



**United States Mission to the United Nations**

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# **Discussion papers on the future of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development**

## **U.S. Submissions to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

The United States hopes that this series of brief papers might stimulate dialogue among all stakeholders about how the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development can evolve to realize the changes called for at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Our goal for the CSD and the UN is that they remain relevant and responsive to the international community as we implement the sustainable development objectives of Agenda 21, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the internationally agreed development goals, including those in the Millennium Declaration.

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# **I. Overview – Focusing on Implementation**

**(November 2002)**

## The Commission on Sustainable Development: Focusing on Implementation

### Overview

With its concerted focus on implementation, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg marked a turning point for UN efforts on sustainable development. Governments, civil society, and international organizations will need to adapt to this new focus. We will all need to modify how we do our business.

One of the organizations that will need to adapt is the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). In the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), governments called for some specific reforms for the CSD, including:

- “Limiting negotiations in the sessions of the Commission to every two years.” (147d)
- “Limit[ing] the number of themes addressed at each session.” (147e)
- “Serv[ing] as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development, including sharing lessons learned, progress made and best practices.” (148b)

With these reforms, the CSD could evolve into a truly innovative forum that engages the full sustainable development community in an effective dialogue on implementation. As the UN, its member states, other international organizations, and major groups consider how to focus on implementation, the initial thoughts outlined below are intended to promote further dialogue.

### Key Issues

#### 1. Using the six weeks to foster implementation

- The CSD has a budget for 6 weeks of meetings annually. The CSD should consider how best to use this time to catalyze the exchange of the information and resources – technical and financial – required to implement sustainable development activities. In doing so, the CSD should be structured to attract practitioners and policymakers with practical experience.
- An implementation-focused CSD will require new meeting formats to best engage the full sustainable development community. Thought should be given to new structures for facilitated dialogues, new meeting schedules (*e.g.*, in addition to week-long sessions, the CSD could consider organizing 2-3 day conferences and roundtable discussions and 1-day events for informal consultations), and the use of new technologies such as videoconferencing.

#### 2. Facilitating partnerships and reporting on their progress

- Partnerships offer an exciting new focus for implementation of sustainable development. Space should be made for discussions of ongoing and completed partnership initiatives, forging of new partnerships, macro-level discussions of lessons learned, expert-to-expert training, and networking of experts.

- Every year, the CSD should devote time to allow partnerships to report on their progress to date. It is essential that there be transparency and the opportunity for partnerships to demonstrate their progress and receive comments on their activities.
- Partnership representatives should interact directly with government and civil society representatives, answering questions and discussing outcomes in a public and transparent manner. Additionally, reports from the partnerships should be placed on the UN website.
- Other potential elements of CSD sessions include: facilitated dialogues and roundtables, discussions of capacity building (including parallel expert-to-expert training courses), side events, and exhibitions and public discussion of success stories and lessons learned.

### 3. Focused discussion of complex sectoral issues

- For the CSD to be most effective, it could prove useful to focus the scope of each session. Previous attempts to consider several sectoral issues simultaneously (e.g. CSD9’s agenda of energy, transportation, atmosphere, information for decision-making and participation, and international cooperation for an enabling environment) have produced mixed results.
- Each issue must be considered in the broad context of sustainable development, including the critical issue of how sustainable development contributes to poverty eradication. Additionally, the JPOI highlights the need for the CSD to “focus on the cross-sectoral aspects of specific sectoral issues” (147b). A discussion on water, for example, must consider all three pillars of sustainable development, as well as the relationship between water and other sectoral issues.
- One potential organizing principle for future sessions could be the “WEHAB” (Water, Energy, Health Agriculture, and Biodiversity) agenda put forth by Secretary General Annan before the WSSD. Applied to the JPOI-mandated structure of negotiations every other year, this approach might break out as follows:

2003: Organizational	
2004: Partnerships	Water, poverty eradication, and sustainable development
2005: Partnerships + Negotiation	
2006: Partnerships	Energy, poverty eradication, and sustainable development
2007: Partnerships + Negotiation	
2008: Partnerships	Health, poverty eradication, and sustainable development
2009: Partnerships + Negotiation	
2010: Partnerships	Agriculture, poverty eradication, and sustainable development
2011: Partnerships + Negotiation	
2012: Partnerships	Biodiversity, poverty eradication, and sustainable development
2013: Partnerships + Negotiation	

- Within this framework, a component of each CSD session should be devoted to a more general discussion of partnerships in all sectors.

