

2003/61

Future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹⁹⁶ Agenda 21¹⁹⁷ and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,¹⁹⁸

Also recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development¹⁹⁹ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development,²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁶ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, annex II.

¹⁹⁸ General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

¹⁹⁹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

Reaffirming in that regard the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration²⁰¹ and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences held and international agreements made since 1992,

Recalling that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation will build further on the achievements made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and that the Plan expedites the realization of the remaining goals; to

Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, while focusing on identifying constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation with regard to the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle;

(b) The review sessions 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;

(c) The review sessions will undertake the above-mentioned evaluation on the basis of:

(i) The Secretary-General's state of implementation reports, which should reflect overall progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, based on information provided in particular in countries' reports and in reports by United Nations organizations and bodies as described in paragraph 2 (a) (ii) below, and on information from regions and subregions, as appropriate, as well as major groups. In addition, the Secretary-General's state of implementation reports should contain a detailed review of progress of implementation in the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle at all levels, and should also reflect new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21;

(ii) The contributions of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, the Global Environment Facility and international financial and trade institutions;

(iii) The outcomes of regional and subregional meetings and activities, as appropriate;

(iv) The contributions of major groups, including scientific experts, as well as educators, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, on their results-oriented activities concerning the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Imphntan;

(g) The discussions of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting will be based on the outcome of the review session, reports by the Secretary-General as well as other relevant inputs. Based on those discussions, the Chair will prepare a draft negotiating document for consideration at the policy session;

(h) The Commission's policy sessions, to be held in April/May of the second year of the cycle, 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;

(i) The review sessions and the policy sessions should mobilize further action by all implementation actors to overcome obstacles and constraints in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and should address new challenges and opportunities and share lessons learned and best practices;

(j) Specific organizational modalities for Commission meetings will be recommended by the Bureau of the Commission through open-ended and transparent consultations conducted in a timely manner, following the established United Nations rules of procedure. Activities during Commission meetings should provide for balanced involvement of participants from all regions, as well as for gender balance;

3. *Decides*, in order to allow effective consideration of regional and subregional inputs throughout the implementation cycle and to ensure maximum flexibility:

(a) To invite the regional commissions, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to consider organizing regional implementation meetings in order to contribute to the work of the Commission, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and in collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations and bodies, as appropriate, as well as the regional offices of funds, programmes and international finance and trade institutions and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. Such meetings should preferably take place before the review session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and should:

(i) Contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(ii) Focus on the thematic cluster of issues to be addressed in the ongoing implementation cycle;

(iii) Provide input to the Secretary-General's reports and the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Those inputs may include identification of obstacles and constraints, new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and sharing of lessons learned and best practices;

(iv) Provide for contributions from major groups, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) To invite the General Assembly to consider using the resources previously devoted to the former ad hoc intersessional working groups of the Commission on Sustainable Development to support the participation of representatives of member States of the Commission in one of their respective regional meetings in each implementation cycle;

(c) To invite the regional commissions to provide other inputs to the Commission's review and policy sessions and the intergovernmental preparatory meeting;

(d) To invite other regional and subregional bodies and institutions within and outside the United Nations system to contribute to the preparations for the Commission's review and policy sessions and the intergovernmental preparatory meeting;

4. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that resources released by the termination of the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, whose work has been transferred to the Commission on Sustainable Development, could be used to support the work of the Commission;

5. *Invites* Governments, as well as organizations at all levels and major groups, to undertake results-oriented initiatives and activities that support the Commission's 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 should be an input to the Commission, as appropriate;

6. *Decides* that the results of the Commission's work could 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;

7. *Also decides* that Commission sessions should include high-level segments, involving ministers or their representatives with responsibilities relevant to the thematic cluster of issues under discussion. The segments should be organized so that ministerial leadership, oversight and guidance in decision-making concerning the outcomes of the sessions would be enhanced. High-level segments should include focused dialogue, with the active participation of agencies, funds, programmes and other organizations of the United Nations system, international finance and trade institutions, and representatives of major groups at the appropriate level, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

8. *Further decides* to o.0376 Tcu7.7805 [(to7.8(sb)-02(d)9.8(s-r)20.9(9(u))-2.(d)9.8s-r)20.()-1e7d)9

Multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period after 2003

9. *Decides* to adopt the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period after 2003 as outlined in the annex to the present resolution;

10. *Also decides* 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 Commission.

