



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

**COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Sixteenth Session, New York, 05 – 16 May 2008**

New York, 15 May 2008

The Dialogue with Heads of UN organizations and other relevant international organizations

8:30 to 9:45 (ECOSOC Chamber)

Ministers, Heads of UN organizations and other relevant international organizations

To share their thoughts, perspectives and ideas on the thematic cluster of issues

10:00 to 11:30 am (Conference Room 4)

Open, official dialogue session with Ministers with Heads of UN organizations and other relevant international organizations

On behalf of the EU, let me express gratitude for this opportunity to engage with international organisations who are absolutely crucial agents of our common sustainable development efforts.

To overcome the emerging food crisis and ensure food security while advancing environmental sustainability all international organizational should work in synergy towards meeting in particular the Millennium Development Goals and the goals in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

We attach great importance to the UN "Delivering as One". We need coherence, complementarity and appropriate financial resources from both multilateral and bilateral cooperation. The contributions from different donors need to be channelled effectively, on the basis of the principles agreed under the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. We will work toward joint multi-annual programming based on partner countries' poverty reduction strategy papers and the countries' own budget processes.

The EU has long stressed the need for an integrated approach. We would emphasize the necessity of such an integrated approach to the issues addressed by UN conventions, particularly the CBD, CCD and UNFCCC. We also consider that this CSD cycle offers an excellent opportunity to highlight the synergies between UN conventions and the implementation of policies in related areas. For example, the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification in affected countries will contribute to the attainment of MDGs, namely by reducing land degradation, water scarcity and loss of biodiversity. Special attention should be paid in all sectoral policies to the negative impacts of climate change. Better monitoring and exchange of information are also essential. We believe that multi-year strategic plans and action plans in specific areas will boost progress as regards the commitments made by the international community, in particular Agenda 21 and the JPoI.

The EU believes that the CSD plays a unique role within the UN system and needs the capacity to deliver ambitious results. One of its added values is to involve ministers in reviewing and deciding on different aspects of sustainable development in an integrated manner. In this respect, we would like to acknowledge the important conclusions and recommendations of

the regional implementation meetings. Work at regional level should be further supported. Regional priorities and findings should systematically be lifted up to the global level in the CSD.

We welcome that this CSD cycle is also devoted to Africa and its sustainable development. We stress the importance of the UN organisations supporting Africa's own efforts to promote its sustainable development, in particular through the African Union, NEPAD and CAADP.

We would like to emphasise the importance of full and effective participation of all Major Groups. We wish to highlight the role of women, farmers, youth and indigenous and local communities. Their involvement in decision-making and implementation is indispensable.

Deliberations have shown that in rural areas it is very important to support the work of the extension and advisory services, which give adequate advice to local population and spread the knowledge of sustainable technologies in these areas and help people in business development.

The multi-annual work programme of the CSD is now approaching its mid-term. We believe that the CSD can be further strengthened and improved within its existing mandate and rules of procedure. The EU is ready to work to this end with other interested countries and major groups.