

**MAJOR GROUP FOR CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH**

**Orientation Manual for Youth  
Delegates to the UN  
Commission on Sustainable  
Development**





### Acknowledgements

This training manual has been compiled on behalf of the Bahá'í International Community with the intention of helping international youth delegates make a positive contribution to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Youth are the backbones of nations. We can change the future of society with our well-being and courageous behaviour; we are here to show people that which they have been unwilling to look at within themselves. We are here to inspire. We are here to act. This manual aims at giving you the knowledge you will need to make a difference at the CSD.

This manual was developed in preparation for CSD-18 and a number of people should be acknowledged for its creation. Contributions have been made by the institutional structures of the Major Group on Children and Youth (Youth Caucus), namely Melody Mirzaagha from the Bahá'í International Community and Organising Partner, Ben Vanpeperstraete from the European Youth Forum and Regional Coordinator, Ivana Savic, Julia Wong and Kiara Worth from the Steering Committee. Lisa Develtire provided most of the beautiful photos throughout several years of the CSD and other members from the Steering Committee, Regional Coordinators and Organising Party of CSD-18 contributed through their efforts to keep the flame burning.

The Bahá'í International Community should be greatly acknowledged for its continued support for youth involvement in the international forum; they have facilitated discussions, enabled participation, supported creative endeavours and inspired youth throughout the world to turn their progressive thoughts on development into reality.

Acknowledgement is also given to the hundreds of youth around the world who have contributed to the progression of sustainable in their own areas; you are a constant source of inspiration and invigoration for youth the world over.

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April 2010



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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

If you are reading this manual, it is more than likely that you will be attending the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) as a youth delegate. This is a great honour and an opportunity that few youth from around the world have. The role that you can play in this process is enormous and this manual will help you to understand how the CSD works and the different ways that you can get involved.

Often, people think that the role of youth in international forums such as this is insignificant, that because of their lack of experience in the fields of discussion, youth will have little to contribute. This could not be further from the truth; the role of youth is vital to international discussions. Agenda 21 states:

*Youth comprise nearly 30 per cent of the world's population. The involvement of today's youth in environment and development decision-making and in the implementation of programmes is critical to the long-term success of Agenda 21.*

Over the years and through numerous UN processes, it has been recognised that neither the governments nor the UN system have the human resources, political will, imagination or ideas needed to deliver much of what needs to be done. As such, the participation of NGOs and Major Groups has increased enormously, and as a member of the Youth Caucus, you have a big part to play.

Here are a number of reasons that you should get involved in the CSD:

- Participating in the CSD allows you to review and monitor government policies, to understand the CSD process and its contributions to policy and to make contributions to this as well.
- You will learn about current sustainable development issues and the initiatives being undertaken globally to address them.
- The CSD is a fantastic forum through which you can learn about NGOs, Major Groups and other international organisations and their work.
- The UN offers Major Groups the unique opportunity to maintain active in dialogue with the government and intergovernmental organisations – you can play a role in this exciting process while at the same time strengthening the role of the Youth Caucus.
- You will have access to both Ministers and top civil servants – it is the equivalent to being allowed onto the top floor of your parliament!
- You will be able to learn and engage with other youth from around the world. This is a celebration of diversity and interaction.

The role of youth in international forums is becoming increasingly recognized. As part of the Chairman's summary in CSD-16, it was stated that:



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*An energetic youth force is emerging that intends to hold Governments responsible for their commitments... Their presence as current and future producers and leaders has inspired progress in the creation of new outreach education programs in sustainable agriculture and rural development.*

This is something that we need to keep doing. The youth involved in the CSDs of the past have made great efforts to have their – and your – voices heard. We need to ensure that we keep this momentum going, that we continue to represent youth from all over the world, that we strengthen our role in dialogue and action and that we keep the fire burning about the things that we think are important.

This is our task. It is up to us to contribute as much as we can throughout the CSD process and this manual will serve as one tool that you can use to help you do this. As such, this manual is designed to assist you in the following ways:

- To help you understand a brief history of the CSD and the events that have influenced its formation;
- To help you understand the role of Major Groups, in particular the Major Group on Children and Youth;
- To help you understand the different activities and events that happen at the CSD so that you can see what you can participate in and contribute to;
- To help you understand who will be represented at the CSD and who you will need to engage with; and
- To help you understand the different ways that you can get involved, before, during, and after the CSD as well as in your own capacity wherever you are in the world.

The goal of this manual is to inspire you, to make you aware of the amazing opportunities that exist for youth, to help you understand the enormously important role that you can play in the progression of our planet, and to spur you into action.

We need action. We need commitment. We need people who are ready to work for the things that they believe in, who are prepared to give of themselves and to contribute to the greater good of the planet. We need more people to push for the systems that give people the chance to be free, to be creative and to discover their own true potential without having to fight every day just to survive.

*It is in your hands to  
create a better world for  
all who live in it.*

*Nelson Mandela*

## Principles and Objectives of the Youth Caucus

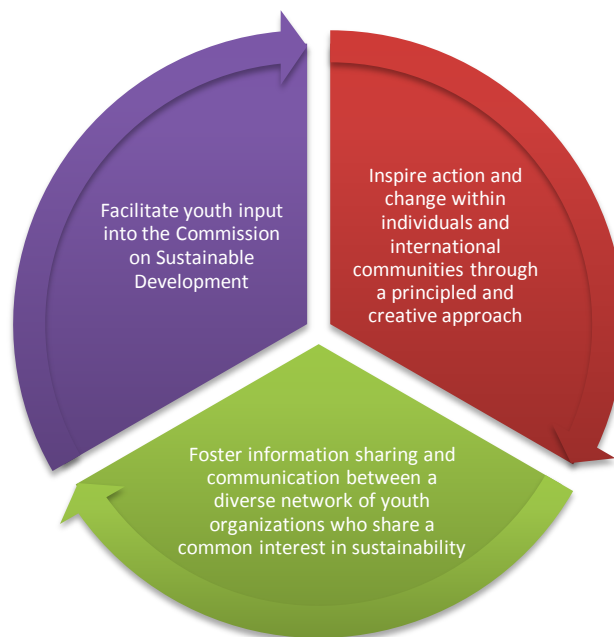
This training manual will go into detail about how the process of the CSD came into being, but it is important that you understand this from the perspective of why you are part of this process and that is, essentially, to represent the perspectives of children and youth with regards to sustainable development and to inspire consideration and action within the international community. As such, it is important for you to understand what the Youth Caucus strives to achieve, what its core principles are and what our overall perspective on these deliberations are. This section will give



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you a general overview, but more detailed information about how you can get involved in the CSD will be discussed later in the manual.

