

**FINAL VERSION: 14 February 02, 19.00 hrs**

**The Eighth Meeting of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Environment  
(CCGE), 12 February 2002, Cartagena, Colombia**

**Summary Statement by the Chair**

Commonwealth Environment Ministers and Senior Officials met on 12 February 2002 for the eighth meeting of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Environment (CCGE). The meeting was convened to coincide with the Seventh Special Session of the Governing Council of UNEP/Global Environment Ministers Forum held in Cartagena, Colombia. The CCGE was chaired by Hon Mohammed Valli Moosa, South Africa's Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

Ministers focused their discussion on the desired outcomes for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), scheduled for Johannesburg, 26 August – 4 September, 2002, and the practical implementation measures that might be adopted to address global inequity and the role of globalisation for sustainable development. Ministers noted that globalisation is a reality, that there are positive and negative impacts, and that attention should be directed towards reinforcing the positive and mitigating the negative effects, within the broader context and goal of promoting sustainable development. This process could not be achieved through market forces alone. A coherent global response to the problems arising from globalisation is required, and this must include a package of economic measures that seeks to integrate developing countries into the global economy, and build a more balanced and equitable system of global production and consumption.

Ministers agreed there were at least four areas where political will and action is required in making globalisation a positive force for sustainable development: greater market access for developing countries to markets of developed countries; removal of perverse subsidies; mechanisms to promote investment in developing economies and enhance diversification and beneficiation of their products; and finance for development, including levels and effectiveness of ODA.

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WSSD would need to draw together a number of current processes on trade (Doha), environmental governance (Cartagena) and finance (Monterrey). Ministers saw a successful outcome of the Finance for Development Conference in Monterrey as an important milestone in consolidating the economic platform that is needed for a successful WSSD outcome.

Ministers felt that an important focus for the Summit would be poverty eradication and integration of the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, economic and social. South Africa offered a conceptual framework for tangible and concrete outcomes of Johannesburg. Ministers welcomed the approach, which includes the following core elements:

- A renewed political commitment at the highest level for the further implementation of Agenda 21. This would constitute a global deal to strengthen and concretise multilateral action to address the problems of global inequality and poverty.
- A concrete programme of action to deliver on the global deal, and to give effect to the Millennium Summit targets and Agenda 21. It should consist of clear targets and timeframes, delivery and co-ordination mechanisms, resource commitments, and monitoring mechanisms. The programme of action should draw on the themes identified during the preparatory processes for the Summit and should clearly distinguish the roles of international, regional, national and local institutions in implementation.
- A range of specific sectoral agreements, partnerships and actions with business, industry and civil society, to achieve the programmes and outputs of WSSD. The success of these partnerships will depend on the extent to which they are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound.

Noting that the results of Johannesburg could not be implemented by governments alone, Ministers recognised that Commonwealth networks represented an asset-base in building partnerships. They included the inter-governmental network, civil society and professional bodies, private sector and local government (co-ordinated by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Business Council and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, respectively). The Commonwealth Secretariat informed Ministers that it already had a number of activities related to finance and trade issues raised by Ministers at the

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meeting, and undertook to circulate a short paper with the summary record of the meeting, to outline these.

Ministers emphasised that the forthcoming meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM), scheduled for 2-5 March 2002 in Coolum, Australia, presents an important opportunity to discuss and indicate strong support for a successful Summit, especially since it will take place in a Commonwealth country. Australia, chair of CHOGM, indicated their intention to focus the meeting on issues concerning strengthening the political and economic role of the Commonwealth, and will convey the message from Ministers that attention be given to WSSD.

Ministers agreed that the statement to CHOGM should:

- include an earnest request that all Heads of Government attend and participate in the Summit;
- call on delegations to include Ministers with responsibilities covering the 3 pillars of sustainable development (e.g. Ministers for Finance, Trade, Health, etc., as well as Environment);
- support the conceptual framework for outcomes of the Summit, including high level political agreement, a concrete programme of action and practical partnerships for implementation;
- underline the need to prioritise 3 to 5 key areas of focus for the Summit, in which at least minimum achievable goals should be agreed; areas of interest noted by Ministers included: fresh water and sanitation; energy; oceans; linking ODA to promotion of investment; a particular focus on the needs of Africa (especially sub-Saharan Africa) and support for regional initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States.

Ministers agreed to meet again immediately before the 22<sup>nd</sup> UNEP Governing Council meeting/Global Environment Ministers Forum in 2003, and that Sri Lanka would chair the session. Senior Commonwealth officials might meet, as appropriate, in the wings of other meetings, particularly in the lead-up to the WSSD.

Cartagena, Colombia – 14 February 2002