

Note of the Bureau of the 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its Fourth Meeting

1. The fourth meeting of the Bureau of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13) took place on 1 February 2005. The Chairman of CSD-13, H.E. John ASHE (Antigua and Barbuda), chaired the meeting. The following Vice-Chairs attended the meeting: Mr. Khaled ELBAKLY (Egypt); Ms. Husniyya MAMMADOVA (Azerbaijan); and Mr. Boo-nam SHIN (Republic of Korea). Ms. Dagmara BERBALK (Germany) attended the meeting by video link from Bonn. The meeting was also attended by the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSD/DESA) and staff from DSD/DESA, as Secretariat to the CSD.

Organisation of work for the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting and for CSD-13

2. The Bureau reviewed the revised organisation of work for the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM). Following up on the discussions on thematic topics it had at its third meeting, the Bureau agreed on those topics which will help guide discussions at the IPM. The Bureau emphasized that those topics were based on the Secretary-General's reports. They are by no means meant to restrict the scope of discussions; rather to serve as a guide to assist delegates to consider the range of policy options and possible actions.¹
3. The Bureau held extensive discussions on the revised organization of work for CSD-13. To facilitate group consultations, the Bureau agreed that the Chair would introduce his draft elements for decision on 15 April 2005 at 10:00 am. On the High-level Segment, the Bureau agreed to feature a panel discussion on MDGs relating to water, sanitation and human settlements and to invite eminent speakers to lead off discussions. The Bureau also discussed inviting one eminent speaker to address the topic of the impact of natural disasters on water, sanitation and human settlements – prevention and response, to be followed by interactive discussions. The Bureau further confirmed that there would be ministerial dialogue sessions with representatives of UN agencies and Major Groups, as agreed at its last meeting.
4. The Bureau thus concluded the revisions to the High-level Segment and agreed to finalize the organisation of work for CSD-13, as further amended during the meeting.
5. Regarding the Panel of Finance Ministers, scheduled for the afternoon of 18 April 2005, the Bureau took note of the Chair's effort to achieve a balanced representation of Ministers from developed and developing countries.²
6. In order to facilitate a balanced discussion, taking into account both the need for interactive discussions and official statements, the Bureau decided to allocate three minutes each to ministerial statements. The Bureau urges all delegations to adhere to the time limit in order to ensure that each and every Minister be given the allocated time for making official statements.

¹ For information on the topics, please refer to the final version of the Organization of Work available on CSD website.

² The Panel discussion will focus on the economic benefits to countries of implementing sound policies on water, sanitation and human settlements, as indicated in the Chair's invitation letter addressed to Finance Ministers.

7. Regarding the outputs of CSD-13, the Bureau reaffirmed that the outputs will include (i) the negotiated policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation; (ii) the non-negotiated outputs consisting of a summary which will include High-level Segment, Regional Perspective sessions, policy options and practical measures, interactive discussions with Major Groups, Partnerships Fair and Learning Centre; as well as voluntary commitments announced during CSD-13 and the IPM.³

Future Bureau meetings

8. The Bureau decided to hold its fifth meeting on 27 February 2005, after which Bureau members will meet with representatives of Major Groups.

³ The Voluntary commitments will be posted on the CSD website as a “living” document.