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Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Activities undertaken in implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/253, on the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The report provides an overview of initial follow-up actions taken by Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and major groups, as well as recent decisions by relevant intergovernmental bodies. The report also reviews activities and proposals by various stakeholders aimed at meeting the goals and targets adopted at the World Summit.

The report shows that there is a good deal of enthusiasm and dynamism involved in the follow-up to the World Summit and consensus on the sharper focus on implementation. An important thrust of implementation has been to identify obstacles and constraints in implementation and to share lessons learned and best practices at all levels. The widely varied actions and partnership initiatives being implemented at the national, regional and international levels demonstrate the imperative of strengthened cooperation and coordination within and between organizations of the United Nations system and other international institutions. The Commission on Sustainable Development, as the high-level intergovernmental body on sustainable development within the United Nations system, provides an important forum for sharing experiences in implementation gained at the country, regional and global levels and for integrating such experiences with policy review and guidance.

* A/58/150.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, on the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Summit), endorsed the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The Assembly decided, inter alia, to adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. In the same resolution the Assembly urged Governments and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely actions to ensure effective follow-up to the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit. The Assembly also encouraged the implementation of voluntary partnership initiatives and called for further discussion of this matter within the Commission on Sustainable Development.

2. The present report is prepared pursuant to resolution 57/253 to provide an overview of initial follow-up actions taken by Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and major groups, as well as recent decisions by relevant intergovernmental bodies. The report also reviews activities and proposals by various stakeholders aimed at meeting the goals and targets adopted at the Johannesburg Summit.

3. To avoid duplication, the report will leave out information on activities that will be considered by the General Assembly under other items, such as those related to the oceans and small island developing States. Separate reports under these items will be submitted to the Assembly.

II. Follow-up actions taken at the intergovernmental level

4. When the Johannesburg Summit closed on 4 September 2002, it was the prevailing sentiment that the conclusion of the Summit represented the beginning of a common journey rather than the end of an intergovernmental event. Building upon the World Trade Organization's Ministerial Conference (fourth session, Doha, November 2001) and the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, March 2002), the Johannesburg Summit launched a Plan of Implementation with specific goals and time-bound targets. There were high expectations of concrete progress and calls for a sharper focus on implementation. This emphasis on implementation has since been endorsed by Governments, international institutions, major groups and other stakeholders, setting in motion a process of reorientation of programmes and activities. The follow-up action at the intergovernmental level in the United Nations has been swift and focused, as exemplified by the General Assembly in endorsing the outcomes of the Summit. Highlighted below, in chronological order, are some of the major decisions taken at the intergovernmental level that have an immediate impact on the implementation of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit.

A. Outcomes of the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

5. Meeting for the first time since the Johannesburg Summit, the Commission on Sustainable Development dedicated its eleventh session (28 April-9 May 2003) to the elaboration of its future programme, organization and methods of work. In keeping with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which provides that the Commission should place more emphasis on actions that enable implementation at all levels, the Commission agreed to organize its future work as a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, which will include, in the first year of each cycle, a review session and, in the second, a policy session.¹

6. The Commission further decided that its first review session, scheduled for April 2004, would undertake an evaluation of progress in implementing Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The policy session, to be held in May 2005, will build upon the outcome of the review session and will take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation. Prior to the policy session, an intergovernmental preparatory meeting will be convened in February/March 2005 to address constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation.

7. For the 2004-2005 cycle, the Commission decided to focus on the themes of water, sanitation and human settlements, while also giving priority attention to linkages with cross-cutting issues, including poverty eradication, changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development. The multi-year programme of work of the Commission is annexed to the present report.

8. The Commission also took several other steps that promise to have far-reaching implications for implementation. Among other actions, it decided to invite the regional commissions to consider organizing regional implementation meetings so that regional dimensions could feed into the global review more effectively. The Commission invited the General Assembly to consider using the resources previously devoted to its former ad hoc intersessional working groups to support the participation of representatives of member States of the Commission in one of their respective regional meetings in the implementation cycle.

