The United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002. It brought together 21,340 participants from 191 countries and institutions.

- Around 10,000 delegates from Member-States, inter-governmental organisations, specialised agencies and related organisations, as well as official observers and associate members of regional commissions
- Some 8,000 representatives of major groups (Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous People, NGOs, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Communities, and Farmers)
- Around 4,000 representatives from the media.

In addition, a large number of people attended the parallel meetings such as the Civil Society Forum.

One hundred Heads of States and Head of Government attended the Summit. The Mauritius delegation was headed by the Prime Minister and comprised the Minister of Environment, The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation, the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, HE Mr. John Dacruz-High Commissioner, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment; and the First Secretary, Mauritius High Commission, Pretoria.
The Overall goal of the Summit was to undertake a ten-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 and to reinvigorate, at the highest political level, global commitment to sustainable development.

The National Report "Meeting the Challenges of Sustainable Development" was presented at the Summit.

SUMMIT OUTCOMES

There were three main outcomes from the Summit:

- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, where Heads of State and Government committed to taking the action needed to make sustainable development a reality

- The Plan of Implementation, negotiated by governments, which sets out in more detail the action that needs to be taken in specific areas

- Commitments by governments and other stakeholders to a broad range of partnership activities and initiatives that will implement sustainable development at the national, regional and international levels.

In conclusion, it can be said that the WSSD was a successful event although the aspirations of all stakeholders could not be met. Political leaders did express full commitment to sustainable development and some comforting announcements were also made by developed countries. As pointed out by the Prime Minister, "One of the major lessons that can be drawn from that Summit is that we need to be prepared to fight our own fight in the face of globalization and the strongly competitive international environment and the inadequate level of Official Development Assistance (ODA)".