



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTING AS THE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
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Dear Friends,

**Modalities of work during the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, New York, 25 March
-5 April 2002**

The Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development is going to start within a week. This session, as decided by the UN General Assembly, will focus on the paper (A/CONF.199/PC/L.1) that I presented on the last day of PrepComII. The last section of the paper dealing with sustainable development governance is being prepared by the two vice chairs and is likely to be circulated during the first week of the forthcoming session.

The purpose of this letter is to share my thinking regarding the modalities of work during PrepComIII. As you all know, the expectations are that WSSD will go beyond words and rhetoric and will produce tangible results. To achieve such results, deliberations in the Preparatory Committee cannot remain business as usual. I believe that our work during PrepComIII should not only focus on drafting suggestions. We should also identify actions required to achieve specific goals contained in the paper.

For instance, deliberations on paragraphs dealing with providing access to modern energy to one billion people or halving the number of people who do not have access to safe drinking water should be aimed at elaboration of specific steps, identification of actors and time-bound measures to achieve the target. Similarly, in other areas, we should endeavour to develop roadmaps for implementation.

In my view, the road to Johannesburg has to be paved with implementation initiatives. It is these initiatives that will lead to the realization of the goals of sustainable development.

I like to invite all members of the Committee and representatives of major groups to make their preparations for PrepComIII from this perspective. This approach is likely to ensure that towards the end of the Session we will have an implementation plan that will truly make a difference in the lives of the people and will enable us to embark on the path of sustainability.

I look forward to seeing you all in New York.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Emil Salim
Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for WSSD