The Youth Caucus works to ensure that the perspectives of children and youth are represented in CSD deliberations, striving to increase their visibility and participation at each stage. The group represents an international network of over two thousands youth leaders from hundreds of organizations, many of which are themselves national networks, that bring together young people with a desire to build a more sustainable world. The focus of the Youth Caucus is three-fold, as seen below:



Bearing this focus in mind, the role you have, as a youth delegate, is to be an agent for gathering and exchanging information that will ultimately influence processes of change within the field of sustainable development. In addition, we seek to inspire that change and create an consultative forum that is built on unity, equality and collaborative learning. Although we do not always have the same degree of experience as members of other major groups or government delegations, it should be stressed that we do have a tremendous amount of knowledge and insight that can contribute to organisations, governments and international processes. As such, there are four main objectives that the Youth Caucus have, which are seen below:





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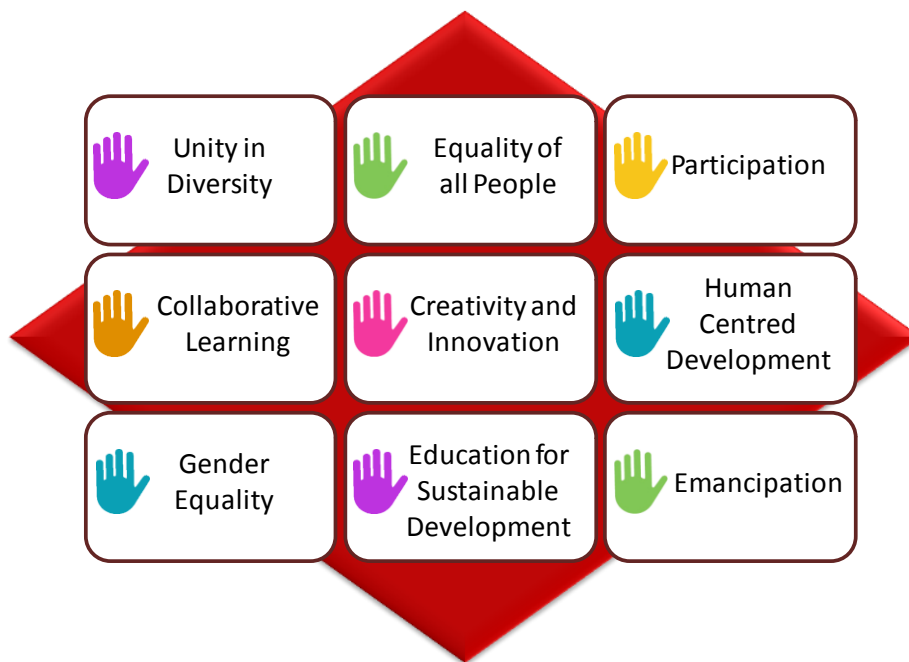
It is important to remember four things that give us an advantage to achieving our goals and making a significant contribution to the process at the CSD:

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*  
Margaret Mead

- Youth are not restricted to a particular sectoral interest, so our range of influence can be far reaching;
- We have great opportunity to understand problems and to come up with solutions from a holistic lens;
- We are able to move across many institutional platforms at local, regional and international levels simultaneously; and
- We are energised and passionate about the things that we believe in, with the ability to inspire both thought and action.

If we consider all of these different factors, we realise that **youth delegates at the CSD can make a difference**. Our flexibility, open-mindedness, energy and passion can be both constructive and collaborative not only within the CSD process, but within any activity that we chose to engage in.

To ensure that we seize this opportunity it is important that we all operate with the same core principles. Youth from all over the world have worked together to identify these principles and it is important to remember these when engaging in any activities at the CSD.



As you go through the rest of this manual and begin to understand the history of the UN and the international processes leading up to the CSD, remember that these are the fundamental principles for the Major Group for Children and Youth, the principles that guide and inspire all of our actions.





## 2.0 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 The United Nations

*"More than ever before  
in human history, we  
share a common destiny.  
We can master it only if  
we face it together. And  
that, my friends, is why  
we have the United  
Nations."*

*Kofi Annan, Nobel Prize  
Acceptance Speech*

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. Due to its unique international character, and the powers vested in its founding Charter, the Organization can take action on a wide range of issues, and provide a forum for its 192 Member States to express their views, through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and 4 other bodies.

The work of the United Nations reaches every corner of the globe. Although best known for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many other ways the United Nations and its System (specialized agencies, funds and programmes) affect our lives and make the world a better place. The Organization works on a broad range of fundamental issues, from sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, to promoting democracy, human rights, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations.

### 2.2 The history of the UN and sustainable development issues

The UN has had a long history with issues of sustainable development, dating back to the 1972 Declaration of the United Nations Conference at Stockholm where the human environment was actively discussed.

The theme of sustainable development has been spread and debated in multiple scenes. Ten years after the United Nations Conference of 1972, another conference was held, whose central axis was the environment. This conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya on May 1982 where sustainable development, a new term encompassing all the relevant themes and topics, was discussed. This then became the focus of discussion in the following United Nations conference called the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, 1992. While in previous conferences the general focus was to reflect and explore concerns, the Earth Summit allowed for the design of guidelines and goals with the aim of protecting our planet.

#### 2.2.1 Rio Earth Summit

The 'Earth Summit' is the popular name given to the UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Approximately 170 governments participated with over 2 400 representatives from NGOs. The issues addressed at this historic conference included:



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- Scrutiny over patterns of production, particularly regarding toxic components;
- Alternative sources of energy to replace the use of fossil fuels, linked to global climate change;
- New reliance on public transportation systems to reduce vehicle emissions, congestion in cities and health problems caused by air pollution;
- The growing scarcity of water.

One of the most important achievements to come from the Summit was the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change which in turn led to the Kyoto Protocol. In 1997, countries concerned with climatic changes met in Kyoto, Japan, and established emission reduction commitments from a 1990-baseline. The reduction target was 7% by 2012, the end of the first commitment period. In 1998, the industrialized countries increased their emissions on average up to 10%; for example, the USA - who did not ratify the Kyoto protocol - surpassed the limits by over 20%.

The Earth Summit resulted in the following documents which have become among the most important documents for sustainable development of our time:

- **Rio Declaration on Environment and Development** – a statement of principles that emphasized the coordination of economic and environmental concerns.
- **Agenda 21** – which set forth global measures to protect the planet's environment while guaranteeing sustainable economic growth.
- **Forest Principles** - recommending preservation of world forests and monitoring of development impact on timberlands.
- **Convention to Combat Desertification** – which proposed a participative approach involving local communities to combat desertification in specific ecosystems.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity** - which committed signatory nations to the protection of endangered species and cooperation on genetic and biological technology.
- **Framework Convention on Climate Change** – which set guidelines for regulating emissions of gases believed to cause global warming. The Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change were set as legally binding agreements.

The Conventions on Biological Diversity, Combating Desertification, and Climate Change are often dubbed the 'Three Rio Conventions'. The conference also spawned a new functional commission of ECOSOC, the **Commission on Sustainable Development**, which has a mandate to monitor international treaties on the environment, provide policy direction, and coordinate action within the United Nations system to achieve the goals of Agenda 21.



### 2.2.2 Agenda 21

Agenda 21 is essentially a comprehensive blueprint of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organisations of the UN, governments and Major Groups in every area in which humans directly affect the environment.

Commentators point to two major features of this agreement:

- No longer can social, economic and environmental development be seen as separate issues, their interdependence has become clearly established; and
- It was formulated in negotiations involving an unprecedented number of people and range of organisations, an intensification of the process of global democratization seen as essential for the 21st century.

Agenda 21 is a guide for individuals, businesses and governments in making choices for less environmentally destructive developments, and ultimately a challenge to translate understanding into action in developing sustainable lifestyles. The alternative to this action is unacceptable levels of human suffering and environmental damage.

Agenda 21 sees sustainable development as a way to reverse both poverty and environmental degradation. A major theme is to eradicate poverty by giving poor people more access to the resources they need to live sustainably, including information and skills. It calls upon governments working in participation with international organisations, business, regional and local governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and citizens groups to develop national strategies for sustainable development in an ongoing process of consultation and global democratization from local to international levels from 1993/4 - 1997.

Agenda 21 is a huge document, with 40 chapters in 4 sections. It deals with:

- **Social and economic dimensions** - developing countries, poverty, consumption patterns, population, health, human settlements, integrating environment and development.
- **Conservation and management of resources** – atmosphere, land, forests, deserts, mountains, agriculture, biodiversity, biotechnology, oceans, fresh water, toxic chemicals, hazardous radioactive and solid waste and sewage.
- **Strengthening the role of major groups** – women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers, business and industry, farmers, scientists and technologists.
- **Means of implementation** – finance, technology transfer, science, education, capacity-building, international institutions, legal measures, and information.

