



UNITED NATIONS

JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002



WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA | 26 AUGUST–4 SEPTEMBER 2002

UN Website to Provide Up-to-Minute Coverage of Johannesburg Summit

Johannesburg, 24 August—The most comprehensive and up-to-the-minute coverage of the World Summit on Sustainable Development will be provided by the United Nations during the historic 10-day global gathering at www.johannesburgsummit.org.

In addition to the information that is already posted on the website, Summit coverage will be amplified to provide live video webcasts from the Sandton Conference Centre in Johannesburg, along with news accounts, press releases, photos, statements by Heads of State and Government, and official documents.

In the six official languages of the UN—Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish—Internet users around the world will be able to see for themselves how the debate for promoting sustainable development unfolds.

“This is a Summit that belong to everyone, and a Summit that should be open for everyone to see,” said Johannesburg Summit Secretary-General Nitin Desai. “This is not some secret meeting held on some island or mountain top. It is a meeting about the things that affect people directly and the website will allow them to see what their own leaders and representatives are saying.”

More than 100 world leaders are expected to attend the Summit in Johannesburg, and they will meet with thousands of NGOs, business leaders and community activists to forge plans that will deliver clean water, proper sanitation, modern energy services, and a healthy environment to all people.

Internet users will be able to see their president or prime minister address the Summit in their own language and in English on the website, and will also be able to follow many of the major meetings and press conferences. The website will also offer daily highlights of the Summit, along with the latest documents from the negotiations.

“From the number of website hits to the number of press queries, we have seen a dramatic interest in the Summit surge in the last few weeks,” according to Summit Spokesperson Susan Markham. “People are looking for as much information as they can about the Summit and on sustainable development, and through the website, we are working to make sure they get it.”



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