



Major Groups Participation in 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development New York, 11 – 22 April 2005

During the 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the following entry points have been allocated in the programme to consider the valuable contributions of the **Major Groups**:

- Major groups' integrated participation will be maintained and supported throughout the **interactive discussions on water, sanitation and human settlements** being held on **Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 April**.
- On **Thursday 21 April**, major groups will outline their own aspirations and priorities for action in the course of an **interactive discussion with Ministers during the High-level Segment**.
- On **Friday 22 April**, major groups will make **closing remarks** on how they will support the implementation of CSD-13 policy decisions.

Interactive discussions on water, sanitation and human settlements: **(12-13 April 2005, Conference Rooms 1 and 2)**

In lieu of the stand-alone interactive discussion with the major groups originally planned in the morning of Thursday 14 April, major groups' interventions will be integrated in each of the thematic discussions.

Mechanisms for the selection and identification of representatives who will be sitting in the major groups seats and asking for the floor:

The CSD-13 major groups organizing partners have been asked to coordinate among themselves and prioritise which sector shall ask for the floor in each of the sessions. The prioritisation of the speaking requests shall be based on the programme of work and on the user friendly matrix (available at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd13/csd13.htm>). (The list of the organising partners is available at: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd13/mg_guidelines_OPs.htm).

Caucuses: major groups can also channel their interest in participating in a given session through the various issue or major groups sector Caucuses (the schedule of the major groups caucuses will be available daily at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd13/csd13.htm>

The Secretariat, based on the information received from the major groups organizing partners in consultation with the caucuses, will compile a list of major groups sectors/representatives interested to participate in the thematic discussions on 12 and 13 April. Such lists will be available to the Chair of a given session so that he/she will know who is representing the major groups in that room in order to:

- Call upon them
- Give them the floor upon the raising of the name sign in front of their seat
- Give them the floor based on their comment/question submitted to the Chair through filling in the "Request Slips¹" – in the event this system will be used during that session

Interventions made during these sessions must be very brief (2-3 minutes max).

¹ Request Slips: Whenever possible, paper request slips briefly defining the issue or question to be addressed would be collected by the Secretariat from anyone requesting the floor and given to the Chair to help facilitate a more coherent discussion. The information contained in the request slip includes: name, title, delegation of belonging, question/theme to comment. This method was used last during the CSD-11 High-level Segment and proved to be successful.



More specific details on how each of the meetings will run will be provided by the Chair at the beginning of every session.

Interactive discussion with Ministers:
(21 April, 4:30-6:00 pm, Conference Room 1)

This session will be structured as follows: three blocks of 30 minutes each, comprised of short statements by three of the nine major groups, followed by discussion. Each speaker will be allotted three minutes per intervention.

During this session, the major groups' seats will be moved forward in the front rows (one seat at the microphone plus one additional seat).

Closing statements:
(22 April, 4:30- 6:00 pm, Conference Room 1)

Major groups will be given the opportunity to make **closing remarks** of 2-3 minutes each during the Closing Plenary on how they will support the implementation of CSD-13 policy decisions.

Note: Be reminded that the nature of major groups inputs and interventions should be in line with CSD-11 decisions for the Policy Session: report and share major groups options and possible actions to address the constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation identified during the review year.

Seating arrangements: the seating arrangements for the sessions listed above follow previous practices and include seats for all the nine major group sectors (one in the front with microphone and one behind). All other participating major groups can access the galleries of Conference Rooms 1 and 2 from the doors located in the hallways just outside those rooms.

Participation in Parallel Activities:

Partnership Fair Activities:

Major Groups are expected to participate actively in the CSD-13 Partnership Fair programme.

Side Events

Side Events will continue to be an important and complementary element of the CSD. Requests from Major Groups and other stakeholders have been processed by the CSD Secretariat in accordance with previous practice. Major Groups and other CSD-13 participants are expected to actively take part in the planned activities.

Learning Centre:

Major Groups' are expected to participate actively in the CSD-13 Learning Centre programme.

For additional information check our website at:

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd13/major_groups.htm