

13 August 2002

**THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
26 AUGUST-4 SEPTEMBER
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA**

**INFORMATION NOTE ON THE ROUND TABLES
2-4 September 2002**

TIMING

Four round tables will be held in parallel with the general debate of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The round tables will take place on Monday, 2 September from 3-6 p.m. on Tuesday, 3 September from 10 a.m.- 1p.m. and from 3 p.m.- 6p.m., and on Wednesday, 4 September from 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

VENUE

Ballroom III, Sandton Center, Johannesburg,.

THEME

The round tables will focus on one theme and that is “Making it Happen.” This theme will help in focusing discussions on implementation measures for achieving sustainable development and the need for accountability and responsibility.

PARTICIPANTS

The total number of participants in each round table will be up to 70. An indicative distribution of seats among governments, major groups, UN entities, regional commissions and inter-governmental organizations is as follows:

- Up to 50 Governments
- 9 Major Groups (one per category)
- 6 UN entities that are members of the Chief Executives Board
- 1UNregional Commission
- 4 Inter-governmental Organizations

The UN entities, Inter-governmental organization and Major Group participants MUST be heads of their organizations.

Representatives of Member States, international organization or a Major Group

can participate in only one of the round tables. Only heads of State or Government participating in a round table can be accompanied by an additional person. Proceedings of the round tables will be telecast in a designated room that would be open to the media.

States can participate in the Summit by inscribing on the list, which has already been opened by the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services. States wishing to participate in the round tables are invited to inscribe with the secretariat, (Ms. Nancy Beteta, room S-2950K; fax: (212) 963-5935; e-mail: beteta@un.org).

The organizing partners for major groups have been requested to send the nominations of their representatives by 22 August 2002. These will be finalized in due course.

CHAIRPERSONS

The round tables will be chaired by heads of State or Government, who will be invited by the President of the Summit. The Chairpersons for the four round tables will be invited from the Asian Group, the Eastern European Group, the Latin American and Caribbean Group, and the Group of Western European and other States.

South Africa has already initiated the process of consultation and the formal invitations will be sent to the four heads of government and state as soon as possible.

MODALITIES

There will be no list of speakers opened prior to the round tables. The round tables are meant to provide an opportunity for interactive dialogue and it is hoped that there will be no prepared statements.

The Chairperson will make opening remarks for 3-5 minutes. Then the participants, generally the heads of State or Government, will be invited to make their interventions, not exceeding 3 minutes. The Chairperson will invite speakers on the basis of the requests by the participants as well as to have variety of views in order to enrich the discussions. The participants may be allowed to make a second intervention for no longer than 2 minutes, if deemed necessary by the Chairperson.

OUTCOMES

The Chairpersons will prepare summaries of the proceedings of the round tables. These summaries will be presented to the closing plenary meeting of the Summit and will also be included in the final report of WSSD.