### 4. CSD participation

#### ***Governments***

- Governments and other partners should be encouraged to send substantive experts to the CSD; these experts should be knowledgeable in the particular areas under consideration and in the implementation of partnership projects in those areas. Care should be taken to foster participation from ministries representing all three pillars of sustainable development.

## ***Major Groups***

- While the CSD has led the way within the United Nations for public participation and civil society engagement, this new focus on implementation will require an even greater effort to involve major groups. Dialogues on partnerships must allow major groups the opportunity to interact directly with partnership representatives in a public and transparent manner.
- Reviews of multi-stakeholder dialogues at the CSD have been mixed. Recent attempts in Bali and Johannesburg to facilitate these dialogues and make them more dynamic are commendable. Lessons learned from these experiences, as well as previous CSD sessions and other international gatherings, should be considered in designing multi-stakeholder dialogues at future CSD meetings.
- The Secretariat could facilitate our thinking on this issue by providing alternative models for future stakeholder participation.
- Per the JPOI, national, regional, and international scientific networks should be encouraged to become more involved in the work of the CSD (149c), as should educators (149d).

## **5. Complementing the International Calendar**

- Last year's discussions on international environmental governance stressed the unmanageable pressures caused by the overcrowding of the international calendar. To build on its facilitative role to promote implementation of sustainable development, the CSD could plan its meeting schedule to complement – rather than duplicate – other key events on the international calendar.
- For example, in the water sector, the World Water Forum meets every three years. The CSD could help focus international efforts on water issues in the intervening years by devoting some of its meeting time to discussion of water partnerships that help implement both the JPOI and WWF outcomes. The shorter events convened by the CSD in the WSSD preparatory process proved useful in facilitating interim coordination between PrepComs and between processes taking place in multiple UN fora (*e.g.*, IEG and WSSD).

## **6. Website Technology**

- Information on partnerships and best practices should be readily available to sustainable development practitioners and policymakers. The JPOI calls on the CSD to “undertake further measures to promote best practices and lessons learned, . . . including the broader use of information technologies”(150). One tool at the CSD’s disposal is its Internet site, which should be redesigned, taking into account lessons learned from the existing WSSD site as well as other efforts such as the UNDP/BASD Virtual Exhibit. Consideration should be given to how best to make this information available to those without Internet access.

## **II. Potential Outcomes from Future CSD Processes**

**(December 2002)**

## The Commission on Sustainable Development Potential Outcomes from Future CSD Processes

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), calls for several changes aimed at focusing the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) on specific actions that promote sustainable development. As we consider the format of future CSD sessions, we believe it is important to contemplate what the potential outcomes of these sessions will be. Below is a menu of potential “outcomes” we hope will emerge from future CSD meetings. These outcomes may occur in both “negotiating” years and “non-negotiating” years.

**OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE: Implementation of Sustainable Development:** The JPOI states that “the Commission should give more emphasis on actions that enable implementation at all levels.” A successfully retooled CSD will foster significant progress towards our sustainable development objectives.

