



**Major Groups Participation in the CSD-17 Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting
New York, 23– 27 February 2009**

During the **CSD-17 Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting**, the Bureau allocated the following entry points in the programme to consider the valuable contributions of the **major groups**:

- On **Monday 23 February**, major groups will present their *Priorities for Action* and outline their views on policy options and possible actions in relation to the five thematic issues in the course of an **interactive discussion**.
- Major groups' integrated participation will be maintained and supported throughout the **interactive discussions** on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification, and Africa, being held on the afternoon of **Monday 23 February, through the morning of Friday 27**
- On **Friday 27 February**, major groups will be given time for brief and factual **closing remarks** on the Chair's draft negotiating document

Interactive discussion with Major Groups:

(Monday 23 February, approximately 12.00 to 1:00 pm, Conference Room 4 - the interactive discussion may begin earlier upon the conclusion of the preceding activities)

This session will likely be structured as follows: short presentations by the nine major groups, followed by discussion with Member States and other stakeholders. Each major group sector will be allotted three minutes for its initial presentation.

Interactive discussions agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification, and Africa and SIDS

(Monday 23 pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday all day and Friday 27th in the morning in CR 2 and 4)

In keeping with the practice established since CSD-11, major groups will be given opportunities to speak throughout interactive discussions, as time permits.

Mechanisms for the selection and identification of representatives who will be sitting in the major groups seats and asking for the floor will be facilitated by the **CSD- 17 major groups organizing partners**.

The participating major group sectors' representatives are asked to prioritise among themselves which sector shall ask for the floor in each of the sessions. The prioritisation of the speaking requests shall be based on the proposed Organisation of Work programme of work (available at http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd17/csd17_ipm_pow.pdf). The list of the organising partners is available at: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/mg_op.htm.

The Secretariat, based on the information received from the major groups organizing partners, will compile a list of major groups sectors/representatives interested to participate in the thematic discussions. Such lists will be available to the Chair of a given session so that he/she will know who is representing the major groups in that room in order to:



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- Call upon them
- Give them the floor upon the raising of the name sign in front of their seat
- Give them the floor based on their comment/question submitted to the Chair through filling in the “Request Slips”¹ – in the event this system will be used during that session

Interventions made during these sessions must be very brief (2 minutes max).

More specific details on how each of the meetings will run will be provided by the Chair at the beginning of every session.

Closing statements:

(27 February, 4:30- 6:00 pm, Conference Room 4)

Major groups will be given the opportunity to make **closing remarks** during the Closing Plenary on the Chair’s draft negotiating document, by providing factual comments on the text.

Note: Be reminded that the nature of major groups’ inputs and interventions should be in line with CSD- 11 decisions for the Policy Session: to report and share major groups’ options and possible actions to address the constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation identified during the review year.

Seating arrangements: the seating arrangements for the sessions listed above follow previous practices and include seats for all the nine major group sectors (one in the front with microphone and one behind). All other major groups representatives will be seating in the space allocated in the galleries and balconies available in both CR 2 and 4).

Participation in related activities:

Side Events

Side Events will continue to be an important and complementary element of the CSD. Requests from major groups and other stakeholders have been processed by the CSD Secretariat in accordance with previous practice. Major groups and other IPM participants are expected to actively take part in the planned activities.

For additional information check our website at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/participation.htm>

¹ Request Slips: Whenever possible, paper request slips briefly defining the issue or question to be addressed would be collected by the Secretariat from anyone requesting the floor and given to the Chair to help facilitate a more coherent discussion. The information contained in the request slip includes: name, title, delegation of belonging, question/theme to comment.