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National reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Subsequent to the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, activities related to national reporting have focused on the following elements: (a) facilitating national reporting to the eighth session of the Commission; (b) preparation of guidelines for the eighth session of the Commission; (c) preparation of an analytical report entitled “Sustainable agriculture and rural development: trends in national implementation”, based on national reports, as well as preparation of background documents; (d) early preparations to facilitate reporting to the Commission at its ninth session; (e) preparation of country profiles for the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be held in 2002; (f) updating and maintenance of the United Nations system-wide sustainable development web site.

I. National reporting to the Commission at its eighth session

2. The Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex) states, in paragraph 115, that national reports on the implementation of Agenda 21 have proved to be a valuable means of sharing information at the international and regional levels and, even more important, of providing a focus for the coordination of

issues related to sustainable development at the national level within individual countries; accordingly, in paragraph 133 (b), the Programme states that national reporting should continue through voluntary national communications or reports.

3. Consistent with the agenda established in the Commission's multi-year programme of work, guidelines for national reporting were prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with task managers, on the following issues: (a) integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources; (b) sustainable agriculture and rural development; (c) forest; (d) finance; and (e) trade. At the end of May 1999, the guidelines were sent simultaneously in English, French and Spanish, by mail and where possible by electronic mail, to the respective permanent representatives to the United Nations in New York and the focal points of all countries. The deadline requested was 31 August 1999.

4. By mid-March 2000, reports had been received from the following 53 countries: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Norway, Pacific Islands, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Republic of

Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and Uzbekistan.

II. Analytical report on sustainable agriculture and rural development: trends in national implementation

5. In its decisions 7/5 of April 1999 and 6/5 of April 1998, the Commission stressed the importance of continuing to take full advantage of the information provided by Governments to the Commission, on a voluntary basis, especially in view of the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21, to take place in 2002. The Commission emphasized the need to draw more fully on the information contained in those national reports or relevant information submitted to the Commission, and requested the Secretariat to process and compile, on a sectoral basis, the information provided by Governments in accordance with the issues contained in its multi-year programme of work.

6. Consequently, the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Sustainable agriculture and rural development: trends in national implementation" (E/CN.17/2000/5) examines the progress made towards sustainable agriculture and rural development based on the information that Governments provided in their national reports to the Commission in 1997 and by mid-January 2000. The report analyses a total of 133 national reports.

7. Consistent with Agenda 21 programme areas on sustainable agriculture and rural development, the report focuses on major policy trends, programmes and activities in these areas by region and subregion.

III. National reporting to the Commission at its ninth session

8. The Secretariat is in the process of preparing guidelines for the ninth session of the Commission. These guidelines, which will refer to reporting on atmosphere/energy (sectoral theme), information for decision-making and participation and international cooperation for an enabling environment (cross-sectoral theme); and energy/transport (economic sector/

major group), should be transmitted to Governments by the end of May 2000 in English, French and Spanish.

9. The deadline requested for submitting national reports to the Secretariat will be September 2000. Should national information be available within that time-frame, it will have a greater impact on the inter-sessional preparations for the ninth session of the Commission as well as on the respective analytical report of the Secretary-General.

IV. Preparations of national reporting for the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be held in 2002

10. As mandated in Commission decision 7/5, paragraph 2 (f), the Secretariat is collecting inputs from member States on how to improve the guidelines for the elaboration of national reports after 2002. A report to this effect will be submitted to the Commission in 2001, as part of the preparations for the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21.

11. As mandated in Commission decision 7/5, paragraph 2 (g), the Secretariat is in the process of preparing country profiles to complement those presented during the five-year review held by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997, for submission to the General Assembly for the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be held in the year 2002.

12. Tables identifying national reports not yet submitted as well as those that have been submitted to the Commission since 1994 are contained in the annex.

V. United Nations system-wide sustainable development web site

13. As reported at earlier sessions, the United Nations system-wide sustainable development web site (at <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natinfo/>) contains the information provided by Governments in their national reports to the Commission, on a country-by-country and issue-by-issue basis. The Secretariat continues to update the web site with new information as Governments submit it.

Annex

Preparation of country profiles for the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be held in 2002

1. The National Information Analysis Unit is in the process of preparing country profiles for 2002 to complement those presented during the five-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 held by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, in 1997.
2. By 2001, draft country profiles will be sent to all reporting countries for their review. Upon their review, the Unit will proceed to finalize and publish the 2002 country profiles series.
3. As reported at previous sessions of the Commission, the Secretariat continues to update the web site with new information as Governments submit it.
4. For queries to the National Information Analysis Unit, please telephone:
 Hiroko-Morita-Lou (212) 963-8813
 Maria Mercedes Sánchez (212) 963-9421.

