



World Summit on Sustainable Development

Johannesburg, South Africa
26 August–4 September 2002

Distr.: Limited
26 August 2002

English only

Agenda item 8
Partnership events

WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Plenary Meeting on Cross-Sectoral Areas
Tuesday, 27 August 2002, 3-6 pm



Issues for Consideration

This is a list of cross-sectoral issues related to sustainable development that participants may wish to consider during the plenary discussions at the Summit. It is not intended to be comprehensive, nor is it meant to prejudge the outcome on the on-going negotiations on the draft Plan of Implementation. Rather it outlines some of the issues relating to the cross-sectoral area and may be helpful in structuring the discussions in the Plenary.

The plenary meeting on cross-sectoral issues may discuss the issues of finance, trade, technology transfer, sustainable consumption and production patterns, education, science, capacity building and information for decision making.

The issues listed here are based largely on information received by the Secretariat on proposed partnership initiatives. A compendium of those partnership initiatives is available as a separate document.

For the purpose of the plenary discussion on the cross-sectoral areas, the issues are divided into three clusters:

- Finance, trade and technology transfer
- Sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Education, science, capacity-building and information for decision-making

Finance, Trade and Technology Transfer

Finance

Financial Flows

- Enhancing the role of private financial flows in supporting sustainable development.
- Addressing the volatility of private capital flows.
- Spreading foreign direct investment in developing countries beyond the small number of countries where they have been concentrated.
- Promoting foreign direct investment in the least developed countries, which currently receive about 1% of total FDI to developing countries.

Official Development Assistance (ODA)

- Reversing the decline in ODA.
- Promoting achievement of the agreed target of 0.7 percent of developed country GNP as ODA to developing countries, and 0.15 to 0.20 percent of GNP to the least developed countries.
- Addressing the decline of ODA flows to multilateral agencies.
- Improving the effectiveness of ODA in recipient countries.

External Debt

- Reducing unsustainable external debt and using the resources released for sustainable development.
- Realizing the potential of the Expanded Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative to support sustainable development.
- Ensuring that solutions to external debt problems are long-term and enduring.

Trade

- Enhancing market access for developing countries.
- Capacity building in developing countries to enable them to benefit from liberalized trade.
- Diversifying exports in commodity dependent countries.
- Ensuring that trade supports sustainable development.

Technology Transfer

- Making environmentally sound technology available to developing countries on preferential terms.
- Strengthening national capacities for technological planning to improve productivity and reduce environmental degradation.
- Capacity building in developing countries for the development and absorption of more efficient technologies.
- Promoting enterprise-to-enterprise transfer of knowledge and technology.
- Transferring corporate management systems for improving productivity and reducing waste.

- Developing and disseminating resource efficient technologies in critical areas such as agriculture, water and energy.
- Improving the role of intellectual property rights in promoting the development and dissemination of new technologies for sustainable development.
- Improving access of developing countries to publicly-owned technologies, including through preferential terms.
- Realizing the new opportunities opened by the information and communication technology revolution.

Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

- Operationalizing policy instruments, such as economic instruments, to help change unsustainable consumption patterns.
- Promoting markets for sustainable goods and services through public procurement.
- Making public services and infrastructure that support sustainable consumption more accessible, attractive and convenient.
- Using the media, education and marketing to change consumer behaviour.
- Developing and implementing appropriate environmental and social standards and certification for products and production.
- Improving the capacities of developing countries with regard to standards and certification.
- Strengthening consumer protection policies in support of sustainable development.
- Addressing the role of product standards as barriers to trade.

Education, Science, Capacity-Building and Information for Decision-Making

Education

- Providing universal access to primary education.
- Eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education.
- Expanding non-formal and formal education for all ages to end illiteracy and promote life-long learning.
- Strengthening institutions of higher learning in support of sustainable development.
- Integrating sustainable development into educational policies, curricula and programmes.
- Promoting networking among educational, youth and other organizations.

Science

- Building capacities in science and technology for sustainable development.
- Promoting scientific knowledge as a driving force of innovation, productivity and growth.
- Applying scientific knowledge for decision-making and enhancing collaboration between natural and social scientists, and between scientists and policy makers.
- Integrating local and indigenous knowledge into research and development and policy-making.
- Promoting the application of scientific risk-assessment and interdisciplinary research.

Capacity-building

- Strengthening human, institutional and infrastructure capacity through partnerships involving NGOs, local communities, the private sector and government.
- Developing capacity for the implementation of sustainable development policies and strategies through collaborative initiatives at all levels.
- Building partnerships and networking among centres of excellence for education, research and training.

Information for decision-making

- Strengthening national and regional information systems and statistical and analytical capacity for sustainable development.
- Improving national earth observation capacities, including mapping and satellite remote sensing technologies and geographic information systems.
- Strengthening systems for collecting and analysing data for resource management, environmental monitoring and assessment and early warning of natural disasters.