



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH BUREAU MEETING  
Conference Room 2<sup>ND</sup> Floor, Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations  
14 December 2011, 9 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

1. The nineteenth meeting of the Bureau of the Preparatory Process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) was held on 14 December 2011 in New York. The meeting was held in two parts: a meeting with the Bureau of ECOSOC which was followed by 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau.

2. The meeting was attended by the following:

UNCSD Bureau Members

- Amb. Kim Sook, Co-Chair and Chair of the Meeting
- Amb. John Ashe, Co-chair
- Amb. Maged A. Abdelaziz
- Amb. Charles T. Ntwaagae
- Ms. Tania Raguž
- Mr. Paolo Soprano
- Prof. Bedřich Moldan
- Mr. Keith H. Christie
- Ms. Maria Teresa Mesquita Pessôa

ECOSOC Bureau Members

- Amb. Lazarous Kapambwe, President
- Amb. Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Vice-President
- Amb. Jan Grauls, Vice-President
- Amb. Gonzalo Gutiérrez Reinél, *represented by Ms. Milagros Miranda, Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations*
- Amb. Miloš Koterec (Slovakia)

Secretariat

- Mr. Nikhil Seth, Head of the CSG Office
- Ms. Elisabeth Thompson, Executive Coordinator
- Mr. Brice Lalonde, Executive Coordinator
- Cluster Leaders
- Ms. Jennifer de Laurentis, DGACM
- Ms. Vivian Pliner, DGACM

**Part 1: Meeting with the Bureau of ECOSOC**

3. Amb. Kim welcomed participants to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea and emphasized the timeliness and importance of this joint meeting of two Bureaus towards achieving a successful and actionable outcome at the UNCSD.

4, Emphasizing that the world has great expectations from the Rio+20 conference, he mentioned that it would be our collective responsibility to ensure that these expectations are met. He further mentioned that: (i) the preparatory process has been very rich both in terms of substance and participation, (ii) the institutional arrangements to be emerged from the Rio+20 conference needs to work very closely with the ECOSOC in moving forward the implementation of sustainable development agenda, and (iii) while the next 7 months will be devoted towards negotiating the outcome document, the ECOSOC could take necessary actions in bringing convergence among different viewpoints on critical sustainable development issues.

5. The President of ECOSOC Bureau (Amb. Kapambwe) thanked the UNCSD Bureau for organizing this meeting and encouraged holding such meetings in the future to work jointly towards successful Rio+20 conference. The ensuing discussion gave rise to a number of questions which are summarized below.

- (a) Sustainable development is a broader concept than the *environment*, but the latter has been receiving relatively more attention at the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD). Can this course be corrected? If yes, how?
- (b) How should the post-2015 development agenda be linked with possible sustainable development goals (SDGs), and how to treat MDGs in this process?
- (c) What will be the impact of *successor* arrangements to CSD (for example, Sustainable Development Council—SDC) the work of ECOSOC? How to avoid duplication and overlap between these two institutions?
- (d) How could the operational segment of ECOSOC be used to evaluate implementation on sustainable development, including addressing of issues such as migration and job creation in relation to sustainable development?
- (e) How to address the gaps in implementation of UN funds and programmes?
- (f) How can present structures be strengthened to advance sustainable development and be made more responsive to implementation?
- (g) Will the changes being suggested for ECOSOC, like a full time president, require a change in the UN Charter?

6. While briefing about the annual retreat of ECOSOC that took place on 10 – 11 November 2011, Amb. Kapambwe informed that former presidents of ECOSOC were invited to express their views about ways to make ECOSOC more prominent, relevant and responsive, especially in the area of international economic governance. The summary of the retreat will be first shared with the ECOSOC membership and then more widely with the possibility of taking some of the proposals into a formal process.

7. Proposals emanated from the retreat included: (i) strengthening the office of the ECOSOC President to bring it more in line with the Office of the President of General Assembly, including a similar election process, (ii) establishing dedicated Secretariat for the Office of the President of ECOSOC to ensure effective implementation and follow up of ECOSOC mandates, and (iii) providing effective policy guidance to subsidiary bodies. Also,

the follow-up mechanism should be much stronger to be able to cover decisions taken in ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, funds and programmes.

8. At the request of Amb. Kim, Mr. Seth briefed the participants on the preparations for UNCSD, specifically on the Compilation document. He stated that more than 600 submissions were received, with about 80 per cent of submissions from Major groups and a total of 100 submissions by Member States. Key messages emanating from these submissions included lack of implementation, lack of integration of the three pillars of sustainable development and lack of coherence among institutions. The regional meetings have clarified a number of issues with regard to the theme on green economy, but conceptual differences still persist. To address the implementation gaps, a development agenda with a mechanism for measuring progress have been suggested, which in turn is related to the idea of SDGs, their relation to MDGs and a post-2015 development framework.

9. While concluding this part of the meeting, Amb. Kim mentioned the need for follow up exchange of views to address the questions and issues raised during the meeting.

## **Part 2: Regular Bureau Meeting**

### **Agenda Item 1: Preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intersessional meeting**

10. The proposed agenda was adopted without amendments (Annex 1).

11. Mr. Seth briefed the participants about the main features of the Guidance Note. A concern was raised that the delegations and other stakeholders might not deliver their interventions according to the Guidance Note, since they will come prepared with their written statements. The ensuing discussions resulted in the following decisions.

