



UNITED NATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
DIVISION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
(CSD SECRETARIAT)



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Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Bureau of the  
19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development  
(13 and 14 January 2011, Panama City, Panama)

## Introduction

1. The third meeting of the Bureau of the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19) took place in four parts on 13 and 14 January 2011 in Panama City, Panama.
2. The following attended the meeting:

### *Bureau Members*

- H.E. Mr. László Borbély, Minister of Environment and Forests (Romania)
- H.E. Ms. Lucía Chandec C, Administrator General of the National Environmental Authority of Panama (Panama)
- H.E. Mr. Andrew Golezinski, Deputy Permanent Representative (Australia)
- Mr. Eduardo Meñez, Minister Plenipotentiary (Philippines)
- Mr. Abdelghani Merabet, Third Secretary (Algeria)

### *Secretariat*

- Mr. Tariq Banuri, Director, DSD/DESA
- Mr. David O'Connor, Chief, Policy Analysis and Networks Branch, DSD/DESA
- Ms. Irena Zubcevic, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, DSD/DESA
- Ms. Chantal line Carpentier, Sustainable Development Officer, DSD/DESA

*UNEP* (invited to the first, second and third parts of the Bureau meeting in relation to the intersessional meeting on SCP)

- Ms. Sylvie Lemmet, Director, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

3. Proposed agenda was adopted with minor amendments to the schedule of Bureau meetings as warranted by the intersessional meeting.

### **Agenda item 1: Assessment of the preparations for the High-level intersessional meeting on sustainable consumption and production patterns**

[8:30 – 10:00 a.m. on 13 January]

4. Minister Borbély welcomed all participants to the third Bureau meeting and thanked the Government of Panama and the Administrator General of the National Environmental Authority of Panama for hosting this meeting. He also welcomed Ms. Lucía Chandec to the Bureau in her capacity as Vice-Chair representing the Latin American and the Caribbean Region.

5. With regard to the SCP intersessional meeting, he mentioned that the outcomes of this meeting would be very helpful to the proceedings of the IPM and subsequent negotiations on the SCP agenda during the CSD-19. Therefore, this meeting should be used to develop a clear understanding on the way forward. The need for timely preparation and distribution of documents to the Bureau Members was stressed.

6. Mr. Banuri stated that the non-paper prepared by the Secretariat for the Bureau is meant to serve only as a guidance note, while the two background papers on functions and elements of institutional structure (#1) and on programmes (#2) have been prepared for discussion at this intersessional meeting. This meeting is the first opportunity after CSD-18 to assess main areas of convergence as well as those on which more discussion is needed, he noted.

7. Ms. Lemmet mentioned that UNEP has collaborated with DSD/DESA in preparing the background documents for this intersessional meeting on SCP. She hoped that this meeting would enhance the understanding of the subject matter and pave the way for advancing the implementation of SCP agenda.

8. Minister Borbély invited the Bureau members to share their views on the intersessional meeting. Key points made by different Bureau members are summarized below.

- Welcoming everyone to Panama, Administrator Ms. Chandeck hoped that this meeting would bring more clarity to the three components of the 10YFP: (i) functions, (ii) elements of institutional structure and (iii) programmes.
- Mr. Goledzinowski noted that this meeting would contribute both in clarifying issues related to the SCP agenda and in securing convergence of views. He emphasized the need to have a reasonable level of ambition for the outcome with a degree of realism. A good outcome on SCP at CSD-19 would positively contribute to the discussions on green economy theme at the Rio+20 Conference.
- Mr. Merabet appreciated the Secretariat and UNEP for preparing good background documentation for the meeting, and underlined the importance of taking regional perspectives on board in order to make progress at IPM and CSD-19.
- Mr. Meñez said that this meeting is being attended by representatives from capitals and Permanent Missions to the UN in New York. Therefore it will be important that delegates take with them a good summary in order to be able to discuss this issue at both national and regional levels and come prepared with their views and positions to the IPM.

**Agenda item 2: Assessment of the High-level intersessional meeting on sustainable consumption and production patterns and next steps including the elements of Chair's Summary of the meeting**

[8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. on 14 January]

9. Minister Borbély thanked the Secretariat for preparing the first draft of the Chair's Summary, and UNEP for its comments. In his view, the Summary did capture the key elements of the discussion but was somewhat long. He asked Mr. Banuri and Ms. Lemmet to work together in ensuring that UNEP's comments are addressed. He proposed to have another round of discussions on the final draft before distributing it to the delegations prior to the end of the meeting.