### 2.2.3 The World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

In September 2002 representatives of 191 governments gathered in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the **World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)**. WSSD gathered leaders from business and non-governmental organisations. It is appropriately nicknamed 'Rio+10' since it took place 10 years after the Rio Earth Summit.



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The aim was to examine progress on the outcomes of the 1992 Earth Summit and to 'reinvigorate' global commitment to sustainable development. The result was a 54-page agreement called the **Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI)** which sets out new commitments and priorities for action on sustainable development in areas as diverse as poverty eradication, health, trade, education, science and technology, regional concerns, natural resources, and institutional arrangements.

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation is divided into eleven chapters, each with its own specific focus. This means that while themes such as health, poverty and globalisation have a chapter of their own, the themes are also echoed in other parts of the agreement. This 'cross-cutting' or web-like structure of the JPOI reflects the fact that sustainable development requires a holistic view of development and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in its implementation.

The 11 Chapters of the JPOI are as follows:

- 1) Introduction, outlining the principles of sustainable development;
- 2) Poverty eradication;
- 3) Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production;
- 4) Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development (water; oceans; vulnerability; disaster management; climate change; agriculture; desertification; biodiversity; mountains; tourism; forests; mining);
- 5) Sustainable development in a globalizing world. Characteristics; opportunities and challenges of globalization;
- 6) Health and sustainable development. HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other epidemics; health services; environmental health;
- 7) Sustainable development in Small Island Developing States;
- 8) Sustainable development for Africa;
- 9) Other Regional Initiatives (Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, West Asia, Economic Commission for Europe);
- 10) Means of implementation (trade, finance, debt, technology transfer, role of the scientific community, education, capacity building, and information for decision making); and
- 11) Institutional framework for sustainable development (United Nations, regional and national level arrangements; and participation of major groups or stakeholders).

These chapters are closely aligned to achieving the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**. The MDGs are the eight international development goals that all 192 UN Member States have agreed to achieve by the year 2015. These goals are:

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health



- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

### 2.2.4 Marrakech Process

One of the key components of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was the recognition that consumption and production patterns need to change as one of the essential requirements for sustainable development. The JPOI calls for the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP). The framework aims at strengthening international cooperation and increasing the exchange of information and best practices, to facilitate the implementation of national and regional programmes to promote sustainable consumption and production.

The "**Marrakech Process**" was launched at the first international expert meeting on the 10-year framework held in Marrakech, Morocco, in June 2003, organized by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development and UNEP. The Marrakech Process includes regular global and regional meetings, informal expert task forces and other activities to promote progress on the 10-year framework on sustainable consumption and production. UNEP and UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development have been identified as the leading agencies in promoting and developing the 10-year Framework of Programmes at the global and regional level.

The main goals of the Marrakech Process can be stated as:

- Assisting countries in their efforts to green their economies;
- Help corporations develop greener business models; and
- Encourage consumers to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.

For more information on the Marrakech Process, visit: <http://esa.un.org/marrakechprocess/>.

### 2.2.5 Rio +20

In 2009 the UN General Assembly passed a resolution agreeing to hold a 'Rio+20' Earth Summit in 2012, which will take place in Brazil. The Resolution identified four priorities for this UN conference on Sustainable Development:

- Review of the existing commitments;
- Emerging and new issues;
- Green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development; and
- The Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development.



### 3.0 THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up from the Earth Summit. The CSD is responsible for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; as well as providing policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at local, national, regional and international levels.

The CSD recommended various clusters of chapters in Agenda 21 to serve as the basis of their work. This included:

- Critical elements of sustainability;
- Financial resource mechanisms;
- Education, science, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, co-operation and capacity building;
- Decision-making structures; and
- Roles of major groups.

In addition to this, the Commission further decided that it would consider:

- Health, human settlements and fresh water;
- Toxic chemicals and hazardous biodiversity; and
- Atmosphere, oceans and all kinds of seas.

The CSD meets annually in New York, in two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on clusters of specific thematic and cross-sectoral issues.

#### 3.1 What is the CSD and how is it structured?

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development is a functional, permanent commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), to which it reports and through it to the General Assembly. It was established by General Assembly Resolution 47/191, in accordance with Article 68 of the Chapter of the United Nations in order to:

- Ensure effective follow-up to the Conference on Environment and Development;
- Enhance international cooperation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues; and
- Examine the progress of the implementation of Agenda 21 at national, regional and international levels, fully guided by the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and all other aspects of the Conference, in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries.



The ECOSOC functional commissions have both political and law making tasks and they have common rules of procedure<sup>1</sup>, which include regulations for their relations to NGOs. The CSD provides an example of increased NGOs participation by including as its functions:

- To receive and analyse relevant input from competent non-governmental organizations, including the scientific and the private sector, in the context of the overall implementation of Agenda 21; and
- To enhance the dialogue, within the framework of the United Nations, with non-governmental organizations and the independent sector, as well as other entities outside the United Nations system.

The CSD structure includes the following:

### 3.1.1 Member States

The CSD is composed of 53 member states, elected by ECOSOC from among Member States of the United Nations and its specialized agencies with a rolling membership respecting the regional balance:

- 13 from Africa
- 11 from Asia
- 10 from Latin America and Caribbean
- 6 from Eastern Europe
- 13 from Western Europe and other countries

One third of members are elected each year. Member States have a voting right and possibility to serve on CSD Bureau.

In order to strengthen their voices, countries regroup themselves into regional coalitions. These groups are:

- Asian;
- African Group;
- Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC);
- Western Group and Others Group (WEOG); and
- Eastern European Group (CEIT).

Other relevant groups are:

- G77 and China;

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/ECOSOC.rules\\_En.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/ECOSOC.rules_En.pdf)



- Non-Aligned Movement (NAM);
- Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC);
- League of Arab States;
- European Union (EU); and
- JUSCANZ (sub-set of the WEOG).

### 3.1.2 The CSD formal Leadership

The formal leadership of the CSD is represented by the Bureau and CSD Secretariat.

- **The Bureau:**

Each year the CSD member states elect the Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one from each of the regions. These five members constitute the Bureau of the CSD. The role of the Bureau is to provide guidance in CSD preparations.

- **The Secretariat:**

The Secretariat is mandated for two main roles:

- The *assistant secretariat* acts as a behind-the-scenes adviser; provides administrative assistance to the parties in document preparation as requested; and collects and compiles follow-up reports from the parties; and
- The *player secretariat* is an active and independent actor, as it initiates and actively participates in agenda setting and protocol development; facilitates, and in some cases initiates, the development of negotiating texts; frames central questions; acts as moderator or mediator in the event of negotiation stalemates; and takes an active role in the analyses and dissemination of the parties' follow-up reports<sup>2</sup>.

