

## **Japan**

### **Proposal on the Future Role and Organization of Work of the CSD**

#### **1. Role of the CSD**

(1) In Johannesburg, following several regional and preparatory meetings, heads of government agreed on guidelines that the international community should follow in promoting the implementation of Agenda 21. Japan therefore is of the view that unless unexpected incidents occur or other new ideas are advanced, there is no need to conduct negotiations in the CSD, and that, as the Secretary-General's report proposes, the focus should be on how to implement action programs and achieve the targets contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

(2) With regard to partnerships, Japan also considers that the initiatives are no substitute for inter-governmentally agreed commitments. However, because such initiatives play a very important role in the implementation of those commitments, we believe they should be strongly encouraged.

#### **2. Organization of work**

(1) Meetings (For details, see Annexes I and II)

Japan is of the view that the working cycle proposed by the Secretary-General is too tight, and if adopted, most of our efforts would be directed to preparing for meetings. If meetings were held just for the sake of holding meetings, the effectiveness of the Commission would be diminished. Therefore Japan would like to propose that the CSD meet mainly on WEHAB areas every two years (e.g., in May or June) to exchange of information on the progress of implementation in the focus areas, and assess the progress of implementation. In the years CSD sessions are not held, "the Implementation/Expert Forum" (tentative title) would be held (e.g., in May or June) to exchange information concerning implementation of the Plan of Implementation.

(a) "Implementation/Expert Forum" (tentative title)

The purpose of the Forum would be to exchange information on implementation. Activities might include:

- \* exchange/review of national experiences
- \* exchange of information and reports/discussion on partnership
- \* multi-stakeholder dialogues
- \* side-events

The participants would be experts from government and international/regional organizations who are directly involved in implementation activities, as well as representatives of partnership initiatives and major groups.

The Forum would meet for one/two weeks. The information presented at the Forum should be compiled as a report for consideration at CSD. In principle, the venue should be New York.

(b) CSD session

The CSD session should be held every two years and its duration should be one week. At the session, in addition to the activities to take place at the Forum, implementation would be assessed. The participants would be governmental representatives, including experts directly involved in the implementation projects, representatives of international/regional organizations, and representatives of partnership initiatives and major groups. Although some ministers might participate in the session, no ministerial level discussion would be organized.

(c) High-level segment

Contrary to the proposal in the Secretary-General's report, Japan considers that it is less important for CSD sessions to have frequent high-level segments. During the WSSD process, meetings of ministers and heads of government were held and the heads of the government agreed on the Political Declaration and Plan of Implementation. The purpose of the CSD is to promote its implementation. Although Japan would not exclude the utilization of a high-level segment if necessary, we believe its frequent utilization would decrease effectiveness and therefore its value. From this point of view, one option would be to have a high-level segment as part of the session to be held in the fifth year of the New CSD (in 2007).

(2) Selection of issues

With regard to the issues to be discussed at CSD sessions,

it is necessary to make a selection based on the situation at that time. However, if the CSD wishes to have a high-level segment in the fifth year of the New CSD, it would be appropriate to decide this year on two or three issues to be discussed at each session, in 2005 and 2007. The issues for the following sessions would be decided at the CSD in 2007, taking into account the situation at that time.

(3) Information on implementation

At the Implementation/Expert Forum, participants would be encouraged to provide and exchange information on their activities. The information should be compiled as a report. Following the Forum, those participating in partnerships should submit their reports to the Secretariat in the fall (every two years, e.g., in October). The format of the report should be developed to facilitate the compilation and analysis of information and lessen the burden of the partnerships. Taking the information gathered into account, the Secretariat would prepare and issue the Secretary-General's State of Implementation Report in February/March of the following year (every two years). This would then become one of the bases for the discussion of implementation at the CSD that year.

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