



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
12 March 2012, 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1. The twenty-third meeting of the Bureau of the Preparatory Process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) was held on 12 March 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. John Ashe, Co-Chair
- Amb. Maged A. Abdelaziz
- Amb. Charles T. Ntwaagae
- Ms. Ana Bianchi, *represented by* Ms. Josefina Bunge
- Ms. Tania Raguž
- Mr. Paolo Soprano, *represented by* Mr. Stefano Stefanile
- Prof. Bedřich Moldan *by video link*
- Amb. Munawar S. Bhatti, *represented by* Mr. Farrukh I. Khan
- Mr. Keith H. Christie, *represented by* Mr. Keith Morrill
- Ms. Maria Teresa Mesquita Pessôa

Secretariat

- Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Coordinator
- Mr. Nikhil Seth, Head of the Rio+20 Secretariat
- Cluster Leaders
- Mr. Ion Botnaru, DGACM

Adoption of the Agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted without amendments.

Agenda item 1: Exchange of views on the compilation text and on process of informal consultations

1. The co-chair Amb. Kim presented the status of the compilation text. As some Member States only provided comments on 9 March 2012, the compilation text will be released later than expected, but should be available by 13 March 2012.
2. In order to advance the work as efficiently as possible in the remaining time till the Conference, the Bureau decided to organize an informal meeting with political groups and other main negotiators to discuss ways to move forward. Discussions included the following proposals:

- (a) Whether the co-chairs should propose compromise text on the basis of the discussions and the proposals received in writing;
 - (b) Whether working groups should be established focusing on specific sections of the negotiating draft; (it was suggested that not more than two meetings should be held simultaneously)
 - (c) Whether negotiation time should be extended since there are only 20 negotiating days left, including evening and weekend meetings;
- 3. The meeting with political groups and other main negotiators was scheduled for Sunday 18 March 2012 at 6pm in the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea.

Agenda item 2: Organization of Work of the Informal informal consultations on the Zero draft of the Outcome document (19-23 March) and the Third Intersessional Meeting (26-27 March) (Annex 1)

- 4. Mr. Nikhil Seth, Head of the CSG Office, presented the draft organization of work displayed in Annex 1 of the Informal informal consultations on the Zero draft of the Outcome document (19-23 March) and the Third Intersessional Meeting (26-27 March).
- 5. In the draft organization of work, a meeting of the Bureau with Major Groups had been planned immediately after the closing session of the Third Intersessional. The Bureau recognized the importance of interacting with Major Groups throughout the meeting but did not want to reduce negotiating time. Thus, the Bureau decided to organize a meeting of the Bureau with Major Groups on Tuesday 27 March 9-10am. This meeting will be open to Member States, but with no seating arrangements to allow for a full use of the conference room seating capacity. The meeting will replace the meeting after closing proposed in annex 1.
- 6. A draft Note by the Secretariat on the 'Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations as observers to the Preparatory Committee and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development' was discussed. The Bureau decided to recommend that the Note should just reflect accreditation to the Preparatory Committee; not to the Conference.

Agenda Item 3: Organization of Work of the Conference (Annex 2)

- 7. Mr. Seth drew attention to annex 2 which provides the organization of work of the Conference according to the General Assembly's decision on this matter.
- 8. Mr. Botnaru explained that so far 147 Member States have inscribed to speak at the Conference, out of which 69 are heads of state, 3 are vice-presidents and 39 are heads of government, making the participation to Rio+20 already at a higher level than the Johannesburg Summit in 2002. He also stated that the inscription has been extended for another 10 days, so that the drawing of lots, by which the order of speaking will be established, will take place early in April.
- 9. The Bureau considered a request by the IFIs and UN system to speak in the plenary of the formal opening session. Currently, according to the resolution 66/197 the IFIs and UN system are entitled to speak at the round tables and any change would require a GA decision. The Bureau decided to revisit this

issue at the next Bureau meeting after consultations in respective regional groups.

