

OUTREACH 1999



Voice of the NGO Community at the UN CSD



"Working Towards Earth Summit III"

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The Danish Minister of Environment, Svend Auken, left the High Segment of CSD with a challenge: To start preparing for the Summit in 2002, and to give it a content befitting the next century. Mr. Derek Osborne is a key player to move preparations on the 2002 Summit into high gear. Osborne is an experienced CSD player as he was Co-Chair of the preparatory process to UNGASS in 1997. He is also Chair of UNED UK. OUTREACH asked him to comment on this challenge.

2002 is tomorrow

Commentary by Derek Osborne

Amidst all the preoccupations of oceans and tourism, small islands and energy, Ministers found time on Friday to look ahead to the big one -- to the major review planned for 2002 on progress on sustainable development since the first Earth Summit in Rio in 1992.

These are early days. But past experience shows that major conferences need long term strategic planning to produce worthwhile results. There needs to be time to identify the issues on which significant progress is possible and to mobilise public awareness and political energy around the world to give them lift off. And there needs to be plenty of time to organise the practical and procedural arrangements.

What form should the review take -- another Special Session of the General Assembly like the 1997 review ("Please not", say many commentators) Or perhaps a conference outside New York? Perhaps in Asia this time?

Complete commitment to Rio implementation

What should be the scope of the exercise? Clearly there must be a full and

frank assessment of progress since Rio with measurable indicators of progress or the lack of it wherever possible? Clearly there must be a big emphasis on fuller and better implementation of all the Rio commitments with proper attention to all three arms of the sustainable development triangle - the economic, the social and the environmental agendas. But should the occasion confine itself to Agenda 21 and its follow up, or should it be made the occasion for drawing together and synthesising the lessons and progress from some of the other major conferences as well (Habitat, the Social Summit and others)?

A road map to progress

What preparatory meetings should feed into the process? There are two more CSDs before 2002 which should clearly play an important role. A number of major regional conferences are in preparation for the next two years which could play a part. A route map will be needed to identify all the relevant meetings of the next three years and how they should feed into the process. How can LA 21, sustainable development and all the work of civil society be brought to them?

(Continues on the next page)

More than 1000 Young People to assess Agenda 21 in October this Year

The Millennium Young People's Congress (MYPC) organised by Peace Child International – UK will bring together 1,000 young people from over 100 countries to Hawaii in October 1999. They will assess progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and set new priorities and targets for future activity by young people in the pursuit of sustainable development.

National outreach and consultation have already begun in many countries around the world. Children and young people have been asked to explore their thoughts and feelings concerning their local, national and inter-national environment and communities.

National conferences are being organised in which young people will partake, debate and summarise their priorities for the 21st century. Two delegates (aged

12-20) will be elected to represent their nation at the MYPC in Hawaii. Young activists and cultural representatives will accompany them.

The Hawaii host community has organised an extensive programme of discussion, entertainment and hands on environmental activity for the young people during their stay. Based at Hawaii's new Convention Centre the young representatives will work through a series of regional meetings with adult mentors, to plenaries where they will try to reach consensus on priorities in the new Millennium. They will also build a Peace Garden in Honolulu as a permanent legacy of their visit to Hawaii.

This is an opportunity to conduct a worldwide educational campaign in the principles of sustainable development and to re-ignite public enthusiasm for

the Rio Earth Summit process.

The MYPC has the support of the UN and its agencies UNICEF and UNESCO. UNEP, supported by the Turner Foundation, have prepared a Young Person's Edition of their Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) which will be used as the main briefing document for the young delegates.

If you are interested in finding out more or would like to take part please attend...

MYPC SIDE EVENT :
Monday 26th April
11am, LEARNING CENTRE

MYPC PRESS CONFERENCE Wednesday 28th April
11am, DPI Press Room, 2nd Floor

or contact us on..
100640.3551@compuserve.com
www.oneworld.org/peacechild

Commentary continues

Key questions for the next Summit

What issues may be right for attention and resolution in 2002? How can the new development agenda with its strong emphasis on poverty eradication be brought into focus and linked with the sustainable development debate? How can the new determination by some donor countries to reverse the decline in development assistance best contribute, and what should be the role of other forms of finance for development? How can the renewed emphasis on the links between the environment and health best shape the debate? How stand the debates on all the key global environmental issues identified in Rio and identified since, and how can they be given new priority? What further steps towards in-

stitutional coordination might be useful?

