



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND BUREAU MEETING  
Conference Room 23<sup>RD</sup> Floor, Two United Nations Plaza (DC-2), New York  
26 January 2012, 1:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

1. The twenty-second meeting of the Bureau of the Preparatory Process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) was held on 26 January 2012 in New York.

2. The meeting was attended by the following:

UNCSD Bureau Members

- Amb. John Ashe, Co-Chair and Chair of the Meeting
- Amb. Kim Sook, Co-Chair
- Amb. Maged A. Abdelaziz
- Amb. Charles T. Ntwaagae, *represented by* Mr. Dimpho Tsiane
- Ms. Ana Bianchi, *represented by* Ms. Josefina Bunge
- Ms. Tania Raguž
- Mr. Paolo Soprano
- Prof. Bedřich Moldan
- Mr. Munawar S. Bhatti, *represented by* Mr. Farrukh I. Khan
- - Mr. Keith H. Christie
- - Ms. Maria Teresa Mesquita Pessôa

Secretariat

- Mr. Sha Zukang, Conference Secretary-General
- Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Coordinator
- Mr. Brice Lalonde, Executive Coordinator
- Mr. Nikhil Seth, Head of the CSG Office
- Cluster Leaders
- Mr. Ion Bodnaru, DGACM

**Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The proposed agenda was adopted without amendments.

**Agenda item 1: Discussion on the proceedings of the first three sessions of the “informal-informal” meeting, including ideas for organizing the work of the next three sessions**

4. The Co-chair invited Mr. Sha Zukang, Conference Secretary-General (CSG) to share his views on the proceedings of the first three sessions of the meeting. The CSG expressed Secretariat's satisfaction that the zero draft has been accepted as basis for negotiations, though delegations called for a more action oriented and more ambitious

outcome document. Mr. Sha also pointed out two strategies which could possibly be followed to narrow the gap between the opposing views of delegations: (i) to encourage the delegations to consult with each other to gain a better understanding of the points of difference; and (ii) the Co-chairs could propose a compromise text taking into account the proposals made by different political groups and individual Member States on each paragraph.

5. Several Bureau members indicated preference for not producing new text or compromise text by the Co-chairs at an early stage of the negotiations, since the process is primarily Member States led. It was agreed that the co-chairs could revisit this suggestion later on in the process. For the time being, given the desire expressed by the Member States (to have a compilation text and not a new Co-chairs' text), it was agreed that the compilation text should reflect amendments proposed by different political groups and individual Member States.

6. Many Bureau members were of the view that it would be a good idea if the remaining three sessions of the meeting could be utilized by the delegations to go paragraph by paragraph of the compilation text to review and understand the proposals made by different political groups and individual Member States. It was felt that such a strategy would contribute towards ensuring enough interaction among different negotiating groups to understand the rationale behind the proposed amendments. Several Bureau members were of the view that, at this stage, the intent should not be to strive for seeking an agreement on each paragraph, but to complete the first reading of sections I and II of the compilation text.

**Agenda item 2: Discussion on the proposed dates for the second round of “informal-informal” negotiations (23 April to 4 May 2012).**

7. This agenda item was deferred from the last Bureau meeting. Reiterating concerns of their constituencies, two Bureau members mentioned that the periodicity of meetings will be partly lost with back to back two weeks of negotiations. They suggested moving one of the weeks to a later period at the end of May or beginning of June.

8. The decision on this point was to be made based on the information about the Trust Fund situation and availability of conference services facilities. Regarding the first point Mr. Sha mentioned that the Trust Fund situation has improved, and travel costs of delegations can be met even if these dates are divided into two negotiating sessions. With regard to the availability of conference service facilities, the DGACMS mentioned a few options which were found not feasible due to conflict with some other meetings.

9. The Co-chair later met with the concerned groups (WEOG and EU) and clarified to them that the conference services facilities would not be available in the months of early April or later in May, except the dates of 23 April to 4 May 2012. Finally, these dates were agreed upon by all groups for second round of informal-informal consultations.

10. Some Bureau members pointed out the need for organizing “informal-informal-informals” during the period when the time-gap between two agreed meetings is large. This idea was not supported by some Bureau members on grounds that the capitals will

have an important role in driving these negotiations and it would not be practical for the capital-based representatives to attend these meetings so frequently. Other Bureau members were of the view that “informal-informal- informals” is a standard norm for maintaining the momentum in the negotiating process, especially if extra time is needed for negotiations. One suggestion was to keep this option open, and Co-chairs could exercise it if they feel the need for having an extra negotiating time. The Bureau however did not reach any decision on this matter.

### **Agenda Item 3: Any other business**

11. *Submission of comments on sections III, IV and V of the zero-draft:* The Bureau agreed that the deadline for submission of comments and proposals on sections III, IV and V will be 27 February 2012. {**Note:** Later at the request of the EU delegation, Co-Chairs agreed to extend the deadline to 29 February 2012, and an announcement to this effect was made by the Co-chairs at the concluding session of the informal-informal consultations}.

12. *Arrangements for establishing list of speakers for plenary meeting of UNCSD:* The Bureau reviewed and approved the Note prepared by the Secretariat on Arrangements for Establishing the List of Speakers for Plenary Meetings of the UNCSD as stipulated in the resolution 66/197, with a minor amendment in paragraph 14 (amendment is shown in red font in paragraph 14 of Annex 1 attached herewith). With this amendment, the Note could be sent to all Member States.

13. *Date of the next Bureau meeting:* The next Bureau meeting will take place on 12 March 2012.

