



## **Get involved in global politics on sustainable development!**

**Preparing for CSD – the Commission for Sustainable  
Development - the only space where civil society can negotiate and  
interact directly with governments and Ministers.**

**On writing the Discussion Paper for the NGOs at CSD,**

The Major Groups at CSD are invited to write an 8000 word discussion paper on the cluster themes for CSD 18. The themes are: transport, waste management, mining, chemicals and sustainable consumption and production.

The paper needs to be written in a certain way, and this document invites interested parties to contribute to the development of this paper. The document also sets out the formal requirements which need to be followed in composing this paper.

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## **Introduction**

Issues crucial to the survival of the world are addressed at CSD, an intergovernmental process allowing civil society to interact with governments in a most participatory manner. At no other place in the world of intergovernmental decision-making does this opportunity exist. The process is not without difficulties or challenges, politically, process-wise as well as thematically. The following five issues will be addressed over the next two years, beginning now, going on through 2010 and culminating in 2011 at the policy session of CSD. The themes are:

- Transport
- Chemicals
- Waste Management
- Mining
- The Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Each of the nine Major Groups<sup>1</sup> at CSD is at this stage in the process invited to write an 8000 word Discussion Paper on these five issues. The drafting will be in English, but once finalised and agreed to by the responsible major group, the nine discussion papers will subsequently be translated into all official UN languages<sup>2</sup> and submitted to the UN member states as part of the official documentation for the CSD Review Session in May 2010.

The process of writing is an interactive one, and this document explains the framework, outlines the formal criteria and sets out the time line for writing the paper. The composition of the paper is not a random process, and follows criteria drawn up by CSD 11. The complete structure of composing the Discussion Paper is found in the subsequent paragraphs.

## **Responsible organisation**

Organisations from within each of the nine major group communities may bid for the function as UN CSD Co-Organising Partner for that specific major group. A number of criteria must be fulfilled in order for an organisation to be selected as such: a global outreach, prioritised and continued ongoing work throughout the two year period following the CSD cycle, thorough knowledge of the UN CSD process, thematic knowledge and understanding etc. The CSD secretariat nominates the Organising Partners, and the UN CSD Bureau officially designates the organising partner at their first official meeting.

SDIN, the Sustainable Development Issues Network is the responsible organisation and co-organising partner for the NGO community at CSD for this cycle. SDIN is a network of organisations with a large, global NGO constituency found in some 170 to 180 countries. At the head of SDIN are three organisations constituting the executive unit: ANPED; CI and ISS: ANPED, the Northern Alliance for Sustainability, headquartered in Brussels, Belgium is the functional secretariat for SDIN and draws its constituency from within the UN ECE region; CI – Consumers International, headquartered in London, UK with subsidiary offices on all continents has memberships in more than 140 countries; ISS – Institute for Security Studies, headquartered in Pretoria, South Africa with subsidiary offices in Cape Town, South Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire has organisational presence in every country in Africa.

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<sup>1</sup> The nine major groups as designated by the UN Conference on Environment and Development, UNCED, in Rio in 1992 are: Women, youth, farmers, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs, trade unions, local authorities, science and technology, business and industry.

<sup>2</sup> The official UN languages are; Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish

In addition to the executive unit, SDIN's formal section also consists of three large regional NGO networks, AFED – Arab Forum for Environment and Development, headquartered in Beirut, Lebanon; ECO – Asia, headquartered in Singapore, and OCMAL (Observatorio de Conflictos Mineros de Latina America) headquartered in Quito, Ecuador, Latin America. Finally SDIN also involves three large issues focussed NGO networks: one working on transport, one on chemicals and one on waste-management. The functional period for the present composition of SDIN is until the present cycle of CSD is over in May 2011.

### **Writing the Discussion Paper**

The SDIN Group is responsible for the process of writing the Discussion Paper. As already stated, the Discussion Paper and its composition is mandated by the CSD 11 outcome document<sup>3</sup>. The Major Group Discussion Paper thus follows a set structure. SDIN has set up an editorial board where the responsible person and chief editor is Ms. Leida Rijnhout, acting Secretary General of ANPED. Each of the SDIN member organisations with specific issue based knowledge on the present CSD themes will write a first draft on their expert area. These drafts will be circulated on relevant servers on the internet and comments, additional issues, etc are invited from participating organisations from all over the NGO world working on the five CSD themes. Belonging to the SDIN constituency is not a requirement for participating in this process. We advise all prospective participants and contributors to read this document diligently.

