

Scientific and Technological Community

Statement by the S&T Community in the CSD-18 Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Partnerships for Sustainable Development (Tuesday, 11 May 2011)

It was a pleasure to listen to the panellists this morning, presenting very interesting examples of partnerships. We noted that in practically all of them the scientific, engineering and technology communities were among the partners and we stand ready to enhance our involvement.

The Scientific and Technological Community major group also very much welcomes calls made by a number of governments and regional groups during last week's discussions – unfortunately only partly included in the Chair's Summary - to strengthen partnerships involving our major group of scientists, engineers and technology experts. These calls related to developing jointly innovation and R&D strategies at all levels for the CSD-18 topical areas, as well as partnerships on scientific and technological capacity building, the development of new environmentally sound technologies, and the transfer of such technologies, where appropriate, including South-South cooperation.

Research partnerships and information exchanges on chemical risks, waste management, and transforming the transport and mining sectors are vital for overcoming major obstacles to sustainable development in these CSD-18 topical areas.

A 10-Year-Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production will have to be built on a wide range of partnerships, and the involvement of the Scientific and Technological Community, including the social and economic sciences, will be essential.

There exist many examples of ongoing partnership initiatives with our communities either in the lead or as a major partner. Earlier this morning, we heard from Mr. (Mauricio) Fernandes about the successful International Year of Planet Earth in 2009 which represented a partnership between the earth sciences community, UN organizations, governments, private sector and civil society organizations. Next year 2011, coinciding with CSD-19, will be the International Year of Chemistry, lead by the International Union of Chemistry and UNESCO, which will strive to build an equally large partnership as for the IYPE.

Enhancing knowledge through sound research - and technology through sound engineering will be pivotal for achieving sound policies and technological innovation. We are involved with relevant UN system organizations in worldwide scientific research and assessment partnerships on several major global environmental change issues, such as climate change and biodiversity loss. With WMO and many governments, we are currently involved in the development of a Global Framework of Climate Information Services.

Finally, I wish to refer to our strong partnership links with most of our Major Groups partners. The Farming First partnership involving the Farmers, Business and Industry and Scientific and Technological Community major groups is an excellent example in this regard.

Thank you.