9. To further enhance the contributions of major groups to its work, the Commission also decided to have greater involvement of major groups in its activities, including through their participation in an interactive dialogue during the high-level segments.

10. In accordance with resolution 57/253, the Commission had further discussions at its eleventh session on partnerships for sustainable development. Building on the work and knowledge gained in the preparatory processes for the Johannesburg Summit, the Commission agreed on a set of criteria and guidelines for partnerships associated with the follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit. The Commission reiterated that partnerships, as voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives, should contribute to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments; they are a complement to, not a substitute for, those commitments. The Commission also called for activities aimed at strengthening partnerships and facilitating new ones, including through initiatives such as partnership fairs and learning centres.

B. Integrated and coordinated conference follow-up

11. The matter of coordinated implementation of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit was also addressed by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields. The Working Group commenced its work in January 2003 and subsequently submitted its recommendations to the General Assembly, which adopted them in resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003. In the section on the role of the Economic and Social Council, including that of the functional commissions, the Assembly reiterated that the Council should continue to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination and decided that it should review, by means of a cross-sectoral approach, the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up processes.

12. In this context, the Assembly requested the Council to establish, no later than 2004, a multi-year work programme for the coordination segment of its substantive session, based on a focused and balanced list of cross-sectoral thematic issues common to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits. The Assembly also invited the functional commissions to contribute, from their specific perspectives, to the assessment by the Council of the cross-sectoral thematic issue selected for the coordination segment of its substantive session. The Assembly further requested each functional commission to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, bearing in mind the progress recently achieved in this regard by certain commissions, especially the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Assembly underscored that the functional commissions, when mandated, should continue to have the primary responsibility for the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the United Nations conferences, while taking on a new focus in their methods of work.

C. Decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its 2003 substantive session

13. Complementing the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the integrated and coordinated conference follow-up, the Economic and Social Council devoted its 2003 coordination segment to the topic "The role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits". In response to General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, the Council welcomed the request of the Assembly for a multi-year programme of work for its coordination segment and expressed its determination to finalize the list of cross-sectoral thematic issues and the multi-year work programme, with the aim of reaching a decision before its substantive session in 2004.

14. At its 2003 substantive session, the Council also took action on the World Solidarity Fund. At the Johannesburg Summit, world leaders called for the establishment of a solidarity fund to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development. In response, the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/265 of 20 December 2002, requesting the Secretary-General to mandate the Administrator of

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to take the necessary measures for the immediate operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund. In his report to the Assembly and to the Council,² the Administrator reported that the Fund had been set up and that steps were being taken to operationalize and publicize it. Recognizing the important potential contribution of the Fund to the achievement of development goals, the Council encouraged Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to contribute to it. The Council also requested that the Administrator of UNDP take further measures to operationalize the Fund and invited developing countries to identify indicative projects to be submitted for financing as soon as resources were made available to the Fund.

III. Actions taken by organizations of the United Nations system

15. In endorsing the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit, the General Assembly decided to adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This decision was reaffirmed in June 2003, when the Assembly adopted resolution 57/270 B, on integrated and coordinated conference follow-up. Organizations of the United Nations system have since been stepping up efforts to ensure that the sharper focus on implementation is integrated with their future programme activities.

16. The Secretary-General, for example, in his proposed programme budget for the period 2004-2005, has sought to align the activities of the United Nations with the priorities identified by the General Assembly. One such key priority has been the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences, including the Johannesburg Summit. The implementation thrust was highlighted in the proposed programme budgets for the 2004-2005 biennium for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the regional commissions, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other relevant entities.

