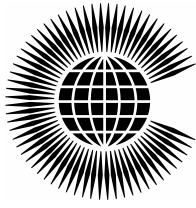


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**POVERTY, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
Commonwealth Work in Support of WSSD Implementation**

A Paper by the Commonwealth Secretariat

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**POVERTY, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
Commonwealth Work in Support of WSSD Implementation**

Issues for Ministers

1. This paper considers approaches that the Commonwealth Secretariat could adopt over the next five years to support member states' own efforts towards implementation of the agreements reached at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The process by which the paper was developed, and its discussion by Ministers at the ninth session of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Environment, is a first step towards ensuring the delivery of timely and cost-effective support to member governments in areas where the Commonwealth Secretariat has clear comparative advantage. Priorities identified by Ministers at CCGE-9 will contribute to the Secretariat's planning for its work programme in 2003/04 and the new four-year strategic plan that will run from July 2004 to June 2008.

2. In their discussions, Ministers may wish to consider the following points:

- (i) ***UNEP GC/GMEF Agenda.*** Ministers may wish to caucus on the UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum theme of 'poverty alleviation, the environment and sustainable development in a globalised world'.
- (ii) ***National Concerns.*** Ministers may wish to consider issues of mutual concern in relation to implementation of the agreements reached at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
 - issues that have been raised by member government for discussion at CCGE-9 include:
 - engaging the private sector in environment protection
 - review of the outcomes of WSSD, and development of time-bound action plans for delivering the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Millennium Development Goals
 - issues for the forthcoming UN Commission on Sustainable Development in April 2003.
- (iii) ***Commonwealth Secretariat Response.*** Ministers may wish to consider the proposed elements of the Commonwealth Secretariat's work in support of WSSD implementation, especially:
 - the focus and balance of issues addressed in the work programme;
 - effective approaches that the Secretariat might adopt to develop a close working relationship with member governments in implementing the WSSD agreements; and
 - how the Commonwealth's potential as a network of networks can best be harnessed in implementing WSSD.

COMMONWEALTH SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF WSSD OUTCOMES

Introduction

3. This paper recognises that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation speaks to many elements of the Secretariat's work, including substantial programmes on conflict prevention and resolution, governance, human rights, trade, finance for development, gender mainstreaming, health and education. Recognising the need for more deeply integrated approaches addressing all three pillars of sustainable development, these programmes will be reviewed in the light of priorities identified by WSSD, and considered within relevant Commonwealth Ministerial forums. The paper presents a more detailed analysis of environment-related work that could be implemented by the Secretariat in response to the Summit. As an initial exchange of information, the Annex provides a review of recent work by the Commonwealth Secretariat that is of interest to Environment Ministers, showing how it relates to specific paragraphs in the Plan of Implementation.

Outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

4. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 26 August – 4 September 2002) finalised a 54-page Plan of Implementation to build on the achievements made since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, and adopted the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, in which world leaders committed themselves “to expedite the achievement of the time-bound, socio-economic and environmental targets” contained in the Plan of Implementation. The Declaration and Plan of Implementation represent an important commitment to a continued strengthening of sustainable development; they also deepen the integration of poverty, economic and social issues in to the international framework on sustainable development elaborated through the United Nations.

5. Throughout the preparatory phase, there had been calls for the Summit to focus on just a few multidisciplinary areas, but this proved difficult to achieve in practice. Some focus was achieved through the WEHAB agenda (*Water and sanitation; Energy; Health; Agriculture, and Biodiversity*), which was proposed by the UN Secretary-General, and formed the basis for thematic plenaries in Johannesburg. Poverty was the Summit's overarching theme.

6. Head-line agreements were reached in the areas of chemicals management, water and sanitation: a deadline of 2020 was agreed to achieve the use and production of chemicals in ways that lead to the minimisation of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment; and in addition to the Millennium Development Goal on access to safe drinking water, a target of 2015 was set for halving the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation. Fisheries stocks will be maintained or restored on an urgent basis, and where possible by 2015; and a significant reduction achieved in the current rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010. An international instrument will be negotiated under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity on sharing the benefits arising from the utilisation of biological resources. A World Solidarity Fund is created to eradicate poverty. Negotiations on trade issues did not move beyond Doha language, as some delegates had hoped. The agreement promotes ‘mutual supportiveness’ between the multilateral trading system and multilateral environmental agreements, while recognising the importance of maintaining the integrity of both sets of instruments. No time-bound targets could be agreed on renewable

energy, though the section on Small Island Developing States has a commitment to support the availability of adequate, affordable and environmentally sound energy services by strengthening on-going, and supporting new, efforts on energy supply and services by 2004; and developing and promoting efficient use of sources of energy. Other agreements related to improving access to energy services and resources, removing market distortions, and improving the functioning of energy markets and energy efficiency.

7. Recognising that sustainable development can not be delivered by governments alone, it was agreed that the Summit would provide a forum where new partnerships or initiatives could be announced, that were international in scope and reach, and aimed at strengthening the implementation of Agenda 21 (the 40-chapter blueprint for action that was adopted in Rio). Partnerships were a second type of outcome ('Type II') from WSSD, complementing the first type of outcome – formally negotiated and adopted political agreements. The way in which Type II outcomes should interact with, or link to, the WSSD process and its follow-up was debated at length. At Johannesburg, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development was mandated to act “as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development”. Both business and civil society had a strong presence at the Summit and actively engaged in partnerships arrangements on a range of issues.

8. Commonwealth concerns were advocated at WSSD through two official background papers circulated in Johannesburg. These drew on priorities identified by the CCGE, and have been provided to CCGE-9 as CCGE(03)(INF)1 and CCGE(03)(INF)2. The Commonwealth Secretary-General attended the high-level segment and issued a forward-looking statement that was delivered in the plenary session.

The Building Blocks of a Work Programme

9. Three frameworks have guided development of the Secretariat's strategic response to WSSD:

- (i) ***Key messages to emerge from the WSSD process.*** The WSSD process highlighted a number of important approaches to sustainable development that will be reflected in the Secretariat's work programme on WSSD:
 - a deeper integration of the three pillars of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental), with perhaps greater balance achieved in the international framework for action on sustainable development through the prominence given to poverty, social and economic issues in WSSD negotiations.
 - strong focus on peace, human rights and governance issues as critical concerns for sustainable development.
 - above all, the need for demonstrable progress on implementation, including through increased flows of resources to sustainable development and the building of strategic partnerships with a wide base of different stakeholders.

- (ii) ***Maximising Commonwealth strengths.*** These are derived from fundamental characteristics of the association¹, which result in an institution that is able to work effectively in the areas of advocacy, consensus building, and technical co-operation, especially in areas related to law, policy making, and governance.
- (iii) ***Mandates from Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGMs)***
Successive Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings have underlined the critical importance of people-centred sustainable development. In 1989, the Langkawi Declaration on Environment initiated an early institutional commitment to addressing poverty alleviation through an integrated focus on all three pillars of sustainable development. The 2002 Coolum CHOGM, which set the strategic direction for the Commonwealth in the 21st Century, stressed governments' determination to "*work to eliminate poverty, to promote people-centred and sustainable development, and thus progressively to remove the wide disparities in living standards among us and overcome the special challenges facing our small state and less developed members*". They called for strategic advocacy and political influence to focus on areas of shared concern where Commonwealth political engagement can be deployed in support of members' economic and development interests. These include greater attention to promoting dialogue and co-operation to develop a global response to major environmental challenges such as climate change and sea-level rise. They stated that the Commonwealth should also influence the broader global debate and the possible emerging consensus on sustainable development.