Needed: an operational vision for 2002

So much for process. But as the Ministers made clear at their Friday meeting, the one crucial thing necessary to give life to the whole exercise, is vision. They want to create a vision of sustainable development for the millennium -- a vision that will embrace eradication of poverty and enhanced quality of life for all, elimination of pollution and protection of the world's environment, sustained economic growth and fairer distribution of the fruits of prosperity. The task for the three years ahead will be to turn that vision into a practical commitment to action. *The time to start is now.*

Swedish Youth Group Challenge the official boredom at CSD

You are all invited to attend and find out how the Swedish youth group Q 2000 examined Sweden and gave the country a different environment diagnosis. Meet the Agenda 21 doctors and find out how they examined Sweden.

'Word or action' is their provocative approach to official, adult boredom. Meet these youths in CONFERENCE ROOM B, THE LEARNING CENTRE, MONDAY 26TH AT 3 PM.

- Consumption and Production
- Oceans

NGO CAUCUS VIEWS
and what they want

- SIDS
- Tourism

Tourism

Tourism for 2002

The NGO Tourism Caucus welcomes the outcome of the Dialogue Sessions regarding the establishment of a multi-stakeholder working group and emphasises creating participatory mechanisms and the active participation of all stakeholders at all levels and in all stages of tourism development. It is the right of local communities and indigenous peoples to be empowered to determine the very feasibility of tourism, including the right to say no.

Trade can Undermine

International trade agreements increasingly undermine the autonomy and participation of local authorities and communities and threaten the capacity of small-scale tourism enterprises. GATS and other WTO / OMC agreements should support sustainable tourism rather than unsustainable practices.

Educational and training projects for local people and employment of more qualified local staff in key managerial positions are required as well as support for the development of small tourism enterprises.

Governments, employers and trade unions should prioritize diminishing gender segregation of tourism labour markets.

Tourism can violate Human Rights

Tourism developments violate International Human Rights in many cases. Indigenous peoples are particularly vulnerable to market-driven tourism. Women and children are also at risk where tourism economies are built upon exploitative labour practices and where child sex tourism occurs. We call upon all stake-

SIDS

Statement for the High Level Segment

The NGO caucus on SIDS, working over the week-end, arrived at the following statement expressing the urgency felt which at present permeates the negotiations.

Mr. Chairman, we are concerned that language approved and commitments made in Barbados five years ago, are now being placed in brackets by some countries of the North. Some of the most serious bracketed text is on the question of the trans-shipment of hazardous and nuclear materials and the commitment of financial resources.

We the SIDS NGOs have committed to working with our Governments and all

holders to regulate their activities in accordance with existing and emerging conventions and treaties.

NGOs welcome the outcome of the Dialogue Sessions to develop a plan addressing the land rights of local communities and Indigenous Peoples, the problems of displacement and migration, and the loss of access to, control and management of natural resources arising from tourism development.

The UNDSO should facilitate developing indicators of sustainable tourism, including transparent monitoring mechanisms. The NGO Tourism Caucus offers to convene a workshop on indicators for sustainable tourism.

Tourism should be on the agenda of Earth Summit III, including the review of the implementation of the work program agreed by CSD-7.

Major Groups for the implementation of the SIDS PoA. Through optimum use of our various strengths we will motivate our people to rise to the challenges of Sustainable Development. Our people are resilient, our people are creative, we have a long history of overcoming adversity, which will serve us well as we implement the SIDS PoA.

With the international community's help we will achieve the goals of Sustainable Development in a much shorter time period. Without that assistance we will take a little longer but we shall prevail whether we receive the cooperation of the international community or not. We hope that we can do this together.

Mr. chairman, We want to do it together because we believe that there is value in creating these historic partnerships. This is a time that we can learn from each other and share in the joys of victory. A win for SIDS is a win for our partners as well.

We believe that a Global Spirit that can create the Global Goodwill that is necessary for Sustainable Development is lacking. Let SIDS be the start or the momentum or the start of that magical spirit that fills us with the confidence that we can do it and renews our energy to do it.

Mr. Chairman, to sum up on the question of Sustainable Development for SIDS, the popular sports phrase is appropriate " **Let's Just Do It**".

NGO Energy & Climate Change Caucus

The High Level Dialogue on Consumption on Friday, April 23, was divided into four sections, the last of which was Consumption and Energy.

