

CHAIR'S NOTE
ELABORATING THE PROCEEDINGS OF
HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

May 5, 2009

Updated May 11

In order to make a notable push to accelerate the implementation the agreed policy actions, Ministers and high-level government officials have been invited to attend the High-level segment of the CSD-17.

The Bureau has decided, and as it was mentioned in the invitation letter, Ministers are invited to have an interactive dialogue in small groups (roundtables)—and avoiding reading of formal statements. This is an opportunity for the Ministers to listen, discuss and react where appropriate, to their colleagues in an interactive dialogue. This will allow them to articulate their collective vision to meet the development challenges by agreeing on practical policy measures and options that will expedite progress in implementation. Therefore the Bureau of CSD 17 would like to seek the participation of as many ministers as possible.

The High-level segment will be divided into three parts.

An opening Session

- This session will run from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on 13 May in the General Assembly Hall. The Bureau has invited 8 eminent speakers to address the session. See Annex 1 for the list of names.
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- After the speakers, Groups will be invited to speak

High-level Roundtables

- Main thrust of the HLS will be on the Ministerial roundtables. This is vital to secure strong political commitment for a successful follow up and implementation of the results of CSD 17.
- Accordingly, the Bureau has allocated one-and half day of the time allocated for the High-level Segment to the organization of three roundtables on the following themes.
 - Responding to food crisis through sustainable development,
 - Realizing a Sustainable Green Revolution in Africa
 - Integrated Management of land and Water Resources for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
- A number of invited speakers will lead-off the thematic discussions in the

plenary session of each roundtable. See Annex 2 for list of panellists.

- Thereafter the roundtable will be divided into two groups for interactive discussion. The rationale for breaking up into two parallel sub-roundtables is to encourage an open and frank discussion amongst Ministers in smaller groups.
- Participation in the roundtables will be open to:
 - Ministers and State Secretaries/Vice Ministers (plus one assistant depending upon the room size);
 - Other Heads of Delegation (1 per delegation)
 - Major Groups (1 representative per major group per roundtable)
 - UN system organizations could attend as observers
- In terms of procedure, interactive discussions will start among Ministers or State Secretaries or Vice Ministers. After their discussion other heads of delegations will be engaged. During each of the roundtables a representative of the Major Groups will be invited to reflect on the discussion. Reading of formal statements will be strongly discouraged in order to get an interactive discussion.
- The delegations are requested to enlist their Ministers/State Secretaries/Vice Ministers before the High-level segment for one or more of the roundtables. For each roundtable, the Bureau will prepare a proposal for distributing Ministers/State Secretaries/Vice Ministers as well as other heads of delegations into sub-roundtables maintaining geographical balance. This division will be communicated to all delegations on Tuesday, May, 12, 2009.
- The Ministerial Dialogues with the major groups and the Policy Research Community and UN system organizations and Heads of their Governing bodies on Implementing Sustainable Development will be open to Ministers/State Secretaries/Vice Ministers and other Heads of Delegations.

Summing-up Session

- I will summarise the outcomes of the roundtables, including the presentations of eminent persons and experts in a 'shared vision' document. This document will have the formal status of a chairs summary. So it will not be a negotiated text.
- Proceedings of Friday morning 15 May will be as follows:
 - Presentation of summary of each roundtables by one co-chair per roundtable (3 presentations of 5 minutes each)

- Reflections of the keynote speakers on the discussions in the roundtables and on the way forward (3 presentations of 5 minutes each)
- Presentation of summaries of two ministerial dialogues with major groups and policy research community (2 presentations of 3 minutes each)
- On behalf of the major groups, two representatives will be invited to reflect upon the way forward for 3 minutes each
- Presentation of the draft 'Shared Vision' by the Chair of CSD-17 (as stated, it will have a formal status of Chair's summary)
- Interactive discussions among Ministers/State Secretaries, Vice Ministers and other heads of delegations on the draft 'Shared Vision'
- The key issues raised during the interactive dialogue on the Friday morning will be captured in the 'shared vision'.

ANNEX 1
LIST OF SPEAKERS AT THE OPENING OF THE
HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

1. H.E. Ms. Gerda Verburg, Chair CSD-17 (the Netherlands)
2. H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General, United Nations
3. H.E. Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana
4. H.E. Ms. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism,
Namibia
5. H.E. Ms. Sylvie Lucas, President of ECOSOC 2009
6. H.E. Mr. Homero Biblioni, Secretary of Environment and Sustainable
Development, Argentina
7. Ms. Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director-General, IUCN
8. Mr. Shoaib Sultan Khan , Chair, National Rural Support Programme, Pakistan

ANNEX 2
LIST OF PANELISTS FOR HIGH LEVEL ROUNDTABLES

Roundtable 1: Responding to food crisis through sustainable development

- Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP
- Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT
- Mr. Alexander Mueller, Assistant Director-General, FAO
- Ms. Rajul Pandya-Lorch, Head of the 2020 Vision Initiative, IFPRI

Roundtable 2: Realizing a sustainable green revolution in Africa

- Mr. Robert Watson, Director, IAASTD, United Kingdom
- Mr. Matthew Wyatt, Asst. President, External Affairs Department, IFAD
- Mr. Tecele Tesfai, Special Adviser to the Chairman, AGRA

Roundtable 3: Integrated management of land and water resources for sustainable agriculture and rural development

- HRH. Willem-Alexander, Prince of Orange, Chair UNSGAB
- Ms. Kathy Sierra, Vice President, World Bank
- Mr. José de Jesus Romo, General Director for Rural Development Supports SAGARPA, Mexico