### 3.1.3 Observers

The CSD observers actively participate in the Commission's work, however they have no voting right or possibility to serve on CSD Bureau. These observers are:

- UN Member States;
- Other UN Member states than those with the mandate in the Commission can participate in the work of CSD;
- UN Funds and Programme, including ILO, FAO, UNESCO, ICAO, WHO, World Bank, IMF, UPU, ITU, WMO, IMO, WIPO, IFAD, UNIDO, WTO (World Tourism Organization), IAEA, and WTO (World Trade Organization);
- Regional Commissions, including ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA;

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<sup>2</sup> The UN Commission on Sustainable Development: Which Mechanisms Explain Its Accomplishments? By Stine Madland Kaasa



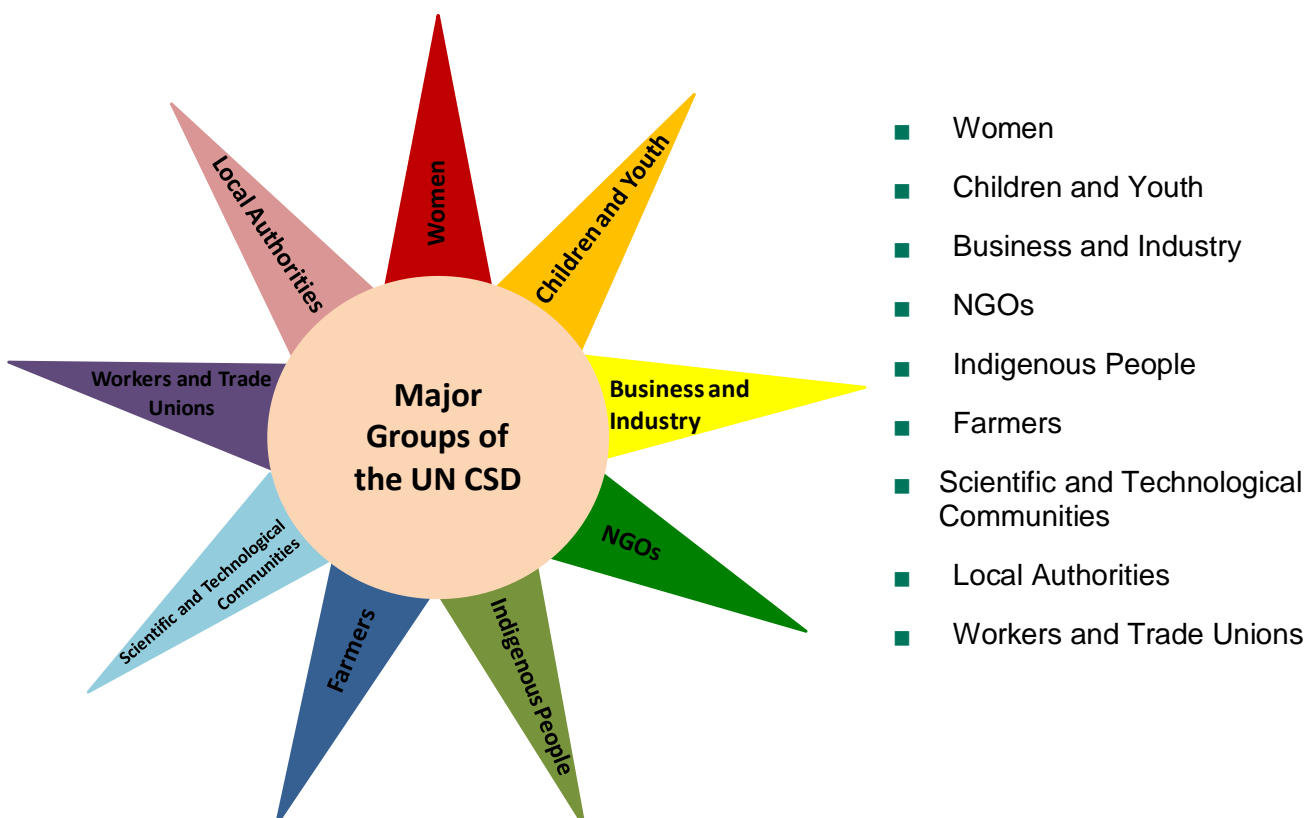


- Other accredited intergovernmental organizations; and
- NGOs and other major group organizations. The Major Groups Programme of the Division for Sustainable Development is responsible for engaging and liaising with Major Groups sectors and for enhancing your participation in the work of CSD and in its inter-sessional processes.

### 3.1.4 Civil society and Major Groups

Civil society plays an important role in sustainable development processes. It has been recognized as a relevant partner to governments in achieving a good quality of life, for current generations and for the future. Broad public participation in implementation is a fundamental prerequisite of sustainable development and since the creation of the CSD, civil society has been given an important role to play. The CSD meetings have provided innovative spaces for the participation of non-governmental actors with the overall purpose of informing the Commission's decision-making processes. Agenda 21 stipulates the need for new forms of participation at all levels to enable a broad-based engagement of all economic and social sectors in making sustainable development happen. This may include, but is not limited to, participation in identifying problems, designing and applying solutions, and monitoring results, as well as having access to information on all types of sustainable development issues and activities.

One of the key developments since the Earth Summit has been the advancement of the term 'Major Groups'. This is an attempt to distinguish among organisations that the UN had all previously identified as NGOs. For some purposes, trade unions, businesses and voluntary sector groups are all still classed as NGOs. Agenda 21 recognised nine Major Groups:





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NGOs can make very important contributions without being accredited by submitting relevant material to their government on their concerns and wishes, or by working with NGOs which are able to participate. Copies of any submissions made to the government should also be sent to the CSD Major Groups or regional representative as well.

The Major Groups Programme of the Division for Sustainable Development is responsible for engaging and liaising with major groups sectors and for enhancing participation in the work of CSD and in its inter-sessional processes.

It disseminates CSD-related information to major groups' networks. It facilitates the participation of major groups' representatives in CSD meetings and it has access to limited financial resources to support major groups-related work, including research and publications.

### 3.2 Major Group for Children and Youth

The main programme area for the Youth Caucus is to advance the role of youth and to actively involve them in the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and social development. Children and youth are widely recognized as an important part of civil society, and they have been held as the ones with a strong interest in protecting and preserving the planet's resources. The past decade has seen a growing acceptance of the importance of youth participation in decision-making. Numerous actions and recommendations within the international community have been proposed to ensure that youth are provided a secure and healthy future, including an environment of quality, improved standards of living and access to education and employment. These issues need to be addressed in development planning.

Youth have successfully engaged in the political process which has led to improved policy formulation, adoption, implementation and evaluation. There is a strong need for building capacity in younger people, using their knowledge and insight and encouraging civic engagement with youth.

*Young people are a crucial segment of society; they are the basis for future development. Young people are social actors of change.*  
Kofi Anan

There has been significant youth representation at the CSD and over the years they have made substantial contributions to the process. Through the concerted actions of groups and individuals, participation at major regional and international conferences have been coordinated, contributions have been made to the CSD text, national youth delegates have increased and the voices of the youth are being heard at one of the most important forums for sustainable development. As the youth for today, we need to make sure that we keep this process going, that we keep inspiring youth to stand for what they believe in, to take action against the injustices in the world and to contribute to the protection and progression of our human family.

To achieve this, the Youth Caucus has a structural institution comprised of individuals who have been elected through voluntary processes. This institution has gone through changes over the years to try and solidify the process of organising and coordinating activities that ensure our full participation in the CSD. This is no easy task, communication has to occur internationally, bringing together people from different regions, cultural backgrounds, with different areas of experience and, of course, living in different time zones. To do this, the institution relies on committed, passionate individuals who are inspired to keeping the group alive. There are three main structures to the Youth Caucus:



### ■ **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee is the main organising party for the CSD and the different activities that occur. They develop a time-line of action that they, the Regional Coordinators and the Organising Party must follow in preparation for the CSD. They are responsible for developing the thematic discussion paper by gathering input from the Regional Coordinators, who discuss initiatives and findings from their particular region. They are also responsible for the internal communication of the Youth Caucus, making announcements and updating the rest of the Major Group about planned activities, in particular the Regional Implementation Meetings. They also coordinate activities and events at the CSD.

