

Canadian comments on the possibility of holding a high level event on sustainable development

The Government of Canada welcomes the opportunity to submit views on the possibility of convening a high-level event on sustainable development in preparation of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), in response to an invitation by the Secretariat as referred to in General Assembly resolution 63/212, paragraph 5.

Reference is made to the Concept Paper of 11 November 2008, which set out the initial views of Brazil on a United Nations conference on sustainable development in 2012.

Sustainable development is important to Canada and Canada recognizes that the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has a unique and important role within the United Nations system as the only global forum for an exchange of ideas and best practices on sustainable development which includes governments and non-governmental organizations.

Canada welcomed the concept paper provided by Brazil in the fall of 2008 which was useful for beginning the dialogue. Canada is looking forward to having a more detailed discussion on the objectives, expected outcomes and scope of such an event, as well as the appropriate timing. Canada would also welcome information about the proposed preparatory mechanisms and budget implications of the proposal.

In considering this proposal, some of the key considerations Canada believes need to be addressed include the following:

- Ensuring the effective conclusion of the current multi-year programme of work agreed to at the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) - Canada is committed to effectively contributing to the CSD process which ensures that all topics of the Rio Earth Summit are reviewed and considered, based on thematic clusters and provides for an overall review to be undertaken in 2017.
- Ensuring the successful conclusion of other current key multilateral initiatives - Canada is committed to achieving success in a number of multilateral initiatives including, in particular, the climate change negotiations. We would not want to detract from these efforts and believe any new event will need to take into account the results of these negotiations.
- Avoiding overlap and duplication of existing mechanisms - Canada believes that an effective and efficient United Nations system is important and we would want to ensure that this proposal considers existing mechanisms as well as the range of related events on the horizon.
- Assessing resource implications - An international event of this type requires significant financial and human resources to be successful. Canada believes we need

to discuss the capacity requirements this proposal could entail and its impact on other priorities.

Canada is open to a further discussion on whether to proceed with the proposal, within the United Nations and with relevant stakeholders.