

HIGHLIGHTS OF 18<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF  
THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
3-14 May 2010



## Background

- The 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18) met to review the progress made in implementing internationally agreed agenda in the areas of chemicals, waste management, transport, mining and sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- This session marked the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> biennial cycle of CSD.
- *Participants:* The meeting was attended over 1300 participants, including 52 Ministers, the SG (at the closing session), the DSG (at the opening session of the high level segment), the USG (at the Ministerial dialogue with the UN agencies and Major Groups), and three ASGs of DESA at various events.



## Innovations

Following innovations were introduced in the organization of work of CSD-18.

- Enhanced inter-agency collaboration for preparing the SG reports.
- Ministerial dialogue with the UN agencies, heads of UN governing bodies and Major Groups during the HLS.
- Special sessions on: implementation, role of partnerships, and cross regional perspectives.
- Thematic seminar series to enhance understanding of 2<sup>nd</sup> committee's delegates about the key issues involved in thematic areas considered under the current cycle.
- Introduction of Youtube channel for disseminating the video messages of ministers.
- Organization of four Ministerial roundtables.
- More than 40 expert panellists were invited to speak on themes of current cycle.

## An Overview of the 18<sup>th</sup> Session

Thematic Discussions: Delegates conducted their review of the implementation of the thematic cluster for the 2010-2011 cycle in parallel thematic discussions that focused on each issue individually. Each session was opened with panel presentations, which provided expert views on the issues to be addressed.

Regional Discussions: Discussions focused on the results of Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs), including regional perspectives on the thematic cluster of issues as well as proposals for further action.

SIDS Day: The first half of the SIDS Day served as the preparatory committee for the high level meeting of the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy. The second half was devoted to review the progress made in implementing themes of the current cycle.

Multi-stakeholder Dialogues: The discussion emphasized the further mainstreaming of the partnerships programme into the work of the CSD. Also, the Commission called for stronger interaction and coordination between the CSD process and UN operational entities.



Ministerial Dialogue with the UN System and Major Groups: This dialogue provided a unique opportunity to envision improved collaboration and cooperation and find common grounds in the areas of policy coherence, strengthened institutional and legal frameworks, and application of scientific and technological innovations.

Ministerial Thematic Roundtables: Ministers highlighted the challenges and constraints being faced by the countries in implementing the agenda of the current cycle, and pointed out many actions to address these challenges. Proposed actions will contribute towards the preparations of IPM for CSD-19.

Other Events: A Partnership Fair, a Learning Centre (18 courses offered, 430 participants attended), and 63 Side Events



## Results and Key Messages

The session provided:

- A synthesis of key challenges/obstacles impeding the implementation of agreed agenda in 5 thematic areas of the current CSD cycle.
- An analysis of emerging issues within the context of themes of current cycle and their impact on achieving the agreed goals and targets.
- The way forward for preparations of IPM of CSD-19.

Main outcome of CSD-18 was a Chair's summary (non-negotiated) capturing key features of the discussion. Key messages emanating from Chair's summary, *inter-alia*, include:

- Transport: integration of transport into urban development policies; strengthening infrastructure; and improvement of safety and security.
- Chemicals: full implementation of existing arrangements, including SAICM; better education and information on chemical safety matters; and strengthening national legislation.
- Waste Management: integrated approaches through reducing, recycling and reusing waste and materials; criminal provisions for violation of hazardous waste regulations; and addressing e-waste.
- Mining: sharing benefits with local communities; support for artisanal and small-scale miners; and a global initiative for sustainable mining.
- 10YFP on SCP: support for the development of 10YFP; placing SCP within the context of a green economy; and packages of policies and measures (voluntary, market-based and regulatory).

## Moving towards CSD-19

- CSD-19 will be a policy session (2-13 May 2011).
- Session's outcome will be a negotiated document consisting of policy measures and actions to advance the implementation in 5 thematic areas of the current cycle.
- Main session will be preceded by an Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) that will take place from 28 February to 4 March 2011.
- Proceedings of the IPM will be supported by the SG reports on 5 themes. A Chair's summary resulting from the IPM will be subject to negotiations in the main session.
- Several expert group meetings will be organized on themes of current cycle. Outcomes of these meetings will be used to support the proceedings of CSD-19.

