

OUTREACH 1999



Voice of the NGO Community at the UN CSD



"Working Towards Earth Summit III"

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Are the negotiations on production and consumption in a logjam? OUTREACH invited Iza Kruszezwska, of ANPED, Northern Alliance for Sustainability to comment. This is her response:

Moving Forward the CSD Agenda on Sustainable Production and Consumption

Commentary by Iza Kruszezwska

There are promising signs that the debate on sustainable production and consumption (SPAC) is finally acknowledging some of the concerns that NGOs have been voicing over the years. Of course, fine words have still to be translated into action.

Despite some progress made, NGOs share many disappointments about this theme.

Milk in the CSD

Many national and regional initiatives in the North to clean up production and reduce the environmental burdens of insatiable consumption are likely to be challenged in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as barriers to free trade. Examples include European environmental and human health proposals to phase out hazardous substances and keep bovine growth hormone-treated milk and genetically engineered foods off our menus. So, it is encouraging that globalisation is finally creeping onto the agenda of the CSD.

UN Consumer Protection Guidelines

The exclusion of environmental and consumer groups from the negotiations on revising the Guidelines has resulted in

some serious omissions. While it is encouraging that the Guidelines go beyond consumer protection, the issues of sustainable production are nowhere to be seen. Clearly, no discussion of SPAC is complete without also acknowledging the changes needed in production. For example, product re-design - to enable the use of cleaner and safer materials and make products more durable, capable of being dismantled and repaired - will positively influence consumption patterns.

Another serious omission is the exclusion of labelling requirements for genetically engineered products, especially food. How can consumers exercise their choice and thus enable the market to respond without this information? The role of marketing and advertising in promoting superfluous consumption patterns is another shortcoming of the Guidelines.

Policy Instruments

While the role of information tools, particularly those directed towards consumers is over-emphasised, consumers alone are unable to change production and consumption patterns. More attention needs to be paid to product-oriented policies, such as those embracing extended producer responsibility, and to *(continues on the next page)*

To the Point

SIDS negotiations in a deadlock

Interview with **Gorden Bispham**,
Network of Barbados NGOs

- *What is the reason for the stalemate in the negotiations around Small Island Development States?*

- EU is slowing down the process. In the last three years EU has been our best ally. But now they have taken a position that is diametrical opposed to ours.

- *What are the critical issues?*

- The big questions are mobilizing resources and transportation of hazardous and nuclear fuel/waste. The industrialized countries are transporting these dangerous materials through the Caribbean. Obviously enough, they want to protect these transportations, but they are a major treat to the sustainability of the islands in the area. So consequently they want to change the terminology, and call it fuel – not nuclear and hazardous waste, as it really is.

- *What about The Barbados Declaration and Program for Action (PoA)?*

- The Northern donor nations have failed to fulfill their promises and commitments regarding this agreement. SIDS PoA was developed

and agreed to by 111 countries at a global conference, and should be treated as such But it's not. Unlike many other programs, the PoA is not that expensive. We need only five to six billion dollars to fulfill it.

- *Many countries see the obvious differences between the countries in SIDS as a big problem to find a common solution for them all.*

- That is not relevant for the CSD negotiations. Countries which have experienced good economic development, should not be penalized for that. In spite of our differences, SIDS were able to agree and adopt a SIDS PoA, which addresses our common economic, social and environment problems. Small island countries are for example vulnerable to natural disasters, climate changes, economic fluctuations, high unemployment, hindered access to international market and regionally small domestic markets. Therefore it is important to implement programs to solve eventually upcoming problems and needs. And all small island developing states most have access to resources for implementing of these programs.

- *There has been a lot of disagreements about the proposed Vulnerability Index.*

- The Bretton Woods institutions are skeptical and very negative to the development of this index and want to keep the current economic model that they think is inappropriate, such as the Gross Development Product (GDP). But the GDP index lacks a lot of parameters and is therefore not reflective of real conditions in countries. Social and environmental considerations are not taken in to account, neither is the level of infrastructure nor the vulnerability to environmental problems and disasters. The Vulnerability Index is to be used for all countries, but it shows that SIDS are most vulnerable.

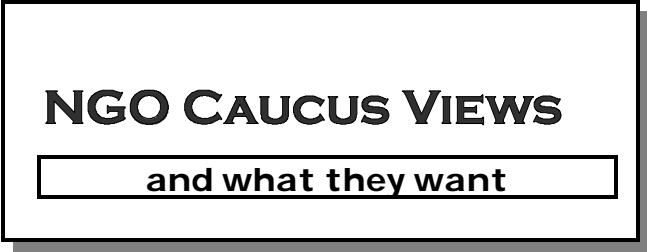
- *So you don't see any other alternatives to the PoA?*

- There are always alternatives, but why should we not try this one know, when we have come to an agreement on these issues?