Being 8000 words long, it is imperative to remember that it is a discussion paper for the CSD Review Session, and NOT a policy position paper that we are composing. The probable length of the review paper is: 1 page using Time Roman 12 points single line space makes for approximately 500 words; thus 8000 words gives us about 16 pages. The present CSD cycle deals with five issues or themes, thus each of the five themes will be given ca 1600 words, or slightly more than 3 pages, using the A 4 format page size. And to repeat: the official criteria directing the process and content are, as stated above, from the CSD 11 outcome document<sup>4</sup>.

### **The time table**

Under the tutelage of the executive unit of the SDIN Group, and their editorial guidance, the methodological approach, set-up and time-table of the discussion paper is as follows:

- An 'expert' NGO in the field of each of the cluster issues, 5 in all, will be asked to produce a basic first draft. Each of these expert NGOs will have an editor with good knowledge on the issue working with the overall editor ultimately to incorporate all relevant contributions and finalise the discussion paper.
- The content must take as its point of departure what has been written about the cluster themes in Agenda 21 and the JPOI,<sup>5</sup> (see also the Annexes in this document).
- The 5 first drafts will be compiled into a first 'trial' NGO Discussion Paper which will be circulated through NGO relevant global mailing lists and list servers and posted

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<sup>3</sup> See the UN CSD website for the entire CSD 11 Report, at [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res\\_docucsd\\_11.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_docucsd_11.shtml)

<sup>4</sup> Quoted from the CSD 11 official outcome document

<sup>5</sup> Agenda 21 – the outcome document from the UN Conference on Environment and Development, UNCED in Rio de Janeiro, 1992; the JPOI is the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the outcome document from the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the WSSD in Johannesburg 2002.

online **on October 14**; comments and input to the draft on substance within the confines of the cluster themes are then invited. The comments must be in the field of discussions/ and or review and not policy. Pay attention to this date!

- Comments and input on the circulated draft must be sent to ANPED, attention Chief Editor Leida Rijnhout (Leida@anped.org) no later than October 26 midnight GMT. **The deadline October 26 is absolute. Input after this date will not be considered.**
- The chief editor will subsequently send the incoming contributions to each of the five expert editors so they can incorporate what is relevant: themes, issues concerns etc that were raised during this first consultation period.
- Please refer clearly to which theme in the paper your organisation is addressing its comments. Unless your contribution is structured clearly and addresses each of the five themes separately, the contribution will not be considered. You may address one, two or all five of the themes. It is entirely up to a contributor how many, or few, he or she might want to address.
- After the five editors have worked on and incorporated relevant contributions into the discussion paper, a new and updated paper, a second version, will be finalised and circulated on the NGO relevant global internet systems on the **9 of November**. The new document will then be re-circulated on the internet with the following deadline, **November 20** for further comments. No new items on substance will be accepted this time, comments are invited on language and clarity of statements only.
- Based on incoming and relevant contributions to this second round of comments, the final version will be edited and finalised by the chief editor and the expert editors for each of the five themes, and the final version will be sent to CSD for translation into all the official UN languages. The deadline for submitting this to the CSD secretariat is Monday, November 30.
- All nine Major Groups conduct similar practices, and all the nine Discussion Papers will subsequently be posted on the UN CSD website in their advance, unedited English version and later in all the official UN languages.
- **NOTE: Individual persons cannot participate in this process.** The entire CSD system is set up as an interactive process where stakeholders, that is organisations, interact with governments and the intergovernmental system. To be able to comment and add to the discussion paper, whoever participates must show that he or she works with and for an organisation, be that at grass root, national, regional or global level. Unless proof of organisational belonging is submitted or written up with the comments, the comments will be ignored.
- **NOTE:** This is a paper expressing views, raising new approaches to the issues, it is about being bold, constructively critical and creative; this is NOT a policy position paper, and it is not a ‘sign-on’ paper where agreement must be had. It is a discussion paper.