10. Some Bureau members expressed concerns about including the establishment of a Main Committee in the organization of work of the Conference as it would be preferable that negotiations do not continue throughout the Conference. It was clarified that the establishment of the Main Committee is standard procedure and its role is to finalize any outstanding matters and does not necessarily need to deal with the negotiations. Others also expressed their concern that the organization of work indicates “statements by states” but does not list other entities who are entitled to speak as per resolution 66/197. To avoid any misunderstandings it was decided to replace “main committee” with an asterisk and add an asterisk after “statements by states” in the organization of work. Both asterisks would be linked to footnotes that quote the exact language from the resolution.
11. Some Bureau members expressed a concern regarding financing of developing countries for the four days that remain between the Third Prepcom and the Conference and which are now an unofficial part of the preparatory process. This being the case, the Trust Fund does not cover these four days.

Agenda Item 4: Other matters

Participation of Major Groups in future meetings and negotiations

12. Mr Seth summarized the requests made by Major Groups and said that all have been met. In order to increase engagement of Major Groups, one Bureau Member has suggested the organization two informal interactive dialogues with the Major Groups on the two themes of the Conference during the month of April, possibly back-to-back with the informal consultations in New York.
13. Mr Seth also informed that the deadline for accreditation of Major Groups with no consultative status was 20 February and 948 applications had been received. They have been grouped in three categories and are posted at UNCSD website. The first category are the ones who are recommended, the second one are those that are already accredited or are not an organization and the third one are those not recommended as their scope of work does not pertain to sustainable development, As part of paper-smart strategy of the secretariat, the process will be conducted electronically but hard copies can be provided. The process will conclude with the decision of the GA recommending these Major Groups for accreditation.

Rules of procedure

14. Ms. Tania Raguž provided an overview of the status of consultations on the rules of procedure and distributed a table summarizing all comments received so far. She welcomed views on how to proceed, especially whether more formal arrangements would be needed as well as possible broadening of those involved in the discussions.
15. Some Members of the Bureau advised against formal arrangements and preferred to solve the rules of procedure in an informal way as soon as

possible, so that they do not encroach on negotiations on the outcome document.

16. It was pointed out that important and difficult issues were at play and that delegations should not assume that this issue could be solved before March 26th.
17. The Bureau decided to extend the mandate to Argentina and Croatia to continue to consult informally and to broaden the scope of those involved, but also stated that they will use the opportunity of the informal meeting on Sunday, 18 March to discuss it further in order to advance the process in view of the possible approval at the Third Intersessional Meeting.

Meeting with ECOSOC Bureau

18. Since ECOSOC has a new Bureau, they have requested another meeting with UNCSD Bureau. The meeting would serve to discuss a role of ECOSOC in UNCSD preparatory process and beyond as well as the impact of some proposals envisaged for Rio+20 regarding sustainable development institutions.
19. Ambassador Kim will consult further on the timing for this meeting and come back with a proposal. It has now been proposed that this meeting be held from 1 – 1:30 pm on March 27.

Bureau meeting with the UN Secretary General

20. The Bureau was reminded that a meeting with the Secretary-General is scheduled for 15 March 2012 at 3:30 pm in Room B, NLB.

Date of the next Bureau meeting

21. The next Bureau meeting was scheduled for lunchtime of 27 March 2012.

**Annex 1: Organization of Work of the Informal consultations
19 – 23 March 2012, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

19 March 2012 Monday	20 - 23 March 2012
<p align="center">Opening Session 10:00 –10:30 a.m. Room ECOSOC, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening by Co-chair, Amb. Ashe or Amb. Kim Welcome remarks by Mr. Sha Zukang, CSG <p align="center">Sessions 1 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Room ECOSOC, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal informal consultations on the Compilation text of the Zero draft of the Outcome document (sections III, IV and V) <p align="center">Session 2 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Room ECOSOC, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal informal consultations on the Compilation text of the Zero draft of the Outcome document (sections III, IV and V) 	<p align="center">Session 3 – 10 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Room ECOSOC, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal informal consultations on the Compilation text of the Zero draft of the Outcome document
Side Events 1:15 -2:45 p.m. and 6:15 – 8:45 p.m. (See schedule for side events on the UNCSD website)	