The Energy Caucus had been asked to prepare a statement. However, due to lack of time only two governments, Denmark and Iran, were called to speak on the issue. Consequently, OUTREACH publishes the Energy and Climate Change Statement in its unedited version.

This statement is made on behalf of the NGO Energy and Climate Change Caucus and the NGO community here at the 7th session of the CSD. We would like to address specifically the agenda item on the preparatory process on energy and sustainable development that was mandated by the June 1997 UN General Assembly Special Session to begin at CSD7 and to utilize an open-ended intergovernmental group of experts.

1. We urge that CSD 7 formally establish this intergovernmental group of experts, including the designation of co-chairs reflecting regional and gender balance, at this CSD session, in order that the preparatory work intended by

UNGASS can begin now. This would ensure a successful first formal meeting of this intergovernmental group, mandated by UNGASS to take place in conjunction with the CSD intersessional next year.

2. We urge that the terms of reference established by CSD7 for this intergovernmental group of experts include an open, inclusive process for its work that would involve the participation of all major groups.

3. We urge that the terms of reference established by CSD7 direct that the scope of work of the intergovernmental group be broad and inclusive, while emphasizing thorough examination of the following:

a. All ways and means of increasing energy conservation and efficiency, especially the use of low cost methods and cleaner technologies. This would immediately reduce the economic, social, and environmental costs connected with the production and use of fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

b. All ways and means to accelerate the development and use of sustainable renewable energy technologies, especially cost-effective ones, drawing on the experience of innovative initiatives that have already been undertaken by governments, intergovernmental agencies, and major groups, especially NGOs.

c. All possible and necessary financial resources for investment in sustainable energy technologies and systems, especially for rural and low-income areas and for poverty eradication.

As UNGASS recognized in 1997, there are complexities and interdependencies inherent in addressing energy issues within the context of sustainable development. Energy issues literally cross all other sectoral issues. An early, inclusive preparatory process would insure successful energy issue outcomes at CSD9

For more information, please contact the NGO Energy and Climate Change Caucus:

Tel.212-724-8623 Fax.212-645-2214
Email: irsd@igc.org

Keeping CSD Clean and Recyclable, an Impossible Task?

Statements, background materials, talking points, – in short, information flows through the atmosphere in the conference room and onto the adjacent corridors where they materialize in an unprecedented high number of pamphlets, booklets, papers. OUTREACH watched the evolution of the paper avalanche. First there was nothing. Then the CSD Secretariat came and organized papers outside Conference Room 1 in neatly stacked piles. Then they left. Then Delegates arrived with newly pro-

duced statements and background material. They added all of this on top of the neatly stacked piles. Then they too left. Surely it happened again, again. Representatives from the major groups entered the scene and balanced their materials, produced during the night, on to the stacks. Then they left. The session started and commotion reigned the corridor as everybody searched for their relevant papers and pushed the rest of the stacks in the background.

At the end of the day, the CSD Secretariat returned to a battle field of statements, background materials, talking points, scattered all over the tables, floors and corners. OUTREACH asked for their reaction to the paper debris. They responded: "In the name of cooperation and mutual solidarity, we should be able to maintain a neat corridor with information for everyone. If this is not possible, this exercise will be discarded." And OUTREACH agrees.

Environment Leaders Signed UNEP International Declaration on Cleaner Production at CSD

Ministers of the Environment and other global environment leaders met on Friday, April 23 to sign the UNEP International Declaration on Cleaner Production at a special luncheon hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) during the ongoing session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

Ministers of the Environment and other global environment leaders met on Friday, April 23 to sign the UNEP International Declaration on Cleaner Production at a special luncheon hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) during the ongoing session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. "Their signatures formalize, in front of their peers, their countries' commitment to the preventive environmental management strategy of cleaner production", said Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP, who will preside over the event to welcome the new Declaration partners and demonstrate UNEP's appreciation and support for the current signatories.

Signatories since October 1998

At its launch at UNEP's Fifth International High-level Seminar on Cleaner Production in October 1998, in the Republic of Korea, the Declaration attained 67 inaugural signatories. Since then, over 1800 signatures have been received at various international signing ceremonies. "We are extremely pleased at the results the Declaration has achieved since the Korea launch", says Mr. Toepfer. "The signing ceremonies to date have proven the success of this initiative, and its ability to bring together various governments, businesses and

other organizations to focus on and promote the cleaner production strategy." At UNEP's 20th Governing Council session in February, the Declaration received firm support from the German Government on behalf of the European Union, which encouraged countries that have not yet signed the Declaration to do so.