A successful CSD should lead to:	This might include some of these specific outcomes:
<b>A. Increased capacity for implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>At the sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expert-to-expert training for policymakers and practitioners</li> <li>- Capacity building on how to build/maintain/manage partnerships and initiatives</li> <li>- Exhibitions of partnership &amp; initiative activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>After/between sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An expanded network of practitioners and policymakers</li> <li>- Strengthened capacity for education, science, and technology</li> <li>- Website and reports with case studies, lessons learned, best practices, policy analyses</li> <li>- “Virtual University” with continuing learning opportunities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>B. Enhanced and additional partnerships and initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Matchmaking resource for prospective partners</li> <li>➤ Training on partnership processes</li> <li>➤ Networks of practitioners/experts</li> <li>➤ Links to UN bodies engaged on sustainable development</li> <li>➤ New tools that promote partnerships (e.g. availability of videoconferencing, etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>C. Increased stakeholder participation/integration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Enhanced networks of government, civil society, and private industry stakeholders and intra-network communications</li> <li>➤ Stronger, more dynamic information exchanges</li> </ul>
<b>D. Mobilizing resources for sustainable development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Financing for sustainable development</li> <li>➤ Better utilization of human resources</li> <li>➤ Increased technical capacity</li> <li>➤ New partnerships</li> <li>➤ Creating an enabling environment for development</li> </ul>
<b>E. Enhanced donor coordination/ complementarity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exchange of information among donors and with other UN bodies engaged on sustainable development</li> <li>➤ Presentations of national &amp; regional reports as means to identify possible new partnerships &amp; initiatives</li> </ul>
<b>F. Policy guidance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CSD policy guidance arising from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lessons learned, best practices</li> <li>- Identification of gaps in implementation</li> <li>- Assessment of barriers to implementation</li> <li>- Inter-governmental processes/negotiations</li> <li>- Identification of next steps to overcome gaps and barriers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>G. A rich source of information on implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Synthesis Reports</b> on any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Case studies</li> <li>- Gap analysis</li> <li>- CSD Dialogues</li> <li>- Self-reports from partnerships and initiatives</li> <li>- Lessons learned, best practices</li> <li>- Sustainable development indicators</li> <li>- Scientific analysis</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>Website as “living resource”</b> with databases of the above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expert papers on specific themes</li> <li>- Videos of multi-stakeholder roundtables</li> <li>- Syntheses of partnership report-outs</li> <li>- Interviews with key players</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### **III. Potential CSD Processes**

**(January 2003)**

**CSD PROCESSES:  
Potential Processes for Achieving Desired Outcomes  
of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development**

The Plan of Implementation adopted at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) calls for changes aimed at focusing the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) on specific actions that promote and implement sustainable development. In the April/May discussions of the future of the CSD, it will be important to consider not only the desired outcomes of the CSD, but also which processes might produce those outcomes. This paper identifies key outcomes and suggests a menu of processes that could be used to achieve those outcomes ranging from capacity building to negotiations.

See Appendix for further elaboration of the process elements listed below.

**Key Outcome A: Increased capacity for implementation**

Potential processes for achieving this outcome

- Expert-to-expert training for policymakers and practitioners (e.g. fora such as the "Summit Institute on Sustainable Development")
- Traditional side events
- Capacity building on how to build/maintain/manage partnerships and initiatives
- Site visits
- "Virtual University" with continuing learning opportunities

**Key Outcome B: Enhanced and additional partnerships and initiatives**

Potential processes for achieving this outcome

- Voluntary self reporting on existing partnerships (objectives, measures of success, lessons learned)
- Presentations of strategies/priorities for sustainable development (could be regional, national, subnational, int'l organizations, civil society, business and industry, etc.)
- Traditional side events
- Exhibits
- Brainstorming sessions
- Matchmaking sessions
- Site visits
- "Cabaret" dialogues

**Key Outcome C: Increased stakeholder participation/integration**

Potential processes for achieving this outcome

- Voluntary self-reporting on partnerships
- Facilitated roundtables
- "Cabaret" dialogues
- Presentations of strategies/priorities for sustainable development (could be regional, national, subnational, int'l organizations, civil society, business and industry, etc.)
- Traditional side events
- Exhibits
- Keynote with interactive dialogue/panel discussions
- Brainstorming sessions
- Webcast discussions
- Electronic Conferences

**Key Outcome D: Mobilizing resources for sustainable development**

Potential processes for achieving this outcome

- Presentations of strategies/priorities for sustainable development (could be regional, national, subnational, int'l organizations, civil society, business and industry, etc.)
- Exhibits
- Matchmaking sessions
- Expert-to-expert training

**Key Outcome E: Enhanced donor coordination/complementarity**

Potential processes for achieving this outcome

- Presentations of strategies/priorities for sustainable development (could be regional, national, subnational, int'l organizations, civil society, business and industry, etc.)
- Matchmaking sessions
- Traditional side events
- Posting of information on CSD website

**Key Outcome F: Policy guidance**

Potential processes for achieving this outcome

- Negotiations
- Plenaries
- Brainstorming about best practices, gap analysis, barriers to implementation, next steps
- Reports/Chair's Summaries on gap analysis/next steps, etc.

