



Ministry for the Environment
and Territory



United Nations

First Announcement

**INTERNATIONAL FORUM
ON PARTNERSHIPS
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

4-6 March 2004
FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Organised by
The Italian Ministry for the
Environment and Territory

In cooperation with
The United Nations Department of Economic
and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)

The Forum's Goals

There is growing interest in the contribution that voluntary, multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives can make to implementing sustainable development. Such initiatives were part of the action-oriented outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

Partnerships for sustainable development could help contribute to the implementation of the inter-governmental commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

As an input to ongoing work in this area, the Government of Italy, in cooperation with UN/DESA, is pleased to announce the "International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development" to be held from March 4 – 6, 2004, in Rome, Italy.

The purpose of this Forum is to enhance the contribution of partnerships towards the implementation of sustainable development goals and objectives, particularly those related to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and other international agreements related to sustainable development.

The outcome of the Forum, will be presented during the 12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) in New York, 19-30 April 2004.

Likely themes to be discussed

- Essential elements of sustainable development partnerships
- Lessons learned: what works, what doesn't?
- Transparency and accountability, including within the CSD context
- Sectoral coverage: what kind of initiatives could help to promote a sectoral balance in partnership initiatives?

Format of the Forum

- Plenary and parallel thematic-based discussion sessions- including workshops and panel discussions
- Expo – an opportunity to showcase individual partnerships initiatives, network and find new partners
- Exhibits - Space will be made available for display of posters, videos, and other informational materials relating to partnerships

Dates and Venue: The Forum will be held at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters, via delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy from 4-6 March 2004.

Who should attend: Attendance of the Forum is open to all stakeholders interested in partnership initiatives, including representatives from governments, the scientific community, business, community-based organizations, local authorities, international organizations and major groups. Participants will find the Forum a valuable opportunity for sharing their experiences, learning from each other and networking.

Languages: Interpretation will be provided for the main discussion sessions in all official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) as well as Italian.

More information: Registration forms, the programme and other information about the Forum will be available on the following website:

http://www.minambiente.it/Sito/settori_azione/pia/att/forum_svs.asp

Questions and Comments: Please contact **Ms. Gloria Visconti**, Ministry for the Environment and Territory, Department for Global Environment, International and Regional Conventions, Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44, 00147 Rome, Italy
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Background

More than 200 partnerships for sustainable development were launched during the Johannesburg Summit process by governments, major groups, the UN system and other relevant stakeholders. These act as a key complement to the activities being undertaken by the wider international community for advancing sustainable development

At CSD-11 in May 2003, governments agreed that partnerships within the context of the WSSD process and its follow-up should be developed and implemented in accordance with a set of criteria and guidelines.

This Forum is being organised in response to the CSD-11 call for "*activities aimed at strengthening partnerships in the context of the WSSD process and its follow-up and facilitating new ones, including through initiatives such as partnership fairs ...*".

For more information on partnerships for sustainable development, please visit the CSD Secretariat's website:

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm>