

GUIDANCE NOTE
Bureau of the UNCSD Preparatory Process
Second Intersessional Meeting, United Nations, New York
(15-16 December 2011)

I. Introduction

1. The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development met on 8 November 2011 and made a number of decisions to advance the preparatory process, including about the organization of work of the 2nd Intersessional meeting to be held on 15-16 December 2011. In this latter context, the Bureau decided to issue a Guidance Note containing 2-3 options for the format and structure of the zero draft to facilitate focused and result-oriented discussions among all stakeholders to chart the way forward for preparing the zero draft of the outcome document.

II. Organization of Work

2. The organization of work of the second Intersessional meeting (Annex-1), in addition to standard opening and closing sessions, is divided into four sessions—2 sessions each on 15th and 16th December 2011. Discussions during the first two sessions on 15th December 2011 will be organized under the title: *"Discussion on the compilation document: comments and guidance for the zero draft outcome document"*, while focus of the discussions in the last two sessions on 16th December 2011 will be on the *structure and format of the zero draft of the outcome document*.

III. Framework for Discussion

3. The second Intersessional meeting will review and discuss the “compilation document” with the objective to gain better understanding and highlight key messages emanating from the submissions received from wide ranging stakeholders to serve as guidance for the drafting of the Zero Draft Outcome Document.¹ To this effect, the Bureau would like to call upon all delegations to engage in an interactive dialogue resulting in concrete proposals on which Rio+20 needs to deliver. Towards this aim, the delegations may consider highlighting the key elements of their contributions which will help the outcome of Rio+20 to be focused and political, while identifying important areas where progress can be made. In addition to the ideas embedded in the compilation text, several ideas – e.g. on priorities – have emerged during the preparatory process which could also serve as a framework for discussion during the second Intersessional meeting.

4. While expressing views and sharing ideas about the structure and scope of the outcome document, the delegations are encouraged to specifically address the following issues/questions:

Question 1: To secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing the progress to-date and remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges is the objective of the Conference. What specific outcomes at the Conference will help in ensuring that this objective is met?

¹ A total of 647 contributions have been received towards the compilation document with the following distribution: Member States (74), Political Groups (5), Regional PrepComs (4), Major Groups (495), UN and IGOs (69).

Question 2: The challenges and obstacles impeding the progress on implementing outcomes of previous Summits are well known. What specific instruments and additional policy actions could be delivered by the Rio+20 Conference for bridging the implementation gaps, and scaling up of successful practices?

Question 3: The preparatory process has identified a number of critical areas on which it is believed that progress must be made to advance sustainable development. What policy decisions, implementation tools and initiatives could help in advancing progress in these areas?

Question 4: There is yet no clear consensus as how to best measure progress towards sustainable development. Proposals have been advanced on measuring progress beyond GDP. What could be the outcome of Rio+20 Conference on this issue?

Question 5: The preparatory process has brought some clarity to what the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication is and what is not. What specific outcomes will ensure that Rio+20 will contribute to clarify and promote the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication?

Question 6: Overcoming challenges of capacity building, technology transfer and financing are crucial to accelerate progress on implementation. What actions at Rio+20 Conference can ensure that commitments made are honoured?

Question 7: A number of options for the desired Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development have emerged. What do you think are the best options to address specific functional requirements?

5. Delegations are however reminded that above questions are not exhaustive and should not be interpreted as a means to restrict discussion on other topics.

6. Further discussions along these lines during the second Intersessional meeting will deepen our understanding of the key issues involved. At the end of the second Intersessional meeting, it is our collective desire to come up with a clear structure and format for the outcome document. This will not only help in preparing the zero draft but will facilitate the negotiation process to follow.

IV. Documentation

7. In their preparations for the meeting, delegations could benefit from substantive documentation made available on the UNCSD website. Among others, this includes the: (i) “compilation text” prepared on the basis of a large number of inputs received, (ii) results and recommendations of regional PrepComs, (iii) reports of the country-led meetings, (iv) the synthesis report presented at the 2nd PrepCom, (v) reports of the first and 2nd PrepComs, (vi) reports prepared by UN entities and Major groups in support of the preparatory process, (vii) the IFSD study, and (viii) Issues briefs prepared by the UNCSD secretariat. There is thus no shortage of information that delegations will have in addition to the rich information available in the compilation text.

V. Format and Structure of the Outcome Document

8. The Bureau will welcome the suggestions and ideas on how the proposals are to be captured in a forward-looking and action-oriented zero negotiating draft of a “focused political document” as called for in GA resolution 64/236. The Bureau also looks forward to views on the approximate length of the document to be negotiated, taking into account the limited negotiating time. To facilitate discussions on the format, we are presenting below the two models resulting from major UN conferences which may help us in having informed discussions on the format of the Rio+20 outcome document.

- (i) Political declaration accompanied by separate Action Plan, either as stand-alone text or as annex (examples: 1972 Stockholm Conference outcome; 1992 Rio outcome; 2002 Johannesburg outcome; 1995 Beijing World Conference on Women outcome: declaration and platform for action as annex)
- (ii) Political declaration/consensus document (no separate action plan; actions integrated) (examples: Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development (2002), Doha Declaration on Financing for Development (2008))

It is hoped that the discussions at the 2nd intersessional meeting will result in providing us a better understanding of the structure that meets the expectations of all stakeholders.

Annex 1
Organization of Work for the 2nd Intersessional Meeting of UNCSD
15-16 December 2011, United Nations Headquarters, New York

15 December 2011 (Thursday)	16 December 2011 (Friday)
<p style="text-align: center;">Opening Session 10:00 –11:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by the Co-chair • Introduction of the compilation document by Mr. Sha Zukang, CSG • Statements by the political groups (G-77, EU,....etc.) <p style="text-align: center;">Session 1* 11:00 to 13:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB Discussion on the compilation document: comments and guidance for the zero draft outcome document</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 3* 10:00 to 13:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB</p> <p>Structure and format of the zero draft of the outcome document</p>
Side Events (See schedule for side events on the UNCSD website) 13:15 -15:45 hrs	
<p style="text-align: center;">Session 2* 15:00 to 18:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB Discussion on the compilation document: comments and guidance for the zero draft outcome document (continued from session 1)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 4* 15:00 to 17:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB</p> <p>Structure and format of the zero draft of the outcome document (continued from session 3)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closing Session 17:00 – 18:00 hrs Room No: 1, NLB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks by the CSG • Closing remarks by the Co-chair
Side Events (See schedule for side events on the UNCSD website) 18:15 -19:45 hrs	

* See Guidance Note by the Bureau to facilitate focused and result-oriented discussions during different sessions of the meeting.

