

Annex I

Partnerships Activities

Highlights

1. Partnerships activities were organized at the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the thirteenth session of the Commission to foster discussions and exchange lessons learned on issues related to partnerships for sustainable development. In keeping with the policy-year focus on “practical measures and options to expedite implementation of commitments”, these partnerships activities highlighted “on-the-ground” experiences of partnership practitioners.

2. Partnerships activities featured “Partnerships in Practice” interactive discussions and a Partnerships Information Desk. The three interactive discussion sessions focused on practical issues related to implementation of partnerships. Some key elements for viable and effective partnerships were discussed, including: equitable partner roles and responsibilities; shared vision and commitment; realistic goals; effective coordination mechanisms; clear communication; good governance mechanisms; transparency and accountability; and challenges associated with monitoring and measuring progress in partnership implementation. The importance of gathering and sharing information on ongoing partnerships was also highlighted. The particular relevance of such information services to national-level efforts in coordinating and monitoring partnerships was noted.

3. “Partnerships in Practice” interactive discussion sessions were chaired by Ms. Husniyya Mammadova, Vice-Chairperson, CSD-13 Bureau.

- Tuesday, March 1, 2005: “Are all partnerships created equal? - roles and responsibilities”

Lead Discussant: Charles McNeill, Environment Programme Team Manager and Biodiversity Advisor, Energy & Environment Group, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), affiliated with the Equator Initiative.

Lead Discussant: Renee Leduc Clarke, International Relations Specialist, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), affiliated with the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) Partnership.

- Wednesday, March 2, 2005: “Sharing Information on Partnerships: websites and databases”

Lead Discussant: Anne Kerr, Chief, Programme Coordination, Major Groups and Partnerships Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Lead Discussants: Lori B. Brutton and Daniel Rochberg, Office of Policy Coordination and Initiatives, U.S. Department of State.

- Thursday, March 3, 2005: “How to reduce transaction “costs” in coordinating partnerships”

Lead Discussant: Kathleen Abdalla, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Energy and Transport Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, affiliated with the Partnership for Clean Fuels & Vehicles

Lead Discussant: Johan Kuylenstierna, Project Director, Swedish Water House, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

4. Six partnerships utilized the partnerships information desk to distribute information about their initiative and directly interact with participants at the session. These were:

Capacity 2015

Equator Initiative

Northern Water Network

Shared River Basin Management

Water Programme for Africa and Arid and Water Scarce Zones (WPA)

WSSD Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS)

