

## Concept note

### **Expert Group Meeting: SD21 drafters' meeting**

**New York, UN Headquarters**

**5-6 April 2012**

#### **1. Context**

In the context of the preparation of the Rio+20 (UNCSD) conference in June 2012, the UN Division for Sustainable Development, with financial support from the European Commission, has been conducting a project, entitled “Sustainable Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (SD21)”. The objective of the SD21 study is to prepare a substantive contribution to the debate at the Rio+20 conference, which takes stock of the changes and evolution having occurred since the 1992 Earth summit in the area of sustainable development, and provides a clear vision and way forward for the international community, national governments, partnerships and other stakeholders in implementing the sustainable development agenda in an integrated manner. The study is expected to also become an important analytical and political contribution in its own right. Workshops and expert group meetings have been organized to gather inputs to the SD21 report. The present expert group meeting, described in the project documents as “meeting of lead drafters”, aims to support the preparation of the project synthesis report for policy-makers, to be tabled at UNCSD.

#### **2. Objective and expected results from the meeting**

The overall objective of the expert group meeting is to gather input from the lead drafters of the seven studies under the project that were commissioned by DSD. Specific objectives of the meeting are:

- To allow for an interaction among the lead contributors to the project, enabling the sharing of perspectives among them with a view to best inform the synthesis report of the project;
- To gather the lead authors' feedback on an initial draft of the synthesis report of the project;
- To brainstorm on what the core messages of a synthesis for policy-makers should be;
- To agree on steps that can be taken by all involved to disseminate the findings of the project, both before and during UNCSD and in the longer term.

In addition, the workshop will also be used for internal information purposes. The first half-day of the workshop will be open to interested DSD staff, giving them an opportunity to learn about the main messages of the reports commissioned under the project from their authors. [Pending compatibility with the dates.]

#### **3. Format of the meeting**

The format of the workshop is largely based on interactive discussions and drafting. The sessions are structured along the objectives underlined in the previous section of this note. Before the meeting, the SD 21 project team will circulate the studies produced under the project to all participants, in order to maximize productive discussions during the meeting itself. An initial outline of the project synthesis report, with some of the sections in full draft form, will also be distributed.

Pending compatibility with the dates, the first half-day of the workshop will be open to interested DSD staff, giving them an opportunity to learn about the main messages of the reports commissioned under the project from their authors.

(See the attached draft agenda for the workshop for details).

#### **4. Time and venue**

Time: 5-6 April 2012.

Venue: UN Headquarters, meeting room DC 2- 23XX (to be confirmed).

#### **5. Participants in the EGM**

Two staff from UN-DSD will motivate the discussions during the two days of the meeting. Other senior DSD staff may want to attend to parts or all of the meeting.

Seven external participants will attend the meeting. These are all the lead authors of the studies commissioned for the SD 21 project so far (see attached roster of participants). One author is currently based in New York and does not need funding. The six other participants will be funded under regular budget – additional budget for the reparation of UNCSD.

#### **6. DSD contacts for further information**

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