

NIGERIA

THE CSD NATIONAL REPORTING PROCESS

(Lawrence C. Anukam)

1. ROLE OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

The functions of the national focal point responsible for the CSD national reporting process include:

Ensuring that background documents and questionnaires for CSD sessions are received from the CSD secretariat;

Ensuring that all key organisation whose mandates/functions have direct bearings on the issues raised in the questionnaires are given copies of the questionnaires and invited to the preparatory meetings;

Providing guidance and clarifying issues on the CSD process;

Facilitating the preparatory meetings for the CSD national reporting process;

Ensuring adequate follow-ups after each preparatory meeting so that key organisations submit their inputs to the national report preparation;

Developing and maintaining a national network of all line Ministries/Agencies/Organisations involved in the CSD national reporting process; and

Serving as the secretariat of the national committee responsible for the preparation of CSD national reports.

2. INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION

After launching her National Agenda 21, Nigeria established a National Committee on the Implementation of the National Agenda 21. The functions of the Committee include:

Monitoring progress in the implementation of the National Agenda 21;

Preparing Nigeria's national reports to CSD sessions;

Preparing Nigeria's position papers to CSD sessions and other related meetings; and

Ensuring effective follow-ups and implementations at national level of Decisions adopted at CSD sessions.

Since establishment, the national committee has been fully involved in the preparation of Nigeria national reports to CSD sessions. Depending on the issues to be discussed at a CSD session, members of the committee whose activities relate to these issues are invited to make input to the preparatory process. The Federal Ministry of Environment (Focal Point) organises series of preparatory meetings and coordinates the participation of the relevant organisations to

ensure effective contributions from all sector players. Atimes some ad hoc sub-committees of the national committee may be setup to facilitate the preparatory process.

The national committee has broad membership and includes representatives from relevant line Ministries/Agencies, Private Sector, Industry, Non-governmental Organisations and the Trade Union. The major institutions and organisations serving on the Committee include the following:

Ministries:

Federal Ministry of Environment (Focal Point): Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Federal Ministry of Justice: Federal Ministry of Science and Technology: Federal Ministry of Water Resources: Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development: Federal Ministry of Finance: Federal Ministry of Health: Federal Ministry of Commerce: Federal Ministry of Industry: Federal Ministry of Aviation: Federal Ministry of Transport: Federal Ministry of Information: Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals Development: Federal Ministry of Works and Housing: Federal Ministry of Power and Steel: Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development: Federal Ministry of Cooperation and Integration in Africa; and Federal Ministry of Education.

Agencies/Parastatals:

Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation; Energy Commission of Nigeria: National Population Commission: National Planning Commission: Central Bank of Nigeria: National Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research: Nigerian Investment Promotion Council: and Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation.

Trade Unions/NGOs:

Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF): Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST):

Nigerian Environmental Society (NES): Foundation for Environmental Development and Education (FEDEN): Centre for Environmental Resources and Sustainable Ecosystem

(CE-RASE): Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN): National Association of Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA): and Organisation of Petroleum Trade Sector (OPTS).

3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FROM VARIOUS UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

The national reporting process for CSD sessions do not interfere with other United Nations reporting requirements, including mandatory reporting for conventions. Rather they compliment each other. Atimes information and data provided for the mandatory reporting for conventions and treaties feed into the CSD reporting. The relevant organisations and agencies acting as national focal points to the various UN conventions also serve on the national Committee responsible for CSD matters. These organisations are required to make inputs to the CSD national reporting process depending on the CSD agenda for that year.

4. CAPACITY AND RESOURCES FOR NATIONAL REPORTING

There are abundant human resources for the CSD national reporting process. There are many highly qualified and experienced professionals from various line Ministries/Agencies, NGOs, and the organised private sector who bring their wealth of experience to bear on this process.

5. DIFFICULTIES AND OBSTACLES

Some of the difficulties usually encountered in the CSD national reporting process include:

Lack of funds for the CSD national reporting process;

Lack of effective and efficient communication network amongst members of the national committee, including telephones and Internet access;

As new sectoral themes come up in the CSD Agenda each year, often times some new organisations/agencies are incorporated into the national committee. Some efforts and time are usually spent to brief and guide them on the CSD national reporting process;

Atimes there are some ambiguities on the guidelines provided by the CSD secretariat. There are no clear directives on the scope and depth of the reports;

When many sectoral themes are to be considered at a CSD session, particularly during special sessions to review progress achieved over a time frame, the preparation at the national level would involve the participation of many line agencies and organisation thereby posing some organisational burden on the focal point both in terms of coordination and resources. For example, the Rio+5 review process involved many organisations from all sectors of the economy. The same is the case now for the Rio +10 review process.