

March 10, 2009

Provided below is an explanation of the technical corrections identified by the United States in the Chair's negotiation Text in the final session of the CSD/IPM meeting on Friday, February 27, 2009. Original text is in quotes. *Additions are in italics* and ~~deletions are struck out~~.

## **Agriculture**

1 -- Text should include a reference to women in line 8 of opening paragraph to read "Farmers, especially small farmers -- *many of them women* -- need to be central actors . . ." There is no mention of gender in the Agriculture chapeau. The importance of gender is supported by the repeated reference to the need to take gender centrally into account by the Chair and many countries. Senegal on behalf of the Africa group mentioned the need to recognize women's rights. The Indigenous Peoples major group emphasized the role played by women in food production and the need to allow women access to and jurisdiction over land and natural resources. The EU said CSD-17's policy decisions should foster women's and girls' access to education. The Women major group called for partnerships linking women leaders and women farmers.

2(b) – Revise text to read "Promote the use of improved soil conservation techniques, especially to *prevent degradation of vulnerable land and to restore degraded land.*" Clarifying language is needed to encourage prevention of land degradation, rather than focus exclusively on restoration of degraded land. The European Commission for the EU mentioned the importance of soil management. Canada spoke at length on the success of conservation tillage practices. Many delegations, including the U.S., supported the use of science and resource (including soils) mapping to identify land capacities and to prevent unsustainable practices in agriculture, or the degradation of vulnerable land. We emphasized promoting the productivity and sustainability of working landscapes based on appropriate soil types.

2(c) -- Text should reference agroforestry as follows: "Encourage adoption of ecosystem-based farming practices relying on local resources as much as possible like conservation agriculture, *agroforestry*, and, as appropriate, organic agriculture;" Mexico, Switzerland, FA, and the U.S. mentioned agroforestry in their interventions as a way to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability. Mentioning agroforestry in this subparagraph also tracks with CSD-16 panel presentation on agroforestry practices.

2(d) – Text should refer to a spectrum of food crops rather than just "traditional food crops" to read "Expand public investments and incentives especially for small scale producers to increase production of *a spectrum of traditional and alternative* food crops and livestock and accelerate the transition to more sustainable practices." The United States and others mentioned the necessity of improving livelihoods and linking producers to markets to overcome subsistence. This included mention of growing vibrant markets for food, fibers, fuels and ecosystem services (others added fish), a much broader array than relying only on "traditional food crops." Canada and Argentina both identified the need to value ecosystem goods and services from agriculture.

India and Argentina both advocated for more organic food production. India advocated for new varieties of crops.

2(h) – Text should reflect need for education and training about pesticides to read “Institute effective *pesticide education, training and* monitoring programs to limit the risks to farmers, agricultural workers, rural communities, consumers and the natural environment, and encourage the use of integrated pest management.” Many delegations mentioned the need to build local capacity. It is important to emphasize the necessity to help build producer capacity through education /extension to improve practices and decision-making. Jamaica for Alliance of Small Island States identified the need for better pesticide training.

2 – Text should include a new subparagraph to read “2(f) *Identify and mitigate environmental externalities, including the loss of pollinators.*” Text omits reference to the importance of pollinators, which was mentioned by the panelist on ecoagriculture landscapes, FAO, and the U.S.

3(e) -- Text should reflect this to read as follows: “Establish and strengthen links between research institutions, extension services and farmers, empowering and training farmers, *and solving producers' practical problem by facilitating* ~~to be both~~ innovators and effective extension workers” Many delegations stated the need for technical assistance and extension services that are responsive to specific user needs. The U.S. believes that strong interactive links between research institutions, extension services and farmers involve two-way communication, farm-trials, and producer-driven research agendas. The European Commission on behalf of the EU stated that research and extension were keys. Pacific SIDs wanted a strengthening of extension services. Mexico advocated more technology transfer. Senegal for Africa wanted more technology transfer for irrigation technology.

