



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST BUREAU MEETING
Conference Room 23ND Floor, Two United Nations Plaza (DC-2), New York
9 January 2012, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

1. The twenty-first meeting of the Bureau of the Preparatory Process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) was held on 9 January 2012 in New York.

2. The meeting was attended by the following:

UNCSD Bureau Members

- Amb. Kim Sook, Co-Chair and Chair of the Meeting
- Amb. Maged A. Abdelaziz
- Amb. Charles T. Ntwaagae
- Ms. Ana Bianchi, represented by Mr. Mateo Estreme
- Ms. Tania Raguž
- Mr. Paolo Soprano *by videolink*
- Prof. Bedřich Moldan, *by videolink*
- Mr. Asad M. Khan, represented by Mr. Farrukh I. Khan
- Mr. Keith H. Christie
- Ms. Maria Teresa Mesquita Pessôa

Secretariat

- Mr. Nikhil Seth, Head of the CSG Office
- Cluster Leaders
- Mr. Otto Gustafik, DGACM

3. Proposed agenda was adopted without any amendments.

Agenda item 1: Consultations on the zero draft of the outcome document

4. Amb. Kim introduced the co-chairs' zero draft of the outcome document to the Bureau. In his introductory remarks, Amb. Kim made the following key points.

- The narrative structure of the draft follows faithfully the structure that was agreed at the last Bureau meeting.
- The text draws extensively on the submissions to the Compilation text, notably those of Political Groups and Member States but also attempting to integrate key ideas and proposals of Major Groups.
- The document is concise and text is balanced since it addresses the priorities of all Member States and Political Groups.
- An effort was made to make the text action-focused, but in some cases the submissions did not always permit this.
- While this is not a negotiated text, it provides an excellent basis for negotiation.

5. Amb. Kim then invited the Bureau members to share their views and comments on the zero draft, while urging them to view the document in its entirety, rather than commenting on its specific aspects. Comments made by several Bureau members are summarized below.

- a. The draft puts more emphasis on the environmental pillar than on the other two pillars. Social justice aspect deserves more attention.
- b. The draft should be more action-oriented, going beyond the reaffirmation of past commitments.
- c. The draft is a bit long and can be shortened if the section on sectoral issues is kept shorter and formulated in a more leader-like language. Consolidating “frameworks of action” presented in different sections into one section will further help in shortening the document.
- d. Stronger emphasis needs to be placed on good governance, rule of law, transparency, accountability, gender issues, the role of youth and education as means to achieving sustainable development.
- e. The language to present the following issues needs to be included or made stronger: (i) foreign occupation, (ii) international action regarding green economy, and (iii) energy—especially access to sustainable energy for all.
- f. More emphasis on resource efficiency.
- g. Integration and implementation should feature more prominently in the document.
- h. The commitments of developed countries vis-à-vis developing countries need to be reflected in a more balanced manner.
- i. Attention should be devoted to all the Rio Principles.
- j. There should be more emphasis on the political will of developed countries.
- k. As is done in the case of SIDS, explicit reference to other categories of countries such as LDCs, LLDCs and Middle income countries should be made in the text.
- l. The issues of land degradation and desertification should be treated separately, and not be mixed up with marine/biodiversity-related issues.
- m. There should be more emphasis on ECOSOC reform, as well as about the added value of establishing SDC relative to ECOSOC.
- n. Means of implementation are not sufficiently addressed. New ideas should be presented, including mentioning of the green climate fund as well as more efficient use of existing resources.
- o. Role of private sector needs to be highlighted especially in relation to financing and technology transfer for sustainable development.
- p. Some members asked to avoid mentioning new and innovative sources of funding in the text while others wanted to keep the reference and stressed its importance.

6. While appreciating the comments/proposals made by Bureau members, Amb. Kim mentioned that politically sensitive issues were excluded to avoid controversy and that many of these comments could be further fleshed out during the negotiations. He announced that the co-chairs will circulate the polished version of the zero draft of the outcome document to all Member States on 10 January 2012 after taking into account the factual comments. The zero draft will be presented with a letter requesting the Member States to submit their written comments and proposals on sections I (Preamble/Stage Setting) and II (Renewing Political Commitment) of the zero draft to the Secretariat by 23 January 2012. These proposals will be reflected in the text of these two sections prior to the meeting of 25-27 January 2012.