**Key Outcome G: A rich source of information on implementation**

Potential processes for achieving this outcome:

- Enhancing/updating of CSD website
- Reports on Partnerships
- Traditional side events
- Exhibits
- Written materials/publications (best practices, lessons learned, advocacy, analyses)
- "Virtual University"
- Matchmaking sessions
- Virtual site visits

## **IV. Making it Happen (an illustrative example)**

**(January 2003)**

**MAKING IT HAPPEN:  
Applying CSD Processes to Promote Implementation**

Below is an **illustrative** example of how future CSD sessions might be structured:

**Theme:** If the CSD uses the “WEHAB” framework as an organizing principle, the first two years (2004-2005) could be devoted to a cross-sectoral discussion of *Water and Sustainable Development*. Such a discussion should emphasize the linkages between water and the other “WEHAB” elements, as well as with elements not adequately covered by “WEHAB.”

**Context for discussions:** Agreements reached at Rio, Millennium Declaration, WSSD, previous CSDs, and in a variety of other fora.

**Sub-topics:** The CSD could use the 9 “Action Areas” identified in the WEHAB Working Group’s “Framework for Action on Water and Sanitation” ([http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/wehab\\_papers.html](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/wehab_papers.html))

**Reporting & Information**

**Gathering**

(~Spring '04)

~2-week meeting

**Main sessions might include:**

- 1-day context-setting opening plenary
- Presentations of strategies/priorities for sustainable development
- Voluntary self-reporting by existing partnerships/initiatives
- Facilitated roundtables (e.g., partnership activities, cross-cutting issues, etc.)
- Input from other relevant fora (e.g., the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum)
- Brainstorming on best practices, gaps, barriers, and next steps

**During afternoon/evening breaks:**

- Matchmaking sessions
- Traditional side events
- “Cabaret” dialogues

**Parallel fora might include:**

- Exhibit(s)
- Expert-to-expert training (“Summit Institute”)

**Synthesis & Analysis**

(report due ~Aug. '04)

**Report could contain:**

- Expert analysis based on dialogues at spring meeting
- Lessons learned, best practices, case studies
- Analysis of gaps and barriers to implementation
- Records of partnership discussions at spring meeting
- Records of roundtable discussions
- Records of strategies/priorities presentations
- Lists of participants (to facilitate further discussion of partnerships/initiatives)

**CSD website:**

- Report contents also available (and updated) on website

**Implementation Conference**

(~Early '05)

~1-week meeting; not necessarily in New York

- Forum devoted exclusively to forming and/or enhancing partnerships and initiatives
- Partnerships/initiatives developed here could be formally launched in the spring/summer meeting

**Meeting could include:**

- Matchmaking sessions
- Several breakout rooms available for groups to flesh out details of nascent partnerships
- “Cabaret” dialogues
- Capacity building on partnership formation

**Consideration of Next Steps**

(~Spring/Summer '05)

~2-week meeting

- Facilitated roundtables on significant lessons learned on implementation, gaps, barriers, best practices, and next steps
- Formal announcements of new partnerships and initiatives
- Negotiations on policy guidance
- Closing 1-day plenary for CSD adoption of salient conclusions & recommendations for further action
- Consideration of linkages to future relevant fora (e.g., the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum)
- Kick off preparations for next CSD cycle

