

Briefing on Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting and CSD-19 New York, 16 December 2010

The Vice-Chair of the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19), Ambassador Andrew Goledzinowski held an informal briefing for the Member States and other stakeholders interested in the organization of the Intergovernmental Preparatory meeting (IPM) and CSD-19 on behalf of the Chair of the CSD-19, Mr. László Borbély, Minister of Environment and Forests of Romania.

Prior to starting the briefing, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, Mrs. Simona Mirela Miculescu read a message from the Chair of the CSD-19.

(http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_pdfs/csd-19/Chair-Message-16dec2010.pdf)

Vice-Chair, Ambassador Goledzinowski reported progress following four broad categories:

(i) Bureau meetings

The Bureau so far held two meetings, the last one on 16 November 2010. Minutes of these meetings are available on the CSD-19 website (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19.shtml). The next Bureau meeting will be held on the margins of the intersessional meeting on SCP to be held in Panama, 13-14 January 2010.

Important decisions made so far include: approval of the organization of work for the IPM, selection of panellists, division of work among the Bureau members, and the decision to organize an intersessional meeting on SCP in Panama.

(ii) Organization of work for the IPM

The Organization of work is available at the CSD-19 website (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19_ipm.shtml).

- The first half of the first day will cover procedural matters, statements by the political groups, reports of intersessional meetings, regional statements as well statements by the Major groups. The second half of the first day will be devoted to discussion of policy options for SIDS in relation to the themes of the current cycle.
- The next three days will have sessions on the thematic areas under consideration during CSD-19, namely transport, waste management, mining, chemicals and 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns as well as interlinkages and cross-cutting issues. Each session will start with a brief introduction of the SG report, followed by presentations by three expert panellists. The remaining time of each session will be devoted to an interactive discussion by the Member

States and other stakeholders on policy options and practical measures to address the thematic specific challenges.

- On the morning of the last day, there will be two Multistakeholder dialogues –on advancing the implementation of sustainable development and on expectations from CSD-19 within the context of Rio+20, given the apparent linkages between the themes of current cycle and green economy
- In the afternoon, the Chair's Summary (Draft Negotiating Text) will be introduced followed by factual comments, and adoption of the IPM report.

(iii) Intersessional meetings

Several intersessional meetings have been organized and will be organized in order to contribute to the deliberations in CSD-19 and its IPM.

- In the area of Transport, two meetings took place. First, a Senior Expert Group Meeting from 10 – 11 November 2010 in Santiago, Chile. Second, the 5th Meeting of the Regional EST (Environmentally Sustainable Transport) Forum in Asia from 23 – 25 August 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- In the area of Waste Management two meetings have been organized—one in Malaysia from 4-6 October 2010, and the other in Morocco from 25-26 November 2010. Another important meeting is scheduled to take place from 16 to 18 February 2011 in Japan.
- Intersessional meeting on SCP will take place in Panama on 13-14 January 2011 which will be attended by all Bureau members.
- In the area of Mining, a meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining took place from 1-4 November 2010 in Geneva.

Reports of these meetings will be presented at the IPM by countries who hosted these meetings and reports from these meetings will also be available as part of documentation for IPM and CSD-19.

(iv) Activities of the Major groups

Major Groups have submitted priorities for action for the themes to be considered by the current session and contributed inputs to the preparation of SG reports. Some of them will also be participating in the SCP intersessional meeting in Panama. The Bureau plans to have a dialogue with them during the IPM.

The Vice-Chair then invited the Secretariat, represented by Ms. Kathleen Abdalla, Chief of the Emerging Issues Branch, to report on **the status of reports for IPM and CSD-19**

and preparations for **the intersessional meeting on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in Panama.**

Ms. Abdalla indicated that six reports are being prepared: five on the themes of the cycle and one on interlinkages and cross-cutting issues proposing policy options and practical actions to expedite progress in these thematic areas. They are in their final stages of drafting and will be posted as advanced unedited copies by the end of December 2010 on the CSD-19 website.

Regarding, the SCP meeting in Panama, Ms. Abdalla reiterated that it will take place from 13 – 14 January 2011 in Panama City, Panama and is jointly organized by DSD-DESA, UNEP and Government of Panama. The meeting will provide a non-negotiating space for Member States, Major Groups and UN System entities to discuss a possible institutional structure which the 10Year Framework of Programmes, priority actions which could be included in the framework to support regional and national initiatives, and a common vision, objectives and goals of the 10YFP.

There are two background documents for the meeting and they are posted on CSD-19 webpage. DSD has organized briefings for political groups to share these background documents and to hear comments and answer questions in order to improve the documents. The outcome document of the meeting will be a summary discussions and it will be presented at the IPM by the Government of Panama. Financial support is being provided for one representative from a developing country and one from Major groups.

The floor was open to questions and comments by the delegations who welcomed the briefing, inquired about financial support for the SCP meeting in Panama and commented on possible discussions on the 10Year Framework of Programmes for SCP as well as need for good organization of negotiating process during CSD-19 session. It was also stated that the outcome negotiated document should be concise and relevant.

In closing, Vice-Chair, Ambassador Golezdzinowski encouraged all delegations to attend SCP meeting in Panama and thanked them for their participation in this briefing.