### ■ **Regional Coordinators**

The Regional Coordinators are the facilitators of coordination and communication for youth in their regions. They are in contact with different youth organisations and encourage high participation to ensure that their region is represented in the discussions that occur at the CSD. They gather input for the discussion paper and work with youth from all over the world to ensure that youth from all over the world are represented and to maximise our impact on the CSD. Regional Coordinators also participate in regional preparatory meetings as well as Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs) for the CSD.

### ■ **Organising Party**

The Organising Party is the communication between the Youth Caucus and the UN Bureau, keeping people informed about the different discussions and events and ensuring youth are represented in Major Group coordinating calls. They are also responsible for accreditation and facilitating applications for funding and are the structural support for the Steering Committee and Regional Coordinators.

All three of these structures contribute to the successful facilitation of the Youth Caucus and the different responsibilities assumed are vital to ensuring our continued representation at the UN. It is also important that you work with these structures. The Youth Caucus depends on the input, action and voice of every youth who is passionate about improving our world and we encourage you to be constant communication with the coordinating structures to ensure that your voice is heard.

The best way of coordinating with these structures is through participation on our official website:

<https://csdyouthcaucus.ning.com>

On this site you will have access to a whole variety of interesting networks and communications – you can link up with different people in your region, form discussion groups, write blogs, find out about news in different areas of the UN, be updated on events and activities and have access to the documents produced by the Youth Caucus. It is an excellent way of keeping in touch with people, learning and sharing experiences that help inform our actions at the CSD.



### 3.3 Government delegations

Government delegations are exactly what they seem – a group of specialised individuals representing the views and actions of their own country. Generally a delegation will include members of the international affairs department for the country, and representatives from different ministries that relate to the topics being discussed, for example, Ministry of Agriculture, Mining or Environment.

Some youth have the honour of being an official youth delegate for their country – not all countries recognise the need for youth on their delegations and it is important that you are in touch with your country's delegation to the CSD to try and encourage them to create more opportunities for youth. In 2009 there were official youth delegates from Canada, Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. It's a good idea to work with your National Youth Council to try and be part of the official delegation and to lobby with your government at the CSD.

It is also important to engage with your government delegation, and others who have aligned views and principles, so that you find ways of working together. Different government delegations often work in blocs or groups and these groups can have a lot of influence on negotiations taking place. You should do a bit of research before you get to the CSD to find out how your own government is aligned and what influencing processes you should be aware of – this will help you to make a better contribution while at the CSD.

### 3.4 International-governmental Organisations

International-governmental organizations (IGO) are an "association of States established by and based upon a treaty, which pursues common aims and which has its own special functions within the organization."<sup>3</sup>

IGOs can enter into agreements with other IGOs, such as the UN and participate in its activities, in particular in the CSD work as observers. Examples of IGOs that are present at the CSD are: European Union (EU), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), World Trade Organization and others.

### 3.5 How does the CSD work?

#### 3.5.1 Seven Two-year Cycles

At its eleventh session, the CSD decided that its multi-year programme of work beyond 2003 would be organized on the basis of seven two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on selected thematic clusters of issues.

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<sup>3</sup> *Encyclopedia of Public International Law*, p. 1289



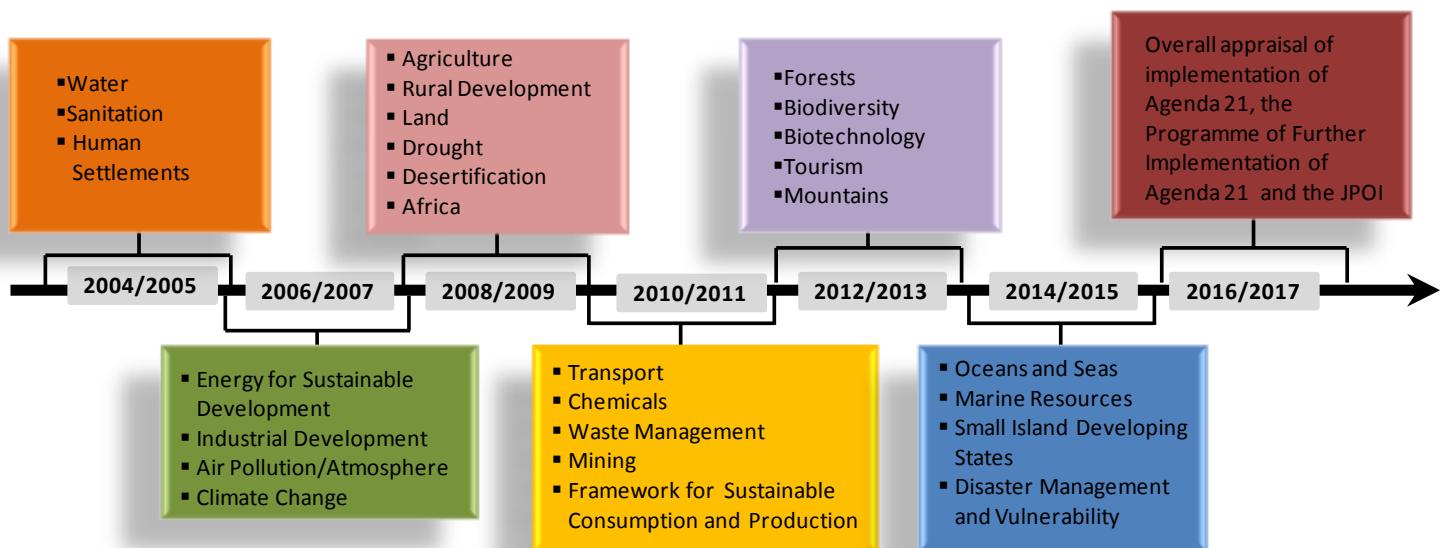
### 3.5.2 Review & Policy Years

The seven two-year cycles include Review and Policy Years. The Review Year will evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals and identifying obstacles and constraints, while the Policy Year will decide on measures to speed up implementation and mobilize action to overcome these obstacles and constraints.

### 3.5.3 Thematic Clusters of Each Cycle

In each cycle, the thematic clusters of issues are addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The Commission agreed that the implementation process should cover all these issues equally and noted that the selection of some issues for a given cycle did not diminish the importance of the commitments undertaken with respect to the issues to be considered in future cycles.

The Commission further agreed that means of implementation should be addressed in every cycle and for every relevant issue, action and commitment. Linkages to other cross-cutting issues are also to be addressed in every cycle. Below is an overview of the thematic discussions for the CSD, followed by a more detailed description, which demonstrates how the sustainable development strategy has been planned to ensure the implementation of Agenda 21.





**The two-yearly cycles and their thematic clusters**

<b>Cycle</b>	<b>Thematic cluster</b>	<b>Cross-cutting issues</b>
<b>2004/2005</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Sanitation</li> <li>• Human Settlements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty eradication</li> <li>• Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production</li> <li>• Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development</li> <li>• Sustainable development in a globalizing world</li> <li>• Health and sustainable development</li> <li>• Sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)</li> <li>• Sustainable development for Africa</li> <li>• Other regional initiatives</li> <li>• Means of implementation</li> <li>• Institutional framework for sustainable development</li> <li>• Gender equality</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>
<b>2006/2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy for Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Industrial Development</li> <li>• Air Pollution/Atmosphere</li> <li>• Climate Change</li> </ul>	
<b>2008/2009</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Rural Development</li> <li>• Land</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Desertification</li> <li>• Africa</li> </ul>	
<b>2010/2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Chemicals</li> <li>• Waste Management</li> <li>• Mining</li> <li>• A Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns</li> </ul>	
<b>2012/2013*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forests</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Biotechnology</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Mountains</li> </ul>	
<b>2014/2015*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oceans and Seas</li> <li>• Marine Resources</li> <li>• Small Island Developing States</li> <li>• Disaster Management and Vulnerability</li> </ul>	
<b>2016/2017</b>	Overall appraisal of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme of Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	



### 3.6 What actually happens at the CSD?

It is very easy to feel overwhelmed when you arrive at the CSD as there are a whole host of activities and events and plenary sessions happening at the same time, with people constantly on the move, rushing around to ensure that work is being done and contributions are being made. To ensure that you have an opportunity to engage in these activities to your utmost ability, it is important for you to know what kind of events will be happening, and what these aim to achieve. This section will outline the major activities that occur.