17. This overall programme prioritization has been echoed in day-to-day work throughout the United Nations system. For instance, the five regional commissions, which were actively engaged in the preparatory processes of the Johannesburg Summit, are integrating the outcomes of the Summit with their ongoing work, reorienting relevant programme activities towards focused implementation. At its fifty-eighth session, in March 2003, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) considered its follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit and agreed that it should mainstream the three dimensions of sustainable development into all its areas of work. ECE also stressed that it should play an active role in the implementation of sustainable development strategies, in reviewing national sustainable development programmes and partnership initiatives and in creating new partnerships.³

18. The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), at its fourth session, in December 2002, considered selected issues relating to regional follow-up

to the Johannesburg Summit. The Committee recommended to the fifty-ninth session of ESCAP that a senior-level policy forum be convened to discuss the follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit at the regional level in a holistic and comprehensive manner. It recommended that the ESCAP regional follow-up include efforts aimed at promoting regional and subregional cooperation, supporting the development of networks for information exchange and the sharing of policies and experiences, mobilizing resources and disseminating best practices.

19. In addition to efforts by ESCAP and ECE, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in response to the invitation of the Commission on Sustainable Development to hold regional implementation meetings and its decision on the themes of its 2004 review session, are taking steps to incorporate the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit into their intergovernmental and expert group meetings, including upcoming meetings on water, sanitation, human settlements and globalization.

20. At its twenty-second session, held in Nairobi in February 2003, the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum also considered the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit. The Governing Council welcomed the emphasis of the Summit on implementation and called for full and concrete commitment to implementing the outcomes of the Summit. It further agreed that Governments had resolved in Johannesburg to manage the impact of globalization rather than resist it, and that UNEP would have an important role to play in helping countries to develop policies and legislation to deal with environmental impacts associated with globalization.

21. The Rio Conventions — on biological diversity, desertification and climate change — also considered the issue of follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit. In Montreal in March 2003, the Convention on Biological Diversity held its open-ended intersessional meeting on the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010. That meeting made a series of recommendations to be forwarded to the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, scheduled for April 2004 in Malaysia. In recommendation 1 B, on the contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to the Commission on Sustainable Development process, the meeting recognized the importance of close cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development to ensure mutual supportiveness within their respective work programmes so that the work of the Convention would contribute fully to the efforts of the international community to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication. On the follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit, the meeting recommended a number of specific actions, which will be pursued within the framework of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010.

22. The forthcoming sixth session of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention to Combat Desertification (Havana, 25 August-5 September 2003) will consider the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit. The secretariat of the Convention, in a note to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties,⁴ proposed that the Conference express appreciation for the Johannesburg Summit's recommendation that the Global Environment Facility become a financial mechanism of the Convention. The note also proposed that the Conference

emphasize the primary importance of supporting sustainable development in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas in implementing the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit.

23. Meeting shortly after the Johannesburg Summit, Ministers at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New Delhi, October 2002) adopted the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development. The Declaration called for fuller integration of climate change objectives in national sustainable development strategies in key areas such as energy, health and water, etc., building on the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit.

24. UN-Habitat has taken a proactive approach to the follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit. One week after the conclusion of the Summit, the UN-Habitat secretariat reported the outcomes to the UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives. It has also used the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as a guide to update its work under the Millennium Development Goals, such as its work on target 10, on water and sanitation. Within UN-Habitat, a Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch has been set up to focus on the challenge of meeting the water and sanitation targets agreed in Johannesburg. Furthermore, UN-Habitat has been developing new initiatives for the Coalition for Sustainable Urbanization, bringing in new partners and adding new components.⁵

25. The United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have been contributing to the United Nations system-wide follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit through the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. Part of the UNFPA focus is to mainstream the sanitation target of the Johannesburg Summit into country-level reporting. In addition, UNFPA has launched internal processes on the linkages among water, population, gender, reproductive health and poverty, as well as in other thematic areas, in order to strengthen UNFPA programme support for sustainable development at the country level.⁶

26. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in a report submitted to the one hundred and twenty-third session of the FAO Council (Rome, 28 October-2 November 2002), provided a detailed analysis of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit and identified specific areas where FAO will implement programmes that will contribute directly to meeting the goals and targets set in Johannesburg. Among other initiatives, FAO will continue to assist Governments in the formulation and implementation of national and regional strategies, investment programmes and action plans in partnership with other United Nations agencies, scientific institutions and networks. Such assistance will address issues of land degradation, rural poverty, mountains, deforestation, biological diversity, fisheries, freshwater and toxic chemicals.

27. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization, UNCTAD and many other United Nations entities have joined forces with Governments and major groups to launch voluntary partnership initiatives in support of sustainable development. Of the partnerships announced so far in the context of the Johannesburg Summit and its follow-up (see section VII below), organizations of the United Nations system were involved as leading partners in about a quarter of them. Commitments by organizations of the United Nations to

implementation and their recent initiatives in programme reorientation suggest that their engagement in partnerships for sustainable development will continue to be strengthened.

28. At its meeting held in May 2003, the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) included on its agenda an item on the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit and an item on the results of the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Council requested that the GEF action plan be revised to consider, inter alia, the concept of partnership endorsed in Johannesburg, and that criteria and conditions be proposed for GEF to contribute to partnerships aimed at achieving global environmental benefits. The Council further requested its secretariat to prepare, for the Council meeting in November 2003, a note on how GEF might respond to the invitation of the Commission to participate in its work in follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit.

IV. Coordination of implementation activities

29. The sharper focus on implementation and the wide-ranging activities of organizations of the United Nations system underscore the imperative of coordination and collaboration within and between the United Nations system and relevant international institutions. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) agreed that the Johannesburg Summit had given renewed political impetus to the implementation of commitments and agreements reached in Rio in 1992 and had introduced new goals and targets to guide and orient follow-up at both the national and the international level. Members of CEB pointed out that the key message to be conveyed by the United Nations system should be "implementation", which implies acting on the whole range of commitments. They further emphasized that the United Nations system, in contributing to the implementation of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit, based on a clear division of responsibilities, should focus on promoting policies that effectively integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as on supporting the achievement of specific goals and time-bound targets.⁷

30. At its eleventh session, the Commission on Sustainable Development invited the United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, GEF and international and regional financial and trade institutions to participate actively in the work of the Commission. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to further promote system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination and to include in the present report proposals outlining an integrated and comprehensive response of the United Nations system to sustainable development.

31. CEB has been addressing the matter of United Nations system-wide follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit and has requested its High-level Committee on Programmes to pursue the actions required to maximize the United Nations system's support for a sustained follow-up and to give further focus to the matter in 2003. The request from the Commission on Sustainable Development to the Secretary-General for proposals outlining an integrated and comprehensive response of the United Nations system to sustainable development will be considered by the High-level Committee on Programmes in its ongoing consultations.

32. As the high-level intergovernmental body on sustainable development within the United Nations system, the Commission on Sustainable Development continues to serve as a forum for consideration of issues relating to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. As such, the Commission provides a unique forum for addressing new challenges and opportunities and for sharing lessons learned and best practices, including those gained by the United Nations system in the process of implementation at the country level. The Commission, through its review and policy sessions, can thus act as a focal point where the implementation track and the policy review track meet and where cross-fertilization of ideas can take place.

V. International initiatives and events

33. Since the Johannesburg Summit, Governments, United Nations agencies, major groups and other stakeholders have launched a growing number of initiatives and events in follow-up to the Summit. The rich and diverse calendar of national, regional and international meetings and events provides ample evidence of the dynamism, energy and commitment of stakeholders to sustainable development.⁸ Highlighted below are but a few of the events.

34. The International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production was held in Marrakech from 16 to 19 June 2003. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with UNEP. Financial support for the meeting, particularly for the participation of experts from developing countries, was provided by the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden. Some 115 participants from 59 countries attended the meeting, including representatives of government agencies, international organizations, consumer organizations, business and industry.

35. The meeting received reports from two regional expert meetings on sustainable consumption and production, held in Buenos Aires on 22 and 23 April 2003, and in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from 21 to 23 May 2003. The international and regional meetings were organized in response to the call in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for the development of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, and focused on ways to broaden and strengthen international cooperation on the issue.