**OUTCOMES: Implementation of Sustainable Development**

- Outcome A: Increased capacity for implementation
- Outcome B: Enhanced & additional partnerships and initiatives
- Outcome C: Increased stakeholder participation/integration
- Outcome D: Mobilizing resources for sustainable development
- Outcome E: Enhanced donor coordination/complementarity
- Outcome F: Policy guidance
- Outcome G: A rich source of information on implementation

## **V. Appendix: Elaboration of Potential CSD Process Elements**

**(January 2003)**

## Appendix: Elaboration of Potential CSD Process Elements

The preceding papers outline a range of **potential** processes that future CSDs could employ to achieve desired outcomes. This appendix provides more detail on these process elements. However, it is important to note that the descriptions below are an attempt to represent some of the possible “menu items” that might be combined as part of a newly evolved CSD meeting. We are basing several of these elements on successful approaches in fora such as the World Economic Forum in Davos, the UN Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea, (UNICPOLOS), and the WSSD. We look forward to vigorous discussion about how the below processes could be refined or how other process elements could be integrated to better facilitate desired CSD outcomes.

### **Brainstorming sessions**

**(Addresses Outcomes B and C)**

- Encourage practitioners and policymakers to meet in small groups (10 – 20) for brainstorming on:
  - what works (or doesn't) in specific sustainable development efforts
  - where there appear to be important gaps in implementation (or an excess or duplication of activity)
  - discussions could be by theme, by region, or by type of activity.
- Use professional facilitators to moderate, guide, and report out on sessions, which could run from one to two hours.
- “Rapporteurs” to synthesize results and report directly to CSD and/or post results on CSD website.

### **“Cabaret” dialogues**

**(Addresses Outcomes B and C)**

*(also referred to as “hot topic cabarets,” “partnership cabarets,” “cafeteria-style dialogues”)*

- Using a large conference hall or hotel ballroom type of setting, set up an array of round tables (10-persons), each “hosted” by 1 or 2 partnership representatives or “hot topic” moderators for “cabaret” or “cafeteria-style” dialogue sessions.
- Hosts conduct 50-minute dialogues with visiting CSD participants, start on the hour and end at ten minutes before the next hour.
- Participants could rotate from one table to another as they wish, engaging in a series of intensive dialogs.
- Format would allow hosts to talk with numerous CSD attendees per day, potentially meeting with several groups simultaneously rather than one representative at a time.
- Could use “rapporteurs” to synthesize results and report directly to CSD and/or post results on CSD website.
- Could be held during lunch and/or evening breaks (1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.) and/or during daytime session slots (10 a.m.-1 p.m., 3 p.m.-6 p.m.).

### **Exhibits**

**(Addresses Outcomes B, C, D, and G)**

- An exhibition of best practices, success stories, lessons learned, etc.
- Could be modeled on the WSSD's Ubuntu Exhibition.
- Content of exhibit could be linked to dialogues, partnership sessions, etc. (for example, exhibit could be organized by the same themes as the dialogue sessions, and/or dialogue sessions could refer explicitly to a section or sections of the exhibit.)

### **Expert-to-expert training for policymakers and practitioners**

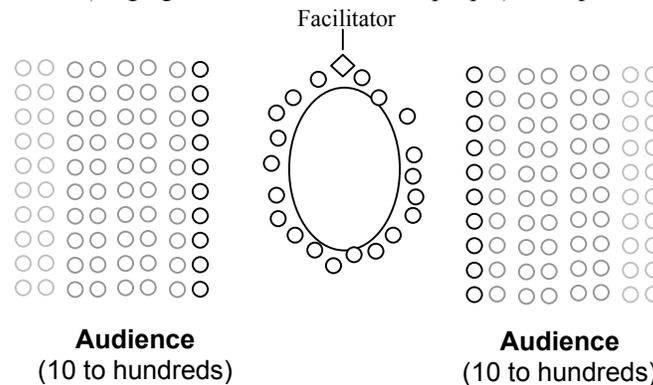
**(Addresses Outcome A)**

- Establish fora such as the “Summit Institute on Sustainable Development” (see <http://sustainability.si.edu>) whereby practitioners and policymakers may offer and attend practical “how to” training sessions.
- Sessions could include technical topics tailored to specific CSD themes (e.g., watershed management) and more general areas, such as practical aspects of governance for implementation, training in the use of geographic information systems, and applications of remote sensing.
- Training modules on other issues such as strategic planning, environmental conflict resolution, partnership formation/management, project proposal writing, development finance programs, environmental law, etc.
- Use an offsite locale (such as a high school or college) with a campus-like atmosphere conducive to learning and dialogue.