Agenda item 2: Discussion on the proposal for changing the schedule of “informal-informal” negotiations

7. The co-chair invited Bureau's views on the proposed dates for the April/May round of “informal-informal” negotiations—since Bureau in its last meeting could not make a decision on this issue. After some discussion, the Bureau decided to defer decision on this matter to the next Bureau meeting, and asked the Secretariat to report on: (i) funds available in the Trust Fund for financing the participation of delegations of developing countries, (ii) possible dates when conference/meeting facilities can be made available to support the meeting(s).

Agenda item 3: Organization of work: initial consultations on the zero draft of the outcome document (25-27 January 2012)

8. The Secretariat introduced the proposal for the organization of work for 25-27 January meeting. To make efficient use of available time, the Bureau decided to divide the organization of work into two parts. The sessions 1-3 (first one and a half day) will be allocated to making general comments on the zero draft of the outcome document. If all requests for interventions have been entertained during this period, the sessions 4-6 (last one and a half day) will be devoted to negotiations on section I (Preamble/Stage Setting) and section II (Renewing Political Commitment) of the zero draft of the outcome document. Revised organization of work is attached.

9. It was further agreed that after the meeting of 25-27 January 2012, written comments of the Member States will be sought on the rest of the document (sections: III, IV, V) by 17 February 2012. These comments/proposals will be reflected into the zero draft which will serve as basis for negotiations in the next round of informal-informal negotiations in March 2012.

10. As per past practice, Major groups and UN system will be invited to make general comments on the zero draft of the outcome document. Their interventions will be interspersed with Member States in sessions 1-3.

11. The Bureau will have a meeting with the Major groups on 27 January 2012 at 6:15 pm.

Agenda Item 4: Any other business

12. Concerning the status of “Rules of Procedure for the Conference”, Ms. Raguž mentioned about the initial contacts made with major political groups around the Second Intersessional Meeting to seek their comments. No response has been received yet. She mentioned her intention to follow up on this matter together with Ms. Bianchi and provide a progress report to the Bureau by the end of February 2012.

13. Next Bureau meeting will be held on 26 January 2012 starting at 1:15pm. An agenda will be distributed in due course.

Organization of Work
Initial Consultations on the Zero Draft of the Outcome Document
25-27 January 2012, United Nations Headquarters, New York

25 January 2012 Wednesday	26 January 2012 Thursday	27 January 2012 Friday
<p>Opening Session 10:00 –11:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome remarks and introduction of the zero draft of the outcome document by Co-chair, Amb. Kim or Amb. Ashe Welcome remarks by Mr. Sha Zukang, CSG Statements by the political groups on the zero draft (G-77, EU, and others.) <p>Session 1* 11:00 to 13:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB Discussion and comments on the zero draft of the outcome document</p>	<p>Session 3* 10:00 to 13:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB Discussion and comments on the zero draft of the outcome document</p>	<p>Session 5 10:00 to 13:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB Informal-informal negotiations on Sections I and II of the zero draft</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Side Events (See schedule for side events on the UNCSD website) 13:15 -14:45 hrs</p>		
<p>Session 2* 15:00 to 18:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB Discussion and comments on the zero draft of the outcome document</p>	<p>Session 4 15:00 to 18:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB Informal-informal negotiations on Sections I and II of the zero draft</p>	<p>Session 6 15:00 to 17:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB Informal-informal negotiations on Sections I and II of the zero draft</p> <p>Closing Session 17:00 – 18:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing remarks by the CSG Closing remarks by the Co-chair
<p style="text-align: center;">Side Events (See schedule for side events on the UNCSD website) 18:15 -19:45 hrs</p>		

* Interventions of Major groups, UN system agencies, IGOs etc will be interspersed during each session.