### **Content: Discussions and NOT Policy**

CSD has been labelled ‘a series of two-year action-oriented “Implementation Cycles” which will include a “Review Session” and a “Policy Session”. To understand the composition of the Discussion Paper, it is important to have some basic knowledge of the context of CSD.

Summarising and extracting key criteria for the CSD cycle based on the CSD 11 outcome report, a CSD cycle will function in the following way, (the numbering and underlining are ours):

1. The Commission’s Review Sessions, to be held in April/May for a period of 2 to 3 weeks in the first year of the cycle, will undertake an evaluation of progress in

- implementing Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, while focusing on identifying constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation with regard to the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle;
2. The Commission's Review Sessions would include a High-Level Segment, exchange of regional experiences, dialogues with experts, including scientific experts, sharing of best practices and lessons learned, with a view to facilitating implementation, as well as capacity building activities such as learning centres and partnership fairs;
  3. The Commission's Review Sessions will undertake this evaluation on the basis of:
    - the Secretary-General's State of Implementation Reports, which should reflect overall progress on the implementation of Agenda 21, The Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, based on information provided in particular in countries' reports and in reports by United Nations organizations as described in (the next three sub-bullets) of this paragraph, regions and sub-regions, as appropriate, as well as major groups. In addition, the Secretary-General's State of Implementation Reports should present a detailed review of progress of implementation in the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle at all levels, and also reflect on new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21.
      - i. Contributions of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, the Global Environment Facility, and international financial and trade institutions,
      - ii. Outcomes of regional and sub-regional meetings and activities, as appropriate,
      - iii. Contributions from major groups, including scientific experts, as well as educators, taking into account paragraphs 139(g) and 149(c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, on their result-oriented activities concerning the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
  4. The Review Session evaluation should enable an improved understanding of priority concerns in the implementation of the selected thematic cluster of issues and pave the way for an effective policy discussion in the course of the Policy Year, with a view to strengthening implementation in these areas;
  5. The outcome of the Review Session will be a report including a Chairperson's Summary containing identified constraints and obstacles and possible approaches and best practices for implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
  6. In the Policy Year the Commission will convene an Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, for one week in New York in February/March to discuss policy options and possible actions to address the constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation identified during the Review Year.
  7. The discussions of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (February, second year of the cycle), will be based on the outcome of the Review Session, the Secretary General's reports as well as other relevant inputs, including Major Group's ones. Based on these discussions the Chair will prepare a draft negotiating document for consideration at the Policy Session;
  8. The Commission's Policy Sessions, to be held in April/May of the second year of the cycle, will take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite

implementation in the selected thematic cluster of issues, taking account of the discussions of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, the Secretary-General's reports and other relevant inputs;

9. The Review Sessions and the Policy Sessions should mobilise further action by all implementation actors to overcome obstacles and constraints in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and address new challenges and opportunities, and share lessons learned and best practice;
10. Specific organizational modalities for Commission meetings will be recommended by the Bureau of the Commission through open-ended and transparent consultations conducted in a timely manner, following the established United Nations rules of procedure. Activities during Commission meetings should provide for balanced involvement of participants from all regions, as well as for gender balance.

### **Summing up the requirements**

During the review session, in all what we will be doing, composing the Major Groups discussion paper, establishing and carrying out side events, in short all our thinking during our preparatory work as well as during the Review Session in May (2010), we also have to reflect the directives found in the CSD 11 Outcome Document, referred to earlier under points 1 – 10 (see the paragraph above). These points may be summarised in the following way:

- Constraints;
- Obstacles;
- Possible approaches and best practices for implementation;
- How to mobilise further action;
- Reporting on major-groups-led result oriented activities on the thematic clusters

It may also be strategically wise to think about what we would like the policy statement at the end of the second year to contain, and raise issues and concerns during the review year to support such an outcome.

**Please note:** The total size of the Discussion Paper is a maximum of 8000 words, which means around 1600 words per theme of the five themes. It is really important to follow the structure outlined in this document (constraints, obstacles, possible approaches and further action).

It is also important to bring new and updated knowledge, analysis and understanding into the Discussion Paper to be discussed at the Review Session. This session is also meant to highlight and bring into focus issues and approaches that have not been discussed earlier. Flagging new issues, bringing them to the table and discussing them will allow us put new issues on the agenda of the policy year in 2011.