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Commonwealth Secretariat Work Programme

10. A key outcome from WSSD was the deeper integration of human rights, governance, social and economic issues in the international framework for sustainable development, taking it forward from the focus on environment and development generated by the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The fact that these issues produced some of the most contentious negotiations is an indication of how challenging implementation of this new framework is likely to be. The Commonwealth Secretariat has substantial programmes of work addressing a number of social and economic elements of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Here are just three examples – information on other areas is provided in the Secretariat's paper for the Summit (CCGE(03)(INF)1) and the Annex to this paper:

¹ It has a deep commitment to peace, human rights and governance issues, derived from the fundamental principles all members of the Commonwealth hold in common; it is a cross-section of the globe representing diverse constituencies from the North, South, rich, poor, large and small. This provides a fertile arena for dialogue and bridge-building in a number of areas; its democratic decision-making, with all members having an equal voice, creates a high degree of trust and confidence in its official multilateral processes; its common working language, shared traditions and similarities in administrative, legal and education systems enable it to share experience and improve standards through functional co-operation in a number of sectors; its inclusiveness helps to advance the interests of its smaller and weaker members, whose voices are otherwise not heard in international negotiations; and it is able to draw on the knowledge and resources of a vibrant network of Commonwealth professional and non-governmental organisations. Report by the Commonwealth High Level Review Group to Commonwealth Heads of Government, Coolum, Australia, as adopted by Heads of Government at their meeting in Coolum on 3 March 2002.

- implementation of a Commonwealth Action Plan on ‘Delivering the Monterrey Consensus’, agreed by Commonwealth Finance Ministers in September 2002;
- addressing Plan of Implementation and Millennium Development Goal priorities on maternal health, child mortality, HIV/AIDS and achieving universal access to education. The focus is on women’s and adolescent’s health; human resources for health (e.g. retaining trained health workers); building partnerships with international organizations, pan-Commonwealth and other NGOs to optimise efforts and resources for capacity in the health sector; and gender equality in education; and
- examining ways in which democracies can best be supported in combating poverty, undertaken by a Commonwealth Expert Group on Democracy and Development.

11. In response to WSSD, the Commonwealth Secretariat will:

- review plans and programmes in the light of WSSD outcomes.
- where appropriate, priorities identified in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation will be reflected in the agendas for discussion by Commonwealth Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Women’s Affairs, Finance, Law, Health, Environment, and Education.

Poverty, Environment and Sustainable Development: Issues of Interest to Environment Ministers

12. This section of the work programme relates to areas of the WSSD that are of particular interest to Commonwealth Environment Ministers. The key focal areas will be as follows:

- *Least Developed Countries and Small States*, giving a focus on implementation of Chapters VII (sustainable development of small island developing states) and VIII (sustainable development of Africa) of the Plan of Implementation
- Biodiversity (part of the WEHAB agenda)
- Climate change
- Sustainable management and use of fisheries, ocean and coastal resources.
- Sustainable tourism

13. Closely integrated in to these will be:

- consensus building and policy support
- efforts towards gender mainstreaming
- a focus on poverty reduction, and
- rights-based approaches to sustainable development.

Strategic Issues

14. *LDCs and Small States*. Developing countries, especially least developed countries and small states are key Commonwealth constituencies for priority assistance. Commonwealth Heads of Government, at their meeting in Coolum in 2002, welcomed the

groundbreaking proposal from Africa to tackle poverty through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and recognised the particular vulnerabilities of small states and the need for concerted action by the international community to address their special needs. Heads of Government endorsed the New Agenda for Commonwealth Work on Small States, which identifies priority areas for immediate action by the Commonwealth.

15. ***Integration of the three pillars.*** The primary focus will be the deepening of the three pillars of sustainable development through programmes that address poverty alleviation, economic growth, social development, and environmental conservation. The following areas have been identified as having strong potential for pursuing an integrated approach: sustainable tourism; fisheries and oceans management; and the sustainable use of biological resources. These issues are of particular concern to Commonwealth member states and areas where the Secretariat has both capacity and a record of successful work.

16. ***Strategic gap filling within existing resources.*** The approach will be one of strategic gap filling within existing resources, and in areas of particular Commonwealth competence such as consensus building, advocacy, legal support, governance, policy development, and technical co-operation.

17. ***Link to the regional level.*** The most effective and efficient way to ensure a close fit between Secretariat support and member states' implementation of WSSD would be to strengthen its collaboration with regional institutions. As can be seen from activities listed in the Annex, many Commonwealth programmes are already implemented in this way and efforts to build a close working relationship with regional institutions will continue to be strengthened.

18. ***Inclusive Approaches.*** The development of this plan, like the Commonwealth Action Plan on 'Delivering the Monterrey Consensus', has benefited from broad-based consultations with governments, NGOs and Commonwealth organisations. As a series of networks, the Commonwealth can provide a useful asset-base for implementing the outcomes of WSSD, and increased efforts will be made to engage the different elements of the Commonwealth network in support of WSSD implementation. They include the inter-governmental network, local government (represented by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum), professional and civil society organisations (represented by the Commonwealth Foundation), and business (represented by the Commonwealth Business Council).

Programme Areas

19. The approaches presented below are intended to generate a dynamic and informal debate at CCGE-9 to identify priority areas for support to member states with WSSD implementation. The outcomes will contribute to the Commonwealth Secretariat's programme planning processes for the 2003/04 work programme, and its four year strategic plan for 2004/08.

(i) *Consensus Building*

20. The Commonwealth Consultative Group on Environment is the Commonwealth's primary intergovernmental forum on environment and sustainable development issues. It was constituted to facilitate consultations among member countries on follow-up to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Since 2001,

meetings have been held in the wings of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. This provides the opportunity for Ministers and Senior Officials to caucus on issues for the UNEP sessions, and to consider timely Commonwealth inputs to CSD preparatory sessions. Future programme priorities might be as follows:

- Future sessions of the CCGE to:
 - consider priority Commonwealth concerns on the UNEP and CSD agendas for that year, through substantive papers and informal debate;
 - provide an opportunity for Commonwealth governments to share priorities and concerns with respect to implementation of the Rio and WSSD Agreements and consider inputs that may be made to CSD preparatory meetings;
 - periodically review Commonwealth progress on WSSD implementation, including support by the Secretariat; and
 - raise issues on which the Commonwealth might play an advocacy role on sustainable development in other forums.

- The Commonwealth Secretariat to:
 - explore publication of a plain language version of the Plan of Implementation; and
 - implement a programme of support to small member states in their preparations for the review and international meeting on implementation of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action. Further details on this proposal are provided in CCGE(03)2 for consideration under agenda item 4 of the Provisional Agenda for CCGE-9.

