

## Canada's Renewed Approach to National Reporting to the CSD

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## Presentation

- Key Considerations
- Approach
- Observations and lessons learned
- How could improved reporting positively impact the CSD?

## Key Considerations

- Mandate of the CSD:
  - to monitor progress of *Agenda 21* implementation
  - to consider information from Governments
- Without sufficient information the Commission's ability to achieve its core mandate is restricted.
- National reporting is a critical component of the CSD
- Better reporting could encourage focused and interactive discussions

## Key Considerations

- Reporting comprehensively requires interdepartmental coordination
- Previous Canadian reports were lengthy and not directly linked to planning for the cycle
- Reporting includes, *inter alia*, thematic profiles and case studies
- Importance of non-negotiated CSD outcomes

## Key Considerations

- CSD 16/17 themes are broad and/or interlinked
- Current rates of reporting
- Linking reporting to *Agenda 21* and JPOI
- Important information available from Canadian stakeholders

## Approach

- Objectives:
  - Streamline development of thematic profiles
  - Incorporate national reporting into overall plan
  - Encourage case study reporting throughout the cycle, and not just by Federal Government
  - Share lessons learned to encourage reporting by member states and major groups
  - Promote dialogue on how reporting could be improved to facilitate the work of the CSD
  - See a difference in the national reporting in future cycles

## Development of thematic profiles

- Template-based approach
- Answer the question 'where are we now'?
  - reflect overall progress in all three dimensions of sustainable development
  - highlight relevant trends, constraints, challenges and emerging issues
- Include internet links to detailed information
- Reference case studies

## Incorporate reporting into process

- Build CSD interdepartmental network via the national reporting process
- Link to outreach and consultations
  - Use the thematic profiles as basis for outreach with Canadian stakeholders for CSD-16
  - Highlight opportunity for development of case studies by provinces and territories, and Canadian stakeholders
- Improve understanding about how work across the Government relates to the CSD

## Observations and lessons learned

- Template and short guidance document useful
- Don't try and put a square peg in a round hole
  - Encourage experts to adapt template
  - International and domestic sections as appropriate
  - Encourage discussions on interlinkages between thematic profiles

## Challenges

- Applying SD (and CSD) lens is a challenge and requires more attention
- More attention is needed on how to most effectively describe initiatives and results
- Limited linkages between the thematic profiles and case studies
- Timing – template and background info needed earlier

## How could improved reporting help the CSD?

- Provide a dashboard for progress and a one stop shop for links to practical guidance to share experiences
- Highlight emerging issues and trends
- National reporting informs the Secretary General reports
- Facilitate a more focused and interactive discussion

## Next steps

- Listen to you and continue the dialogue
- Canadian stakeholder workshop on CSD 16/17 themes
  - Map initiatives to CSD documents
- Initiate work for CSD 18/19 reporting in January 2009
- Continue to improve the template based approach and build on lessons learned
- Give further consideration on how to better use national reporting in future cycles
- Improve understanding regarding use of national reporting submissions

