OUTCOME OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING (RIM) IN PREPARATION FOR CSD-18

Presented
by
The Republic of South Africa
Chair of the Bureau of the Sixth Session of the ECA Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD-6) and Africa RIM for CSD-18
Africa Regional Implementation Meeting - 27 to 30 October 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (UNECA, UNDESA, UNEP, UNIDO and AUC)

The RIM was attended by representatives
  - 34 member States, African sub-regional and regional organizations including the African Union Commission and Africa Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption; UN organizations and agencies, Major Groups and Non-African UN member States

The RIM focussed on the CSD-18 Cluster of issues:
  - Transport, Mining, Waste management, Chemicals and Sustainable Consumption and Production including the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes (10-YFP) on SCP
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AFRICA RIM OUTCOMES

ACTIONS TAKEN AND PROGRESS

- Relevant international chemicals and wastes management-related MEAs - Ratified
- Regional frameworks and institutions to foster implementation progress - Put in place.
  ◦ The African 10 YFP on SCP and Africa Roundtable on SCP, The African Core Group on SAICM and Africa Mining Vision
- Sub-regional agreements and protocols on mining and transport - Adopted
- National policies and legislation to facilitate the implementation of sustainable development commitments in the different sectors - Adopted
- Voluntary initiatives in the mining sector - Signed up to.
  ◦ The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the Extractive Industries Review (EIR) to cater to the need for transparent governance, multi-stakeholder participation and integration of environment and natural resources considerations in the sector.
IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

- Widening gap between policy and programme development and implementation
- Inadequate institutional and human resources capacities
- Remaining gaps between the demand for and availability of financial resources, technical and technological investments;
- Efforts to promote public-private partnerships that could contribute to overcoming implementation challenges, and in particular, financing constraints, are inadequate
- Prevailing compartmentalized approaches in the implementation of global and regional initiatives resulting in poor coordination, duplication of efforts and strain on the limited resources - Waste and chemicals-related agreements and other MEAs.
LESSONS LEARNED AND THE WAY FORWARD

- Generate and sustain political will and commitment
- Better integration and coordination - Global, regional and sub-regional agreements and initiatives with national development policies, strategies and processes
- Adoption of Integrated national initiatives, approaches and programmes.
- Effective resources mobilization strategies
- Strengthened information base through improved research, monitoring and knowledge sharing
- Enhanced cooperation in the development and transfer of technology, particularly clean and energy efficient technologies, and safe chemical substitutes.
CONCLUSION

- Significant progress has been made in putting in place policies and other frameworks at regional, sub-regional and national levels to meet sustainable development goals and targets.

- There is a need for concerted efforts to translate the various policies and frameworks into concrete sustainable development outcomes at all levels.

- Africa is ready to engage with the international community to advance sustainable development at all levels, taking into account Africa’s legitimate sustainable development concerns and priorities.
Thank You