**Organization of Work of the Third Intersessional Meeting of the UNCSD
26 – 27 March 2012, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

26 March 2012 Monday	27 March 2012 Tuesday
<p align="center">Opening Session 10:00 –10:30 a.m. Room ECOSOC, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening by Co-chair, Amb. Ashe or Amb. Kim Approval of the Rules of Procedure (pending finalization) Approval of participation of IGOs for the Prepcom <p align="center">Sessions 1 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Room ECOSOC, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal informal consultations on the Compilation text of the Zero draft of the Outcome document 	<p align="center">Session 3 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Room ECOSOC, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal informal consultations on the Compilation text of the Zero draft of the Outcome document
<p align="center">Session 2 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Room ECOSOC, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal informal consultations on the Compilation text of the Zero draft of the Outcome document 	<p align="center">Session 4 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. Room ECOSOC, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal informal consultations on the Compilation text of the Zero draft of the Outcome document <p align="center">Closing session*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remarks by Co-chair, Amb. Ashe or Amb. Kim Remarks by Mr. Sha Zukang, CSG
Side Events 1:15 -2:45 p.m. and 6:15 – 8:45 p.m. (See schedule for side events on the UNCSD website)	

* There will be a meeting of the Bureau with Major groups immediately following the Closing session.

Annex II: Organization of Work
United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
20 – 22 June 2012, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

Date and Time	20 June 2012		
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	1st plenary meeting (Formal Opening) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening of the Conference• Election of the President of the Conference• Adoption of the Rules of procedure• Adoption of the Agenda• Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies/Main Committee• Election of Officers• Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee• Statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council• Statements by nine Major groups• Statements by States	Partnership forum SD-learning Side events (Please see their separate schedules)	
1:00 to 2:45 p.m. Side events (Please see their separate schedules)			
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.	2nd plenary meeting (Ceremonial Opening) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statement by the President of the Conference• Statement by the President of the General Assembly• Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations• Statement by the Secretary-General of the Conference		
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.	2nd Plenary Meeting continues Continuation of statements by States	Meeting of the Main Committee and Credential Committee (if needed)	Side events (Please see their separate schedules)
4:30 – 7:30 p.m.	High-level round table “Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference”.		
6:15 to 9:00 p.m. Side events (Please see their separate schedules)			

Date and Time	21 June 2012			
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	3rd Plenary Meeting Continuation of statements by States	High-level round table “Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference”.	Meeting of the Main Committee and Credential Committee (if needed)	Partnership forum SD-learning Side events (Please see their separate schedules)
1:00 to 2:45 p.m. Side events (Please see their separate schedules)				
3:00 to 6:00 p.m.	4th Plenary Meeting Continuation of statements by States	High-level round table “Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference	Meeting of the Main Committee and Credential Committee (if needed)	Partnership forum SD-learning Side events (Please see their separate schedules)
6:15 to 9:00 p.m. Side events (Please see their separate schedules)				

Date and Time	22 June 2012			
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	5th Plenary Meeting Continuation of statements by States	High-level round table “Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference”.	Meeting of the Main Committee and Credential Committee (if needed)	Partnership forum SD-learning Side events (Please see their separate schedules)
1:00 to 2:45 p.m. Side events (Please see their separate schedules)				
3:00 to 6:00 p.m.	6th plenary meeting Closing of the Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation of statements by States (if needed) - Presentation of the summaries by the Rapporteurs of the High-level round tables - Report of the Credentials CommitteeAdoption of the outcome document and the report of the Conference. - Closure of the Conference 			