- (a) The two co-chairs should try to steer the discussions based on the issues and questions listed in the Guidance note. However, the delegations will be free to raise other issues of importance, as considered appropriate.
- (b) The political groups will speak for 5 minutes and all others will speak for 3 minutes -- this time allocation should be strictly observed.
- (c) All nine Major groups will have the opportunity to speak during the meeting and their interventions will be interspersed with those of Member States and other stakeholders, with three Major groups per session for the first three sessions.

### **Agenda item 2: Zero draft of the outcome document: next steps**

12. The Bureau was informed that G-77 and China had sent a letter to the two co-chairs proposing a change in the schedule of *informal-informals*. This proposal aims at facilitating the larger participation of developing countries in the negotiation sessions in view of the lack of funds in the Trust Fund. Since the letter was not yet received by the co-chairs and some other Bureau members, the Bureau agreed to defer discussion on this issue to the next Bureau meeting.

13. To advance the preparations of the zero draft of the outcome document, the Bureau took the following decisions.

- (a) Summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intersessional meeting should be finalized and circulated before the end of December 2011.
- (b) 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau will take place on 22 December in New York to cover the following agenda: (i) review the outline/structure of the zero draft of the outcome document resulting from the discussions during the Intersessional meeting, (ii) discuss the G-77+China proposal for changing the schedule of *informal-informals*, and (iii) appointment of co-facilitators for the negotiations.
- (c) The 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Bureau will be held on Friday 6 January 2012 in New York to discuss the preliminary zero draft of the outcome document and to make a decision about the next steps. The draft should be circulated to the Bureau members around 4 January 2012.

### **Agenda item 3: Updates by the Secretariat**

- 14. The Secretariat reported on the following preparatory activities.
  - (a) National preparations are underway in cooperation with the UNDP and 37 countries are to be supported by the end of the year with a view to have support for all 60 countries by the time of the conference.
  - (b) All regional preparatory meetings have been completed and their outcomes have been made part of the Compilation document.
  - (c) Three country-led meetings that took place since the last Bureau meeting included: water, energy and food security nexus in Germany; a high level expert meeting on the sustainable use of oceans in Monaco; and an eye on Earth summit in the United Arab Emirates.
  - (d) The President of the General Assembly aims to organize a retreat on 17-18 December 2011 where partnerships and the outcome document of UNCSD will be discussed. The retreat will be also be attended by the UN Secretary-General and CSG, including two keynote speakers Mr. Maurice Strong and Mr. Ashok Khosla.
  - (e) Numerous side events will take place during the Intersessional meeting; detailed schedule is available on the UNCSD website.
  - (f) A logistic mission to Brazil took place from 19 to 23 November 2011 and was led by CSG Mr. Sha. An updated information note on the logistical arrangements for the conference will be posted soon on the UNCSD website. This will continue to be work in progress subject to regular updating based.

### **Agenda item 4: Other matters**

- 15. With regard to participation of Major groups in future meetings and negotiations, the Bureau felt that this issue would need further discussion in the light of past practices, especially the rules followed by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

16. For the accreditation of Major groups for UNCSD, the Secretariat was advised to use the language used in the Decision on accreditation of Major groups adapted in the Second Committee (A/C.2/66/L.53)
17. Next Bureau meetings: See paras 13 (b) and 13 (c) above.
18. Under agenda item “any other business”, the following items were discussed.
  - (a) The Secretariat brought to the attention of the Bureau that Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) which were accredited to WSSD have now requested to participate in the UNCSD preparatory process. Since their participation at the conference is already covered with the resolution recently adopted at the Second Committee on the modalities of the work of the UNCSD (A/C.2/66/L.59), a decision is needed to invite those IGOs to participate also in the preparatory process. It was decided that during the formal part of the 2nd Intersessional meeting, an oral decision will be proposed for adoption inviting IGOs who were accredited to WSSD to participate at the preparatory process of UNCSD.
  - (b) With regard to facilitating the process for adoption of Rules of Procedure for the conference, Ms. Raguz explained that both Ms. Bianchi and she, in their capacity as co-facilitators, will meet all major political groups next week to start the informal negotiations on the Rules of Procedure in January 2012. The co-facilitators will report back to the Bureau on by mid-February 2012.
  - (c) Responding to a question about the logistics for the conference (hotel booking, office space, space for exhibits, national stands, etc.), the Bureau member representing the host country clarified that this information has already been sent to all embassies/foreign missions in Brasilia. Additional presentation by the team from the capital is scheduled on the second day of the Intersessional meeting in a morning side event
  - (d) On the Trust Fund, in response to a question from one Bureau member, the Secretariat clarified that available funds are well short of needed US\$ 10 million. Although an amount of approximately US\$ 600,000 has been pledged, these are yet to be received. Therefore, it was considered important that Mr. Sha in his opening remarks at the beginning of the Intersessional meeting, should again call upon the donors to make contributions to the Trust Fund to make UNCSD and its preparatory process really universal and inclusive.

## Annex I



### UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 19th MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE UNCSD PREPARATORY PROCESS

**Time:** 9:00 to 13:00 hrs  
**Venue:** Conference Room of the Permanent Mission of the RoK to the United Nations  
335 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10017

### AGENDA

The meeting will held in two parts.

#### **Part 1: Meeting with the ECOSOC Bureau (starting at 9:00 am)**

#### **Part 2: 19<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting** (starting immediately after the conclusion of the first part)

Agenda Item 1: Preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intersessional meeting

Agenda Item 2: Zero draft of the outcome document: next steps

Agenda Item 3: Briefing by the Secretariat on preparatory activities

Agenda Item 4: Other Matters

- a. Participation of Major groups in future meetings and negotiations
- b. Next Bureau meeting
- c. Any other business