

Statement Delivered by: Philippe Charest
National Focal Point to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development
Senior Policy Advisor, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada

Canada's Opening Statement to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development – 18th Session

Mr/Madame Chairperson,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the bureau for your innovative efforts in establishing the Thematic Seminar Series in advance of this meeting, and for the organization of work for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

Canada supports the CSD and its agreed program of work, which provides multiple opportunities for stakeholder participation. Canada recognizes that a key strength of the Commission lies in its power as an inclusive convening forum.

Over the next two weeks, representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups, and civil society will have interactive discussions focused on best practices and lessons learned in relation to Transport, Waste Management, Chemicals, Mining, and Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

Noting the contribution of national reporting, partnerships, learning centres, side-events, and other non-negotiated outcomes, Canada appreciates the unique opportunity that the CSD provides to examine these themes within the context of the three pillars of sustainable development, and through an action-oriented approach that allows for practical exchanges of information.

Canada recognizes that stakeholders have a crucial role to play in the implementation of *Agenda 21* and the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI)*, both in terms of policy discussions and on the ground activities and partnerships that produce measurable results. Canada once again welcomes the participation of a youth representative as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations on Canada's delegation. These groups are also accompanied by provincial government and aboriginal representatives.

The CSD plays an important role in monitoring progress on *Agenda 21* and the *JPOI*. In support of this, Canada comprehensively reports to the Commission. Thematic profiles and case studies provide an important opportunity to highlight policy and program contributions, as well as relevant trends and emerging challenges. These reporting mechanisms allow the sharing of specific information on concrete actions taken by governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, and Major Groups in achieving progress on sustainable development.

Over the past two years, Canada has undertaken significant efforts to promote more effective and efficient reporting to the CSD. In addition to Side-Events and an international workshop on national reporting, Canada is pleased to have supported the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to develop an e-communication platform for National Focal Points of the CSD. The platform, which is hosted by

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DESA's Sustainable Development Division, will facilitate learning and streamline the sharing of experiences among National Focal Points as they prepare reports and other inputs for CSD work.

Mr/Madame Chairperson, this fourth implementation cycle of the CSD's multi-year program of work provides an important opportunity to build on previous experience in order to ensure a practical and results-oriented outcome. Canada hopes that the CSD, as a key global forum on sustainable development, will continue to play a vital role in convening practitioners, experts, decision makers, and Major Groups to work together in advancing sustainable development around the world.

Canada looks forward to continuing to play an active and constructive role within the Commission.

Thank you.