Awareness and Outreach on Cleaner Production

The Director of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel, has emphasized that "the ultimate goal of the Declaration is to spread awareness of the cleaner production strategy and encourage its wide-scale adoption towards achieving sustainable production and consumption." To accomplish this goal, the Declaration outlines a set of principles, which when implemented will lead to increased understanding and, ultimately, demand for cleaner production. For Cleaner Production advocates, it is a tool to encourage more governments, businesses and organizations to adopt and further promote the strategy.

Signatory Summary as of March 31, 1999

- National Governments: 19
- Provincial, State and Local Governments: 7 signatories

- Companies: 23 signatories
- Business Associations, Industry and Professional Associations, Consultants: 29 signatories
- NGO: 2 signatories
- Academia, Societies, Cleaner Production Centers, Working Groups and Productivity Councils: 26 signatories
- International Agencies and Inter-Governmental Organizations: 4 signatories

TOTAL 110 signatories (This number includes only organizations with high-level representation.)

For more information on the Declaration on Cleaner Production contact UNEP, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics: www.unepi.org. A special web site for the Declaration on Cleaner Production will be launched in the near future. It will provide background information, news, lists of signatories and case studies illustrating implementation of the Declaration principles.

Edited from UNEP Press statement.

External Debt – Ecological Debt

Who Owes Who?

• A Latin American Perspective

The ACCION ECOLOGICA - institut@hoy.net from Quito / Ecuador 1999 has come a long way to present a resolution to CSD 7. They are an NGO representing people in Latin America, and are striving to reduce the debt which causes so many environmental concerns. In English they are called:

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE RECOGNITION AND PAYMENT OF THE ECOLOGICAL DEBT-

This is their approach:

It is important to recognise the existence of the Ecological Debt with which the industrialised countries dominate the biosphere, and the people of the Third World.

The external debt of the Third World countries has already been paid, as it is minimal in comparison with the Ecological Debt of the industrialised countries. This is measured not only in financial terms, but also in terms of its devastating social, cultural and environmental impacts.

Pressure must be exerted on all countries especially those of the Third World to stop all projects which promote the intellectual appropriation of ancestral knowledge. Those projects

related to the improvement of seeds and destruction of natural resources are destroying the very basis of the survival of communities and peoples.

Pressure must also be exerted on all countries, especially the industrialised nations, for a substantial change in technologies, styles of life, and policies which put at risk the continuity of life on the planet.

We must demand the cancellation of the structural adjustment programs, as a derivation of the external debt and as they presently constitute one of the major causes of pressure on natural resources.

Finally, we demand that the International Monetary Fund, the Multilateral Development Banks, and international, regional and national decision making forums, terminate their programs and lines of credit which put ecological equilibrium and human survival at risk.

In conclusion we demand that the World Trade Organisation stop increasing the ecological debt through its free trade policies.

A resolution is written to terminate the injustice found in the above mentioned paragraphs. Go to their website for more information.

NGO ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE CAUCUS

Monday, April 26, 5-6 pm, Conf. Rm A: Caucus meeting and Election.

Tuesday, April 27, 6:15-8 pm, Conf. Rm A
Seminar on Oceans/Islands/Climate Change with presentations by two world-renowned scientists:

1. "Oceans and Climate Change" by Prof. Wallace Broecker Newberry, Professor and Senior Research Scientist, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University
2. "Oceanic Islands: Why Some are Rising, and Why Some are Sinking" by Prof. Enrico Bonatti, Director Institute for Marine Geology, Bologna, Italy.

Wednesday, 28 April, 3-4 pm.
Conf. Rm. A
Caucus meeting
Thursday, 29 April, 3-4 pm.
Conf. Rm. A
Caucus meeting

That was the week that was at CSD

More Ministers than ever

What a week – almost an overkill of events: First the formal opening, then the Dialogue Sessions, followed by the High Level Segment in addition to having drafting groups diligently drafting texts. A record high number of Ministers – more than 60 -- both attended the High Segment as well as spoke and participated in a ministerial dialogue on issues related to CSD.

High number of NGOs

As last years CSD was the one to succeed the Summit, no one expected a high

NGO profile at that time. This turned out to be true. Still no one expected the participation from the major groups to pick up until CSD 8 in 2000. This year around 100 NGO organizations have participated so far, and more 550 NGO persons have been accredited. If we add representatives from other major groups, the total number stands at approximately 1200.