Please respect the deadlines and the format.

See the Annexes for further guidance on the content.

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## **ANNEXES:**

To focus the debate on writing the Discussion Paper, we bring you here the official introductions on the themes as they are presented on the CSD web-site. For more information, please see: [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd18.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18.shtml)

### **1 - Toxic chemicals**

Environmentally sound management of "toxic chemicals" is the topic of [Chapter 19](#) of Agenda 21. A substantial use of chemicals is essential to meet the social and economic goals of the world community, and these can be used with a high degree of safety when best practices are followed. However, much remains to be done. Two of the major problems, particularly in developing countries, are

- lack of sufficient scientific information for the risk assessment, and
- lack of resources of assessment of chemicals for which data are at hand.

Gross chemical contamination, with grave damage to human health, genetic structures and reproductive outcomes and the environment, has been continuing within some of the world's most important industrial areas, and restoration will require major investment as well as the development of new techniques.

Chapter 19 contains six programme areas, as follows:

1. expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks;
2. harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals;
3. information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks;
4. establishment of risk reduction programmes;
5. strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals; and
6. prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.

For the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, the United Nations, through the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, established a system of agencies designated as "task managers" for the specific issue areas, in order to develop coordinated policy positions and report to the Commission on Sustainable Development. [UNEP](#) was designated task manager for toxic chemicals.

In [paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation](#) (2002), Member States renewed the commitment, as advanced in Agenda 21, to sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of [hazardous wastes](#) for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment, inter alia, aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance.

### **2 - Transportation:**

Transport is considered in Agenda 21 in the context of several chapters, including, among others, [Chapter 9 on Atmosphere](#) and [Chapter 7 on Human Settlements](#). In undertaking the

five-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 during its nineteenth Special Session in 1997, the General Assembly noted that, over the next twenty years, transportation is expected to be the major driving force behind a growing world demand for energy. It is the largest end-use of energy in developed countries and the fastest growing one in most developing countries. Furthermore, adequate, efficient, and effective transport systems are important for access to markets, employment, education and basic services critical to poverty alleviation. Current patterns of transportation development are not sustainable and may compound both environmental and health problems.

There is, therefore, a need for urgent action, ranging, inter alia, from the promotion of integrated transport policies and plans, the accelerated phase-out of leaded gasoline, the promotion of voluntary guidelines and the development of partnerships at the national level for strengthening transport infrastructure, promoting and supporting the use of non-motorised transport and developing innovative mass transit schemes.

Within the framework of the Commission's multi-year programme of work, transport was discussed by the Commission at its ninth session in 2001. Countries agreed that international co-operation is required in order to ensure transport systems support sustainable development. Countries stressed the importance of efficient and affordable transport systems for poverty alleviation and the need to mitigate adverse externalities to health and the environment. Support for greater use of public and non-motorized transport was expressed.

Transport was further discussed as part of the Plan of Implementation at the World Summit on Sustainable Development where countries agreed to promote an integrated approach to policy making including policies and planning for land use, infrastructure, public transport systems and goods delivery networks, with a view to providing safe, affordable and efficient transportation, increasing energy efficiency, reducing pollution, reducing congestion, reducing adverse health effects and limiting urban sprawl. In addition, a wide array of partnerships related to the transport sector were launched during the Summit.

### **3 - Hazardous wastes and management of solid wastes**

"Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes" is the subject of [Chapter 20](#) of Agenda 21. Effective control of the generation, storage, treatment, recycling and reuse, transport, recovery and disposal of hazardous wastes is, according to Agenda 21, "of paramount importance for proper health, environmental protection and natural resource management, and sustainable development." Prevention of the generation of hazardous wastes and the rehabilitation of contaminated sites are the key elements, and both require knowledge, experienced people, facilities, financial resources and technical and scientific capacities.

Among the overall targets of Chapter 20 are the following:

1. preventing or minimizing the generation of hazardous wastes as part of an overall integrated cleaner production approach;
2. eliminating or reducing to a minimum transboundary movements of hazardous waste;
3. ratifying the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal;
4. ratifying and full implementation of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa; and



5. eliminating the export of hazardous wastes to countries that prohibit such imports.

