

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

1. The sixth meeting of the Bureau of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13) took place on 29 March 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) and Ms. Husniyya MAMMADOVA (Azerbaijan). Ms. Dagmara BERBALK (Germany) and Mr. Boo-nam SHIN (Republic of Korea) attended the meeting by video link from Bonn and by tele-link from Seoul, respectively. 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 Bureau and Chair: updates

2. Chair Ashe briefed the Bureau on his participation in the Second International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development and his continuing efforts to mobilize political and financial support to CSD-13. He noted with appreciation the commitments of support from member States.

Preparations for CSD-13

3. The Bureau reviewed the status of preparations for CSD-13 and considered proposals for fine-tuning the programme of activities during the first week of CSD-13 (11-15 April 2005), keeping in mind the outcome of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting.
4. The Bureau agreed that the Regional Perspective Sessions, originally scheduled for three half-day sessions, be merged into one half-day session, on the afternoon of 11 April 2005.
5. The Bureau agreed that the thematic discussions on water, sanitation, and human settlements be moved up in schedule and that there be a water/sanitation combined session, a session on global water and sanitation governance, as well as an expanded inter-linkage session, focusing on the linkages among the three themes and cross-cutting issues. It was agreed that these thematic discussions would be based on the policy options and practical measures in the Chair's IPM text, focusing on those requiring a concerted global effort, and addressing the cross-cutting issues. The Chair has invited panelists of UN agencies and IGOs to lead off discussions.
6. The Bureau concluded the fine-tuning of the programme of activities of CSD-13 during the first week and agreed Chair Ashe would provide an explanatory note accompanying the revised organisation of work for CSD-13.
7. While the programme of activities during the second week of CSD-13 (18-22 April 2005) remains unchanged, the Bureau reiterated the importance of ministerial interactive discussions. The Bureau further clarified that ministerial interventions will be made under the general topic of "turning political commitments into action" concerning the three themes, as well as the panel discussions on MDGS, disaster prevention and response, and the dialogue sessions with UN agencies and Major Groups. There will be no separate segments on water, sanitation and human settlements.

8. Regarding the Panel of Finance Ministers and Ministers for Development Cooperation, scheduled for the afternoon of 18 April 2005, the Bureau was informed of the Chair's effort to finalize its preparation.
9. At the request of the Chair, the Secretariat provided an update on the status of Major Groups' participation and the organization of the Partnerships Fair and Learning Center. The Bureau took note of the large number of pre-registers of representatives of Major Groups and the strong interest in the Partnerships Fair and Learning Center.
10. Regarding the outputs of CSD-13, the Chair reaffirmed that the only negotiated output will be the policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation. There will a summary of High-level Segment, the Regional Perspective session, policy options and practical measures, interactive discussions with Major Groups, Partnerships Fair and Learning Centre, as parts of the report of CSD-13 on its work.
11. There will be voluntary commitments announced during CSD-13, which will be posted and updated on the CSD website.

Future Bureau meetings

12. The Bureau decided to hold its 7th meeting on 10 April 2005, after which Bureau members will meet with representatives of Major Groups.