

## CSD Major Groups Programme

The Major Groups Programme of the Division for Sustainable Development is responsible for engaging and liaising with major groups sectors and for enhancing your participation in the work of CSD and in its intersessional processes.

- We disseminate CSD-related information to major groups networks.
- We issue annual guidelines for the participation of major groups and post them on the Web.
- We consult with major groups organizations and research and analyse trends on the participation of major groups.
- We receive extrabudgetary funds from donors, mainly to support the participation of major groups from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. These limited funds are allocated to representatives identified in close consultation with the organizing partners.
- We have access to limited financial resources to support major groups-related work, including research and publications.

### Useful Web links

Major Groups Programme:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/mgroups.htm>

Partnerships for sustainable development:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm>

Commission on Sustainable Development:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/aboutCsd.htm>

National Information:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natinfo/natinfo.htm>

### Contact

#### CSD Major Groups Programme

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### Information for the Media

#### UN Department of Public Information, Development Section

E-mail: [mediainfo@un.org](mailto:mediainfo@un.org) • Fax: +1 212 963 1186



United Nations

# Sustainable Development Needs You

## Sustainable development needs you

### The role of major groups in the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

Broad public participation is the prerequisite for the achievement of sustainable development. It is only through the committed involvement of all social groups that we can have effective and participatory implementation of sustainable development policies and plans.

### Who are major groups?

Agenda 21 recognizes nine sectors of civil society as key **major groups**. These are:

Women ✦ Non-governmental Organizations ✦ Business and Industry ✦ Children and Youth ✦ Local Authorities ✦ Scientific and Technological Communities ✦ Indigenous People ✦ Workers and Trade Unions ✦ Farmers

### What is the Commission on Sustainable Development?

- Since 1992, CSD has served as the UN high-level forum for sustainable development issues.
- CSD is responsible for reviewing progress and monitoring and reporting on the implementation of Agenda 21, and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 at the Earth Summit.
- CSD provides policy guidance on follow-up to the Barbados Plan of Action for Small Island Developing States (1994), the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (1997), the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and the 2005 Mauritius Strategy for Small Island Developing States.

### How does CSD work?

- CSD meets annually at United Nations Headquarters in New York for a period of two to three weeks.
- It reports to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and, through it, to the General Assembly.
- Its 53 members elect a five-member, regionally balanced Bureau annually, which provides guidance in CSD preparations.
- Five regional implementation meetings (RIMs) are held every two years (in the review year).
- CSD has a multi-year Programme of Work (2004-2017) consisting of two-year cycles of review and policy years, with a stronger emphasis on implementation. Each cycle addresses a specific thematic cluster of issues, including a set of cross-cutting issues.

### Multi-year programme of work

2004/2005	Water, sanitation and human settlements
2006/2007	Energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change
2008/2009	Agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa
2010/2011	Transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns
2012/2013	Forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism and mountains
2014/2015	Oceans and seas, marine resources, small island developing States, and disaster management and vulnerability
2016/2017	Overall appraisal of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme of Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

### Cross-cutting issues:

Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, sustainable development in a globalizing world, health and sustainable development, sustainable development of small island developing States, sustainable development for Africa, other regional initiatives, means of implementation, institutional framework for sustainable development, gender equality and education



## How can you contribute?

Since its creation, CSD has had an engagement with and consultation mechanisms with non-State actors that are unique, and it is continuously exploring innovative formats for their participation. These include:

- From 1998 to 2002, multi-stakeholder dialogue segments enabled direct consultation and information-sharing between CSD members and major groups' representatives;
- Following the Johannesburg Summit in 2002, CSD decided to enhance the contribution and participation of major groups further by integrating them in all aspects of CSD;
- Major groups can provide written inputs and collectively prepare "position papers" called *discussion papers* and *priorities for action* which are made available as official documents in all six UN official languages.

### Review session (This is not a negotiating session!)

The discussions at this session focus on identifying barriers, constraints and best practices in implementation of agreed commitments, goals and targets in the selected thematic areas.

#### You can:

- Contact the national level sustainable development focal point to contribute to the national reporting inputs in accordance with the CSD guidelines;
- Participate in the regional implementation meetings (RIMs);
- Share your practical experiences in implementation;
- Submit written examples of case studies, best practices and lessons learned, identifying obstacles and constraints to progress in these areas;
- Contribute a written *discussion paper* to be used by CSD as a common points of departure for discussions involving major groups (through the facilitation of the *major groups organizing partners*);
- Participate in interactive dialogues, including with Ministers during the High-level Segment, and thematic discussions, Partnerships Fair and Learning Centre activities, and the several side events being organized during CSD sessions.

