



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 December 2007
Original: English

Advance unedited text

Commission on Sustainable Development

Sixteenth session

5-16 May 2008

Item 3 of the provisional agenda *

Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle

2007-2008 – review session

Major Groups Discussion Papers on Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, Drought,

Desertification, and Africa

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (A/CONF.199/20) and the decisions of the eleventh Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/2003/29) called for strengthened involvement and enhanced participation of major groups in the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) as well as in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

2. The analytical basis for understanding and assessing the contribution of the major groups worldwide in advancing the implementation of the above mentioned agreements, is provided by their review inputs known as discussion papers, and contained in the addenda to the present note.

3. The discussion papers reflect the major groups' overall views on the status of implementation of commitments made related to Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, Drought, Desertification, and Africa, including references to cross-sectoral themes, successes and challenges of implementation, practical contributions, and identify new challenges to be met by major groups to expedite implementation. These discussion papers will serve as a starting point for major groups' participation in CSD-16 activities.

4. The organisation of major groups' written input to CSD-16 has been inspired by practices used in past CSD sessions through a multi-stakeholder "facilitating group" composed of organizing partners from network organizations representing the nine major groups. The current cycle's organizing partners are: the Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), African Women Leaders in Agriculture and the Environment (AWLAE), GRATIS Foundation for women; the CSD Youth Caucus for youth and children; the CSD Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, Tebtebba - Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education and the Indigenous Environmental Network, for indigenous people; the

Sustainable Development Issues Network (through the Northern Alliance for Sustainability, Third World Network and the Environment Liaison Centre International) for non-governmental organizations; ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability for local authorities; the International Trade Unions Confederation (through the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) for workers and trade unions; the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA), the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development for business and industry; the International Council for Science and the World Federation of Engineering Organisations for scientific and technological communities; and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers for farmers.

5. .In addition to coordinating the major groups' official written inputs to the Commission, the organizing partners are tasked with coordinating their respective sectors' participation throughout the CSD-16 session, working collaboratively with other major group sectors' representatives present at CSD-16 and in the RIMs, and all other stakeholders.

6. Views and proposed solutions of the major groups to meet challenges and overcome problems related to the topics being reviewed should inform the sixteenth session of the Commission and inspire Governmental partners in the lead up to the seventeenth session (policy session)

thus allowing for meaningful and direct contributions by stakeholder groups to the decisions and work of the Commission.