

**Canada's Statement
Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for
United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development – 19th Session**

Waste Management Theme

New York, 2 March 2011, 9:00 am

The Government of Canada welcomes the Secretary General's report on "Policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: Waste Management." In our view, the report is comprehensive and is a good, concise examination of the issues related to different waste streams in developed and developing countries. Canada would like to take the opportunity to share our general and strategic comments on the policy paper.

- The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)'s role should be one of coordinating and facilitating work on overall sustainability with various governments and organizations. Specific to waste management, the CSD provides a forum for discussion while at the same time facilitating a strategic direction for individual countries on waste management issues globally.
- As an overarching comment, the report does not always clearly state which agency will be responsible for implementing or directing the proposed work on policy options and actions, whether it would be CSD or UNEP, or whether it would be the responsibility of countries. For example, paragraph 14 of section two refers to capacity building and knowledge development, which could be interpreted as both a responsibility of the United Nations and of national governments.
- Canada supports efforts to recognize and raise awareness that waste is a valuable resource with economic opportunities; and that environmentally sound management of waste contributes directly to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
- In order to develop more sustainable waste management practices, it is important to strengthen the foundations of waste management systems, which include: 1) a strong regulatory system to ensure the environmentally sound management of waste and recyclables; 2) sustainable national and / or municipal financing for waste management; in order to develop infrastructure and maintain regular operations; and 3) collecting data on the quantities and type of wastes found in the waste stream and future projections for planning purposes.

- With respect to agricultural waste issues dealt with in section 51 of the report, Canada suggests that crop residues and biomass should not be considered as waste. If agricultural crop residues are considered as waste, they are more likely to be burned or sent to landfill. Promoting reuse of crop residues recognizes that these by-products are valuable resources that can provide soil conservation inputs into other agricultural production systems (e.g. livestock) as well as renewable bio-materials and energy.

In summary, Canada generally supports the policy options and actions for waste management included in the Secretary General's report and looks forward to the upcoming nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in May 2011.