



GOVERNMENTS MEET TO ASSESS PROGRESS SINCE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT

Focus on Action Needed for Safe Water, Sanitation, and Slums

(New York, 5 April 2004) Ministers with portfolios including water, sanitation, housing, environment, finance and planning will be among the hundreds of Government delegates and others meeting at the United Nations **from 14 to 30 April 2004** to assess progress since the Johannesburg Summit, particularly in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements.

The UN Commission on Sustainable Development's Twelfth Session will be the first review of progress since the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002. The Commission will critically review international and national policies and programmes and evaluate achievements to date. It will assess what needs to be done to help countries stay on track to meet the commitments, goals and targets agreed at the Summit, as well as the UN Millennium Development Goals. A particular focus will be on the commitments to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation, to promote integrated water resource management, and to improve the lives of slum dwellers.

In addition, a "Partnerships Fair" will showcase practical initiatives launched at the Summit and since, and encourage other partners, including Governments, international organizations, business and other organizations, to join or initiate activities. This will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to share information on successes and problems, examine changing global conditions, and create new cooperative sustainable development ventures. A "Learning Centre" will present training material for sustainable development, and side events will provide informal presentations and discussions.

Highlights of the Session, 14 to 30 April 2004

- 14 – 16 April:** Preparatory discussions for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Mauritius in Aug-Sept 2004.
- 19 April:** Statements by CSD Chairman H.E. Børge Brende, Minister of Environment of Norway, and UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, as well as UN agency heads, and an address by His Royal Highness, Prince of Orange.
- 19 – 27 April:** Discussions on progress, obstacles, lessons learned and challenges in meeting commitments on water, sanitation and human settlements.
- 28 – 30 April:** High-Level (Ministerial) Segment, with an opening address by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and Ministerial discussions on priority concerns for future implementation work and cooperation.

For the full programme of the Session, including side events, Partnerships Fair and Learning Centre, and to **view webcast proceedings** of the Session visit <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm>

For media queries regarding sustainable development and the CSD, story ideas and interviews, please contact:
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Media representatives (who are not UN-accredited) wishing to attend CSD meetings should contact: **Media Accreditation & Liaison Unit, UN Department of Public Information, Fax: +1-212-963 4642**

UNDP, UNDPPI and the World Bank will be hosting an issue-based webcast during CSD 12. Interviews and documentaries will be available, focusing on water, sanitation and human settlements and the people working on these issues. **For more information please go to www.developmentvoices.net (from April 6th) or E-mail: olga.ioffe@undp.org**