National reports not yet submitted in preparation for the 10-year review in 2002

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|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Afghanistan | 24. Gabon | 48. Palau |
| 2. Andorra | 25. Grenada | 49. Papua New Guinea |
| 3. Angola | 26. Guatemala | 50. Peru |
| 4. Azerbaijan | 27. Guinea | 51. Rwanda |
| 5. Belize | 28. Jordan | 52. Saint Kitts and Nevis |
| 6. Bhutan | 29. Kenya | 53. Saint Lucia |
| 7. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 30. Kiribati | 54. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| 8. Burkina Faso | 31. Kuwait | 55. Samoa |
| 9. Burundi | 32. Kyrgyzstan | 56. San Marino |
| 10. Cambodia | 33. Lao People's Democratic Republic | 57. Seychelles |
| 11. Cape Verde | 34. Latvia | 58. Sierra Leone |
| 12. Central African Republic | 35. Lesotho | 59. Solomon Islands |
| 13. Chad | 36. Liberia | 60. Somalia |
| 14. Comoros | 37. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | 61. Sudan |
| 15. Congo | 38. Liechtenstein | 62. Tajikistan |
| 16. Cyprus | 39. Mali | 63. Togo |
| 17. Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 40. Malta | 64. Tonga |
| 18. Democratic Republic of the Congo | 41. Marshall Islands | 65. Trinidad and Tobago |
| 19. Djibouti | 42. Mauritania | 66. Turkmenistan |
| 20. Dominica | 43. Micronesia | 67. United Arab Emirates |
| 21. Equatorial Guinea | 44. Mozambique | 68. Vanuatu |
| 22. Eritrea | 45. Namibia | 69. Yemen |
| 23. Ethiopia | 46. Nauru | 70. Zambia |
| | 47. Oman | |

National reports submitted since 1994 to the Commission on Sustainable Development for which country profiles will be prepared for 2002 (national information is available at the web site; see main report, para. 11)

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|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Albania | 32. Ecuador | 62. Luxembourg | 93. Senegal |
| 2. Algeria | 33. Egypt | 63. Madagascar | 94. Singapore |
| 3. Antigua and Barbuda | 34. El Salvador | 64. Malawi | 95. Slovakia |
| 4. Argentina | 35. Estonia | 65. Malaysia | 96. Slovenia |
| 5. Armenia | 36. Fiji | 66. Maldives | 97. South Africa |
| 6. Australia | 37. Finland | 67. Mauritius | 98. Spain |
| 7. Austria | 38. France | 68. Mexico | 99. Sri Lanka |
| 8. Bahamas | 39. Gambia | 69. Monaco | 100. Suriname |
| 9. Bahrain | 40. Georgia | 70. Mongolia | 101. Swaziland |
| 10. Bangladesh | 41. Germany | 71. Morocco | 102. Sweden |
| 11. Barbados | 42. Ghana | 72. Myanmar | 103. Switzerland |
| 12. Belarus | 43. Greece | 73. Nepal | 104. Syrian Arab Republic |
| 13. Belgium | 44. Guinea-Bissau | 74. Netherlands | 105. Thailand |
| 14. Benin | 45. Guyana | 75. New Zealand | 106. The former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia |
| 15. Bolivia | 46. Haiti | 76. Nicaragua | 107. Tunisia |
| 16. Botswana | 47. Honduras | 77. Niger | 108. Turkey |
| 17. Brazil | 48. Hungary | 78. Nigeria | 109. Uganda |
| 18. Brunei Darussalam | 49. Iceland | 79. Norway | 110. Ukraine |
| 19. Bulgaria | 50. India | 80. Pakistan | 111. United Kingdom |
| 20. Cameroon | 51. Indonesia | 81. Panama | 112. United Republic of
Tanzania |
| 21. Canada | 52. Iran (Islamic
Republic of) | 82. Paraguay | 113. United States of
America |
| 22. Chile | 53. Iraq | 83. Philippines | 114. Uruguay |
| 23. China | 54. Ireland | 84. Poland | 115. Uzbekistan |
| 24. Colombia | 55. Israel | 85. Portugal | 116. Venezuela |
| 25. Costa Rica | 56. Italy | 86. Qatar | 117. Viet Nam |
| 26. Côte d'Ivoire | 57. Jamaica | 87. Republic of Korea | 118. Yugoslavia |
| 27. Croatia | 58. Japan | 88. Republic of Moldova | 119. Zimbabwe |
| 28. Cuba | 59. Kazakhstan | 89. Romania | |
| 29. Czech Republic | 60. Lebanon | 90. Russian Federation | |
| 30. Denmark | 61. Lithuania | 91. Sao Tome and Principe | |
| 31. Dominican Republic | | 92. Saudi Arabia | |