

**PRELIMINARY TALKING POINTS OF THE G-77 AND CHINA
AT THE FORTHCOMING INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS
OF CSD-11 ON THE SG REPORT:
FOLLOW-UP TO JOHANNESBURG AND THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE CSD
THE IMPLEMENTATION TRACK
(24-25 March 2003)**

INTRODUCTION

- The Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and General Assembly resolution 47/191 are the basis for the work of CSD.
- CSD should continue to be the high-level Commission on sustainable development within the UN system and serve as a forum for consideration of issues, related to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

IMPLICATIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

- The follow-up for implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation will require actions at national, regional and international levels;
- Johannesburg Declaration and the Plan of Implementation strongly reiterated commitment to multilateralism and the urgent need for a more focused approach for the implementation of Agenda 21.
- While the primary focus of implementation remains at the national level the achievement of the goal of sustainable development in developing countries, will require the support of the international community and the provision of the necessary means of implementation, bearing in mind the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities,
- The implementation and follow-up to all commitments, including reporting, should apply to all countries, developed and developing;
- The MDG's strategies referred to in para. 12 should be further clarified.
- Para. 20 states that "CSD will have to rely on reporting by national governments and by all other relevant actors, including UN Country Teams on country-level operational activities in support of Plan of Implementation". In this regard, the following questions need to be clarified:
 - Who are the other relevant actors?
 - What kind of reporting? Is it parallel, separate or joint reporting?

CSD'S FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME:

- It should be recalled that Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the WSSD outcomes provide a comprehensive framework for sustainable development. These constitute a comprehensive and indivisible repertoire of commitments;
- Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are

- overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development;
- The Commission should focus on areas where it could add value to the cross-sectoral and sectoral issues and provide a forum for better integration of policies with the various dimensions and sectors of sustainable development;
- The Commission should promote and review issues related to financial assistance and transfer of technology for sustainable development, as well as capacity-building;
- The CSD's future programme of work should be predictable and flexible;
- There is a need to take into account the special focus requested in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for Africa and SIDS and other regional initiatives;
- The future programme of CSD should focus on the fulfillment of goals and targets contained in Agenda 21 and JPOI;
- The grouping of issues for consideration by CSD should be comprehensive and cover all aspects of JPOI, taking into account the resolution 47/191;
- The Programme of Work needs to be further elaborated in order to reflect: 1) the relationship between issues and the relevant means of implementation especially the relevant provisions and the requirements of resolution 47/191 on the measures of implementation and 2) the responsibility of the different actors involved in the process of implementation;

NEW ORGANIZATION OF WORK:

- It should be underlined that the fact that the deliberations of the first ten years of the CSD failed to meet the expectations was not primarily due to organizational aspects but mainly due to the failure of the international Community to fulfill the inter-governmentally agreed commitments;
- Support the two year cycle approach as agreed in Johannesburg and call them implementation cycle;
- The first year of the cycle should review the progress in the implementation of commitment, targets and goals pertaining to sustainable development and the second year should be devoted to the adoption of measures to address the constraints in the process of implementation, as well as the new and emerging issues pertaining to the implementation of JPOI;
- Review of implementation process should be measured on the basis of Rio and Johannesburg commitments;
- In order to assess the progress made in the implementation of targets and goals so as to identify constraints and make recommendations to overcome them, the report of the Secretary general on the review of implementation should be comprehensive and based on national reporting, outcomes of regional implementation fora and inputs by other relevant stakeholders;
- It should be especially noted that generalizations and abstractions contained in the reports have not always served to the best interests of the countries nor have they taken care of their specific and concrete needs;

- Need to clarify further the outcomes of the review year;
- Support the transformation of the ad hoc inter-sessional working groups into and into activities that promote implementation;

SELECTION OF ISSUES:

- Agenda 21 and the JPOI provide the basis for the selection of issues;
- The organisation of the issues of Agenda 21 and JPOI, during the CSD sessions needs to be considered further. The three options suggested in the Secretary-General's report have their own pros and cons, and would require further discussions bearing in mind the need for a great amount of predictability and some flexibility to address new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of the agenda 21 and the J POI;
- The number of issues should be limited and we need to ensure that means of implementation remain throughout the cycle and should be discussed in conjunction with each sector;

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

- Taking into account, Agenda 21, the JPOI and resolution 47/191, the Commission of Sustainable Development should consider the means of implementation as a separate theme in its future programme of work. There is a need as well to have means of implementation as a common theme for consideration under each issue;
- The main challenge we are facing now is how to ensure a real, effective, durable and measurable process of implementation of sustainable development targets and goals;
- It is, therefore, of paramount importance to identify, in relation to each issue to be retained, the reliable means of implementation;

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT:

- The Commission's high level segment should be structured in a way to ensure an effective and productive ministerial engagement in the CSD process;
- The high-level segment should constitute an interactive and focused dialogue with the aim to reaching action-oriented recommendations to overcome the obstacles in the process of implementation;
- In this context, the CSD should propose the theme to promote implementation of Agenda 21 including the means of implementation for consideration by the Economic and Social Council;

REGIONAL INPUTS AND INVOLVEMENT:

- The regional and sub-regional implementation of sustainable development should be pursued in conformity with Agenda 21 and JPOI;
- In this regard, it should be recalled that the United Nations regional Commissions primary role should consist in enhancing the implementation of regionally and sub-regionally agreed sustainable development programs and projects (ex NEPAD) through the mobilization of

- technical and financial assistance and the facilitation of the provision of adequate financing for their implementation;
- The idea of the CSD Regional Implementation Forums, which is still under consideration by the Group, requires further clarifications.

UN SYSTEM AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

- The outcome of the ad-hoc working Group on coordinated and integrated follow-up of UN Conferences and Summits should be taken into account in enhancing the UN system wide policy coherence and coordination in the follow-up to major conferences, including WSSD;

MAJOR GROUPS:

- Modalities concerning major Groups participation in the future work of CSD should be defined;
- Active contributions of major groups to the implementation process can be enhanced and monitored through accountability;

STRENGTHENING SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE:

- While recognizing the crucial role of scientific expertise in providing reliable basis for both review of implementation process and policy making in CSD, creation of new scientific bodies should be avoided;

WEHAB INITIATIVE

- WEHAB initiative is not an outcome of WSSD but a contribution of the Secretary-General to the preparatory process of Johannesburg Summit.
- The areas identified in the initiative, including the sectoral and crosssectoral issues, have been incorporated into, and are an integral part of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which encompasses other equally important issues and sectors;
- The assessment of the implementation of the issues identified in the WEHAB Initiative as well as the other contained in Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- In this regard, further clarifications of paragraphs 62, 67, 68 and 69, together with other relevant paragraphs referring to WEHAB;

PARTNERSHIPS:

- Partnerships should be considered as complementary instruments to enhance the process of implementation but not as a substitute for the intergovernmental commitments contained in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- Contribution of partnerships to the process of implementation should be balanced, effective, relevant and focused on concrete results, in accordance with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
- Accountability of partnerships: Review of the implementation process should be presented in a

transparent manner that also include achievements by the different actors involved in partnerships;

- UN agencies involvement in partnerships should conform to the intergovernmental agreed mandates and not lead to diversion of resources otherwise allocated for intergovernmental agreed priorities;
- It is necessary to define parameters that will govern and guide partnerships and in this context guiding principles for partnerships would require further elaboration in the CSD;