(ii) ***Partnerships/Type II Outcomes***

21. Ministers may wish to consider what *concrete* role the Commonwealth might play in with respect to WSSD Type II Partnerships. Depending on the focus, this may be more of a mode of delivery than a programme element, or a relatively new area of work for the Secretariat. There are two aspects to consider:

- The role of the Commonwealth as participant in Type II partnerships. This may be an area of some potential, particularly if it is able to leverage its range of networks representing government, civil society, business, and local government.

- Support to member states in addressing their concerns on, or participation in, Type II partnerships. This might include:
 - analysing areas in which partnerships are being formed, and hence where funding might be available that member countries could tap in to;
 - examining the interests of business within partnerships, including: trade policy, finance and debt issues, HIV/AIDS and the digital divide;
 - in the medium-term, reviewing Type II Partnership concerns of member states, within the context of CSD deliberations; and

- advice and leadership in the field of public-private partnerships (PPPs): addressing the social and political issues as well as funding concerns, developing institutional capacity to implement PPPs, and fostering corporate responsibility.

(iii) ***Multilateral Environmental Agreements***

22. The number of international environmental agreements has mushroomed since the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, and altogether, over 200 have been concluded since the 1930s. UNCED itself adopted Agenda 21; the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and a statement of principles on the sustainable use and management of forests. It also set in motion negotiations that led to agreements on desertification, straddling and migratory fish stocks, and the sustainable development of small states. All of these agreements continue to evolve. Meanwhile, new MEAs are being completed (e.g. on persistent organic pollutants). Many Commonwealth developing countries, especially LDCs and small states, lack the capacity to take part effectively in these negotiations and keep abreast of all the issues they encompass. As it does in the area of multilateral trade negotiations, the Secretariat can provide support that helps these countries to mitigate this constraint. Over the next 5 years, the Commonwealth Secretariat could develop a more integrated programme of assistance in two key areas: biodiversity and climate change.

a) ***Biodiversity***

23. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation recognises that biodiversity is being lost at unprecedented rates due to human activities and that this trend can only be reversed if the local people benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, especially in countries of origin of genetic resources. It notes that the CBD is the key instrument for achieving the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from use of genetic resources. The Plan sets a target of 2010 for achieving a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biodiversity, and among the actions required at all levels to achieve this are: implementation of the Convention and its provisions; and the negotiation, within the framework of the CBD, of an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. The SIDS chapter of the Plan highlights capacity building on marine and coastal biological diversity and, where applicable, intellectual property regimes. The Africa chapter highlights the capacity building on the negotiation and implementation of MEAs, and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the context of sustainable tourism.

24. Some of the challenges that face member states in progressing implementation on biodiversity issues include: working towards increased synergy in the implementation of various MEAs related to biodiversity; agreeing approaches to assessing progress on the WSSD target on biodiversity; and improved education/public awareness, taking 'biodiversity' beyond the popular conception of endangered species to a deeper understanding of ecosystems health, and pollinators, etc. Commonwealth strengths in regard to the Plan of Implementation include: support to member states in implementing the Convention and its provisions; wealth creation and poverty eradication through the use of biological resources; and addressing issues related to benefit sharing and intellectual property rights.

25. Future programme priorities could include:

- Advocacy, capacity building and technical assistance to assist members to negotiate, ratify, and implement their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol, including:
 - networking on political, scientific and technical issues for Conferences sessions, including the next COP in 2004;
 - providing briefs on current negotiations and emerging issues (in addition to CBD-specific briefing, the Commonwealth Secretariat's wider programme of work related to trade – Doha work programme, TRIPs, etc – may be of interest);
 - delivering environmental law seminars to facilitate ratification/accession; and
 - developing model legislation for Convention and Protocol implementation.

- Implementation of an expanded programme on creation of wealth from biological resources through: sustainable use of medicinal plants; and protection of knowledge, innovations and practices of the indigenous and local people, including:
 - documentation and promotion of grassroots innovations;
 - regional workshops to promote the concept of corporate responsibility using new or existing initiatives at regional, national and international levels;
 - development of access, bioprospecting, marketing and benefit-sharing arrangements of biological resources;
 - development of *sui generis* frameworks for protecting knowledge, intellectual property, innovations and practices of local people; and
 - continued capacity building in the sustainable use of medicinal plants through training in medicinal plant processing.

b) *Climate Change*

26. Climate change is a concern of all Commonwealth states, but especially small island states, low-lying countries and least developed countries, as they are likely to experience some of the most severe impacts of global warming and the greatest constraints in implementing adaptation measures. There were long and complex negotiations on energy issues at Johannesburg under chapter III on 'changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production' (para 19 of the Plan of Implementation); the SIDS chapter (para 53) and Africa chapter (para 56j). Climate issues are addressed in para 36 of Chapter IV (protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development). The Plan recognises the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the key instrument for addressing climate change. Among other things, the Plan calls for action to meet commitments and obligations under the UNFCCC, and work co-operatively towards achieving the objectives of the Convention. Among other paragraphs, the Plan of Implementation addresses desertification under paragraph 39. The SIDS chapter includes assistance in mobilising adequate resources and partnerships for SIDS' adaptation needs relating to the adverse effects of climate change, sea level rise and climate vulnerability. The Africa chapter highlights assistance in mobilising adequate resources for adaptation needs

relating to the adverse effects of climate change, extreme weather events, sea level rise and climate variability, as well as assistance in developing national climate change strategies and mitigation programmes, and continuing to take actions to mitigate the adverse effects on climate change in Africa.

27. Commonwealth strengths in regard to the Plan of Implementation relate to consensus building, policy support, and rights-based approaches to development. It is felt that other institutions have greater capacity in the area of energy.

28. Future programme priorities could include:

- briefs on climate change and desertification negotiations; and
- implementation of a policy forum on climate change concerns for the most vulnerable Commonwealth countries, for example in advance of COP-9 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. External resources, complementing programme funds, would be required to implement this initiative.

(iv) ***Sustainable Fisheries and Oceans Management***

29. There is growing concern about the deterioration of marine and coastal environments and their management in several small states. A wide range of problems needs to be tackled. These include: the erosion of beaches mainly due to the mining of sand and coral, the degradation of coral reefs and mangroves (which, in addition to their rich biodiversity, are important natural defences against sea-level rise); increasing pollution of marine and coastal resources from land-based sources (e.g. domestic sewage, industrial effluents); difficulties in managing vast Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), which are an important potential resource for many SIDS; and illegal fishing by foreign fishing fleets. These concerns were reflected in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation through paragraphs on: oceans, seas, islands and coastal areas, sustainable fisheries, protection of the marine environment from land-based activities, maritime safety and pollution and transboundary movement of radioactive material (paras 29-34). Agreements were reached on: maintaining or restoring fisheries stocks; effecting plans of action on managing fishing capacity and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; eliminating subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to over-capacity; establishing marine protected areas, including representative networks; encouraging application of the ecosystem approach for the sustainable development of oceans; supporting sustainable aquaculture; and establishing an inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the UN system. Both the SIDS and Africa chapters of the Plan of Implementation highlight action with respect to marine and coastal environments.

30. Some of the challenges that face member states in progressing implementation on sustainable fisheries and oceans management include: developing legislation and other frameworks to support efforts on governance issues in coastal waters and high seas (illegal fishing, boundary delimitation, establishment of marine parks and conservation areas, etc); and capacity building, and efforts to promote corporate responsibility, in the key areas of fishing, tourism and shipping.