## **Facilitated multi-stakeholder roundtables (on partnerships or issues)**

### **(Addresses Outcome C)**

- Conduct a series of focused dialogues with a round (or oval or rectangular) table that seats up to 20 representatives, e.g., 10 country representatives (e.g. 2-3 each from G-77, EU, & JUSCANZ) and 10 representatives of major group (e.g. 2-3 each from 3-4 major groups).
- Employ professional facilitators to moderate discussions and “rapporteurs” to synthesize results and report directly to CSD and/or post results on CSD website.
- If it were a 3-hour dialogue, the first 2 hours could be among those seated around the table, with the final hour to include the audience (ranging from 10 to hundreds of people) – see picture below.



- This could foster a productive dialogue while still addressing concerns of universal participation in two ways:
  - First, there would be several such dialogues throughout a CSD session, so each country and major group would have a turn (likely more than one) at the table for the initial 2-hour discussion.
  - Second, with the non-table seating open to all accredited participants, everybody would have the opportunity to participate in the third hour of discussion.

## **Keynote with interactive dialogue/panel discussions**

### **(Addresses Outcome C)**

- Address by a leading figure to set tone for CSD session, perhaps followed by reactions from top experts and policymakers.
- Alternatively, rather than one keynote speaker, hold an “eminent persons” panel discussion.
- Could be part of opening plenary or a related event (e.g., an “opening night” function).
- Live video feed via webcast, with recorded video posted on CSD website.

## **Matchmaking sessions**

### **(Addresses Outcomes B, D, E and G)**

- “Trade show” atmosphere (e.g., large or medium sized conference hall) in which representatives of governments, NGOs, and the private sector could exhibit existing/planned activities which may engender (or require) participation by other partners.
- Exhibits/displays could be grouped by region or themes.
- Web and physical postings of “partners seeking partners” notices to better enable prospective partners to find each other at CSD events and beyond.
- Small conference rooms made available on margins of CSD events that attendees may use (with or without reservations) to meet with potential partners.
- On-site “registration” of new partnerships by CSD Secretariat.

## **Plenaries**

### **(Addresses Outcome F)**

- Kept to a minimum, particularly in non-negotiating years. For example:
  - a half-day or one-day opening “context-setting” session
  - a half-day or full day “wrap up” to bring together results from the dialogues, presentations, exhibits, brainstorming sessions and set the stage for next steps.

## **Presentations of strategies/priorities for sustainable development**

### **(Addresses Outcomes A, B, C, and E)**

- Per the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI, paragraph 148d), the CSD "could give consideration to more effective use of national and regional reports" by convening a series of presentations from governments and/or regional or thematic groupings (e.g., small island states).
- Other groups – international organizations, civil society, private sector, subnational groups, etc. – could also present their priorities/strategies.
- **Illustrative example:** 1.5 hour sessions (perhaps done in parallel and/or in groups) could be conducted along the following lines:
  - Structure: 30 minute country/group presentation, followed by 1 hour of multi-stakeholder discussion
  - Focus: The presenting country's or group's sustainable development strategy (broadly speaking) and, in that context, their specific strategy on the given theme(s) of a particular CSD session. This could take the form of a report or a listing of key priorities and action areas.
  - Presentations may also address:
    - significant gaps in resources, expertise, and/or technology or other aspects that could be ripe for involvement of potential partners.
    - lessons learned about what works (or doesn't) in the planning process and implementation.
  - Participants: Perhaps a half a dozen representatives of the presenting country/group; a multi-stakeholder audience of about 20-50, including both technical and policy experts.
  - Outcomes:
    - A multi-stakeholder dialogue on country-level implementation of sustainable development efforts in specific countries or regions.
    - Individual reports (based on the presentation; or the presentation based on the report) on that country's/group's specific strategy on "issue X" and information for others to draw lessons learned and to draw interest from potential partners.
    - Synthetic analysis of lessons learned, gaps in implementation, success/failure stories, etc.
  - Quantity: 4 such sessions per day would allow for 20 presentations per week.
- Such an approach would promote demand-driven partnerships and could revitalize the role of national reporting to facilitate implementation, sharing of lessons learned, etc.
- **Alternative formulations:** The above is just one illustrative example; this approach could be implemented many ways. For example, three-hour sessions with 1.5 hours for individual country or group presentations and 1.5 hours for presentations of partnerships in that country, or 6 1-hour sessions per day.

