

SYNTHESIS OF CSD-17 DECISIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Commission on Sustainable Development in its 17th Session that took place from 4-15 May 2009 in New York agreed on a number of decisions to accelerate the implementation of sustainable development agenda in the areas of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. Negotiated outcomes included: 278 decisions/actions, including 46 (in 5 clusters) on *Agriculture*; 49 (in 6 clusters) on *Rural Development*; 41 (in 5 clusters) on *Land*; 27 (in 4 clusters) on *Drought*; 27 (in 3 clusters) on *Desertification*; 53 (in 9 clusters) on *Africa*; and 35 (in 4 clusters) on *Inter-linkages and Means of Implementation*. Another important outcome of the session was Chair's Shared Vision--emphasizing the need to follow a fast track approach to address the challenges confronting sustainable development.

This paper presents a succinct synthesis of policy measures and actions agreed during CSD-17, highlighting 11 key recommendations together with a total of 81 actions embedded in the political declaration adopted by the Commission. This paper serves as a background document to the *Multistakeholder Dialogue on Advancing the implementation of Sustainable Development* to be held in New York on 1 February 2010, with the objective to enhance awareness of Governments and other stakeholders about key messages emanating from the negotiated outcomes. Reference(s) provided at the end of each policy action refer to the corresponding decision number in the official report of CSD-17.

KEY MESSAGES AND AGREED ACTIONS

1. Enhance agricultural productivity and food security

To achieve sustained growth in agricultural productivity and to enhance food security, the governments should implement the following actions:

- a. Provide targeted support and technical assistance to farmers, especially small-scale and women farmers, in the form of affordable inputs, microfinance/micro credit, advisory services on farm management techniques, and risk management strategies in agriculture. {Para. 6(a) (ii), (xii), (xvii); Para. 21(a) (vi)}
- b. Take measures to overcome the growing scarcities of many natural resources and the competing claims to their use by implementing a combination of sustainable soil, land, livestock, forest, biodiversity and water management practices. {Para. 5}
- c.

providing enhanced access to market infrastructure and information. {

- a. Develop and implement comprehensive and integrated rural development policies and programmes, including their mainstreaming in poverty reduction strategies and national development programmes. {Para. 17 (g)}
- b. Expedite implementation of measures and actions which are participatory, multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral and mutually reinforcing. {Para. 14}
- c. Examine challenges and opportunities posed by biofuels within the context of national food security and energy needs, and follow course that is consistent with the national development priorities. {Para. 6 (c) (ii), (iii)}
- d. Prepare and implement national drought management plans which should include, *inter alia*, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures, including but not limited to reducing deforestation, promoting conservation and rehabilitation of vegetation cover, reducing land degradation, and improving soil conservation practices. {Para. 10, 10(a) (i), (iii), (vi)}
- e. Integrate National Action Plans (NAPs) related to drought and desertification into national development strategies, and mobilize support for their implementation through regional and international cooperation and partnerships. {Para. 11(a) (iii), 11(c) (xi), (xii)}
- f. Establish effective land administration systems supported by appropriate institutional and legal frameworks to promote transparent, secure and equitable access to land including land tenure, particularly to the poor and other vulnerable groups, as well as protection of pastoralist grazing rights. {Para. 8(d) (a) (ii); Para. 9(d), 9 (d)(ii), (vi), (v)}
- g. re andirrig,

{Para. 8(d) (c) (i)}

- d. Invest in employment generation projects such as agro-processing and rural industry, rural social services, and natural resources conservation etc. {Para. 8; Para. 8(d) (e) (iii); Para. 21(a) (iv)}
- e. Enhance the resilience of communities to drought by instituting community-based land tenure systems based on good governance principles, promoting mixed crop-livestock production systems, implementing weather insurance schemes, and promoting sustainable land use and water management practices. {Para. 6(c) (i), (iv); Para. 10(c)}
- f. Promote the development and implementation of effective drought information, forecasting and early warning systems to disseminate reliable and timely information to communities living in drought-prone regions to enable them to take appropriate and proactive measures. {Para. 10(a) (v)}
- g. Strengthen links between agriculture and other sectors of the rural economy, and connecting distribution and marketing infrastructure to local markets. {Para. 2; Para. 8(d)(iv)}
- h. Develop sustainable ways to add value to agricultural products to generate additional

- f. Provide access for small and resource-poor farmers to the legal system and legal services.
{Para. 6(b) (ix)}

- j. Take actions to prevent sand dune movement and reduce the frequency and severity of sandstorms, *inter alia*, through strengthening of early warning systems and restoring vegetation. {Para. 11(b)(viii)}

- integrating issues related to drought into national, regional and global sustainable development strategies and plans, {Para. 10(a)(i)}
- organic agriculture, sustainable bio-based products in agriculture, and the management and control of invasive species, {Para. 6(a)(iv), (v), (xi)}
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- providing timely access by farmers to affordable inputs and credit, {Para. 12(b)(i)}
 - enhancing access to public and private insurance instruments, {Para. 12(b)(i)}
 - supporting the participation of farmer organizations into decision making processes, {Para. 12(b)(ii)}
 - strengthening production and marketing capacity of farmer organizations, {Para. 12(b)(iii)}
 - improving market infrastructure and market information systems. {Para. 12(b)(iv)}
- f. Reduce pre- and post- harvest losses especially through:
- infrastructure and transport development, {Para. 12(b)(vi)}
 - improvement of storage capacity and supply chains, {Para. 12(b)(vi)}
 - transfer of technology in line with national and local needs. {Para. 12(b)(vi)}
- g. Create an enabling environment to achieve sustainable development in Africa by improving governance at all levels, implementing pro-poor economic policies, deepening democracy, preventing conflicts, managing post-conflict development and consolidation, protecting human rights, and strengthening active participation. {Para. 12(c)}
- h. Supporting African regional development organisations in their efforts to provide and mobilize support for securing coordination in national strategies and policies for agricultural development and food security; improving the institutional environment for the agricultural economy; and sustainable management of trans-boundary water resources. {Para. 12(d)(iii), (iv)}
- i. Reduce the debt burden of African countries through effective debt management, and extend debt restructuring facility to those countries which are not eligible for assistance

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- j. Implement the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development for the SIDS in a manner that addresses climate change adaptation needs. {Para. 20(c)}

11. Strengthen multi-stakeholders participation and partnerships

Governments of developing countries should seek and mobilize an increasing engagement of various stakeholders (international institutions, civil society, policy and research community and local communities etc.) to back up implementation at national and local levels, especially in the programs and processes aimed at:

- a. Enhancing coherence between and within international processes and institutions having an impact on agriculture, food security and rural development. {Para.13}
- b. Supporting regional initiatives and related national programmes for combating desertification. {Para.11(c)(xi)}
- c. Enhancing the level of assistance to those developing countries implementing governance reforms, including land tenure reforms to enhance sustainable livelihoods. {Para.9(e)(ii)}
- d. Encouraging the farmers to adopt practices that would restore, maintain and enhance ecosystem services. {Para. 6(a)(xix)}
- e. Promoting an equitable multilateral trading system, including strengthening of trading capacities of developing countries. {Para. 21(b)(i), (iii)}
- f. Reaching a successful and timely conclusion to the World Trade Organization Doha Round with an ambitious, balanced and development-oriented outcome. {Chapeau}
- g. Enhancing coordination and coherence among the United Nations system and all relevant international organizations, while respecting their individual mandates. {Chapeau; Para. 6(d)(ix), (x); Para. 10(d)(iv); Para. 11(a)(i); Para. 12(i)}
- h. Strengthening cooperation and coordinati; Para. 12(i)}