

**66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Second Committee Special Event**

Means of Implementation for Sustainable Development

**Tuesday 25 October 2011, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
ECOSOC Chamber, North Lawn Building**

BACKGROUND NOTE

In 2012, Brazil will host the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (also known as Rio+20) aiming to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development at the 20th anniversary of the landmark 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In light of this, the Second Committee is organizing a special event at the 66th Session of the General Assembly to discuss “Means of Implementation for Sustainable Development”, hoping to contribute to the successful outcome of Rio+20.

The implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), requires a substantially increased effort, including on the long term, both by countries themselves and by the rest of the international community, based on the recognition that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, taking fully into account the Rio Principles, including, in particular, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Sustainable development policies imply the involvement of all actors from public and private sectors and civil society in their design and implementation. In addition to countries’ more effectively utilizing existing resources, the discussion on Means of Implementation for Sustainable Development has been mainly focused on the following topics:

- Domestic resource mobilization and use of public funds to leverage private investment;
- New, additional and predictable financial resource flows to developing countries, with consideration *inter alia* for the challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS) in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and Mauritius Strategy;
- Access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies on a voluntary and mutually agreed basis which includes also building strong scientific and technological capabilities in developing countries together with education and information sharing.
- Investing in people, including education, training, and transparent information sharing on economic, environment, and social conditions, at all levels and in all segments of society.
- What are the implications for implementation of policies towards sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, taking into considerations required conditions by domestic and foreign private sectors and intellectual property rights regimes.

Potential Topics for Discussion

With a view towards advancing understanding about the above subjects, some questions to consider at the panel discussion are:

1. Given the ongoing global financial crisis in many developed countries, and its impact on developing countries, what is the outlook for developing countries, including SIDS, to secure new, additional and predictable financing for sustainable development? What types of innovative sources of finance could contribute to financial resource mobilization and transfer? What examples of effective and efficient models of sustainable development finance approaches can be used as references?
2. What has been the progress with transfer of environmentally sound technologies since 1992, notably but not only low-carbon technologies taking fully into account international agreements on technology transfer and intellectual property rights? What are the lessons learned, where are the bottlenecks that have slowed technology transfer and how can they be removed? In this regard, what is the role of building scientific and technological capabilities and networks? How can countries build systems of innovation that reward achievement and foster development of ideas?
3. What successful examples of innovation and production of new sustainable development technologies and processes through south-south and triangular cooperation can be highlighted?

Expected Outcome

The special event on Means of Implementation for Sustainable Development is designed to contribute to the Rio+20 preparatory process. The outcome of the discussion will be a summary by the Chair of the Second Committee. It will be transmitted to the UN membership in New York and made available on the Rio+20 website.

Further Resources

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20):

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

Section IV: Means of Implementation in Agenda 21:

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/res_agenda21_33.shtml

Section X: Means of Implementations in Johannesburg Plan of Implementation:

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POIChapter10.htm

Proposed Programme

3:00 – 3:05 Introduction by the Chair

H.E. Mr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen of Bangladesh

Chair, Second Committee

3:05 - 3:25 Keynote Speech by Mr. Maurice Strong

Honorary Professor at Peking University, China; Secretary General of both the 1972 UN Conference on Human Environment and the 1992 Rio Earth Summit; the first Executive Director of UNEP

3:25 – 4:10 Panel Discussion

Mr. Christopher Flensburg

Head of Sustainable Products and Product Development,
SEB-Merchant Banking, Sweden

Prof. Dalindyebo Shabalala

Assistant Professor, International Economic Law (Intellectual Property),
Maastricht University, the Netherlands

Dr. Hugh Sealy

Associate Professor at St. George's University, Grenada

Mr. Jimmiel Mandima

Director of Program Design and Policy, African Wildlife Foundation (AWF),
Washington D.C., USA

4:10 – 5:30 Q&A Session

Joined by special additional panellist: Ms. Judith Moore

Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank, United States

5:30 – 6:00 Concluding Observations by Panellists and Chair