31. Future programme priorities, fulfilled principally through CFTC's technical assistance programmes, might be as follows.

- Negotiation and drafting of *petroleum and mining* agreements and legislation that address environmental issues.
- Negotiation and drafting of *maritime legislation* that may include marine parks development, protection for coral reefs and coastal areas, such as mangrove swamps and delta wetlands.
- Legal support on *maritime boundary delimitation*.
- Support to member states in their negotiations under the WTO and ACP on *fisheries subsidies*.
- *Marine and freshwater fisheries and aquaculture*. Small-scale aquaculture and fisheries represent an important source of food security and income for poor communities. Their sustainable management involves a wide range of owners and users of fishery resources including fishers, youth, women groups, processors, fishmongers, exporters, fishing co-operatives, NGOs, credit schemes, government institutions, coastal and rural communities. The Commonwealth Secretariat will continue to develop the capacity of owners and users of fishery resources to ensure management capacity among the people whose activities affect the physical, biological and ecological balance of the fishery resources and the aquatic environment. Small-scale fisheries programmes will emphasise social aspects of management, science to address multiple species and ecosystem health, and economics examining the benefits and costs to fishing households and communities, as well as individual fishing boats and fishing fleets.

(v) *Sustainable Tourism*

32. The issue of sustainable tourism has gained increasing importance on the international agenda and is dealt with in some detail under paragraph 41 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. This highlights promoting sustainable tourism development and capacity-building to contribute to the strengthening of rural and local communities. The links between biodiversity and sustainable tourism are acknowledged (42b) and both the SIDS and Africa chapters highlight sustainable tourism as an important area to address. In SIDS, developing community-based initiatives on sustainable tourism by 2004, and building the capacities necessary to diversify tourism products, while protecting culture and traditions, and effectively conserving and managing natural resources (52g), are identified as priorities. In the Africa chapter, the focus is on supporting Africa's efforts to attain sustainable tourism that contributes to social, economic and infrastructure development through: implementing projects at different levels with the emphasis on marketing African tourism products; and establishing and supporting national and cross-border conservation areas to promote ecosystem conservation.

33. Tourism is a key economic sector for many Commonwealth countries, and one that has a strong potential for producing multiple benefits through the deep integration of policy objectives of the three pillars of sustainable development. Sustainable tourism is truly cross-cutting, involving linkages to coastal zone management, development and management of conservation areas, urban planning, transport, and local industry (agriculture, crafts, access to new markets). In small states, which are increasingly constrained by loss of trade preferences, an expanded, but sustainable, tourism sector is will be of increasing importance in the future.

34. One of the key challenges for member governments is to develop sustainable tourism approaches within the mainstream tourism sector. Areas of focus for action might include: tourism policy; information transfer on community-based projects that are in existence; facilitating access to tourism markets; building the capacity of public sector bodies and SMEs in sustainable development approaches; strengthening planning mechanisms in general; local Agenda 21 initiatives; and developing visitor management skills at key natural and cultural sites.

35. Future programme priorities, fulfilled principally through CFTC's technical assistance programmes, might be as follows.

- Assistance in the preparation of long-term tourism master plans that promote sustainable development.
- Promoting developing countries' investment and tourism programmes.
- Assisting developing countries to develop a regional approach to tourism promotion and co-ordination.

Selected Commonwealth Secretariat programmes as they relate to paragraphs in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

This listing is intended to provide basic information exchange on recent and current Commonwealth Secretariat work related to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, especially aspects related to poverty, environment and sustainable development. Paragraphs of the WSSD Plan of Implementation appear in bold type, with bullet-point summaries of related Commonwealth Secretariat work provided below. Many programmes are cross-cutting in nature and are placed under suitable, but by no means exclusively suitable, Plan of Implementation paragraph numbers.

Introduction

5. Peace, security, stability and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as well as respect for cultural diversity, are essential for achieving sustainable development and ensuring that sustainable development benefits all.

- Works discreetly on internal problems in member states. Mounts election observer groups; promotes 'best practice' on electoral processes; and strengthens democratic values and culture. Critical among these initiatives is the work of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group to address serious or persistent violations of the Commonwealth's fundamental principles. The Commonwealth Committee on Terrorism is implementing a Plan of Action to assist members with meeting their obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1373. A Commonwealth Expert Group on Democracy and Development is examining ways in which democracies can best be supported in combating poverty.
- Brings a strong gender, health, education perspective brought to post-conflict and peace-building processes in countries affected by civil conflicts e.g. in Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka.

Poverty Eradication

6(d) Promote women's equal access to and full participation, on the basis of equality with men, in decision-making at all levels, mainstreaming gender perspectives in all policies and strategies, eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women, and improving the status, health and economic welfare of women and girls through full and equal access to economic opportunity, land, credit, education and health-care services

- Plays a catalytic role in spearheading high-level gender equality advocacy and policy work in gender mainstreaming in four core development areas: human rights for women including the elimination of gender-based violence; the macro-economic sector including the differential impacts of 'ungendered' budgets, globalisation, and trade on women and men; the health sector with a focus on the gender issues in HIV/AIDS; and greater participation of women in the

political and conflict-resolution and peace-building. Enhances the integration of gender analysis in development programmes at local, national and regional/international levels.

- Uganda: sector-wide training completed on gender mainstreaming for over 160 key Gender Focal Points, including Permanent Secretaries of all Ministries and Local Government planners. Gender adviser also in place.
- With UNIFEM/ECA, support ECOWAS Secretariat to develop a Gender Mainstreaming Regional Policy Framework for adoption and implementation by Women's Ministers/Heads of Governments.
- With SADC and ECA, advocating, promoting, and implementing an integrated framework on women's human rights and Violence Against Women in at least 11 countries. Building capacity to develop national plans and sensitising the judiciary and police forces; and targeting core group of national/regional trainers.
- Sensitising SADC members on applications of the gender-responsive budgeting framework and tools.

9(c) Promote the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including by means of training, education and skill enhancement, with a special focus on agro-industry as a provider of livelihoods for rural communities

Microcredit Development:

- Malawi: capacity built for microcredit delivery and the building of networks for best practice exchange at regional and sub-regional levels. Capacity built for microenterprise development. Technical assistance to Government Officials and District Officers on implementation of poverty programmes and training of trainers for government officials on development and dissemination of effective microfinance programmes.
- Mozambique: capacity building initiatives implemented with LINK (the NGO umbrella organisation); assistance to the government in setting up a microcredit/microfinance project in Tete; established a Microcredit Management System to disseminate good practice.
- Uganda: addressed start-up problems with seed capital project for microinvestment; introduced microcredit for women's groups to support agro-processing.
- Zambia: assistance provided in improving regulatory framework for the interaction of credit providers and beneficiaries; developed capacity of the Small Enterprise Development Board on microenterprise & SME development.

Rural Development:

- Review of agro-food processing sector in Gambia. Recommended enhancing competitiveness through: improved technology for food preservation and processing; providing marketing and export strategies; and establishing a pilot project where women can be trained in processing and preservation. The study identified women groups to be assisted with machinery and equipment in the near future.
- Developed projects on affordable housing and public buildings in the Gambia and Sierra Leone utilising local building materials, which in addition will create

opportunities for youth development and employment. Established production and training centres in each country, upgraded existing units, and trained local personnel in the effective operation of low cost building techniques and produced draft national standards for locally based building materials (see also WSSD Plan of Implementation para 10a).

