

Information Note to CSD-15 Delegates: A Climate-friendly CSD

The 15th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) takes place this year from 30 April to 11 May. Delegates will be travelling to New York from around the world to attend this important meeting, where decisions will be taken on policies and practical measures to advance implementation of inter-governmental commitments pertaining to energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change. That travel could actually contribute to the problem of climate change if the greenhouse gas emissions are not offset through investments in cleaner energy or other measures to reduce emissions.

Like a number of other UN bodies and international financial institutions, the Division for Sustainable Development of UN-DESA, which serves as secretariat of the Commission, has decided to take a step this year towards making the CSD climate-friendly. Availing of the donor-supported CSD Trust Fund, UN-DESA funds the participation of a number of representatives of governments and major groups from developing countries for each session of the CSD. As its contribution to making CSD-15 more climate-friendly, the Division for Sustainable Development will offset the greenhouse gas emissions of the air travel for those representatives whose participation it funds. It will do so through a competitive procurement process whose main condition is that the carbon offsets come from renewable energy projects in developing countries. UN-DESA wishes to thank the UN Foundation and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for their financial support which makes this initiative possible.

The Division for Sustainable Development invites all other Governments and major groups sending representatives to CSD-15 to follow this example and to arrange to offset the greenhouse gas emissions from their travel. Some Governments may already do this as a matter of policy. For those who are unfamiliar with the process, there are a few websites which may be of assistance and which provide emissions calculators and/or lists of carbon retailers.

By collaborating in this way, we can together provide leadership on climate change by our example.