

Statement by the Delegation of Canada to the Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development

New York, 5 May 2008

Mr/Madame Chairperson,

First, let me thank the bureau for their efforts in the organization of work for the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

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 Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, Drought, Desertification, and Africa. The Commission on Sustainable Development provides a unique opportunity to examine these themes within the context of the three pillars of sustainable development and in an action-oriented approach that allows for practical exchanges of information.

Canada recognizes that a key strength of the Commission lies in its power as an inclusive convening forum. Stakeholders have a crucial role to play in the implementation of *Agenda 21* and the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, both in terms of policy discussions and on the ground activities and partnerships that produce measurable results. Canada appreciates the importance of multi-stakeholder dialogues in promoting progress on sustainable development, and welcomes the participation of a youth representative as well as an environmental non-governmental organization on our delegation.

This Commission on Sustainable Development plays an important role in monitoring progress on *Agenda 21* and the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*. In support of this, Canada comprehensively reports to the Commission and is undertaking efforts to promote more effective and efficient reporting to the CSD. Thematic profiles provide an important opportunity to highlight policy and program contributions, as well as relevant trends and emerging challenges. Case studies allow us to share specific information on concrete actions taken and progress made in implementation. The CSD case study database and matrix provide a breadth of practical lessons learned and best practices that will usefully inform future activities. They also demonstrate the importance of roles played by governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, and major groups in achieving progress.

Mr/Madame Chairperson, this third 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 CSD, as the only 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.