

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

1. The third meeting of the Bureau of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13) took place on 20 December 2004. The Chairman of CSD-13, H.E. John ASHE (Antigua and Barbuda), chaired the meeting. The following Vice-Chairs attended the meeting: Ms. Dagmara BERBALK (Germany); Mr. Khaled ELBAKLY (Egypt); Ms. Husniyya MAMMADOVA (Azerbaijan); and Mr. Boonam SHIN (Republic of Korea). 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.

Activities of the Chair and Bureau members: updates

2. Chairman Ashe informed the Bureau that since the last Bureau meeting he had attended the first Global WASH Forum (Dakar), the International Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management (Tokyo), and a multi-stakeholder consultation with the EU on advancing the Human Settlements, Sanitation and Water agenda at CSD-13. He briefed the Bureau on the outcome of these events.
3. The Vice-Chairs reported on the discussions of a meeting organized by the German Government that focused on the water and sanitation issues to be considered at CSD-13 and the follow-up process of CSD-13. The Vice-Chair representing Western Europe and other States highlighted the main points of the discussions.

Organisation of work for the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting

4. The Bureau reviewed possible topics drawn from the recently released Secretary-General's reports for the parallel sessions at the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting. The Chair invited Bureau members to propose as soon as possible panellists with hands-on experience in policy implementation who could participate in the introductory panel discussions on water, sanitation and human settlements (*topics for the parallel sessions will be posted on the CSD website*).
5. The Bureau reiterated that discussions of water, sanitation and human settlements would be conducted in an integrated fashion addressing not only the inter-linkages among the three themes but also the cross-cutting issues identified at CSD-11. The Bureau decided to combine the water/sanitation/human settlements parallel sessions on the afternoon of 3rd March 2005 into a plenary session to encourage a more fulsome discussion.

Organisation of work for CSD-13

6. The Bureau held extensive discussions on the organization of work for CSD-13, based on comments provided to Bureau members and made some minor adjustments. The Bureau emphasized the importance of finalizing the organisation of work for CSD-13 so that member Governments could have sufficient time for adequate preparations for policy discussions at CSD-13.

7. On the organisation of work for the High-level segment, the Bureau had before it a note from the Secretariat outlining the possible format options, with an analysis of the pros and cons, along with the requisite meeting servicing requirements.
8. After evaluating the options, the Bureau decided that in addition to dialogue sessions with Heads of UN agencies, Regional Commissions, and Bretton Woods Institutions, and some keynote presentations, there would be two panel discussions in plenary: one focusing on achieving Millennium Development Goals and the other to be decided at the next Bureau meeting.
9. Regarding the regional perspectives discussions, the Bureau agreed that key regional implementation actors, including regional development banks and UN Regional Commissions, would be invited to participate in the discussions. Also invited would be the Chairs of relevant Ministerial Forums, such as the African Ministers' Council on Water. The regional perspectives discussions would be presided over by the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, who would ensure that there would be opportunities for all delegations to provide their views.
10. Concerning the Panel of Finance Ministers, the Chair clarified that the timing was selected so as to take advantage of the presence of Finance Ministers in New York on the occasion of the ECOSOC high-level meeting with Bretton Woods Institutions. A background paper would be made available for the CSD Panel of Finance Ministers discussion.
11. The Bureau also agreed on the assignment of responsibilities for the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting and for CSD-13, as follows,
 - Water and Sanitation: Ms. Berbalk and Mr. Elbakly;
 - Human Settlements, Partnership Fair, Learning Centre and Major Groups: Mr. Shin and Ms. Mammadova.

Current status of documentation: updates

12. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the Secretary-General's reports on water and sanitation and human settlements had been cleared for submission. Advance, unedited versions are now posted on the CSD website.
13. The Bureau was also advised that the combined "Major Groups' Priorities for Action in Water, Sanitation and Human settlements" paper had been received. Following established practice, the Secretariat would transmit the paper for processing and would post an advance, unedited version on the CSD website.

Major Groups' Participation

14. In addition to their "Priorities for Action" paper, Major Groups representatives would participate in both the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting and CSD-13. Pre-registration to both meetings will be opened by 24th December 2004. Thanks to generous contributions from donor governments, there will be funds available to assist in the travel of Major Groups representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition (business and industry excluded).

Forthcoming regional meetings

15. The Secretariat provided an update on the forthcoming regional meetings that are of relevance to CSD-13. Bureau members brought to the attention of the Secretariat some upcoming regional meetings for inclusion in the regional meetings calendar.

Future Bureau meetings

16. The Bureau decided to hold its fourth meeting on 1 February 2005, to be followed by a fifth on Sunday 27 February 2005, before the start of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting.