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**Item 8 of the provisional agenda**  
**Inputs from the Conference of the Parties**  
**to other intergovernmental meetings**  
**(a) International conference for the 10-year review of**  
**implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action**  
**(b) World Conference on Disaster Reduction**  
**(c) Process for providing input to the fourteenth session**  
**of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 14)**

## **Background information on upcoming intergovernmental meetings**

**Note by the secretariat**

### *Summary*

This note provides background information on three upcoming intergovernmental meetings:

- International conference for the 10-year review of implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action
- World Conference on Disaster Reduction
- United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (fourteenth session).

Descriptions of the meetings are provided with a view to assisting the Conference of the Parties in determining the processes for, and the nature of, any contributions it might make to these meetings.

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## I. Introduction

1. This note provides information on three upcoming intergovernmental meetings with a view to assisting the Conferences of the Parties (COP) in determining the processes for, and the nature of, any contribution it might make to these meetings:

- (a) International conference for the 10-year review of implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005
- (b) World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005
- (c) United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) (fourteenth session), to be held in New York, United States of America, in April/May 2006.

2. Any inputs to the Mauritius and Kobe conferences would need to be agreed at COP 10. Inputs to the CSD would be required later, and a process to determine these inputs could be agreed at COP 10.

## II. International conference for the 10-year review of implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action

3. The United Nations General Assembly, by its resolution 57/262, decided to convene the international meeting to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (hereinafter referred to as the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA)) from 30 August to 3 September 2004. Subsequently, the meeting was rescheduled to be held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005.

4. The CSD is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the principles of and commitments to sustainable development embodied in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21. It also monitors the results of the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held in Barbados in 1994, that translated Agenda 21 into concrete policies, actions and measures to be taken by small island developing States (SIDS) at the national, regional and international levels to enable them to achieve sustainable development as incorporated in the BPOA.

5. The CSD was mandated to undertake an in-depth assessment of the BPOA, and to finalize preparations for the Mauritius meeting, including its agenda. The Secretary-General of the United Nations produced a report to the twelfth session of the CSD (CSD 12) (New York, United States, 14–30 April 2004), that reviews the progress in the implementation of the BOPA (E/CN.17/2004/8). Chapter III, section A, of the report presents several **messages** on climate change and sea level rise, namely that:

- (a) Climate change and sea-level rise pose a major threat to small island developing States and threatens the very existence of some of them
- (b) At the international level, donor support has increased in some areas; particular mention was made of COP 9 (Milan, 1–9 December 2003).

6. Chapter VI of the report includes the following **conclusions**:
- (a) Progress in the implementation of the BPOA has been mixed. The SIDS still face major challenges to their sustainable development, some of long standing and others of more recent origin
  - (b) Crucially, the international community needs to redouble efforts to put in place an effective regime to deal with climate change and its consequences
  - (c) Mainstreaming adaptation to climate change into an intersectoral sustainable development strategy should remain a priority
  - (d) Regional institutions for the monitoring and assessment of climate change and sea-level rise should be strengthened
  - (e) Continued financial support from the international donor community, including agencies such as the Global Environment Facility, is required.
7. In addition to the Secretary-General's report to CSD 12, the CSD also had before it an Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) document entitled "Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA" (E/CN.17/2004/12). The document was produced as a result of the regional and interregional preparatory process mandated by the General Assembly in preparation for the CSD. The Chair of the Group of 77 and China presented the strategy document, initiating consultations on it. It is expected that these consultations will continue, chaired by New Zealand, in the period before the Mauritius meeting.

### III. World Conference on Disaster Reduction

8. United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/58/214 called for the convening of a World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in 2005 and invited Member States, all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations to participate actively in the conference. It accepted the invitation of the Government of Japan to host the conference and decided that it would be held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005.
9. The WCDR in 2005 is designed to foster specialized discussions and produce concrete changes and results, with the following **objectives** (A/RES/58/214, para. 7):
- (a) To conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, with a view to updating the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the twenty-first century
  - (b) To identify specific activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management
  - (c) To share best practices and lessons learned to further disaster reduction within the context of attaining sustainable development and identify gaps and challenges
  - (d) To increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies, thereby facilitating and promoting the implementation of those policies
  - (e) To increase the reliability and availability of appropriate disaster-related information to the public and disaster management agencies in all regions, as set out in the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

10. In a related resolution on natural disasters and vulnerability (A/RES/58/215, para. 6), the General Assembly encouraged the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. It also encouraged the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries. The first announcement of the WCDR makes explicit reference to possible contributions from the UNFCCC process and COP 10.

11. The General Assembly entrusted the preparation of the WCDR to an open-ended intergovernmental preparatory committee, which held its first meeting on 6 and 7 May 2004 in Geneva. The second meeting is scheduled for 11 and 12 October 2004 and a final meeting may be held in Kobe just before the conference. The secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) was requested to service the WCDR and its preparatory process (A/RES/58/214, paras. 9 and 12).

12. The draft programme (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/4), prepared by the ISDR secretariat based on comments by Member States and other participants in the preparatory committee, makes several references to climate change. The list of suggested priority activities and tasks for Member States, organizations and other interested parties to consider as elements of their approach to disaster reduction, which relate to climate change, includes:

- (a) Promoting and implementing policies and action in support of UNFCCC efforts to mitigate climate change in order to prevent associated long-term increases in disaster risk
- (b) Analysing and reporting on long-term changes and emerging issues that might increase or reduce risks, or weaken or strengthen capacities of authorities and communities to respond, such as climate change, technology growth, emerging diseases, land-use change, slope deforestation and social change
- (c) Promoting disaster reduction as a climate change adaptation strategy and enhancing adaptation to climate change including climate variability and building adaptive capacity, including through the routine use of environmental and climatological information by planners, engineers, managers, and other decision makers
- (d) Encouraging the development of private sector financial risk-sharing mechanisms, particularly insurance and reinsurance, for vulnerable populations and communities, such as those living in small island developing States
- (e) Systematically including the consideration of the chosen targeted actions and progress thereon in the reporting mechanisms of existing frameworks concerning sustainable development, as appropriate, such as, UNFCCC national communications and national adaptation programmes of action.

13. Although these suggested priority activities are subject to change as negotiations progress, they give an indication of the range of issues to be raised in the first round of consultations.

#### **IV. United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (fourteenth session)**

14. The CSD, at its eleventh session, adopted a multi-year programme of work of the CSD for the period after 2003 (E/2003/29, E/CN.17/2003/6) and decided that the implementation of that programme of work will be guided by the following considerations:

- (a) The review and evaluation of the implementation of actions, commitments and targets will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the decisions of the CSD
- (b) The thematic clusters are to be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development
- (c) The CSD will focus on those issues where it can add value to intergovernmental deliberations on cross-sectoral and sectoral issues.

15. The work of the CSD will be organized in a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, which will include a review session and a policy session. The CSD's **review session**, to be held in April/May for a period of two to three weeks in the first year of the cycle (2006), will evaluate progress, focusing on constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation with regard to the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle. The review session will include a high-level segment, an exchange of regional experiences, dialogues with experts, including scientific experts, and sharing of best practices and lessons learned, with a view to facilitating implementation, as well as capacity-building activities, such as learning centres and partnership fairs.

16. The review will:

- (a) Undertake the above-mentioned evaluation on the basis of the Secretary-General's state of implementation reports;
- (b) Include overall progress in implementation, based on information provided in particular in in-country reports and in reports by United Nations organizations and bodies, and on information from regions and subregions, as well as major groups;<sup>1</sup>
- (c) Reflect new challenges and opportunities relating to the implementation of Agenda 21, to enable an improved understanding of priority concerns in the implementation of the selected thematic cluster of issues;
- (d) Facilitate an effective policy discussion in the course of the policy year with a view to strengthening implementation in those areas.

17. The outcome of the review session will be a report, including a summary by the Chair, identifying constraints and obstacles and possible approaches and best practices for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

18. The CSD's **policy session** to be held in April/May of the second year of the cycle (2007) will take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation in the selected thematic cluster of issues, taking account of the discussions of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting, the Secretary-General's reports and other relevant inputs. The CSD will convene an intergovernmental preparatory meeting for one week in New York in February–March 2007 to discuss policy options and possible actions to address constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation identified during the review year. The discussions of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting will be based on the outcome of the review session, reports by the Secretary-General and other relevant inputs. Based on those discussions, the Chair will prepare a draft negotiating document for consideration at the policy session.

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<sup>1</sup> The major groups as identified in Agenda 21 are: women, children and youth, indigenous people, NGOs, local authorities, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technology community and farmers.

19. The CSD's policy sessions will include high-level segments, involving ministers or their representatives with responsibilities relevant to the thematic cluster of issues under discussion. The segments will be organized so that ministerial leadership, oversight and guidance in decision-making concerning the outcomes of the sessions would be enhanced. High-level segments will include focused dialogue, with the active participation of organizations of the United Nations system.

20. The CSD decided that the results of its work would also include the sharing of best practices and lessons learned, capacity-building activities, exchange of experiences concerning the implementation of sustainable development strategies, as appropriate, and partnerships that support the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

21. The CSD has invited organizations at all levels, to undertake results-oriented initiatives and activities that support its programme of work and promote and facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The results of such initiatives and activities are to be an input to the CSD.

22. The programme of work for the CSD 2006–2007, as adopted at its eleventh session, is given in the table below:

**Work programme for the United Nations Commission on  
Sustainable Development, 2006–2007**

Thematic cluster	Cross-cutting issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy for sustainable development</li> <li>• Industrial development</li> <li>• Air pollution/atmosphere</li> <li>• Climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty eradication</li> <li>• Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production</li> <li>• Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development</li> <li>• Sustainable development in a globalizing world</li> <li>• Health and sustainable development</li> <li>• Sustainable development of small island developing States</li> <li>• Sustainable development for Africa</li> <li>• Other regional initiatives</li> <li>• Means of implementation</li> <li>• Institutional framework for sustainable development</li> <li>• Gender equality</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>

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