Major groups who are actively involved in the review session are more likely to see their inputs reflected in the menu of policy options and practical measures that will constitute one of the points of departure for negotiations during the policy session.

### Policy session

The focus of this session is on measures to speed up implementation and mobilize action to overcome the obstacles and constraints as identified during the review session.

#### You can:

- Submit *priorities for action*, for consideration by CSD during policy discussions, through the facilitation of the *major groups organizing partners*;
- Participate in the intergovernmental preparatory meeting (IPM), held prior to the policy session, which shapes the framework for negotiations during the policy session;
- Participate in the policy session and join interactive dialogues, including with Ministers;
- Advocate and lobby for policy decisions to expedite implementation.

### What does CSD offer you?

CSD provides multiple avenues and opportunities, including:

- Informing, lobbying and influencing the UN high-level forum on sustainable development;
- Stimulating the debate by providing new information, innovative solutions and new ideas;
- Networking and building partnerships;
- Developing coordinated views and positions with other major groups through thematic and sectoral caucus groups;
- Participating in high-level discussions and multi-stakeholder dialogues;
- Sharing your organization's concerns, findings and hands-on knowledge;
- Raising awareness on the challenges and obstacles you face in your daily work;
- Contributing to the identification of appropriate international policy options that will best address these issues.

### Who are the major groups organizing partners?

- Each sector of the major groups is represented by an organizing partner.
- These organizing partners represent well-reputed and credible international networks.
- They are invited by the CSD Bureau to facilitate the engagement of their individual major group sector.
- The Major Groups Programme of the CSD secretariat collaborates closely with *organizing partners* in preparation for each CSD session.

### The organizing partners' main tasks include:

- Organizing, managing and disseminating data and information on major groups and CSD;
- Consulting with major groups networks to prepare written inputs for the review and policy sessions, reflecting their sector's views on the status of implementation deliverables (for the review session) and on the mobilization of concrete and tangible actions to advance implementation (for the policy session);
- Consulting with major groups networks to identify knowledgeable representatives to serve on their respective delegations;
- Coordinating and facilitating their delegation/sector's participation throughout the CSD sessions;
- Collaborating with other major group sectors' representatives present at CSD sessions.

### Major groups organizing partners for the 2006-2007 CSD implementation cycle

**Women:** Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO); ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy; **Youth and Children:** CSD Youth Caucus; **Indigenous People:** CSD Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, Tebtebba—Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education, and Indigenous Environmental Network; **NGOs:** Sustainable Development Issues Network through: Northern Alliance for Sustainable Development (ANPED), Third World Network (TWN) and Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI); **Local Authorities:** ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability; **Trade Unions:** International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU); **Business and Industry:** International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD); **Scientific and Technological Communities:** International Council for Science (ICSU) and World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO); **Farmers:** International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP).

### Major groups' meeting space at CSD sessions

During CSD sessions, a conference room is reserved for major groups. The room can be used for caucus meetings and other major groups' meetings, and is furnished with a limited number of computers, and a couple of printers and one photocopier (the only thing you need to bring with you is paper!).

### Who can attend?

- Only those organizations that are in consultative status with ECOSOC, including those in the CSD roster, can send representatives to CSD meetings.
- Formal relations with non-State actors, such as participation in CSD meetings, are governed by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31.
- Accredited organizations planning to send representatives to CSD meetings should send a signed request on their official letterhead by fax to the NGO Section at least three weeks in advance of the meeting, and include a list containing the names and fax numbers of the people who will serve as their representatives.
- Non-accredited organizations may wish to refer to the ECOSOC and CSD rosters to see if they belong to any accredited networks, and explore the possibility of being included as part of their delegations to CSD sessions.
- Organizations that received accreditation for the Johannesburg Summit (WSSD) or the Mauritius International Meeting have to apply for ECOSOC status, as their accreditation has now expired.

### NGO Section Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

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### Accreditation weblinks

FAQ on accreditation/registration:  
[http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/help\\_faq.htm#MG](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/help_faq.htm#MG)

Apply to ECOSOC:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>

List of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC:  
[http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/pdf/INF\\_List.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/pdf/INF_List.pdf)

NGOs in the CSD roster:  
[http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/csd\\_roster.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/csd_roster.pdf)