- In Namibia, detailed study on the setting up of seven Common Manufacturing Facilities for the small scale business sector. Assistance provided to establish an auto cluster at Odangwa and a semi-precious stone cutting, polishing and jewellery making unit at Keetmanshoop.
- WIEGO/ECA/COMSEC partnership: regional workshop (December 2002) on food processing and minor forest product global value chains in the Africa region; good practices in increasing global market access by informal sector women producers/workers to influence national trade policy/impacts (implementation is planned of a pan-Commonwealth programme that includes LDCs and small states in the Asia, Caribbean and Pacific regions. It will be part of a larger WIEGO global value chains/markets initiative).

Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns

18(b) Continue to promote the internalisation of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the costs of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment

- Regional capacity building initiatives completed across the Commonwealth for senior economic and environmental policy practitioners in the practical use of economic assessment and economic instruments to promote sustainable development. Follow-up in South Pacific currently planned with SPREP.

Waste

21 Prevent and minimize waste and maximize reuse, recycling and use of environmentally friendly alternative materials, with the participation of government authorities and all stakeholders, in order to minimize adverse effects on the environment and improve resource efficiency, with financial, technical and other assistance for developing countries

- Consultant, Environmental Waste Management, Malta. Working with the Ministry of the Environment to develop a waste management Strategic Plan (see also para 52(e) of the Plan of Implementation)
- Waste/Energy: Study on Electrical Energy Production, Bangladesh. Assistance to Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources in electrical energy generation from municipal waste in Dhaka. Report expected 30 November 2002 (see also para 19 of Plan of Implementation).

Sustainable Development of Coastal Resources

(see also below paras 44a (mining and minerals) on petroleum and gas legislation, and 52c on delimiting EEZs)

29(a) Invite States to ratify or accede to and implement the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities

- Assist member countries on the legal aspects of implementing international instruments related to sustainable fisheries and environment protection under the UNCLOS and UNCED, Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, etc.

29(b) Promote the implementation of chapter 17 of Agenda 21 which provides the programme of action for achieving the sustainable development of oceans, coastal areas and seas through its programme areas of integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas...strengthening international, including regional, cooperation and coordination; and sustainable development of small islands

- Study of Coastal Erosion on Tomgatapu, Tonga. Assistance to South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) with a study of rapidly accelerating coastal erosion on and around the main island of the Kingdom, with a focus on beach sand extraction and destruction of natural coastal defences (mangroves, lagoons, etc) caused by population increase.

29(e) Promote integrated, multidisciplinary and multisectoral coastal and ocean management at the national level, and encourage and assist coastal States in developing ocean policies and mechanisms on integrated coastal management

(also relevant to para 56(i) of the Plan of Implementation)

- Adviser provided to the Marine & Coastal Resources Research Centre, Namibia – a multi-disciplinary research centre which promotes sustainable and responsible utilisation of Namibia's coastal resources and makes inputs to SADC. Topics include sustainable utilisation of solar, wave & tidal energy, sea, fog and brackish water.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

30(h) Support the sustainable development of aquaculture, including small-scale aquaculture, given its growing importance for food security and economic development

- Trout fish farming industry is being developed in the Highlands provinces of Papua New Guinea.
- Develops fish and shrimp farming systems in coastal waters and inland rural areas for local consumption and export, e.g. in Jamaica.
- In countries like Papua New Guinea where governments have been reformed, public institutions restructured and down-sized, and management decentralised, work is focused on the development of a culture of self-reliance among the coastal and island communities to reduce their dependence on the state for their survival, by training fisherfolks and entrepreneurs involved in small to medium enterprises on business management, management of loan funds and loan repayments.
- Collaboration with regional fisheries organisations in the SADC, COMESA, EAC, South Pacific, Caribbean and the Indian Ocean regions.
- Assistance provided to Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to develop a regional fisheries strategy, and capacity on Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS).
- In Tonga. Assistance provided on processing of marine products for human consumption and national fisheries legislation for effective fisheries management and protection of the marine environment.

- Reviewed fisheries management and development programmes implemented by six coastal member countries of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), for the purpose of establishing a COMESA Regional Common Marine Fisheries Investment and Management Policy.
- Documentation Centre of the Seychelles National Fishing Authority reviewed.
- Diploma programme developed on freshwater fisheries management was undertaken for SADC member countries.

31(a) Maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015

- Lake Victoria, a human resource development (HRD) approach is used to empower owners and users of fishery resources with the knowledge and responsibility to actively participate in the management and sustainable development of the lake's fisheries. The Lake Victoria regional HRD programme identifies owners and users and assesses their training and development needs. National human resource planning, training and management plans are then developed for the three riparian countries (Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya) and implemented on regional basis through the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization.
- Consultant, Study of Fisheries Resources in Kenya's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and territorial waters, assisting Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The study will establish the stock of fisheries resources; provide scientific information on the stocks; assess the impact on uncontrolled exploitation of fisheries resources on their sustainability; establish the holding capacity of the EEZ; and recommend appropriate monitoring, control and surveillance systems (MCS). The study will guide the formulation of fisheries policy.
- Assisted the OECS develop a regional fisheries strategy for its nine member countries. Further assistance is being provided to implement the trade related components of the strategy.
- Assistance is being provided to Tonga to implement the fisheries management component of the national fisheries strategy.

30(f) Eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to over-capacity, while completing the efforts undertaken at WTO to clarify and improve its disciplines on fisheries subsidies, taking into account the importance of this sector to developing countries

- Undertakes policy work on fisheries subsidies issues within WTO.

Vulnerability, Risk Assessment, Disaster Management

35(d) Reduce the risks of flooding and drought in vulnerable countries by, inter alia, promoting wetland and watershed protection and restoration, improved land-use planning, improving and applying more widely techniques and methodologies for assessing the potential adverse effects of climate change on wetlands and, as appropriate, assisting countries that are particularly vulnerable to those effects

- Adviser on Coastal Flooding, Seychelles. Following assistance in civil engineering, hydrology and geotechnics after the floods and landslides, an

expert is to be recruited to help strengthen the national capacity to prevent and mitigate flooding of coastal areas.

Agriculture

38 Agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of a growing global population, and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication, especially in developing countries. Enhancing the role of women at all levels and in all aspects of rural development, agriculture, nutrition and food security is imperative. Sustainable agriculture and rural development are essential to the implementation of an integrated approach to increasing food production and enhancing food security and food safety in an environmentally sustainable way.

