

CSD-11: Closing Statement by the Scientific and Technological Community

Mr. Chairperson,

The Scientific and Technological Community is pleased that governments at this CSD session have responded positively to the WSSD recommendation calling for a strengthening of the Commission, in part, by “giving greater attention to the scientific contributions to sustainable development”.

Thanks to your decisions, our Community will be able to enhance its contribution to the CSD process in two distinct ways: First, through its continued participation in CSD sessions and related meetings, in its capacity as a Major Group delegation alongside the other Major Groups. And second, through the targeted involvement of scientific experts. These will be, on the one hand, scientists who are experts in specific scientific fields related to the overarching thematic focus of a given CSD two-year cycle (for example: water and sanitation), and, on the other hand, scientists who can provide the best available scientific advice on cross-cutting issues such as poverty reduction.

Our Community will be pleased to work in the future with the CSD Secretariat and the Regional Commissions in arranging for knowledgeable scientists from the different regions to be involved in Regional Implementation Forums, preferably to be held at the beginning of each new CSD cycle. In the same way, we offer our cooperation for arranging for the most appropriate scientific experts from all over the world, to be invited to a Dialogue with Experts, organised as part of the CSD Review Sessions.

As regards our Major Group's participation in the future CSD work, including the targeted invitation of scientific experts, we will, on our part, pay due attention to an adequate involvement of social scientists, economists and public health experts, in addition to the relevant natural scientists and technological experts. The scientific underpinning of the CSD work must cover all three pillars (social, economic and environmental) of sustainable development, and it must focus on an integrated approach.

On a broader note, our community also stands ready to contribute to the Commission's goals of capacity building and the sharing of experiences based on best practices. We have engaged in a number of exercises to attain progress on both fronts, largely through North-South and South-South scientific cooperation, and we would be eager to share these experiences with the Commission.

We are also pleased about another decision taken at this CSD meeting. As we stated repeatedly during the first week, there is a close link between science, technology and education. All three provide essential tools, or means, for implementing sustainable development. We very much look forward to the cooperation in future with the community of educators in the context of the CSD.

Related to this, we wish to welcome also your decisions concerning the role of the CSD as the focal point for partnerships that promote sustainable development. The Scientific and

Technological Community will engage with other Major Groups, educators, relevant UN system organisations and governments in the further development of type II partnerships.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would like to congratulate you and your colleagues on the Bureau of the Commission for the manner in which you have conducted this important CSD session. We extend our sincere thanks to the CSD Secretariat for having once again facilitated so ably the participation of the Scientific and Technological Community delegation.

The real work of implementing the Johannesburg PoI has only just started. The Scientific and Technological Community commits to contribute, to the best of its ability, to this difficult, worthwhile process of change towards sustainable development. To make this process successful, the continued commitment and involvement of all stakeholders is required.