Active second week

Next week promises to as active. Some of the NGOs will have left by Monday

26. of April, but newly arrived NGOs will bring the total number of participating NGO organizations to somewhere between 50 and 70 (including those who reside permanently in the New York,) with some 250 to 300 NGO representatives.

ELECTION NOTICES

- Nominations are now closed for elections to the Northern Co-Chair as well as to Northern representatives to the Steering Committee and the Management Committee
- Northern Based Multi-Regional Based Caucus Election to be held on Tuesday, April 27, 1999 at 11:00 am in the Church Center. Gail Lerner, WCC/CCIA and Jan Lonn, ISMUN.

Election Results:

NGO Tourism Caucus elected the following new Co-coordinators: Southern Co-coordinator: Nina Rao of EQUATIONS, India Northern Co-coordinator: Frans de Man of Retour Foundation, Netherlands.



The Rio Grinds Barometer

-- measuring the ups and downs of CSD

FAVORITES... UPS

FAILURES... DOWNS

- Simon Upton, for his handling the dialogue session
- Svend Auken for putting Earth Summit III on the Agenda
- Guyana as chair for G-77 for keeping optimism alive throughout CSD 7

- Al Gore for attending A New York fundraising dinner instead of CSD 7
- The European Union for being difficult with SIDS
- Earth Times for their reporting on the Dialogue Sessions. Did they attend at all?

Monday's Program

8:45 am	Women's Caucus, doors open at 8:30 am	CR-A
9:15 am	NGO Briefing Session NGO Steering Committee	CR-A
10 am - 1 pm	Official Session: National Presentations by Kenya, Iceland and Poland	CR-1
10 - 11 am	Caucus meeting: Sustainable Production and Consumption Caucus (SPAC)	CR-A
11 am - 12 pm	Caucus meeting: Corporate Accountability Caucus	CR-A
12 - 1 pm	Learning Center: "Presentation of Common Ground World Project"	CR-B
12 - 1 pm	Trade, Finance and Investment Caucus Election	CR-A
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Side event: Italian Science and Technology Cooperation for Oceans, Seas and Sustainable Development in Europe and the Mediterranean	CR-6
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Sustainable Production and Consumption: the agenda of the South, cases from Chile and Brazil, Friends of the Earth,	CR-A
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Genetic Engineering : A Threat to Sustainable Consumption and Production, TWN,	Church C.
1:15 pm	Southern NGO Caucus Luncheon Meeting	U.N. Caf.
3 - 4 pm	Official Session: National Presentations by Panama and Mexico/work of the drafting groups	CR-1
3 pm	Reduced Technology Caucus Elections	Church C.
4 - 6 pm	Drafting Group I / Drafting Group II	CR-1 / CR-2
5 - 6 pm	Learning Center: UNED-UK Stakeholder toolkit for Women	CR-B
5 - 6 pm	NGO Energy and Climate Change Caucus Election Meeting	CR-A
6:15 - 8 pm	Side event: How can Sustainable Consumption Lead to New Business Opportunities? Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft and UNEP	CR-2
6:15 - 8 pm	Side event: Workshop on large scale Marine Ecosystem Management UNDP on behalf of the Ecosystem Conservation Group, Hank Shannon Room	1st UN Pl. 21st Floor
6:15 - 8 pm	Side event: Exploring the Potential for a Millennium Assessment of the State of the World's Ecosystems, Worlds Resources Institute,	CR-A
6:15 - 8 pm	Side event: Operationalizing the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection with Emphasis on Sustainable Production and Consumption Consumer Unity and Trust Society	Church C.
6:15 - 8 pm	Southern NGO Caucus Meeting: Southern Regional Elections	Church C.
6:15 - 8 pm	How can sustainable consumption lead to new business opportunities? Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft and UNEP	German House

SUBMISSIONS TO OUTREACH

OUTREACH will be produced daily during CSD VII. NGO representatives are invited to submit articles and announcements via the following:

- 1) E-MAIL: northclear@csdngo.org
- 2) Labelled 3.5 diskette. Drop off (preferably with print out) at DC2-1764 (Two UN Plaza, 17th Floor).

Feature articles should be NO LONGER than 450 words. Information articles should not exceed 250 words. Deadline for announcements is 4:00 p.m. and deadline for articles is 6:30 p.m.. The editorial staff reserves the right to shorten/omit submissions.