- South-South transfer of appropriate technology to rural communities in The Gambia. The programme involved technical experts from Bangladesh providing assistance to communities on livestock and poultry rearing, vegetable growing for women groups, rice and fish farming, irrigation and provision of safe drinking water, etc.
- Development of beekeeping through training for rural communities in The Gambia and Uganda and publication/distribution of field manuals to beekeepers in Africa.
- Tonga: three Direct Micro Expelling (DME) Coconut Oil Extraction Units provided to, installed and operated by rural community groups to attract private sector investment in coconut oil production and oil-based products.
- Ghana: review of participatory village development planning in the Ejisu Juaben District. Identified needs of farming communities for extension advice, training, research, agricultural savings and credit, food processing, marketing etc., and potential institutions, outside the government sector, to deliver these services.
- Commonwealth-wide consultations on sustainable use of medicinal plants and review of the conducive and constraining factors in the development of the herbal industry. Capacity building on sustainable use of medicinal plants through training in medicinal plants processing (see also Biodiversity section below – para 42).
- A training and development needs study of 18 institutions in Eastern and Southern Africa produced a human resource development plan with measures to sustain the number of animal health personnel to meet the countries' requirement.
- Livestock officers in Malawi and the Caribbean were trained in the use of computer models for livestock planning and analysis.

38(b) Develop and implement integrated land management and water-use plans that are based on sustainable use of renewable resources and on integrated assessments of socio-economic and environmental potentials, and strengthen the capacity of Governments, local authorities and communities to monitor and manage the quantity and quality of land and water resources

- Rural governance policy workshop in Fiji in May 2002, with USP's Institute of Research Extension and Training in Agriculture, looked at minimising environmental degradation through better crop rotation patterns, and maximising land use. It also considered coastal erosion, waste management, and AIDS management. Follow-up is planned at national and sub-regional level in 2003 and 2004 to consider appropriate policy and governance structures and

processes to address the issues. The emphasis will be on improving citizens' involvement and pro-active government processes.

Sustainable Tourism

41(c) Provide technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to support sustainable tourism business development and investment and tourism awareness programmes, to improve domestic tourism, and to stimulate entrepreneurial development

- Assists in the preparation of long-term tourism master plans.
- Undertakes missions to promote developing countries' investment and tourism programmes.
- Assists developing countries develop a regional approach to tourism promotion and co-ordination.
- Assists develop the forestry sector to promote eco-tourism.
- Commonwealth Business Women's Network, which operates under the Commonwealth Business Council, is examining tourism and leisure.

Biodiversity

42(d) Implement the Convention [on Biological Diversity] and its provisions, including active follow-up of its work programmes and decisions through national, regional and global action programmes...

(see also medicinal plants work listed in Para 38 above)

- Supports development of the Caribbean Biodiversity Capacity-building Network (CARIBNET) for the inventory, identification, monitoring, assessment and conservation of plant diversity (species and ecosystems). Builds the critical human resources base and infrastructure to enable Caribbean small island developing states to effectively implement the CBD and related environmental obligations both at national and regional level. A needs assessment regional workshop identified priority capacity needs for managing biological diversity in respective states; and a project proposal for external funding is being finalised to meet human resources and infrastructure needs for biodiversity in the region.
- Establishes the 'International Network on Bioactive Natural Products' to preserve, promote and prospect best practices in the sustainable utilization of biodiversity. The network promotes South-South and North-South co-operation leading to the capitalization of new natural products, especially medicinal plants, with assurance for equity in sharing of benefits. To date 19 countries and several partner organisations have endorsed the network and become members (also relevant to 6c).
- A Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) has been established under the Commonwealth Knowledge Network (CKN) to enable member countries to share and exchange necessary for implementing Articles 1 (Objectives), 17 (Exchange of Information), and 18 (Technical and Scientific Cooperation) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Three discussion groups are operational, exchanging information and experience on (a) access, bioprospecting and benefit-sharing; (b) indigenous knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights; and (c) biosafety.

42(g) To effectively conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, promote and support initiatives for hot spot areas and other areas essential for biodiversity and promote the development of national and regional ecological networks and corridors

- Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, South Pacific (in collaboration with others, including SPREP). A regional conference will be held in April 2003 bringing together scientists, technologists, civil society and community leaders, to sensitise national governments on the action strategy for the next 3 years and facilitate sharing of experiences between the Caribbean and Pacific regions (also relevant to 52(d)i of Plan of Implementation).

42(j) Subject to national legislation, recognize the rights of local and indigenous communities who are holders of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, and, with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices, develop and implement benefit-sharing mechanisms on mutually agreed terms for the use of such knowledge, innovations and practices

- Supports local-level multi-stakeholder bioprospecting, marketing, income-generation and benefit-sharing arrangements from the use of biological resources and traditional knowledge in West Africa (Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria), in implementation of Articles 8j and 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Following regional planning workshops, holders of traditional knowledge, including Traditional Medicine Practitioners, are implementing strategies and action

42(m) Encourage technical and financial support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to develop and implement, as appropriate, inter alia, national sui generis and traditional systems according to national priorities and legislation, with a view to conserving and the sustainable use of biodiversity

- Supports multi-stakeholder development of a *Sui Generis Frameworks* for protecting knowledge and innovations in Commonwealth West Africa (Cameroon, Ghana, Gambia, and Nigeria). This work assists member states to establish effective legislative, policy and administrative measures for protecting indigenous knowledge and promoting benefit-sharing of biological resources.

42(n) Promote the wide implementation of and continued work on the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising out of their Utilization of the Convention, as an input to assist Parties to the Convention when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, and contract and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for access and benefit-sharing

- The first Commonwealth Science Forum on 'Access, Bioprospecting, DNA-fingerprinting, Intellectual Property Rights and Benefit-sharing' reviewed issues of concern to developing countries and identified strategies for addressing the critical capacity needs for the respective areas, as presented in the Goa Statement (also relevant to 42 j, k, l, o).
- Practising botanists, from universities and research institutions in Sri Lanka, trained in modern techniques for collection, identification, classification and curation of lower plants important for conservation and sustainable use. The knowledge is being used in bioprospecting for valuable active compounds from the local species.

42(p) Encourage successful conclusion of existing processes under the World Intellectual Property Organization Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, and in the ad hoc open-ended working group on article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention;

- Generates discussion on the implications for developing countries of the new Intellectual Property Rights regime under the TRIPs Agreement (also relevant to 42j, 52j, 52k)
- Trains biodiversity managers and policy-makers from Africa, Asia, and Caribbean on the implications the TRIPs Agreement to traditional knowledge, IPR, trade and sustainable development (also relevant to 42j, 52j, 52k)
- Develops strategies for addressing concerns of developing countries, including revision of national patent laws and Article 27.3b of the TRIPs (also relevant to 42j, 52j, 52k)
- Provides knowledge networking/discussion group on indigenous knowledge and IPR.

42(t) Invite all States which have not already done so to ratify the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and other biodiversity-related agreements, and invite those that have done so, to promote their effective implementation at the national, regional and international levels and to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition technically and financially in this regard.

- Provides capacity-building on the Implementation of the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol. Assists member countries to develop necessary capacities for the safe transfer, handling, use and identification of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, environment and human health, as part of implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Articles 16 (Access to and Transfer of Technology) and 19 (Handling of Biotechnology and Distribution of its Benefits) of the CBD. Regional workshops have been conducted in Africa, Asia, Caribbean and Pacific to build capacity for national biosafety frameworks, risk assessment and risk management, and public awareness and participation.

Sustainable Forest Management

43 ...Achievement of sustainable forest management, nationally and globally, including through partnerships among interested Governments and stakeholders, including the private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations, is an essential goal of sustainable development.

