



Agents of Change (AoC) is now accepting applications to join the SustainUS youth delegation to the Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16), which will be held at the **United Nations Headquarters in New York City** from **May 5 – 16, 2008**. CSD-16 is a review session and addresses the topics of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification, and Africa. In addition, CSD-16 will follow-up on the CSD-13 decision to review progress on water and sanitation.

Selected delegates will have the opportunity to work with government officials, scientists, civil society representatives, and youth from around the world to review progress on issues related to sustainable development. In the past, AoC

delegates have presented case studies and policy statements on behalf of youth; participated in forums with fellow representatives of civil society; and met with government delegates, international organizations, and the US State Department.

Delegates are expected to contribute something unique to our efforts to contribute to the international policy-making process and increase youth participation in the global arena. As a review session, the focus of CSD-16 will be on the collection and dissemination of case studies related to the topics areas. The delegation will especially benefit from delegates with grassroots experience with innovative and sustainable initiatives in agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification, or water and sanitation both in the United States and internationally, especially in Africa. Young people with academic interests in the topics and organizing experience are also encouraged to apply.



AoC delegates will be expected to engage in substantial preparation and fundraising efforts in the months leading up to the commission. Delegates will be required to stay in regular e-mail contact and engage in research and conference calls. The days during CSD-16 will be long, yet fulfilling, as delegates will be required to engage in a strong team approach to the delegation and take initiative for their level of participation.

The delegation will be led by several SustainUS members who have experience with CSD and the Agents of Change program. These delegation leaders will organize sessions and will be available to guide delegates and help them find their own niche at CSD-16. SustainUS will also arrange for accreditation and assist delegates in finding housing in New York City.

Unfortunately, group housing is not available for participants under 18 years of age (see Part III).

Selection Criteria

SustainUS is committed to selecting a skilled, diverse, and passionate delegation. Applicants are required to be between the ages of 18 and 26 as of April 2008 and to either (a) be a US citizen or

(b) study or work in the US for more than six months. Delegates must commit to attending at least one full week of the conference. Additional selection criteria are as follows:

- **Commitment to Sustainable Development:** Applicants must demonstrate a serious commitment to the aims and values of sustainable development as understood in the SustainUS policy platform, and should demonstrate academic or advocacy experience working with sustainable development. Applicants with experience with the CSD-16 topics will be given preference.
- **Diversity:** Preference will be given to those who can contribute something unique to the delegation. Diversity here goes beyond gender, religion, and ethnicity and is broadly defined in terms of experience and background. If you have a unique background or experience, please note it in your application.
- **Leadership Experience:** Preference will be given to those who have experience in leadership roles, such as student or grassroots organizing, event or project planning, or peer-to-peer education. Please describe your leadership experience in your application.
- **Previous SustainUS Involvement:** Applicants are not required to have been involved with SustainUS. However, those who have been active in a SustainUS geocluster, Citizen Science, or Agents of Change program will be given preference.

Application Procedure

Please respond to the following questions and send your application in the form of a single Word document to agents@sustainus.org. Applications must be received by 5:00 pm EST on Saturday, February 22, 2008. Incomplete applications, or those not compiled into a single document, will not be considered. Applicants will be notified of their selection by early March and will be required to confirm their involvement shortly after notification. Please make sure you include all five sections of the application. If you have any questions, contact AoC Coordinator Lauren Nutter at the above address.

Part I: Basic Information

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

E-mail address:

Gender:

School and/or place of employment:

Degree or Major (if applicable):

Date of birth:

Languages spoken (in order of proficiency):

Were you referred to this program by a member of SustainUS? If so, who?

Part II: Personal Statement

Please provide a personal statement detailing your interest in CSD-16 and your prior experiences that make you a good candidate for this program. Please limit your response to 500 words or less. It may help to consider the following questions:

- How has your previous work with sustainability issues prepared you for CSD-16?
- What is your main goal in attending CSD-16?
- Where specifically do you think US youth can and should focus their energy for a more sustainable world? Please read over the SustainUS policy platform ([. Do you find any points that you identify or disagree with?](#)

Part III: Policy Question

In 200 words or less, outline *a case study or policy recommendation* you would want to make at CSD-16 on one of the following issues:

- Agriculture
- Rural development
- Land
- Drought
- Desertification
- Africa

In preparing your personal statement and policy recommendation, you may find it helpful to visit the additional background resources at www.sustainus.org and the following websites:

SustainUS policy platform: <http://www.sustainus.org/mambo/docs/policy.doc>

General information on CSD: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/aboutCsd.htm>

Information on CSD-16: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/review.htm>

Information on CSD-14 (the last review session):

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd14/csd14.htm>

Part IV: Logistics – Availability and Housing

Availability: Delegates are required to attend at least one full week of CSD-16. Participation in the entire length of the conference is strongly encouraged, but not required. Please let us know the dates you will be able to attend CSD-16. This will not influence your selection.

Housing: SustainUS will make an effort to provide housing arrangements for program participants aged 18 and over, however, we may not be able to provide housing for all. Please answer the following questions honestly. Your answers will not impact your selection. If selected, would you be in need of housing in the New York City area during your time as an Agent of Change? If you are in need of housing, please note any special needs or preferences you have regarding living arrangements.

Applicants under 18: Because SustainUS is unable to offer housing to participants under 18 years of age, such applicants are required to either commute to the UN from home or make housing arrangements with a suitable chaperone. Please outline your housing plans in your application.

Part V: Background

Within the text of your Word document, please include a one-page resume.

Thank you for your interest in Agents of Change! Please keep in mind that this is a highly competitive program and that not all who qualify will be selected. Agents of Change is just one of many ways to get involved in SustainUS. Please see www.SustainUS.org for more information on the many opportunities SustainUS has to offer!