36. The Marrakech meeting agreed on the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, stressing that the challenge is to move from the more generic to the specific and focus on implementation. A number of follow-up actions were identified as part of the ongoing Marrakech Process, including targeted responses by international organizations to address Governments' priorities and the establishment of mechanisms that encourage and support information and experience-sharing, network-building, and dissemination of best practices. The Marrakech Process also underscored the involvement of all stakeholders, the establishment of concrete partnerships and the strengthening of regional efforts.⁹ The Process is to be continued through regional meetings, task forces and round tables, with another broad expert meeting in two years' time.

37. In response to the call of the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development for activities aimed at strengthening partnerships in the

context of the Johannesburg Summit process and its follow-up, the Government of Italy will host an International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development in March 2004 in Rome. The purpose of the Forum is to enhance the contributions of partnerships for sustainable development, including in the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and other agreements relating to sustainable development. The outcomes of the Forum will be presented during the twelfth session of the Commission, at its first review session, scheduled for April 2004.

38. UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Construction and the city of Weihai, will convene the Weihai Conference on Sustainable Urbanization Strategies in September 2003. This event is being organized as a follow-up action to the Johannesburg Summit and will support international exchange of experiences on sustainable urbanization strategies, including the implementation of the Water for Asian Cities Programme, a strategic partnership programme in support of the implementation of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

VI. Major groups

39. The important contributions by the nine major groups¹⁰ and other stakeholders to the ongoing work on sustainable development issues have become increasingly evident, as seen by their active participation in the Johannesburg Summit preparatory processes and the Summit itself. Major groups can play multiple roles in implementing the outcomes of the Summit by mobilizing efforts in the areas of education, information and awareness-raising; monitoring progress towards the implementation of sustainable development; and contributing directly to implementation through their participation in partnership initiatives.

40. Recognizing the important contributions of major groups, the Commission on Sustainable Development decided at its eleventh session to strengthen major-group involvement in the activities of the Commission, including through the participation of their representatives in the interactive dialogue during high-level segments. The Commission also decided to enhance contributions to the Commission from major groups by making multi-stakeholder dialogues more action- and implementation-oriented and by striving for a better balance and better representation of major groups from all regions. Active involvement of major groups in partnership-related and capacity-building activities at all levels, including the partnership fairs and learning centres, was also emphasized by the Commission.

VII. Partnerships

41. Voluntary partnerships aimed at implementing sustainable development have proved to be an important complementary outcome of the Johannesburg Summit. More than 200 such partnerships were launched during the Summit process, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation designated the Commission on Sustainable Development as the focal point for discussion of partnerships to promote sustainable development.

42. At its eleventh session, the Commission on Sustainable Development reaffirmed that voluntary, multi-stakeholder partnerships contribute to the

implementation of intergovernmental commitments in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, recognizing that partnerships are a complement to, not a substitute for, those commitments.

43. The Commission decided that partnerships within the context of the Johannesburg Summit process and its follow-up should be developed and implemented in accordance with an agreed set of criteria and guidelines, also taking note of the Bali guiding principles, which were developed at the final meeting of the preparatory committee for the Johannesburg Summit, and General Assembly resolution 56/76 of 11 December 2001.

44. To date, about 230 partnerships and 35 activities or processes to initiate partnerships have been posted on the Commission on Sustainable Development web site. Nearly two thirds of these are of global scope; the remaining third have a regional or subregional focus. Overall, Africa, Asia and small island developing States are the regions and group of countries with the highest number of partnerships, followed by Latin America, with few in Eastern and Central Europe.¹¹

45. Nearly two thirds of the partnerships have funding, either to carry out initial phases or for the entire period of the partnership. On the basis of the information provided by leading partners to date, some \$252 million has been committed for partnerships and activities and processes to initiate partnerships. An additional \$120 million is currently being sought or negotiated with potential donors. Just over a third of the partnerships have Governments as leading partners. Organizations of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations are involved as leading partners in 4 out of 10 partnership initiatives.