10. In response to some questions, Mr. Banuri mentioned that the text to be distributed at the end of the meeting would represent only elements of the Chair's summary. The final version will be finished in the next two weeks and posted on the website after seeking clearance from Ms. Lucía Chandeck. The summary will constitute part of the detailed meeting report, which will be submitted as an official document of CSD-19.

11. The Bureau met again at lunch time to review the elements of Chair's Summary, and cleared the text for distribution to the delegations. The meeting noted that the intersessional meeting was a successful event and its outcomes would certainly contribute in advancing the SCP agenda—hopefully, leading to good intergovernmental decisions at CSD-19. While the Chair's Summary was seen to be a good reflection of what has happened during the meeting, the meeting was of the view that it did not represent the full spectrum of regional views due to under representation of some regions in the meeting.

12. The Chair in consultation with the Bureau requested the UN-DESA and UNEP to prepare jointly a background document on a 10YFP on SCP by 15 February 2011 in order to facilitate the discussions during the IPM, and eventually to contribute to the negotiating draft document that will need to be produced at the end of IPM.

13. The meeting considered that briefing to the delegations about the results of this meeting would be a good idea. In this regard, the Chair suggested organizing a briefing to the delegations around mid-February 2011 at the UN Headquarters in New York. Ms. Lucía Chandeck will participate in the briefing on behalf of the Bureau. The Secretariat was asked to work out the dates and make other organizational arrangements.

### **Agenda item 3: Updates by the Bureau Members**

14. The Bureau noted that the briefing given to the delegations, representatives of the UN system entities and Major groups on 16 December 2010 in New York was well attended and was noted to be useful by many delegations. Mr. Merabet however pointed out that the date chosen for this meeting was not suitable given that the holiday season had already started. He emphasized the need for scheduling such meetings after careful consideration of other events. While agreeing with his observation, Minister Borbély mentioned that this date was chosen to relay the information about the SCP intersessional meeting to delegations in a timely manner so that their maximum participation could be secured in the meeting.

### **Agenda item 4: Updates by the Secretariat**

15. The Secretariat updated the Bureau on several matters in relation to the preparations being made for the IPM.

16. SG Reports for CSD-19: Mr. David O'Connor informed the meeting that all SG reports were submitted on time by the 23 December deadline and advanced unedited copies of these reports in English only have been posted on the CSD-19 website. Ensuing discussion highlighted the importance of interlinkages and cross-cutting issues especially as they relate to the SCP agenda. In this context, Mr. Banuri mentioned that a report on interlinkages and cross-cutting issues is produced every policy year. The IPM's organization of work has allocated a session for discussion on this particular theme.

17. Intersessional meeting on waste management: This meeting will be hosted by the Government of Japan, and will take place from 16 – 17 February 2011. This meeting is expected to make useful contributions to the proceedings of the IPM, as well as elaborating the usefulness of 3Rs concept in Chairs' draft negotiating text. The agenda for the meeting is expected to be ready by the end of January. Minister Borbély expressed his inability to participate in this meeting due to other pressing commitments, but encouraged other Bureau members to attend, if they can.

18. List of panellists: The panellists are being contacted to determine their availability as per the list circulated earlier. Additional names can be proposed by 21 January 2011.

19. Financing developing countries' participation at IPM: Current level of the CSD Trust Fund does not allow financing the participation of delegations from all non-CSD Member developing countries. However, efforts will be made to accommodate a few participants within the available resources. Mr. Banuri called upon the Chair and other Bureau members to reach out to donors for seeking resources for the Trust Fund.

20. Process for preparing the Draft Negotiating Text for CSD-19 session: The Chair's draft negotiating text will need to be ready at the end of IPM reflecting the discussions which took place during the course of the meeting. Minister Borbély reaffirmed his intention for preparing a text which will serve as good basis for the negotiations during CSD-19. To this end, he will be supported by the Secretariat as well as other Bureau members who will be chairing different thematic sessions. The draft negotiating text will be finalized after listening to the factual comments of the delegations at the final session of the IPM.

21. Minister Borbély informed the Bureau that he would attend the UNEP Governing Council meeting in February in Nairobi.

**Agenda item 5: Other Business**

22. It was agreed that the next Bureau meeting will take place, as is customary, a day before the beginning of the IPM on Sunday, 27 February after 7:00 pm.