- Supports the Iwokrama International Rain Forest Programme in Guyana through policy advice, technical assistance (supporting posts within the International Centre), and by mobilising funds. This initiative aims to provide a practical demonstration of how tropical forests can be managed sustainably, both ecologically and economically, and as an exemplar of good practice related to the implementation of a variety of multilateral agreements, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (reducing carbon emissions), the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (protected areas, protection of indigenous knowledge, especially that of women, and the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of biodiversity), and Agenda 21 (the alleviation of poverty and sustainable livelihoods for local communities). It will also demonstrate ways to operationalise the forest principles and UN consultations on forests.

- Assisted governments in the development of forestry for forest reserves, timber production, wildlife and watershed protection and eco-tourism.
- Published a *Business Guide to the SADC Forestry Sector*, distributed to SADC member countries.
- Assisted SADC in a recent review of its Forestry Programme: co-funded with the Government of Finland.
- Uganda: printed publications on wildlife, watershed protection, supply of non-forest timber products, and the growing interest in eco-tourism, in the country's remaining forests. Forestry reports that were produced before independence, notably working and management plans for individual forests in the country were reprinted.
- Assistance was extended to the Government of Ghana, on behalf of the Ghana Timber Export Development Board (TEDB) to prepare and print the '*Ghana: Timber Export Handbook*'.

43(h) Recognize and support indigenous and community-based forest management systems to ensure their full and effective participation in sustainable forest management
(see relevant to para 56n of the Plan of Implementation – Africa section)

- Chief Technical Adviser, Participatory Forest Management, provided to Department of Forestry, Kenya. Pressure for agricultural land and provision of forest products has led to increasing decline in forests. The consultant is working with the Kenya Department of Forestry to design appropriate arrangements for participatory forest management and involving communities in their management. Activities include identifying stakeholders, ascertaining the economic benefits, identifying capabilities for effective household participation, zoning of forest areas, and setting up appropriate community institutions and management systems.

Petroleum and Gas Legislation

44(a) Support efforts to address the environmental, economic, health and social impacts and benefits of mining, minerals and metals throughout their life cycle, including workers' health and safety, and use a range of partnerships, furthering existing activities at the national and international levels, among interested Governments, intergovernmental organizations, mining companies and workers, and other stakeholders, to promote transparency and accountability for sustainable mining and minerals development

- Assistance provided to the Government of Barbados in reviewing, and revising, national petroleum legislation.
- The Seychelles National Oil Company (SNOC) provided with economic and legal advice on petroleum exploration.
- Technical assistance provided to Ghana National Petroleum Corporation to: review and propose amendments to Ghana's current petroleum regime; review and revise the existing Model Petroleum Agreement; review proposed amendments to the existing petroleum legislation, in the light of reviewed terms of the Model Petroleum Agreement; assist in preparing detailed petroleum regulations; capacity building.
- The Government of Namibia assisted in its negotiations with Shell on development of off-shore gas drilling.

Sustainable Development in a Globalising World

45(e) Enhance the delivery of coordinated, effective and targeted trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, including to take advantage of existing and future market access opportunities, and to examine the relationship between trade, environment and development

- Evaluated implications for Commonwealth garment manufacturers of the removal of the multifibre arrangements in 2005.
- Adaptation of trade, industry and investment policies to facilitate integration into the global economy.
- Capacity building on the WTO agreement on transparency in government procurement and its implications for Commonwealth developing countries.
- Provision of information on customs valuation for use by customs officers, tax consultants and business people.
- Undertakes feasibility studies for setting up of investment offices in developed countries.
- Undertakes investment-oriented sectoral studies for developing countries.
- Through the Trade and Investment Access Facility, provides: policy advice and technical assistance to help countries identify and manage the potential economic and social impacts of trade and investment liberalisation, including restructuring strategies such as identifying new sources of revenue and new market opportunities; technical assistance and training on the legal and regulatory frameworks to promote trade and investment flows; and assistance in increasing capacity to participate in WTO negotiations and meet the requirements of the WTO.
- Gender impacts of trade and globalisation explored. Gender and trade workshop planned for 2003 in Fiji.

45 sexties Assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in narrowing the digital divide...

- Implements an active continuing programme of assistance to member countries. This includes awareness, national informatics strategies, electronic governance, electronic networks for workgroups, skills and knowledge management, with publications on best practices and shared lessons of experience. Collaborates on these issues with various other organisations, including WSIS, GKP, GTZ, UNECA, NEPAD, UNDESA.

Health and Sustainable Development

47(d) Improve the development and management of human resources in health care services.

- Carries out training programmes and in some cases, develops and disseminates materials pertinent to specific training needs such as integrating gender into health systems.
- Assists governments in identifying strategies for recruitment and retention of health workers by developing a Commonwealth Code of Practice and its Companion Document to guide international recruitment practices.

f) Development of programmes and initiatives to reduce, by the year 2015, mortality rates for infants and children under 5 by two-thirds, and maternal mortality rates by three quarters, of the prevailing rate in 2000.

- Works with countries and regional health organisations to jointly identify actions, which will improve maternal health and the health of adolescents. There is a spin off in terms of improving survival of infants.
- Identifies and shares with countries appropriate models of good practice as a means of strengthening processes and procedures, and assists countries to apply good practice principles, in relation to women's health.

48 Implement, within the agreed timeframes, all commitments agreed in the declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the general Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, emphasizing in particular the reduction of HIV prevalence among young men and women aged 15-24 by 25 per cent in the most affected countries by 2005 and globally by 2010.

- Mobilises sectors as well as international, pan-Commonwealth and national partners to assist in the implementation of the multi-sectoral approach to HIV/AIDS.
- Assists countries to develop and revise care and treatment guidelines, promotes prevention and support programmes such as "Ambassadors for Positive Living", through mobilising young people, men and persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- Convenes the Secretariat's cross-divisional HIV/AIDS Steering Committee, which ensures that HIV/AIDS is mainstreamed in all the Secretariat's programmes.

Sustainable Development in Small States

(also relevant to 44a above on petroleum legislation)

52(c) Assist small island developing States, including through the elaboration of specific initiatives, in delimiting and managing in a sustainable manner their coastal areas and exclusive economic zones and the continental shelf (including, where appropriate, the continental shelf areas beyond 200 miles from coastal baselines)...

- Technical assistance provided to Government of Grenada in maritime boundary delimitation negotiations with Trinidad and Tobago. Two rounds of negotiations were completed in 1980. Further assistance provided to the Government during the second and third rounds of maritime boundary negotiations with Venezuela in 2001 and 2002.
- The Government of Mauritius was also assisted in 2002 to review its national maritime zones legislation in preparation for future maritime boundary delimitation negotiations with neighbouring states.
- Assistance was provided to the Government of Guyana during 2000 – 2001 to prepare for maritime boundary delimitation negotiations with neighbouring states.
- Technical assistance was provided to the Government of Jamaica to undertake a hydrographic survey of the country's coastline in preparation for maritime boundary negotiations with neighbouring states.

Means of Implementation

75 ...[implementation of] the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, such as the programmes of action adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and relevant international agreements since 1992, particularly those of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, including building on them as part of a process of achieving sustainable development

- Implementing a Commonwealth Action Plan on 'Delivering the Monterrey Consensus', agreed by Commonwealth Finance Ministers in September 2002. Addressing: democracy and good governance; national development and poverty reduction strategies; domestic and foreign private sector investment; ODA issues; and co-operation within international institutions and forums on a range of issues.

