

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (UNCSD)
MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH BUREAU MEETING**

Monday, 28 February 2011 (3 pm to 5 pm)

Conference Room 23rd Floor

Two United Nations Plaza (DC-2), New York

1. The twelfth meeting of the Bureau of the Preparatory Process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) was held on 28 February 2011 in New York.

2. The meeting was attended by the following:

Bureau Members

- Amb. John Ashe, Co-Chair and Chair of the Meeting
- Amb. Maged A. Abdelaziz
- Amb. Charles T. Ntwaagae
- Ms. Ana Bianchi
- Ms. Tania Raguž
- Mr. Paolo Soprano
- Mr. Jirí Hlaváček, *by videolink*
- Mr. Asad M. Khan *by videolink*
- Mr. John Matuszak
- Ms. Maria Teresa Mesquita Pessôa

Secretariat

- Amb. Sha Zukang, Conference Secretary-General (CSG)
- Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Coordinator
- Mr. Brice Lalonde, Executive Coordinator
- Mr. Tariq Banuri, Head of the CSG Office
- Cluster Leaders
- Ms. Vivian Pliner, DGACM

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

3. The proposed agenda was adopted without any amendment.

Agenda Item 2: Roadmap for future course of action

4. Introducing this agenda item, Mr. Sha Zukang mentioned that several proposals came under discussion in the last meeting with regard to the process for preparing the outcome document. In reality, these proposals were not far away from each other. He noted that the process for preparing the outcome document would be subject to continuous updating as results from various preparatory meeting become available. He also drew Bureau's attention to the need to start thinking about the structure and contents of the outcome document.

5. The Bureau extensively discussed the timeline for the process entailing the preparation of the outcome document. There was general harmony in the ideas presented, but views differed as to when the zero-draft should be presented. Some members of the Bureau expressed concerns that an early zero-draft would not include the outcome of major events

like the UNCSD Regional Preparatory Meetings (these meetings will take place in September-December 2011 with the last meeting – at ECE - in early December 2011). Other members were of the view that a late draft would not allow enough time for negotiations.

6. Keeping in view the suggestions made and views expressed by different Bureau members, the Co-chair presented the following timeline for Bureau's consideration.

- (a) At the end of the 2nd PrepCom (8 March 2011), the Member States and other stakeholders will be requested to provide their inputs and contributions in writing for inclusion in a compilation document to serve as basis for the preparation of zero-draft of the outcome document.
- (b) Deadline for receiving inputs and contributions in writing from Member States and other stakeholders will be 1 November 2011.
- (c) These inputs and contributions will be compiled and presented to Member States and other stakeholders at the 2nd Intersessional meeting to be held in mid December 2011 to seek their comments and further guidance.
- (d) The Bureau will present the zero-draft of the outcome document for consideration by Member States and other stakeholders no later than early January 2012.

7. While agreeing to the above timeline and, bearing in mind the need to have sufficient time for negotiations, the Bureau decided to hold a three-day meeting in January 2012 to have initial discussions on the zero-draft of the outcome document, and set aside one full week for negotiations in each of the months of February, March and April 2012. All these meetings will be informal informals.

8. Bureau's attention was drawn to the need to approach the PGA to allocate the required facilities, including conference rooms and interpretation for the informal informals meetings referred to in para 7 above.

9. Recognizing that several preparatory activities might take place either after the deadline for the submission of inputs, the Bureau will welcome the results of such preparatory activities at any point in time after the release of the zero-draft.

Agenda Item 3: List of decisions to be made by the 2nd PrepCom

10. The CSG, Mr. Sha Zukang, informed the Bureau of the decisions required to be taken by the Member States at the 2nd PrepCom, given the time gap between the 2nd and 3rd PrepComs. These include the following:

- (a) Mandating the Bureau to initiate a process for preparing the outcome document.
- (b) Setting the new dates for the 2nd Intersessional meeting given that the November 2011 will not be a feasible month for this meeting.
- (c) Agreeing on the tentative programme of the Conference.
- (d) Identifying the documentation required beyond 2nd PrepCom.
- (e) Holding the final PrepCom at the Ministerial level.

11. The ensuing discussion underlined that that it would be too early to consider a tentative organization of work and the documentation needed for the preparatory process. These decisions could be made when the 2nd Committee of the 66th session of the GA would meet later this year. On the issue of Ministerial level participation in the 3rd PrepCom, the Bureau felt that it was too early in the process to discuss.

12. Since there will be no formal decision making meeting between the 2nd and 3rd PrepComs, the CSG suggested using part of the 2nd Intersessional meeting to be the *resumed session* of the 2nd PrepCom. This will allow decision making on all pending matters well ahead of the Conference. While this proposal was received positively by many Bureau members, some members wanted to seek more information before agreeing to it.

13. Following Secretariat's clarification that the tentative organization of work of the Conference provides only a preliminary outline of the programme and its purpose would be to assist the host country in its planning efforts, the Secretariat was asked to circulate a proposal among the Bureau before the 2nd PrepCom. If this proposal meets the agreement of the Bureau, it will be shared with Member States at the 2nd Prepcom. The Secretariat also reminded that the Rules of Procedure of the Conference need to be decided later this year.

Agenda Item 4: Miscellaneous items

Resource mobilization

14. The CSG mentioned that the situation of the Trust Fund has improved. At this moment, an amount of close to \$415 thousands is available to extend support to the preparatory activities. This situation allowed the Secretariat to support the participation of delegations from developing countries to the 2nd PrepCom. However, the funds are insufficient to support national level preparations. In this regard, the project document prepared together with the UNDP has been shared with the donors, but without much success in attracting resources needed for this purpose.

Date of Bureau's next meetings

15. The next meeting, if needed, will take place on 7 March 2011 at 8:30 am. Prior to this date, the secretariat will finalize and share with the Bureau the draft decisions to be made at the 2nd PrepCom. The Bureau agreed to have a post PrepCom meeting on 9 March 2011.

Any other business

16. One Bureau member suggested that the President of the Bureau of the 26th session of the Governing Council of UNEP (Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Marine Affairs of Spain), be allowed a speaking slot at the opening session to present the outcome of the Consultative Group of Ministers on International Environmental Governance (held in Helsinki earlier this year). The Bureau agreed that this presentation could be made, upon request by Spain, but only in the thematic session on the institutional framework for sustainable development.

17. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to organize a meeting with the Major Groups at the margins of the 2nd PrepCom.