

Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

It was held in Cairo on 4th – 6th October, at the League of Arab States. It was organised by the UN Regional Commissions, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in order to contribute to the work of CSD during the implementation cycle focused on transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production.

Background:

The RIMs are held in the regions in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in collaboration with other regional and sub-regional organisations as well as the regional offices of funds, programmes and international finance and trade institutions and bodies of the United Nations system. Usually the RIMs take place as a separate event in each of the 5 regions of the world. However, in our region the RIM took place as part of the meeting of the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR) at the League of Arab States.

Participants:

The only participants to the RIM were representatives from the following 3 major groups in West Asia: The Environment Society of Oman (ESO), the Union of Arab Farmers and the Association of Engineers in Kuwait.

Objectives of the RIM:

The RIMs are taking place before the CSD-18 review session (ours was the first one to take place), and are expected to:

- 1- Contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21
- 2- Focus on the thematic cluster of issues to be addressed in the ongoing implementation cycle
- 3- Provide inputs to the Secretary-General's reports and contribute to the 18th session of CSD (those inputs may include identification of region-specific obstacles and constraints, new challenges and opportunities, and sharing of lessons learned and best practices), and
- 4- Provide for contributions from major groups.

ESO's contribution:

The five clusters covered by the CSD were: SCP, waste management, transportation, chemicals and mining. As part of the RIM, I contributed a presentation on ESO's projects and focused on our priorities under the 5 clusters, namely:

1. Sustainable consumption and production

- Eco-tourism and responsible management of protected areas: detailing ESO's conservation projects and our involvement in the management plans of protected areas and eco-tourism projects
 - Sustainable lifestyles (mainly water and energy conservation): detailing our awareness campaigns in these fields particularly focusing minimising the ecological footprint and anti-littering.
2. Solid waste minimisation (the 3 R's): With a main focus on recycling, anti-littering and a country-wide campaign against plastic bags

After that, I shed the light on two major partnership mechanisms we rely on in our work and which fall under the directives of Agenda 21: a- the partnership between ESO as an NGO and the private and public sectors which has so far been successful (I gave the example of Ras Al Jinz Turtle Conservation and Research Centre) and b- collaboration among the major groups in Oman and the region: the Omani Women Association, businesses, industries, universities, research councils and local authorities. I am attaching my presentation for your attention.

I was entrusted with a presentation that provided useful background documentation on the CSD process which I shared with the other participants. The presentation was put together by Mr. Jan-Gustav Strandenaes from the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED), an organisation which links NGOs working to empower civil society and enable their participation in local, national, regional and international decision-making processes on sustainable development. ANPED is one of the main actors promoting the development of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP. ANPED has a special consultative status to the UN and is the leading partner responsible for providing the NGO Major Group input into the official meetings of the UN CSD under Agenda 21.

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