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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

**Deputy Assistant Secretary Daniel A. Reifsnyder's Participation in  
The UN Commission on Sustainable Development 19  
Multi-stakeholder Dialogue with the UN System and Major Groups:  
Policy Options, Practical Measures, and the Way Forward  
May 11<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, UN Room 4**

**Talking Points:**

- The CSD is a useful forum for sharing best practices, identifying barriers to implementation, initiating and furthering partnerships and initiatives, and for identifying policy approaches.
- The Major Groups actively participate in the CSD process. We appreciate their insights and contributions and their role in the success of the CSD and in implementing solutions to achieve sustainable development. Governments cannot achieve sustainable development alone, we continue to place great importance on this multi-stakeholder dialogue to help us identify and implement sustainable development solutions.
- During the first few days of CSD-19, some Major Groups were not permitted to speak at some of the negotiating sessions. We appreciate the UN's efforts to remedy this situation to permit Major Groups to speak at the CSD sessions.
- During CSD-19, we have discussed ways that we can work together to improve sustainability in transport, chemicals, mining, waste, and sustainable consumption and production.
- We would be interested in hearing from the UN agencies regarding how they see the developments here will help in their efforts, especially after a 10-

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Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production is agreed upon.

- Specifically, we are interested in hearing from FAO on what they are doing to follow-up on the outcomes of the CSD 16/17 on sustainable agriculture and how they see the 10 Year Framework of Programs can support those efforts, as well as any new developments.
- We would also like to hear from the major groups to learn how they see our progress here will help their efforts, especially in consideration of the 10-Year Framework on Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- We can also learn from and replicate the approaches of CSD-17 in moving forward.
  - Our U.S. Department of Agriculture has worked to expand access to an international e-Extension program, which uses Information Technology (IT) to enhance access to information, thereby improving the scientific basis of our decision making.
  - Our Agriculture Department is also working with the Government of the Netherlands, the FAO and UNEP in the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management, focused on raising awareness and sharing best practices improve the efficiency and fertilizer use to raise farmer incomes and reduce environmental pollution.
  - These types of approaches could provide useful models for CSD-18/19, particularly the use of IT programs for information sharing.
- In order to achieve sustainable development we need:
  - good governance
  - science-based policies and support of innovation
  - involvement of stakeholders in decision-making processes
- The Obama Administration continues to look to partnerships as a valuable tool for achieving sustainable development results. For example, the Administration launched a partnership across government agencies

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incorporating environment, housing, and transportation to allow us to better integrate environmental and human health considerations into urban planning. Similar partnerships and incentive funding work across levels of government to help surmount jurisdictional barriers. Public-Private partnerships also continue to be important tools. For example, the Smartway Partnership seeks to reduce emissions from shipping and ports.

- The international community also has a role to play, and this role is larger than financing, enabling technology diffusion, or capacity building. We need to do more to mainstream environment in development planning. There are some examples within the UN system such as UNEP-UNDP Poverty in Environment Program. You will also hear from Dr. Paul Anastas from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency about how they are integrating sustainability within their efforts.

