

Canada's Renewed Approach to National Reporting to the CSD

CSD-16 Side event - May 9, 2008

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Presentation

- Key Considerations
- Approach
- Observations and lessons learned
- How could improved reporting positively impact the CSD?

Key Considerations

- Mandate of the CSD:
 - to monitor progress of *Agenda 21* implementation
 - to consider information from Governments
- Without sufficient information the Commission's ability to achieve its core mandate is restricted.
- National reporting is a critical component of the CSD
- How could better reporting facilitate focused and interactive discussions?

Key Considerations

- Reporting comprehensively requires interdepartmental coordination
- Previous reports were lengthy and not directly linked to planning for the cycle
- Reporting includes, *inter alia*, thematic profiles and case studies
- Importance of non-negotiated CSD outcomes

Key Considerations

- CSD 16/17 themes
- Current rates of reporting
- Linking reporting to *Agenda 21* and JPOI
- Important information available from Canadian stakeholders

Approach

- Objectives:
 - Streamline development of thematic profiles
 - Incorporate national reporting into overall approach for the cycle
 - Encourage case study reporting throughout the cycle, and not just by Federal Government
 - Share lessons learned to encourage reporting by member states and major groups
 - Promote dialogue on how reporting could be improved to facilitate the work of the CSD

Development of thematic profiles

- Template-based approach
- Answer the question ‘where are we now’?
 - reflect overall progress in all three dimensions of sustainable development
 - highlight relevant trends, constraints, challenges and emerging issues
- Include internet links to detailed information
- Reference case studies

Incorporate reporting into process

- Build CSD interdepartmental network via the national reporting process
- Link to outreach and consultations
 - Use the thematic profiles as basis for outreach with Canadian stakeholders for CSD-16
 - Highlight opportunity for development of case studies by provinces and territories, and Canadian stakeholders
- Improve understanding about how work across the Government relates to the CSD

Observations and lessons learned

- Template and short guidance document useful
- Don't try and put a square peg in a round hole
 - Encourage experts to adapt template
 - International and domestic sections as appropriate
 - Encourage discussions on interlinkages between thematic profiles

Challenges

- Applying SD (and CSD) lens is a challenge and requires more attention
- More attention is needed on how to most effectively describe initiatives and results
- Limited linkages between the thematic profiles and case studies
- Timing – template and background info needed earlier

How could improved reporting help the CSD?

- Provide a dashboard for progress and a one stop shop for links to practical guidance to share experiences
- Highlight emerging issues and trends
- National reporting informs the Secretary
General reports
- Facilitate a more focused and interactive discussion

Next steps

- Listen to you and continue the dialogue
- Canadian stakeholder workshop focused on CSD 16/17 themes
 - Map initiatives to CSD documents
- Initiate work for CSD 18/19 reporting in January 2009
- Continue to improve the template based approach and build on lessons learned
- Give further consideration on how to better use national reporting in future cycles
- Improve understanding regarding use of national reporting submissions