Managing hazardous wastes was discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second and seventh sessions and by the General Assembly at its nineteenth Special Session.

In 2004 the Ministerial Statement on Partnerships for Meeting the Global Waste Challenge was adopted at Conference of the Parties 7 (COP). The Statement recognizes the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes as part of the wider issues of water protection, improved sanitation, solid waste management and economic and social development. It calls for the reduction of the impacts of hazardous wastes on human health and the environment and promotes a fundamental shift in emphasis from remedial measures to preventive measures such as reduction at source, reuse, recycling and recovery. It recognizes the importance of mobilizing new and additional financial resources to build partnerships to meet the global waste challenge worldwide.

Management of solid wastes and sewage are the subject of [Chapter 21](#) of Agenda 21, which recognized that "environmentally sound management of wastes was among the environmental issues of major concern in maintaining the quality of the Earth's environment ... " ([Agenda 21, para 21.1](#)).

As considered in Chapter 21, solid wastes include all domestic refuse and non-hazardous wastes such as commercial and institutional wastes, street sweepings and construction debris and, in some countries, human wastes. Hazardous waste is frequently intermixed with other waste, posing particular management challenges.

Chapter 21 was considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second, sixth, and seventh sessions. Within the framework of the Commission's multi-year programme of work, it was also taken up at the eighth session in the context of "integrated planning and management of land resources."

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, Governments reaffirmed the importance of solid waste management. They called for priority attention to be given to waste prevention and minimization, reuse and recycling. They also called for the development of environmentally sound disposal facilities, including technology to convert waste into energy.

For additional information, see the [UNEP waste management website](#).

#### **4 - 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP**

The Division has been a co-leader of the [Marrakech Process](#) whose objective is to foster implementation and provide substantive contributions to a [10-year framework of programmes](#) on sustainable consumption and production that will be considered by Member States at the 18th and 19th sessions of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 2010-2011. Transitioning to more sustainable patterns of consumption and production is at the heart of sustainable development, and international co-operation is essential to effect that transition. Recognizing this, governments at the [Johannesburg Summit](#) in 2002 called for the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production that will promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems.

The [draft input to the 10YFP](#) from the Marrakech Process is now available for public comment. Subsequent drafts will be posted on the website of the [Marrakech Process](#) as they are developed.

## 5 - Mining

The Secretary General's report on Mining for CSD-18 will review the progress and identify difficulties, barriers and challenges in the implementation of the commitments and goals on Mining articulated in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI. The report will focus on the following areas:

1. a review of the current profile of the Mining sector as well as the relevant international mandates;
2. an analysis of the global issues related to Mining activities including consumption and production patterns, trade and existing international regulations, voluntary standards and industry wide practice;
3. a review on Mining issues both at the national and local level using a life cycle approach to review environmental, economic and social impacts of Mining activities;

The report will attempt to focus on best practice and evaluate the advantages of these options in bring Mining practice closer to sustainability;

To examine updated facts and figures, actions, effective measures, success stories and best practices, as well as unfulfilled expectations and lessons learned at the national, regional and international levels, the report will benefit of inputs from the Regional Commissions and other relevant UN entities.

For your information we also bring you what was written about mining in the JPOI:

46. Mining, minerals and metals are important to the economic and social development of many countries. Minerals are essential for modern living. Enhancing the contribution of mining, minerals and metals to sustainable development includes actions at all levels to:

(a) Support efforts to address the environmental, economic, health and social impacts and benefits of mining, minerals and metals throughout their life cycle, including workers' health and safety, and use a range of partnerships, furthering existing activities at the national and international levels among interested Governments, intergovernmental organizations, mining companies and workers and other stakeholders to promote transparency and accountability for sustainable mining and minerals development;

(b) Enhance the participation of stakeholders, including local and indigenous communities and women, to play an active role in minerals, metals and mining development throughout the life cycles of mining operations, including after closure for rehabilitation purposes, in accordance with national regulations and taking into account significant transboundary impacts;

(c) Foster sustainable mining practices through the provision of financial, technical and capacity-building support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the mining and processing of minerals, including small-scale mining, and, where possible and appropriate, improve value-added processing, upgrade scientific and technological information and reclaim and rehabilitate degraded sites.

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