## **Site visits and virtual site visits**

### **(Addresses Outcomes A, B, and G)**

- Sponsor visits to relevant project sites (e.g., wetlands restoration site, innovative water conservation program, leading-edge energy conservation technologies, etc.)
- Visits to industrial facilities that have implemented innovative clean production technologies or processes and/or other exemplary environmental management practices.
- Visits to public agencies, academia, or private firms for demonstrations of successful cutting-edge technologies, planning procedures, organizational structures, governance for implementation, etc. that may be applicable elsewhere in promoting sustainable development.
- These efforts could be complemented by exhibits on relevant projects/technologies/processes.

## **Traditional side events**

### **(Addresses Outcomes A, B C, E, and G)**

- As with previous CSD sessions, there should continue to be side events on a wide range of policy and implementation issues.
- Enable government agencies, development agencies, NGOs, academics, partnerships, and private sector organizations to report on sustainable development activities through exhibits and/or poster sessions at large or mid-sized conference halls.
- Could schedule a “speakers series” for small audiences (30-50) through which practitioners, experts, and academics could report in-field trends, research results, etc. related to the particular CSD theme or broader sustainable development issues.
- Create space for public release of new publications, videos, etc. reporting on current sustainable development trends.
- Post on CSD website “electronic exhibits” prepared by participants, live/recorded video feed of interesting speeches, links to new publications, etc.

## **"Virtual University"**

### **(Addresses Outcomes A and G)**

- Offer continued learning opportunities by posting expert-to-expert training course materials on CSD website to extend technical and managerial know-how beyond borders.
- Develop "on line" courses on CSD-related topics customized to meet the needs of practitioners and policymakers.

## **Voluntary self reporting on existing partnerships**

### **(Addresses Outcomes B, C and G)**

- The CSD should create a “safe” space for partnerships to self-report on their progress in a transparent manner.
- **Illustrative example:** a series of dialogue sessions along the following lines:
  - Structure: 30 minute presentation by partners, followed by 2.5 hours of multi-stakeholder discussion
  - Focus: The self-report of partnership representatives on progress made (or not made), lessons learned, and next steps.
  - Participants: Partnership representatives; a multi-stakeholder audience representing a mix of technical and policy experts.
  - Size of room: 50-100 people
- Some 30 presentations per week could be done using three such meetings done in parallel for two sessions per day (10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.).
- “Rapporteurs” to synthesize results and report directly to CSD and/or post results on CSD web.
- Outcomes:
  - A multistakeholder dialogue on the successes (or shortcomings) of particular partnerships.
  - Lessons learned about what works and what doesn’t work in partnership activities.
  - Potential suggestions from participants for improving specific partnerships or more general partnership structures, processes, etc.
  - Application of lessons learned to other partnerships.
  - Reports on specific partnerships, posted on the CSD website.

## **Webcast discussions and electronic conferences**

### **(Addresses Outcome C)**

- Broaden reach of CSD dialogues, keynote speeches, etc. via live audio/video feed on CSD website.
- Make recorded video of CSD meetings perpetually available on CSD website.
- Use closed circuit and/or digital video conference (DVC) technologies to broadcast CSD proceedings, dialogs, etc. to those unable to attend and, in some cases, to enable active participation from key players via DVC.