3(f) -- Text should reflect this to read: “Provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries to strengthen national innovation capacity, training and extension services in *sustainable* agriculture, fish, livestock and integrated crop-forest and crop-livestock production systems.” Many delegations urged CSD to advance sustainable agriculture, not just focus on increased agricultural production. Both of the panelists in the agriculture session emphasized the role of sustainable agriculture in promoting development. And the African Group, in summarizing the results from the Windhoek Intersessional, pointed to the need for a sustainable Green Revolution for Africa. Norway stressed the need for increased sustainable agricultural production worldwide. Switzerland, in a rural development intervention, recommended a long-term commitment to enhance agricultural and pastoral productivity in an ecologically and economically sustainable way.

4 (a) -- Text should reflect this to read “Implement *sustainable and* efficient water resources development and management schemes, including at the basin level, and improve irrigation *and water harvesting* efficiencies and on-farm water management practices to overcome water shortages and enhance food security.” Many delegations mentioned water as an important sustainable development issue for agriculture. The US stressed the constraint posed by fresh water availability and the need to sustainably exploit all water resources used in agriculture. Senegal for Africa wanted more technology transfer for irrigation technology. The European

Commission for the EU advocated for an improvement in irrigation technology. South Africa wanted more irrigation technology. Israel advocated for more irrigation technology.

5 –A new subparagraph should be added to read “(j) *Encourage strong rural-urban linkages between countryside and communities to increase livelihoods through enhanced markets for sustainable food, fiber, fuel and ecosystem services.*” Paragraph 5, which focuses on developing sustainable agricultural value chains and improving farmers’ market access, omits reference to the importance of urban-rural linkages which was highlighted by many people throughout the IPM meeting. In her opening plenary remarks, Chair Verburg echoed this point by noting the role of local and regional markets in lowering transaction costs and opening markets. In addition, in its opening and agriculture interventions, the EU emphasized the need for strong, diversified rural economies that gain access to new markets. Switzerland also pointed to the importance of building links between farmers and local buyers. And the Local Authorities Major Group stressed the importance of such rural-urban linkages. The U.S. also raised this point at this IPM in its agriculture, rural development and interlinkages interventions.

6(e) – Text should read: Strengthen and coordinate the international community’s response to the global food crisis and longer-term support to *sustainable* agriculture.” Many delegations urged CSD to advance sustainable agriculture in addition to increased agricultural production. Additionally, paragraphs 5, 11, 94, 124, 245 and 246 in the Chair’s Summary of CSD 16 underscore the importance of sustainable agriculture. This same issue (i.e. CSD focus on sustainable agriculture) occurs in several other places in the text.

## **Rural Development**

7 – A sentence is needed on the value of cooperatives in the rural development section, which should be added to the end of paragraph 7, to read: “*Rural vitality is enhanced when rural people and communities are empowered to manage their own social, economic and environmental destinies through organizations such as cooperatives.*” Specific reference to the power of cooperatives is made throughout the CSD 16 Chair’s Summary in paragraphs 76 (agriculture), 81 (rural development) and 113 (Africa). These references reflect interventions made throughout CSD 16 that described the effectiveness of empowered, self-organized rural cooperatives in ensuring that a wide variety of services (credit, product processing and sales, electricity, etc.) are available to support rural economic, social and environmental initiatives. Switzerland emphasized the importance of promoting rural organization for capacity and institution building. Indonesia highlighted the importance of empowering rural populations through better property and business rights. Norway mentioned a government strategy that included strengthening female participation in farm cooperatives. The point was further elaborated during the IPM opening session when Chair Verburg stressed the importance of creating enabling environments and building entrepreneurship at the local level. She reemphasized this point as she summarized the rural development session by indicating that rural people must be empowered to manage their own lives, and that rural development must take place from the bottom up. The Netherlands referenced the importance of farmers in the decision making process, and the U.S. emphasized the role of rural empowerment through self-organized cooperatives during its rural development intervention.

