

**PREPARATORY MEETING FOR 2005 ECOSOC  
HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT  
16-17 March 2005**

**“Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities”**

**ROUNDTABLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**Chair: H.E. Mr. Agim Nesho, Vice-President of ECOSOC  
Lead Organizers UNEP and UN-HABITAT**

The Roundtable provided for a dialogue on the importance of ensuring environmental sustainability, and implementing the commitments made by the international community in this field, as a foundation for achieving the other internationally agreed development goals. Special emphasis was accorded to Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7 on ‘Environmental Sustainability’, which focuses on the integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes, the reversal of the loss of environmental resources, the reduction by half of the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water, and the achievement of significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

As described in the background paper prepared for the roundtable by UNEP and UN-Habitat, with input from a number of other agencies, the MDGs were in many cases not only reaffirmed but enhanced in the outcome of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)



warning systems could assist in preventing extreme situations. SIDS are particularly vulnerable to the impact of natural disasters, climate change and sea level rise and need support to build capacity and reduce their vulnerability to external forces, as well as to manage freshwater and groundwater resources. The Millennium Task force on water and sanitation highlighted the need to move sanitation at the top of the agenda, to integrate water and sanitation policies, planning and inve