Investment

78 Facilitate greater flows of foreign direct investment so as to support the sustainable development activities, including the development of infrastructure, of developing countries, and enhance the benefits that developing countries can draw from foreign direct investment

- Undertakes innovative policy work on leveraging official aid to promote private investment by lowering the costs and risks of investing in economies with 'endowed handicaps' (Lowering the Threshold).
- Develops funds to promote private investment in Commonwealth developing countries.

Debt

83. Reduce unsustainable debt burden through such actions as debt relief and, as appropriate, debt cancellation and other innovative mechanisms geared to comprehensively address the debt problems of developing countries, in particular the poorest and most heavily indebted ones.

- Services provided to almost all Commonwealth Africa countries. Assists governments in the setting up Debt Recording and Management Systems, reviewing institutional arrangements, installation of the software and training in its use, and placement of a resident adviser to monitor data collection and train users.

83(a) Implement speedily, effectively and fully the enhanced heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative, which should be fully financed through additional resources, taking into consideration, as appropriate, measures to address any fundamental changes in the economic circumstances of those developing countries with unsustainable debt burden caused by natural catastrophes, severe terms-of-trade shocks or affected by conflict, taking into account initiatives which have been undertaken to reduce outstanding indebtedness

- Convenes high-level consultations on HIPC concerns.

Trade

84(b) Support the Doha work programme as an important commitment on the part of developed and developing countries to mainstream appropriate trade policies in their respective development policies and programmes.

- Policy and technical assistance in all Doha work programme areas, through: direct technical support to regional and national trade negotiators in all Commonwealth regions; briefs; on-line information sharing; and support to developing country negotiators in Geneva. In addition to Doha matters, provides policy and technical assistance to ACP countries in negotiations with the EU and publishes analytical work on the problems of least developed countries, including for example, on the issue of market access. Specialist studies and workshops have included trade and environment concerns.
- Familiarisation of Pacific Island Countries (PICs) with WTO matters and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture including fisheries.
- Commonwealth-wide case study (Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Namibia, Uganda) to determine the technical assistance needs of developing countries in the areas of technical barriers to trade, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.
- Enhanced capacity and sanitary standards in OECS countries supply chain for marine products for human consumption.

88. Commit to actively pursue the WTO work programme to address the trade-related issues and concerns affecting the fuller integration of small, vulnerable economies into the multilateral trading system in a manner commensurate with their special circumstances and in support of their efforts towards sustainable development, in accordance with paragraph 35 of the Doha Declaration

- Elements of the New Agenda for Commonwealth Work on Small States, agreed at the Coolom CHOGM, include: assistance on trade issues; dialogue on OECD Harmful Tax Practices Initiative; mitigating the impacts of September 11th and their aftermath; and follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the UN Conference on Financing for Development. Longer-term objectives are to: provide stronger advocacy for small states on issues related to their vulnerability; assisting states to understand and take advantage of new ideas on disaster mitigation and insurance; promote regional approaches to exchange of experiences and developing good practice; and address the impact of global initiatives e.g. through assistance and capacity building on elements such as WTO rules and procedures, new security measures needed to comply with UN Resolution 1373, financing, drug trafficking and other transnational crimes; and issues covered by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Education

110. Provide financial assistance and support to education, research, public awareness programmes and developmental institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to:

- (a) **Sustain their educational infrastructures and programmes, including those related to environment and public health education**

and

111. Address the impact of HIV/AIDS on the educational system in those countries seriously affected by the pandemic.

- To address the depletion of human resources through the “brain drain” to larger developed countries, and in recognition that the lack of policy or action to stem this trend will adversely affect the capacity of the small states to deliver the Dakar 2015 Framework for Action on Education for All’s commitment of access to and complete primary education of good quality for all, but particularly for girls, children in difficult circumstances and ethnic minorities, a protocol is due to be tabled at the 15th Meeting of Minister of Education of the Commonwealth planned for October 2003. This will address recruitment practices of developed countries; human resource best practices for source countries; and compensatory/development mechanisms for countries suffering from rapid depletion of their human capital.

114. Integrate sustainable development into education systems at all levels of education in order to promote education as a key agent for change.

- Supports education policy and curriculum development, developing materials related to sustainable development.
- The Commonwealth Youth Programme’s Diploma on Youth in Development Studies includes a module on sustainable development. This diploma has been delivered by 24 tertiary institutions to over 2000 youth and development practitioners across the Commonwealth.

Governance

123. Good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development. In order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries...

- One of the only voices in the international arena promoting and advocating more effective and democratic representation on behalf of small vulnerable economies in the international financial institutions, including Bretton Woods Institutions.

124 ...States should also fulfil their commitment to negotiate and finalize as soon as possible a United Nations convention against corruption in all its aspects, including the question of repatriation of funds illicitly acquired to countries of origin and also to promoting stronger cooperation to eliminate money-laundering.

- Concerted strategies are being developed in the Commonwealth based on ‘zero tolerance’ for all types of corruption at national and global levels. These are grounded in a Framework of Principles on Promoting Good Governance and Combating Corruption, endorsed by Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1999.
- Conducts sub-regional training workshops in Africa on “Combating Money Laundering: Best Practice for the Financial Sector” for senior officials in ministries dealing with finance, justice, law enforcement, etc., and central and commercial banks.

- Supports Anti Money Laundering Groups in Africa through meetings of the Ministerial Council and the Task Force of Senior Officials, meetings of the ESAAMLG Task Force of Senior Officials, and the Ministerial Council.
- Participates in the FAFT plenary meetings and other relevant meetings relating to combating money laundering and financing of terrorism.
- Conducts typologies meetings to update enforcement, legal and finance officials on recent trends in money laundering and in particular the financing of terrorism. These consider, in particular, the informal systems, such as the Hawala system and other charitable institutions that are now increasingly being used for financing of terrorism.

Strengthening Institutional Arrangements at the Regional Level

141(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit should be effectively pursued at the regional and subregional levels, through the regional commissions and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies.

- Senior Policy Adviser provided for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Samoa. SPREP was mandated to co-ordinate the Pacific island states' input to WSSD, and the senior policy adviser was to lead this full time. This enabled a significant Pacific input to the Summit and a proposal that a full-time post be created to take matters forward and prepare for Barbados+10. Current contract to January 2003.

148 Support efforts by all countries, particularly developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to enhance national institutional arrangements for sustainable development, including at the local level. That could include promoting cross-sectoral approaches in the formulation of strategies and plans for sustainable development, such as, where applicable, poverty reduction strategies, aid coordination, encouraging participatory approaches and enhancing policy analysis, management capacity and implementation capacity, including mainstreaming a gender perspective in all those activities

- Develops and publishes practical policy frameworks, tools and training resources which have set global standards to gender mainstreaming using an holistic and system-wide Gender Management Systems (GMS) approach. Sectors include: indicators, finance; development planning; public service; education; trade and industry; information and communications; legal and constitutional affairs; science and technology; and agriculture and rural development.
- Pioneered tools that have allowed for gendered analysis of national and regional budgets, resource allocations, and access, as well as revenue activities.