

May 9, 2003

**Eleventh Session of the
United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD11)
New York**

**CLOSING STATEMENT TO THE PLENARY
Business and Industry Major Group**

Members of the business and industry major group attending CSD11 welcome its outcomes. We welcome:

- the emphasis on implementation;
- the concept of a thematic cluster of issues for each cycle;
- the focus on water and sanitation issues in the 2004/2005 cycle;
- enhancing the involvement of major groups in the “Review” and “Policy” aspects of the cycle;
- the broad embrace of cross cutting issues. To provide for the necessary integration of different aspects of sustainability while maintaining focus, we believe that cross-cutting issues should be treated only as they relate to the thematic cluster of issues under consideration.

With regard to future cycles, we are convinced that the effectiveness of the CSD’s future work will depend on the ability of the CSD to add value and maintain discipline in some of the more ambitious cycle clusters, particularly with regard to issues where relevant treaties and institutions already exist.

Voluntary partnerships to promote sustainable development should be encouraged and nurtured. The enabling framework described in the CSD11 conclusions -- particularly its endorsement of the Bali Guiding Principles -- is promising in this regard. Partnership partners should be engaged along with the major groups to design the capacity building, networking and reporting elements that the CSD should facilitate.

As important as the CSD sessions are, the inter-sessional periods are the crucial times when governments and major groups will be expected to make progress in implementation. We look forward to working with governments and stakeholders to move forward on partnerships and other endeavors that will give meaning to Agenda 21, the U.N. Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).

We appreciate the interactive and open format and dialogue that has distinguished CSD11. It should serve as a model for review and policy year endeavors, and for interim preparations at national, regional and international levels.

