

FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009

Agenda item 10. Cross-cutting issues, interlinkages and implementation of CSD-17 decisions

Intervention by the Netherlands¹

- The most important result of this year's CSD-session was a new and more positive focus on agriculture. If one compares the text of the CSD-17-decision from 2009 with earlier texts on sustainable agriculture one will have to agree.
- Its 278 policy measures and actions which were adopted by consensus are of vital importance to accelerate the implementation of the sustainable development agenda.
- The fact that the participants in the intensive negotiating process of this year's CSD backed its decision is a sign that old solutions do no longer fit the new challenges of the 21st century.

CSD-17 has made clear that:

- Agriculture is no longer seen as a problem in reaching sustainable development, but rather as an important part of the solution.
- Agriculture is at the heart of poverty reduction. In many developing countries agriculture is the driving force for economic development.
- Agriculture is crucial for the conservation and sustainable use of our natural resources.
- Agriculture is at the heart of the climate change agenda, especially when we look at mitigation and adaptation measures.

The following innovations were introduced by the Chair during CSD17:

- Interactive Ministerial Roundtables in order to make a notable push to accelerate the implementation of the agreed policy actions.
- Apart from the intergovernmental negotiations and the interactive Ministerial Roundtables, in co-operation with the Bureau some innovative spaces for discussion were created on the CSD-17 agenda, for the first time in CSD history.
- This newly-conceived and innovative dialogue provided an opportunity for a more focused discussion on the role that Major Groups play in implementation, how they have been able to

¹ The text is presented as received from the author.

address the challenges in implementation, and how they envisage the way forward in their activities relevant to the CSD-17 thematic cluster.

- Major Groups participated in a similar dialogue with the policy research community and UN specialized agencies, funds and programs on implementing sustainable development.

We trust that these innovations will be carried forward into the coming CSD-process.

Last but not least the Chair has initiated the following follow-up actions:

- In her capacity of Chair Minister Verburg has presented the results of CSD-17 at several international meetings like
 - at the ECOSOC meeting in Geneva last July;
 - FAO Food Summit 16 November in Rome;
 - At the international meeting of the International year of Planet Earth in Lisbon 20 November.
- She presented the results at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels last September.
- Minister Verburg is in contact with the CSD Secretariat in New York and the Bureau of CSD-18 to see how the results of CSD-17 can find their way into the next CSD session.
- Specifically regarding the issue of agriculture and climate change, Minister Verburg strongly believes that there is great scope for advancing the link between sustainable agriculture, food security and climate change.

Mr. Hans Glaubitz

Ambassador for Sustainable Development of the Netherlands, on behalf of HE Ms. Gerda Verburg, Minister of Agriculture, Nature, and Food Quality of the Netherlands, Chair of CSD-17