46. Partnerships launched by major groups accounted for a quarter of the total. Non-governmental organizations, science and research centres, local authorities and universities have initiated the majority of partnerships led by major groups. Private sector partners are involved in many of the partnerships, though not usually as leading partners.

47. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs is currently working on a database to manage information related to partnerships registered with the Commission on Sustainable Development. Once operational, the database will have a web interface, which will enable easy access to the information.

48. In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, it is anticipated that those partnerships related to the themes being considered in each two-year work cycle will receive particular attention at the corresponding session of the Commission, particularly in relation to lessons learned, case studies, constraints and opportunities. Hence, partnerships that relate to water, sanitation and human settlements are expected to be a focus at the Commission's review session in April 2004.

49. The Commission on Sustainable Development has also called for activities aimed at strengthening partnerships and facilitating new ones. At the 2004 review session, building on experience from innovative activities arranged for the Commission at its eleventh session, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will organize a partnership fair and specific learning centre activities relating to partnerships.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

50. The present report provides an overview of initial follow-up actions taken by Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and major groups, as well as decisions adopted recently by relevant intergovernmental bodies. The report shows that there is great enthusiasm and dynamism involved in the follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit and consensus on the sharper focus on implementation. An important thrust of implementation has been to identify obstacles and constraints in implementation and to share lessons learned and best practices at all levels. The widely varied actions and partnership initiatives being implemented at the national, regional and international levels demonstrate the imperative of strengthened cooperation and coordination within and between organizations of the United Nations system and other international institutions. The Commission on Sustainable Development, as the high-level intergovernmental body on sustainable development within the United Nations system, provides an important forum for reviewing progress in implementation, for sharing experiences and lessons learned in implementation at the country, regional and global levels and for integrating such experiences and lessons with policy review and guidance.

51. On the basis of the information provided in the present report, it is recommended that the General Assembly:

(a) Approve the use of the resources previously devoted to the former ad hoc intersessional working groups of the Commission on Sustainable Development to support the participation of representatives of States members of the Commission in one of their respective regional meetings in each implementation cycle;

(b) Urge Governments to continue to be actively engaged in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(c) Call on Governments to provide strong support to the Commission on Sustainable Development in its two-year action-oriented implementation cycle, consisting of a review session and a policy session, and, in this regard, invite Governments to launch, support and engage in initiatives, events and other activities in preparation for the review and policy sessions;

(d) Request the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to continue promoting system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination in implementing Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Notes

¹ See E/2003/29-E/CN.17/2003/6, Chap. I.A, draft resolution I, para. 2.

² A/58/72-E/2003/53, annex.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 17 (E/2003/37-E/ECE/1406)*, paras. 35-40.

⁴ ICCD/COP (6)/5.

⁵ See “UN-Habitat’s Contribution to WSSD”, <http://www.unhabitat.org/wssd/followup.html>.

⁶ See E/2003/13, para.54.

⁷ See E/2003/55, paras. 15-16.

⁸ See <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/calendar/calendar.htm>, <http://www.unep.org/Calendar/>and <http://www.sdgateway.net/events/default.asp>.

⁹ More information on the meeting can be found at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/>.

¹⁰ Women, children and youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers.

¹¹ For updates on partnership initiatives see <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm>.

Annex

Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Thematic cluster</i>	<i>Cross-cutting issues</i>
2004/2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Sanitation • Human settlements 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2006/2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy for sustainable development • Industrial development • Air pollution/atmosphere • Climate change 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2008/2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Rural development • Land • Drought • Desertification • Africa 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2010/2011 ^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Chemicals • Waste management • Mining • Ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2012/2013 ^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests • Biodiversity • Biotechnology • Tourism • Mountains 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education

<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Thematic cluster</i>	<i>Cross-cutting issues</i>
2014/2015 ^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oceans and seas • Marine resources • Small island developing States • Disaster management and vulnerability 	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education
2016/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation 	

^a The thematic cluster will remain as part of the multi-year programme of work as scheduled, unless otherwise agreed by the Commission.