While there are numerous informal activities, there are generally six formal activities that you should know about, as represented below. Each of these will be discussed in greater detail so that you will better understand how they work and how you can best contribute.



To keep track of all the different events, it is important that you read the **daily events schedule** that is made available on the CSD website and at the start of each day. This will tell you what events are happening on that day and where they will take place. This will include the plenary and high level discussions, as well as the different side events and other activities.



Youth delivering statements  
in plenary sessions



Participating, learning,  
consulting, thinking and  
inspiring

### 3.7 Opening Session

The opening session sets the tone for the CSD session. Here an introduction will be made by the Chairman of the CSD and time will also be given to different government delegations and major groups to make a brief statement about what they hope to achieve and what their overall thoughts are on the process. This is an exciting event to attend – not only does it allow you to become familiar with the way the CSD will proceed, but it also allows you to identify and recognise the key players for that specific year and to understand what their main objectives are.

The Youth Caucus has often had an opportunity to make a statement at this event and so it is important that we are prepared in advance, should the opportunity present itself.

### 3.8 Plenary Discussions

The plenary discussions are one of the most important aspects of the CSD process. This is where all the delegates get together to discuss the different thematic topics and to make statements about their perspectives on them. Generally these discussions will open with an introduction from the Chair of the CSD, followed by a series of presentations from internationally renowned experts. Once these presentations are complete, different government delegations will have the chance to speak, commenting on the presentations made and how this relates to the thematic discussion paper that they have submitted.

The plenary is often divided into different groups – there is the main session that will discuss the topics as a whole and then there will be smaller plenary sessions that discuss the topics for specific regions, such as Small Island Developing States. It is important that you know which plenary you should attend based on your own experience. Often people from different regions will have a better understanding of what is going on in their specific areas, so it is important that they attend those specific sessions. The youth group is most effective when this information is shared with the rest of the group up front, so that people can be aligned with each other and the different sessions, ensuring that we have good representation at all of the discussions being held.

It is also important to remember that governments and major groups have the opportunity to make substantive contributions to the CSD process. This basically means that prior to the CSD they have written a discussion paper that speaks to the thematic topics for that cycle by:

- Outlining the delegations perspective on the topics;





- Reflecting on different activities that have occurred nationally or internationally;
- Drawing attention to urgent and emerging issues;
- Prioritising issues; and
- Proposing a way forward in overcoming the challenges that are faced.

At the beginning of each new cycle (ie, a **Review Year**), the MGYC submit a **thematic discussion paper** discussing these points and it is important that you are familiar with this document. This document essentially lays out the youth perspective on the different topics and provides key points that should be used consistently throughout the drafting of statements and engagement with other delegations. This document is available on the CSD website and can be made available to you by the Youth Steering Committee.

In addition to the thematic discussion papers, there is also a **matrix of reference materials**. This matrix highlights different documents and papers that have formed parts of the key discussions that will occur throughout the CSD, representing case studies and lessons learned from around the world. It is important that you are familiar with this matrix so that you understand what other delegations are referring to and what other substantive contributions have been made. Don't forget – these documents represent studies, programmes and initiatives from all over the world that have contributed to our understanding of development; they are indicators of lessons learned and pointers to future action. This matrix is available on the UNCSD website.

During the **Policy Year**, the plenary sessions take on a different form. Instead of being a forum for discussing the issues, they become a forum for “**writing the text**”. The idea is that throughout the year between the Review and Policy cycles, the issues discussed in the Review cycle will have been reflected on and implemented (to some extent) by different nations and international organisations. Using this experience and the knowledge discussed in the Review year, delegations will begin to write “the text”, which essentially forms the statement for sustainable development regarding the thematic discussions which will be used to influence policy for sustainable development throughout the world.

The Policy year, while often quite complicated, is also very exciting. Different groups lobby and debate to ensure that their points are included in the text, and there are often heated debates between delegations with different opinions. The youth can play an important role during this time – not only do we have the chance to lobby our own specific points, but we can also become mediators between the different groups. In order to do this effectively, however, it is important that you have a clear understanding of the issues being debated and a clear idea of the actions that need to be taken to resolve a variety of issues.

The plenary sessions generally occur twice during the day, from 10:00 – 13:00 and again from 15:00 – 18:00, although it is important to clarify this using the daily activity schedule.

### 3.9 Side Events

Side events are interesting activities to attend that will allow you to learn more about activities happening across the world, hosted by a wide variety of international groups and government delegations. Side events provide an excellent opportunity to learn, to network, to understand and to contribute. The side events are organised prior to the start of the CSD and their scheduling is made available to all delegates, either through the CSD website or on hard-copy materials



available throughout the sessions. It is often a good idea for you to go through the side events that will be offered so that you can effectively plan for and prioritise the events that you would like to attend.

Side events take place at a variety of venues both within and outside of the UN building, so you will need to find out ahead of time where the specific venue is. These events happen twice a day – during the lunch break from 13:15 – 14:45 and again from 18:15 – 20:00.

### 3.10 High Level Segment

The second week of the CSD is reserved for the High Level Segment (HLS). It brings relevant ministers together and it is meant to serve as a debate among ministers. During this segment, the following activities are organized:

- **Interactive Ministerial Roundtables** are seen to be a vital component of the High-level segment. A much more focused discussion in terms of sharing of lessons learned on issues of critical importance will provide the way forward for the scaling up of best practices. Each roundtable begins with 3-4 keynote presentations by eminent speakers in a plenary session, followed by discussions by the Ministers and other stakeholders in two sub-roundtables.
- **Ministerial dialogue with the Presidents of the governing bodies of the UN system organizations**
- **Ministerial special dialogue session with Major Groups**
- **Roundtables**

During the High Level Segment, final decisions are issued by CSD. Those decisions are submitted through ECOSOC to General Assembly for approval.

### 3.11 Learning Centres

Learning centres are similar to side events in that they provide you with a wonderful opportunity to learn, network and contribute to different processes, but they are often longer sessions that are more focused. Learning centres aim to discuss different topics more in-depthly, and are hosted by different governments and organisations who will generally run a series of activities to inspire participation from the people that attend. These sessions can be several hours long and will include speakers and then some form of interactive session, providing a good opportunity for you to engage with different people. These events generally occur at the same time as the plenary sessions, so you will need to check the schedule of events to ensure that you coordinate your time effectively and give yourself the opportunity to contribute to the youth processes as best you can.



### 3.12 Partnership Fair

The Partnerships Fair at the CSD is an official part of the CSD. It provides a venue for partnerships for sustainable development to network, identify partners, create synergies between partnerships and learn from each other's experiences.

The Partnerships Fair gives CSD participants an opportunity to gather information on and discuss the valuable contribution of these important initiatives towards supporting the implementation of inter-governmentally agreed sustainable development goals and objectives.