## Land

13(b) – Add clarifying language – “based on the ecological potential of the land” -- to read “Implement long term land use strategies and spatial planning strategies, *based on the ecological potential of the land;*” Inclusion of this text is supported by the chair's opening comments, which included that statement that: “Several proposals from the meetings in Africa and Asia referred to the need to take the potential of land and soil into account.” It is also supported by the drought panel presentation by Herrick, several of the US interventions, and references to the importance of evaluations of soil and land degradation (which requires reference to the potential) by other delegations, including the Czech Republic on behalf of the EU, and Mexico -- The EU referred to “integrated planning and management of land and other resources;” Mexico said that it’s critical to do land planning in order to avoid inappropriate land uses in areas with high risk of landslides, hurricanes, etc. in their land intervention; and Chile has an entire paragraph on the importance of strengthening land evaluation and monitoring.

## Desertification

23 –Text should reference the importance of sound land management, so that second sentence reads “Combating desertification and land degradation requires policies that link land use and livelihoods to the goals of sustainable development, taking into account the impacts of climate change *and land management* on land degradation and desertification.” Poor management of land leads to degradation and desertification, as described by Alemneh Dejene’s panel presentation for this session (i.e., his first slide stated that “desertification land degradation in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas caused by human activities and climatic variations.” This point was repeated by many delegations, including: Mexico (should avoid land from becoming a desert in the first place, reverse before they become deserts); Switzerland (assess economic value of soil erosion on land degradation leading to desertification which is reversible); Argentina (emphasis on training for small land owners to measure degradation and use of mitigation practices); and Farmers major group (should attract investment in degraded areas by describing how to recover degraded areas).

## Africa

29 – Text should include a reference to the importance of expanding domestic and regional markets in the Africa section in an additional subparagraph to read “*29(f) Use sound market-based principles and the lowering of trade barriers along major trade and transport corridors to expand sustainable domestic and regional food markets.*” Many delegations throughout this CSD cycle stressed the critical role that agricultural markets play to sustaining African development. For example, in CSD 16 Chair’s Summary (paragraphs 69 and 72, Africa Section) states that regional trade integration can energize the agriculture sector, by permitting production of farm inputs at economic scale for regional markets. But intra-African trade continues to be hampered by trade barriers and poor cross-border infrastructure. During the IPM, the African group stressed the importance of strong markets in promoting development on the continent, and AOSIS and Morocco called for stronger south-south collaboration in trade and knowledge exchanges, while the Democratic Republic of Congo called on African states to avoid

protectionism and to open markets. The U.S. drew attention to the role of open markets that function locally, regionally, nationally and internationally as engines of development.

### **Interlinkages**

45(d) – Text should reference “information” rather than just “technology: to read “Increase investments in research and development, particularly on *sustainable agriculture and sustainable agricultural technologies*, and accelerate the transfer and diffusion of such *information and technologies* to reach all farmers, including those in remote areas.” In the interlinkages session, many delegations highlighted the importance of knowledge, information, skills, including U.S., G-77/China, Grenada, Canada, Chile and Switzerland, Women and Business and Industry. Canada and Mexico underscored the need to transfer of technology and knowledge for capacity building. The Women major group stressed the importance of transfer of knowledge and experience, Business and Industry emphasized a knowledge-based approach, and the Chair’s summary remarks at the end of the interlinkages session highlighted education and capacity building. At the close of the IPM, Indigenous Peoples suggested adding references to capacity building, education, information and communication.

45(e) – Text should clarify that process of technology transfer occurs both from scientist to farmer and from farmer to farmer – to read “Enhance transfer of technologies *from scientists to farmers and from farmer to farmer* to support sustainable agriculture and rural development, to combat drought and desertification, and to achieve a sustainable green revolution in Africa.” Many countries and groups highlighted the need to use local knowledge and to build capacity at the local level. Indigenous peoples stated, “With regard to regional cooperation in combating drought and desertification, it is essential that the regional information base on drought and desertification be improved and that both scientific and indigenous knowledge of indigenous and local communities application be enhanced through programmes to strengthen the collection of information through target research.” The SIDS intervention for the Interlinkages session stressed the need to “foster participatory research involving local communities.”