## **ANNEX 1**

### **NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING THE LIST OF SPEAKERS FOR PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) 20 – 22 June 2011**

1. The initial list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be established by a drawing of lots. A special meeting for this purpose will be held toward the end of March 2012, at a time and venue to be announced in the Journal of the United Nations.

2. Six plenary meetings will be held over the three-day period, with two meetings per day as follows:

Wednesday, 20 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 21 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 22 June 2012: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Evening sessions may be held, if required. The list of speakers for each day shall be completed and no speakers will be rolled over to the next day.

The formal opening plenary meeting, on Wednesday morning, 20 June 2012, will consider all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and of the agenda, the election of the President of the Conference, the election of officers, the establishment of a Main Committee, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference, and other matters. The plenary meeting will also hear statements from the President of the Economic and Social Council and the nine major groups, followed by 16 speaking slots.

At the ceremonial opening of the Conference at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 20 June, statements will be made by the President of the Conference, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Conference, followed by 42 speaking slots.

The morning meetings on Thursday-Friday, 21-22 June will have 33 speaking slots each. The afternoon meeting on Thursday, 21 June will have 50 speaking slots.

The afternoon meeting on Friday, 22 June will have 24 speaking slots, followed by the presentation of the summaries by the Rapporteurs of the high-level round tables and the adoption of the outcome document and the report of the Conference.

Pursuant to the “all-State formula” envisaged in the draft provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.216/PC/4), 198 speaking slots will be available to all States, including Cook

Islands, Holy See and Niue, as well as Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and the European Union, in its capacity as observer.

3. Statements will be limited to five minutes.

4. Heads of State (HS) will be accorded first priority, followed by Vice-Presidents (VP), Heads of Government (HG) and Crown Princes/Princesses (CP). They will be followed by the highest-ranking official of Palestine, in its capacity as observer and the European Union, in its capacity as observer; Deputy Prime Ministers (DPM); Ministers (M); Vice-Ministers (VM); and Chairmen of Delegations (CD).

5. Speakers who are not present when their speaking turn comes will be automatically moved to the next available speaking slot within their category.

### **Procedure for the drawing of lots**

6. A senior Secretariat official from DGACM will preside over the special meeting and will conduct the drawing of names, one by one, from two domino boxes (box No.1 and box No. 2) which will have been prepared by the Secretariat for the purposes of the drawing.

7. Box No. 1 will contain the names of those participating States that inform the Secretariat of the General Assembly, in writing, **no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, 9 March 2012** that their speaker will be at the Head of State, Vice-President, Head of Government or Crown Prince/Princess level of representation. Should the Palestine or the European Union indicate, in writing, by the same deadline, that they would be represented by the highest-ranking official their names would also be included in box No. 1. **These letters should be hand-delivered during regular working hours to the office of the List of Speakers (room IN 613A, 300 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street (entrance on Second Avenue)).** As confirmation of delivery, a date-stamped receipt will be provided by the Secretariat.

8. Box No. 2 will contain the names of those delegations not contained in box No. 1.

9. The drawing of lots will take place first from box No. 1, then from box No. 2.

10. When called, the representative of the participating States, Palestine or the European Union will approach the podium where six boxes representing the six meetings will be displayed. The representative will then be invited to draw, from the box representing the preferred meeting, a chip showing the number of the speaking slot and will then also be asked to indicate or confirm the level of representation of the speaker. This information will be recorded by the Secretariat.

11. If, at the time the speaking slot is selected, a delegation cannot indicate the level of its speaker, the Secretariat will record it at the level of Chairperson of Delegation.

12. If a delegation is absent from the meeting room when the name of that country is called, it will be given the opportunity to select a speaking slot from the box representing

the meeting of choice (as availability permits) following the conclusion of the drawing-of-lots procedure from either box No. 1 or box No. 2 and again prior to the end of the special meeting. This opportunity will be given in the same order in which the delegation's name was initially drawn.

13. Delegations who are unable to attend the special meeting for the drawing of lots may inscribe on the list of speakers any time after the drawing of lots by contacting the staff handling the list of speakers in room IN 613A (300 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street (entrance on Second Avenue)). These delegations will be given the opportunity to select a speaking slot from those remaining at the time of their inscription.

#### **Publication of the list of speakers**

14. The first provisional list of speakers (No. 1) reflecting the results of the drawing of lots, and **rearranged by session according to the precedence outlined in paragraph 4 above**, will be published shortly after the drawing of lots. This initial list, as well as subsequent versions, will be sent directly to the Mission and the Delegation by facsimile on the day of issuance. Copies will also be available in the office of the List of Speakers (room IN 613A, 300 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street (entrance on Second Avenue)) and the General Assembly Affairs Branch office in the North Lawn Building (room NL 1033).

#### **Change in the level of representation**

15. Delegations are advised that, should the level at which a statement is to be made is subsequently changed, the replacement speaker will be assigned the next available speaking slot in the appropriate category at the same plenary meeting.

#### **Exchanges of speaking slots**

16. Exchanges of speaking slots between delegations will be possible. All delegations involved in an exchange should inform the staff handling the list of speakers of their agreement **in writing (email: heddache@un.org)**. In equality of rank, a delegation will move to the exact position of the other delegation. In the case of inequality of rank, a delegation will move to the last position in the appropriate category at the meeting to which it is changing.

17. Exchanges shall be considered as completed only when all the delegations concerned have provided their written confirmation as set forth in paragraph 16 above. Completed exchanges are considered binding unless dispensed by all the delegations concerned.

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