### 3.13 Sustainable Development Knowledge Partnership

The Sustainable Development Knowledge Partnership was formed during the CSD 17<sup>th</sup> session. A key feature of this partnership is to link science and research with the policy formulation process. It is aimed at addressing capacity constraints in developing countries and promoting successful experiences in sustainable development. This partnership is open to all governments and other relevant stakeholders who are being invited to join with the objective to move forward the sustainable development agenda.

### 3.14 Multi-stakeholder Dialogue

The Multi-stakeholder dialogue (MSD) is an innovation established by the secretariat in order to ensure a more effective and coordinated implementation of the global policy on sustainable development. It is a unique participatory model. The purpose of the MSD segment is to engage major groups and governments effectively in a dialogue on specific sustainable development issues, providing an opportunity for major group representatives to share their views on progress that has been achieved. The MSD is open to all representatives of the UN Member States, business sector, civil society including policy research community, international and regional institutions and networks, local communities and the relevant UN agencies funds and programmes. The Secretariats of the Governing Bodies of UN system organizations are also invited to participate in this dialogue. The dialogue will be organized in two sessions, each session is 3 hours duration.

### 3.15 Closing Statements

The closing statement session is similar to the opening statement session in that it is a time where all the delegations come together to comment on the processes of the CSD. Here, different delegations will have the opportunity to reflect on the value and effectiveness of the CSD, stating whether or not they thought useful and progressive discussions were held. Often very interesting statements are made – some delegations are pleased while others are disappointed and it is a good learning exercise in understanding the different objectives that delegations have had and if they feel these have been achieved. The Youth Caucus has also often had an opportunity to make a statement at this event and so it is important that we are prepared in advance, should the opportunity present itself.



'Youth can moved the world'



Youth from all over the world joining together, building relationships and contributing to sustainable development

## 4.0 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

### 4.1 At the CSD

Now that you have a better understanding of the different events and activities that happen at the CSD, it is important for you to know how the Youth Caucus contributes to each of these. This section will explain to you the different activities that the MGYC are involved in so that you will know what to do and where to go to ensure that you can participate as best you can.

#### 4.1.1 Youth Blast

The Youth Blast is the first official opportunity that you will have to engage with the other youth delegates, and it is important that you make every effort to attend. The event is normally held on the **Saturday before the CSD starts** and you should check with the Steering Committee for the date, time and venue.

The Youth Blast is important for a number of reasons:

- You will get to meet all the youth delegates, build friendships and learn about different people and places;
- You will be able to meet the Steering Committee and other international coordinators so that you will have a reference point for later in the CSD;
- You will have an opportunity to discuss the different processes and events at the CSD so that you can better understand them (the understanding should build on the information that have learned from this manual);
- You will be able to decide what contribution you want to make to the Youth Caucus, what events you would like to participate in, and what thematic discussion groups you would like to be part of;
- You will be able to discuss the different thematic discussions with people from different regions and obtain a more in-depth understanding of the topics and principles of sustainable development;
- You will be assisted in sorting out your accreditation and making sure you are comfortable being in and getting around the city and the UN building; and
- You will have the chance to meet amazing individuals, like you, from all over the world who will instantly become your friends and you will be able to have fun and make a contribution to the progression of our planet.



The Youth Blast is not only important about coordinating activities, solidifying values and engaging in interesting discussions, it is there to inspire you, to motivate you to commit yourself to this process, to engage with all the energy that you have and to make a difference in this world.

### 4.1.2 Daily meetings

Every day, government delegations, major groups and other representatives meet within their groups to share what has happened and what they expect to happen throughout the course of the day. The youth meet every day at **8:00am** and it is **very important that you attend these morning strategy sessions**. The venue is not always the same so it is important that you are in touch with the Steering Committee to find out where the venue is for this particular year.

Technically, the UN buildings only open at 8:00am, which generally causes a problem with people arriving on time for the morning meetings. Try to get to the UN building before 8:00am and use the entrance on 51<sup>st</sup> Street, not the main entrance. This entrance is used by UN employees, but you should be able to get in if you walk with purpose and confidence.

The **daily meetings** help to identify the different activities for the day and decisions are made as to how the youth will participate in each of these activities. Working with other youth from your country or region, as a team, is very useful. It is impossible for an individual to cover everything, so if there is an opportunity to cooperate with other organisations at the meeting and the work can be shared, it is far more effective. This is particularly vital if there are youth on government delegations. The Youth Caucus functions a bit differently to other major groups in that we do not operate as separate units based on our respective organizations, but rather we work as a team to promote our ideas for each of the topics and thematic discussions. As such, we work as one group, sharing responsibility and participating on a level of equality, respect and collaboration.

Someone on a delegation for the first time can miss a lot of useful information as they will not be used to the process. The CSD Youth Steering Committee will be able to help you find your way around and will link you up with someone who has been through the process to ensure that you don't feel lost. This is one reason why it is important to attend the daily meetings – in these meetings the different activities will be discussed, including who will be involved in them, and this will provide a good opportunity for less experienced youth to orientate themselves and to link up with people with greater experience. It is also important to **read the minutes of these meetings** to ensure that you know what is going on – these minutes will be posted daily on the youth caucus website at [www.csdyouthcaucus.ning.com](http://www.csdyouthcaucus.ning.com).

### 4.1.3 Activities

There are a number of activities that happen during the CSD which the youth need to be prepared for. There are five main activities which include:





## MAJOR GROUP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ORIENTATION MANUAL



Participating in radio interviews



Using theatre for communication at a side event



Sharing information about youth activities



Writing statements and contributing to the text



Listening to the UN Secretary General in the General Assembly

- **Networking and negotiating with government delegations:** Some country may work in a regional bloc, for example, the UK operates within a joint EU line. As a result of this, it can be difficult to negotiate with delegations to support various points, if they are in opposition to their bloc's standing. Many countries, however, are in support of the principles proposed by the Youth Caucus so it is important to build relationships with these people through networking and consultation. It is important that research your country's principles and objectives before you get to the CSD, as this will allow you to understand their perspectives and give you the opportunity to engage and negotiate with them while you are at the CSD.
- **Informal contact with delegates:** Much of the work of conveying the views of the youth happens informally. The key places are:
  - The Vienna Café – basement coffee bar
  - The delegates lounge - situated near the General Assembly Room. This is meant to be only for delegates but official youth delegates will have access
  - The delegates dining room - top floor of the lift
  - The staff cafeteria and corridors
  - In spare rooms
  - At the back of the meeting room
  - At the Government Missions
- **Observer to the official sessions:** Youth are entitled to have two observers at open sessions of the CSD. These observers can bring back information and share this with the rest of the youth group so that all members have an understanding of the different topics discussed and the variety of issues raised. The two observers sit at the YC chair in the conference room and it is important that these chairs are filled at all times, increasing our presence and visibility at all meetings. Other youth are also welcome to attend these sessions and can view the proceedings from the gallery.
- **Making Statements:** The rules of procedure give youth the right to make brief statements at the different sessions of the CSD, done only at the discretion of the Chair and with consent of the members. Given that more groups may wish to speak than can be heard during the relatively brief sessions, it is important that a small group of speakers are selected to make statements and that they are always prepared in case the opportunity arises for a statement to be made. Statements are most effective if they are brief, substantive in nature and reflect the perspective of the youth, including their key principles.



