



JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002

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Announcements for Sustainability Partnerships to Start Today

Johannesburg, 29 August—Countries, NGOs, businesses and international organizations will announce initiatives aimed at pursuing measurable results starting today at the World Summit on Sustainable Development taking place in Johannesburg.

In a sharp departure from traditional conference practice, the partnerships represent an innovative mechanism for moving from paper commitments to action on the ground.

“The partnership initiatives are intended to ensure that there is real action toward sustainable development after the Summit,” Johannesburg Summit Secretary-General Nitin Desai said. “Too often, we have seen conferences end with only a document. We need government commitments—that’s what the negotiations are for. But we need to know who is actually planning to implement what the Summit decides.”

Desai stressed that the partnerships were not a substitute for government commitments. “In no way should these partnerships be construed as a Trojan Horse aimed at undermining true efforts to implement sustainable development,” he said. “These partnerships are in no way a sell-out to commercial interests. Rather, they are an acknowledgement that we need to engage the expertise and resources are required for positive action.”

The UN Secretariat has received submissions from 218 partnerships aimed at implementing initiatives over a broad range of issues, including water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture, and biodiversity. In addition, a number of Governments have indicated that they would announce their own initiatives.

Starting this afternoon and continuing until Sunday, the partners involved will introduce their initiatives at special sessions held in Ballroom I, starting at 3 p.m., and at press conferences.

For a complete listing of announcements, consult the UN Journal.

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