agree that all countries should make specific reference to IWRM plans in their National Sustainable Development Strategies and poverty reduction strategies
- Request the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to issue guidance on inclusion of IWRM into PRSPs as part of a wider examination of ecosystem role and function in poverty alleviation in PRSPs
- Urge all sectors to engage in the IWRM planning process especially the water and sanitation sectors
- Request governments to make special efforts to reduce biodiversity loss in freshwater ecosystems, towards meeting the 2010 JPOI target, given that inland waters are suffering the greatest rate of biodiversity loss

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil : Anti-globalization activists gathering at the World Social Forum decried the plight of 27 million people working in slave-like conditions across the world, while Iraq war opponents also made their voices heard during the annual meeting. Groups at the fifth WSF in this southern Brazilian city have been protesting globalization and unfettered capitalism in a meeting billed as an antipode to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where the world's political, financial and business heavyweights are gathering.

A network of organizations working to eradicate forced labour estimated that 27 million people, mainly in Africa, Asia and Latin America, were working like slaves. The group also voiced concern over child labour, citing International Labour Organization figures showing that 352 million children under 16 years old were working around the globe. Among them, 187 million are between five and 14 years old. Eight million children are also sexually exploited, the group said.

The group praised Brazil's endeavour to eliminate the exploitation of workers, saying it was the only government successful in its efforts. "The Brazilian model in fighting forced labour is exportable," said Luis Carlos Moro, of the Latin American Association of Labour Attorneys, which is part of the anti-forced labour network.

Brazilian ILO delegate Patricia Audi said Brazil, South America's largest nation, rescued in 2003 a record 5,100 people who were working in slave-like conditions in the

rural sector. About 40,000 people work in forced labour in Brazil, the Brazilian Labour Ministry estimates.

In Mexico, forced labor was found in both the rural and industrial sectors, especially in the south, but President Vicente Fox "is not interested in fighting this problem," said ALAL's Mexican delegate, Ignacio Contreras. Bolivia, the rural sector is plagued with a feudal system in which a landowner gives a small piece of land to a farmer who in exchange must work all day in the landowner's farms, said ALAL's Bolivian vice president, Ivan Campero.

On Thursday, the WSF urged people around the world to press for adherence to the UN Millennium Development Goals, which aim to cut poverty by half by 2015.

While WSF organizers had said Iraq would not dominate the annual gathering's agenda, the war shared centre stage Friday with two days before Iraq's elections. Stop the War, a British-based group that includes dozens of anti-war groups worldwide, asked forum participants to join a worldwide mobilization on March 20 to mark the second anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq. "The situation now is as grave as that of the 1970s, during the Vietnam war, because the Middle East is of much more strategic importance than Southeast Asia," said spokesman Chris Nineham.

"Since the re-election of George W. Bush, many feel the need for a large protest on March 20." Meanwhile, a hundred environmental groups, from Greenpeace to Brazil's Landless Peasant Movement, demonstrated against genetically modified foods in front of the Porto Alegre office of American agribusiness giant Monsanto.

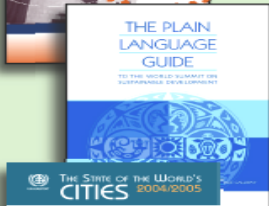
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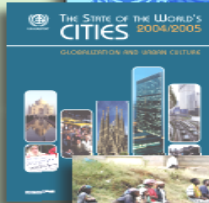
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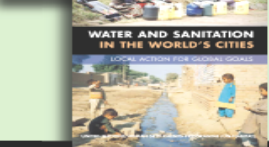
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A Reason to Celebrate



#

Contributor: P.J. Punttenney, CSD Education Caucus

The Launch of the UNDESD (2005-2014)

March 1st marked the official launch of the DESD (Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.). Throughout 2005 there will be regional launches around the world beginning with CEE-India who held the first International conference to launch the DESD in early January. Japan will hold their launch beginning March 6th and so it goes.

A panel of experts identified key issues and major efforts underway to implement the aims and objectives as spelled out in the draft implementation plan. UNESCO will act as a catalyst and a facilitator to encourage, guide “shepherd,” and help with the process. As part of the Plan for the Decade, the Implementation Scheme: Linking with International Initiatives; there is a strong commitment to work with the MDGs and to support the work of the CSD.

With the Johannesburg Summit recognizing the importance of education for sustainable development and it being integrated into the CSD’s plan of work as a cross-cutting issues and educators receiving consultative status alongside Major Groups and scientific experts, with the UNGA dedicating a decade to the issue and with regional groupings such as the ECE and the Asia-Pacific urging action, it appears that on paper governments are recognising the importance of this issue. However, words and documents are not enough – as always, sentiments have to be translated into actions.

What is needed is an intelligent dialogue. There is a disconnect between examples of implementation and problem engagement. The difficulty is not that there isn’t good work going on, but that we are not particularly good at recognizing it and integrating it into wider practice.

The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development provides a focus and an opportunity to build linkage between global and local constituencies, and at the same time strengthen action by all stakeholders.

As Dag Hammarskjöld, former Secretary-General stated so well, “Never measure the height of a mountain until you have reached the top. Then you will see how low it was.”

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Brackets for the Chair’s Text

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If any government should run out of brackets, multiple additional copies are available at the Stakeholder Forum office in the Vienna Café

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In the ‘In Touch’ interview with David Redhouse yesterday, David said, “This meeting is the ultimate test for whether or not we are going to make a real difference for a farmer in Ethiopia.”

Outreach has located that farmer and will publish an interview with him/her tomorrow.

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

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WWF International Gordon Shepherd.

THURSDAY'S AGENDA

Intergovernmental Preparatory Meetings

10:00- 1:00	Conf. Room 3	Human Settlements
Parallel Sessions	Conf. Room 4	Water/Sanitation
	Conf. Room 3	PLENARY Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements: interlinkages and cross-cutting issues

Partnership Activities

10:00 -12:00	Conf. Room 5	"Partnerships in Practice" interactive discussion session: How to reduce transaction "costs" in coordinating partnerships
10:30 - 1:30	Neck Area	Partnerships Information Desk - Water Programme for Africa and Arid and Water Scarce Zones (WPA)
2:00 - 5:30	Neck Area	Partnerships Information Desk - Northern Water Network

Side Events

1:15-2:45	Conf. Room 5	The Integral Path of Sustainable Development Organized by the Permanent Observer Mission of Holy See
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Caucus Meetings

9:00-10:00	Conf. Room C	Strategy Sessions
10:00-11:00	Conf. Room C	Education Caucus
11:00-12:00	Conf. Room C	Energy Caucus
5:00-6:00	Conf. Room C	Freshwater Caucus
6:30-8:30	Conf. Room C	Caucus Coordinators

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