



Sustainable Development, Environment and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

*Workshop organised in connection with the 2003 Global Forum on International Investment,
Johannesburg, 19 November 2003*

DRAFT AGENDA

(as at 6 November 2003)

09.30-9.45:

***Introduction by the Chair, Marinus Sikkel, Chairman of the OECD Committee on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises:
OECD's perspective on the contribution of corporations to sustainable development***

09.45-10.30:

1) Corporate responsibility and sustainable development: the OECD Guidelines and beyond

At the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, Heads of State agreed on the need to actively promote corporate responsibility and accountability, *inter alia* in the field of the environment. Moreover, the G8 countries, following their summit in Evian, issued a declaration stating that they will "...work with all interested countries on initiatives that support sustainable economic growth, including the creation of an environment in which business can act responsibly". The declaration further welcomes "...voluntary initiatives by companies that promote corporate social and environmental responsibility, such as the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises..." The first session of the Workshop will focus on some of the voluntary approaches that are available to support the quest for sustainable development.

- The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises as a tool for sustainable development (Kathryn Gordon, OECD Secretariat)
- Improving transparency and communication of corporate sustainable development practices. (Paul Hohnen, Global Reporting Initiative)
- Experience with voluntary approaches: the ICC Business Charter for Sustainable Development (Steven Lennon, Chair of the Commission on Environment and Energy, International Chamber of Commerce)

10.30-11.00:

Coffee break

11.00-12.45:

2) *Environmental challenges and recent corporate experience: the case of Africa*

According to UNEP's recently published *Africa Environment Outlook*, the 1990s saw steps toward the "revitalisation" of African environmental policy. It notes that "during the period 1992–2002, the OAU ... recognised the importance of cooperation in environmental management... The OAU and many governments in Africa have adopted instruments or national constitutions which recognise the environment as a fundamental right." The second session of the workshop will explore how corporate initiatives – including companies' environmental policies and their management and reporting practices – can complement government efforts and help the people of Africa achieve their environmental objectives. The session will examine concrete experiences with environmental initiatives taken by companies and will attempt to draw lessons regarding the best way to pursue such initiatives. Cooperation between enterprises and host governments, including the crucial interface between government and corporate responsibility, will also be discussed.

- What are the main environmental challenges facing Africa and what is the appropriate role for the corporate sector in addressing them? (Dr Chippy Olver, Director General, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa)
- Examples of positive contributions by business to environmental performance. (Niall Marriott, Partnership Co-ordinator, British American Tobacco Biodiversity Partnership)
- An African business perspective on corporate responsibility and the environment. (Joao Viseu, Chamber of Commerce Mozambique)
- The experiences of a business association (Mr Diliza, South African Chamber of Mines)
- Open forum

12.45-14.30:

Lunch

14.30-16.30:

3) *The way forward: Supporting corporate efforts for an improved environment*

During the last couple of decades countries have become more alert to environmental risks, and the tendency is for societies to increasingly expect the corporate sector to play an active role in mitigating them. Companies have responsibilities for meeting these expectations, but other actors can help them do this by playing their own roles effectively (e.g. enforcing laws, providing information and services, engaging in constructive dialogue). The third session of the workshop will explore avenues for possible cooperation and partnership. It will examine what governments, business associations, civil society, labour representatives and international organisations can do to assist companies to observe appropriate environmental standards and to adopt efficient and transparent environmental management and reporting practices.

Keynote:

- What modes of partnership for Africa to enhance the environment? (Robin Sandenburgh, International Finance Corporation)

Panel:

- Fostering future partnerships (Tuula Varis, Chair of the EPOC Working Party on Global and Structural Policies)
- How can the business community's initiatives contribute? (Cameron Rennie, World Business Council on Sustainable Development)
- What is the appropriate role for host country authorities? (Daniel Amlalo, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana)
- How can non-governmental actors support these efforts? (Sean de Cleene, African Institute for Corporate Citizenship)
- Open forum

16.30-17.00:

4) *Concluding remarks by the Chair and a representative of the host government*

DOCUMENTATION

The following documents will be made available to Workshop participants:

- The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises: A Key Corporate Responsibility Instrument, OECD Policy Brief, June 2003.
- An Overview of Corporate Environmental Management Practices, OECD/EIRIS Study, 2003

Other relevant documents and publications are

- Annual Reports on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises: 2001, 2002 and 2003 (forthcoming)
- Corporate Responsibility: Private Initiatives and Public Goals, OECD, 2001

Workshop participants are encouraged to submit supplementary documentation which will be distributed during the meeting. More information is available on the Workshop website at the following address: www.oecd.org/daf/investment.