- **Submitting written statements:** Youth are allowed to circulate written statements, however, these are not issued as official documents, and the youth bear the costs of translation, printing and circulation. There will be a table outside the official conference room where your papers can be put. Though this is a good idea, it is vital that you personally hand copies of your material to the key delegations you want to influence. Consolidated youth statements representing a wide range of relevant constituencies carry a significantly greater weight with governments. It is important that these statements are well articulated and prepared in advance, through discussion and consultation with all the youth delegates. The usual way of presenting information is to take the Government text and reproduce it with youth parts in bold. It helps the delegates understand what you want added and where. Text which does not fit into the document under discussion will not usually be well received.

There are also other opportunities to look out for at the CSD such as:

- Participation on UN Radio Programmes;
- Delegate breakfasts; and
- Interviews for newspapers.

Be sure to keep an eye out for all the exciting opportunities that arise!

As you can tell, there really is a lot going on at different times. With so much opportunity to interact and learn from different people and groups, it is important that we work on a unified front and maintain a common set of principles and objectives. Attending the morning meetings, following events on the [www.csdyouthcaucus.ning.com](http://www.csdyouthcaucus.ning.com) website, sharing experiences, engaging with other youth and performing at your personal best, with energy and commitment, will ensure that you have seized this opportunity and positively contributed to a fundamental international process for the security and development of the planet.

## 4.2 After the CSD

When you return home from the CSD, you may be exhausted, but remember that there are so many things that you can do to remain an active participant in youth deliberations. In fact, remaining active outside of the CSD is really what counts – this is the ultimate test of whether the decisions and commitments will be followed through on. This is your chance to prove that you are committed to sustainable development.

A couple of things that you can do are:

- **Write a report:** Write a post-CSD report that includes information about what you did, the progress of the meetings process, its outcomes, your successes and challenges. Make this available to your government's delegation, NGOs, and other youth groups. You could even write to your local newspaper to share your stories, your ideas and to inspire other youth to get actively involved in youth discussions.
- **Stay in touch with the Youth Caucus structures and your international contacts:** One of the most important things that you can do after the CSD is to stay in touch with everyone! Write to the people that you meet at the CSD, keep up to date on the activities they are



involved in and share your activities with them. Keep in touch with the Youth Caucus structures to ensure that you stay active in the group and participate as much as possible in the different activities they inform you about.

- **Follow up with your government:** Contact members of your government's delegation and let them know your thoughts about the outcomes of the meeting and your expectations and suggestions for further implementation.
- **Stay in touch on-line:** Seek out any email-based listservs arranged by youth participants and be an active participant on them. Encourage others to do the same.

### 5.0 INTERESTING PLACES IN NEW YORK

There is a lot going on at the CSD and one of the most exciting things is that it all takes place at the UN Headquarters in New York City – a legendary city in our world's history. You will have the opportunity to explore parts of it – time is limited and there is a lot to see so, you need to know some interesting places to go and how to get around. There are so many interesting places to eat, to see art or to sit on a patch of grass and see how the city moves – it is a wonderful way to spend time with other members of the youth group and to form friendships that will last a lifetime.

New York is an easy city to get around in – the streets work on a grid so all you have to know is the street number and the direction. The subway is a great way of getting around – you can access almost every part of the city to within a few blocks, and it's not expensive. Be sure to go down to the subway station and get a map that will show you which subway trains go where, and how to get to where you need to be. The buses are also a good form of transport – they are easy to access, cheap and convenient. When you arrive in New York, you should go to Central Station; here you will be able to get information on all of the different types of transport within the city.

Once you know how to get around, there is just so much to see. Interestingly, your UN access card makes you an official delegate to the country, so many of the museums and art galleries will let you in for free or at a reduced fare.

#### 5.1 Tourist Activities

There are so many things to do in New York. Be sure to check out:

- Washington Square Park
- Central Park
- Rumsey Playfield
- Central Park Zoo
- The Guggenheim Art Museum
- Museum of Modern Art
- Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Union Square





- Ground Zero (the site of the World Trade Centre)
- Brooklyn Bridge
- Empire State Building
- New York Public Library
- Rockefeller Centre

## 5.2 Food and Drinks

### Lunch around the UN

In case you get tired of eating at the UN, here are a few places to try nearby for a quick lunch:

- **Amish Market Market** 240 E45<sup>th</sup> St. (between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.)
- **Boi to Go Vietnamese Sandwiches** 800 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. (between 42<sup>nd</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup>)
- **Bukhara Indian Buffet** (\$13.95) 217 E49<sup>th</sup> St. (between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.)
- **Chipotle Burritos** 150 E44<sup>th</sup> St. (between Lexington and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.)
- **Hale and Hearty Soups Sandwiches, Salads, Soups** 685 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. (43<sup>rd</sup> St.)
- **Pret a Manger Sandwiches, Soups** 205 E42<sup>nd</sup> St. (between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.)

### The Rest of the City

There are restaurants of all sorts in New York City – don't be afraid to try something new...but here are a few suggestions to get you started:

- **Corner Bistro Famous Hamburgers** (\$5-7) 331 W4<sup>th</sup> St. (corner of Jane St., West Village)
- **Empanada Mama South American** (\$3/small empanada) 763 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. (between 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup>)
- **Fatty Crab Malaysian** (Mains \$15-25) 643 Hudson Street (Meatpacking District)
- **Oriental Garden Dim Sum** (about \$6/dim sum dish) 14 Elizabeth St (Chinatown)
- **Risotteria Italian** (mains \$12-18) 270 Bleecker St. (Greenwich Village) \*\*Great for gluten-free
- **Tartine French** (Mains \$17-23, bring your own wine for free!) 253 W11<sup>th</sup> St. (at W4<sup>th</sup> St., West Village)



## 5.3 Shows and Events

### Theatre

Check out Times Square's famous lights and stop in for a Broadway show! There are dozens to choose from. Some of the most popular at the moment:

- *Billy Elliot*: Hit musical direct London, based on the film and featuring a score by Elton John.
- *Chicago*: The Broadway show that launched the acclaimed movie.
- *In The Heights*: 2008 Tony Award winner for Best Musical and Best Original Score.
- *Jersey Boys*: The life story of pop music superstars The Four Seasons, set to the group's music.
- *Lion King*: Disney's The Lion King brought to life on stage.
- *Wicked*: Inspired by the story of *The Wizard of Oz*.

The musical version of *Shrek* also opens on May 1.

### Festivals

***Ninth Avenue International Food Festival, May 15-16***: This gourmet food fair covers 20 blocks from 37th to 57th Sts on Ninth Avenue, two blocks from Times Square. Food from all over the world is on offer and local bands and international dance troupes entertain the crowds. (9:30-18:30)

***Dance Parade, May 16, 2009***: In the spirit of other dance parades worldwide and in an effort to bring together the many different dance cultures and ethnicities of New York City, Dance Parade celebrates the history of social dance and strives to show the creativity, vibrancy and grace inherent in its many diverse forms. (14:30, Broadway and 28<sup>th</sup> St.)

### Sports

The New York Yankees play at brand new Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. The Yankee Stadium subway stop is located on East 161st Street and River Avenue. The No. 4 train (East Side) and the B and D trains (West Side) make stops at 161st Street/Yankee Stadium. A trip from midtown Manhattan takes approximately 25 minutes. The Yankees play at home May 1-5 and May 14-20.

The New York Mets play at brand new Citi Field in Queens. The 7 train runs from midtown Manhattan to the stadium stop at Mets/Willets Point Station. The trip takes approximately 20 minutes. The Mets play at home May 7-12 and May 21-23.



## 5.4 Map of the UN

The best thing you can do when you arrive in New York is to get a Subway map that will show you where everything is in the city. You can get these at any Subway Stations and they are a great way of helping you to orientate yourself as well as informing you of the different Subways that you can take to get where you need to go.

Below is a map which should also be of use to you.



