

Ministerial Dialogue – with heads of UN agencies, heads of governing *bodies of UN system organisations and major groups*

***Plenary* Discussion on “Implementation Challenges & Opportunities for the themes of the current cycle”**

Statement by Mr. John Gormley T.D.,

**Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government,
Ireland**

13 May 2010 (10am – 1.00pm)

At the outset I would like to state that Ireland is fully aligned with the statement made on behalf of the EU 27 member states.

There have been many challenges identified here at CSD over the last week under each of the five themes of this CSD cycle. These multiple and interlinked challenges encompassing food security, the global economic and financial crises and climate change demand an urgent and effective response if we are to address the plight of the most vulnerable people in society.

The value of CSD is that it provides a unique discussion forum to highlight these issues and to provide guidance to all implementation actors. CSD offers a unique structure in tackling these issues, in setting out policies and a future vision which can then provide a strong basis for effective implementation at the global, national, regional and local levels.

We are appreciative of the new measures introduced to reinvigorate the CSD. Action at both global and local level is required in order overcome the challenges before us.

At Global level, we need to ensure that all organisations are acting in an efficient and co-ordinated manner. For this reason we fully support the UN – *Delivering as One* initiative which strives to provide development assistance in a more coordinated way. It is essential that the UN system acts in a coherent, effective and efficient manner in responding to individual country needs. In this way governments have access to the experience and expertise of a wider range of United Nations organizations to respond to their national priorities.

We also look forward to a successful outcome to discussion at the RIO+20 Conference on an institutional framework for sustainable development.

While action at a global level is critical, it nevertheless remains true that global problems need local solutions. Local authorities have rightly highlighted their role in addressing the various challenges highlighted under the themes of the current cycle. Their role covers a very wide range of responsibilities and services which impact on us all. In Ireland local government is a key institution in planning and shaping our environment. The decisions made by local authorities affect the nature of our urban areas and our rural landscapes. They are key to determining where infrastructure

should be located, to protecting our environment, and to providing services which are crucial to our quality of life.

2010 will see the direct election by the people of the Dublin region of a highly visible and accountable mayor who will have the authority and powers to deliver real leadership for the city and region. By virtue of the breadth of the mayor's democratic mandate, he or she will be an extremely strong political voice in local, regional and national politics.

Many contributors at CSD have stressed the need for partnership in addressing the many challenges before us. In Ireland we established a new Environmental Pillar in the national Social Partnership process we have had in place for more than 20 years as an inclusive vehicle for addressing key issues of national importance. This Pillar is represented by a range of environmental groups who operate at national level, helping to give a stronger and clearer voice to environmental considerations, ensuring that they are more fully reflected in Social Partnership discussions.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman it is vitally important that this review year of CSD results in an outcome that puts in place a sound framework for next year's Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting

and Policy Year session. We need to work together to make progress in the face of the considerable challenges that lie ahead. The sharing of information and technology, greater efficiencies, responsible consumption and production are some of the key requirements that will allow us to move forward.

Thank you