12. *Encourages* countries to present, on a voluntary basis, national reports, in particular to the Commission's review sessions, focusing on concrete progress in implementation, including achievements, constraints, challenges and opportunities;

13. *Also encourages*, with the purpose of implementing paragraphs 130 and 131 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and paragraph 3 of Commission decision 9/4, further work on indicators for sustainable development by countries at the national level, including integration of gender aspects, on a voluntary basis, in line with national conditions and priorities, and requests the Secretary-General to consider progress made in that regard, including further work on the above-mentioned indicators, in reporting to the Commission, as appropriate;

14. *Underscores* that reporting to the Commission should be guided by the following considerations:

(a) Reporting should reflect the overall progress made on the three dimensions of sustainable development, focusing on the thematic cluster of issues for the cycle, and should include inputs from all levels, as appropriate, including the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and drawing on those sources listed in paragraph 2 (c) (ii-iv) above;

(b) The existing reporting systems should be used to the fullest extent possible and will be expected to provide the bulk of information required;

(c) Reporting should focus on concrete progress in implementation, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development and their integration, and should include information-sharing, lessons learned, progress made and best practices, identifying actions taken, constraints, challenges and opportunities;

(d) The effective use of indicators, as described in paragraph 13 above;

(e) Country reporting should provide information on the status of national strategies for sustainable development;

15. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission, working in close cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system, to:

(a) Take measures to streamline reporting in order to avoid duplication and unnecessary burden on States, including in accordance with the Secretary-General's report on United Nations reform;

(b) Provide focused information that highlights relevant trends, constraints, challenges and emerging issues;

(c) Provide technical assistance to countries, upon their request, in national reporting through regular and extrabudgetary sources;

16. *Invites* the secretariat of the Commission to improve national reporting guidelines and questionnaires with the intention of making reporting more efficient and less burdensome on countries and more focused on implementation, bearing in mind the provisions of the present resolution, in consultation with Governments, United Nations organizations and secretariats of multilateral environmental

relevant, should result in the transfer of technology to, and capacity-building in, developing countries;

(g) It is desirable that partnerships have a sectoral and geographical balance;

(h) Partnerships should be designed and implemented in a transparent and accountable manner. In that regard, they should exchange relevant information with Governments and other relevant stakeholders;

(i) Partnerships should be publicly announced with the intention of sharing the specific contribution that they make to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(j) Partnerships should be consistent with national laws and national strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the priorities of countries where their implementation takes place;

(k) The leading partner of a partnership initiative should inform the national focal point for sustainable development of the involved country/countries about the initiation and progress of the partnership, and all partners should bear in mind the guidance provided by Governments;

(l) The involvement of international institutions and United Nations funds, programmes and agencies in partnerships should conform to intergovernmentally agreed mandates and should not lead to the diversion to partnerships of resources otherwise allocated for their mandated programmes;

23. *Decides* that providing information and reporting by partnerships registered with the Commission should be transparent, participatory and credible, taking into account the following elements:

(a) The registration of partnerships should be voluntary and should be based on written reporting to the Commission, taking into account the provisions specified above. Reporting by partnerships should focus on their contribution to the implementation of the goals, objectives and targets of Agenda 21, the Programme

identifying and addressing problems, gaps and constraints, and providing further guidance, including on reporting, during policy years, as necessary;

24. *Calls* for activities aimed at strengthening partnerships in the context of the Summit process and its follow-up and facilitating new ones, including through

<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Thematic cluster</i>	<i>Cross-cutting issues</i>
2010/2011 ^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Chemicals • Waste management • Mining • Ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2012/2013 ^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests • Biodiversity • Biotechnology • Tourism • Mountains 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2014/2015 ^a		Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2016/2017	Overall appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	

^a This thematic cluster will remain as part of the multi-year programme of work as scheduled, unless otherwise agreed by the Commission (applies to clusters for 2010/2011, 2012/2013 and 2014/2015).