- *What's the reason for the lack of interest in financing the program, in your opinion?*

- This is a question of new colonialism. The rich countries want to keep control over the Global market and trade regimes. They don't want the poor countries to develop economically, but use our resources to generate their wealth, with just enough trickling down, so that we can be a

- Consumption and Production
- Oceans



- SIDS
- Tourism

Tourism

Oceans

Dialogues rediscovered!

NGOs expressed increased approval of the new draft on tourism that came out of Tuesday's drafting session at 7.00 p.m. They welcomed the fact that the outcome of the Dialogue Sessions is now better reflected than in the 1.00 p.m. draft.

What NGOs find still missing, is the invitation to WTO-OMT to consider informed multi-stakeholder participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of their Code of Ethics for Tourism that is currently being developed. This point had been raised in the dialogue, and WTO had reacted very positively to it.

Furthermore, NGOs would like to see specific reference to tourism being incorporated into national sustainable development strategies for the 2002 review.

With regard to foreign direct investment, concern remains that this is still promoted in the current draft. NGOs suggest a more cautious approach which maximizes domestic earnings and minimizes financial leakage.

With regard to international guidelines for sustainable tourism development, contribution to information exchange under CBD had been agreed to, a mandate by CSD should specify who is to take up the task of developing these guidelines.

(ck)

Will help Delegations save time

- **NGO-caucus on Oceans wants to retain strong agreed text on oceans**

The NGO Caucus on oceans is concerned about a range of issues to be addressed at CSD including reduction of the excess fishing capacity of industrial fishing fleets; the importance of small-scale, artisanal fisheries; the precautionary approach; and the potential impact of fisheries trade on the environment and food security.

All of the above have been addressed in numerous resolutions, reports etc. since the adoption of Agenda 21. To help delegations avoid renegotiating text on which good arguments have already been reached, the Oceans Caucus would like to present a few relevant paragraphs. The following text is taken from three particularly relevant agreements: the UNGA Special Session (Rio+5), UN CSD4, and the UN FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries:

On wasteful fishing practices
UN General Assembly Resolution *AIRFSIS-1912*: Program for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Paragraph 36(e): "Governments to prevent or eliminate overfishing and excess fishing capacity through the adoption of management measures and mechanisms to ensure the sustainable management and utilization of fishery, resources and to undertake programmes of work to achieve the reduction and elimination of

wasteful fishing practices, wherever they may occur, especially in relation to large-scale industrialized fishing"

On the Precautionary Approach
ECOSOC Document E/1996/28: Commission on Sustainable Development, Report on the Fourth Session (18 April-3 May 1996)

Paragraph 39. "The Commission stresses the importance of effective conservation and management of fish stocks and to this end recommends implementing the recently adopted international instruments in order to.

(b) Apply the precautionary approach as referred to in the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries:

(1) Avoid adverse impacts on small-scale and artisanal fisheries consistent with the sustainable management of fish stocks, while protecting the rights of fishers, including subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers."

(Continues on page 4)

(Will help Delegations save time continuously)

The UN FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

On protecting the right of fish and fishworkers

6.18 Recognizing the important contributions of artisanal and small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security, States should appropriately protect the rights of fishers and fishworkers, particularly those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, to a secure and just livelihood, as well as preferential access, where appropriate, to traditional fishing grounds and resources in the waters under their national jurisdiction

again on the Precautionary Approach

7.5.1 States should apply the precautionary approach widely to conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources in order to protect them and preserve the aquatic environment. The absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.

On sustainability in the international fish trade.

11.2.15 States, aid agencies, multilateral development banks and other relevant international organizations should ensure that their policies and practices related to the promotion of international fish trade and export production do not result in environmental degradation or adversely impact the nutritional rights and needs of people for whom fish is critical to their health and well being and for whom other comparable sources of food are not readily available or affordable.

Mathew Gianni, Greenpeace

The Sustainable Development Learning Centre Fosters Youth Issues at the CSD

The Sustainable Development Learning Centre has been buzzing with activity during these two weeks. Participants of the CSD have been coming in droves to use the many -- sometimes faulty, computers housed in the centre's home of Conference Room-B.

As a host for presentations and materials on education and youth initiatives in sustainable development the Learning Centre provides a wealth of information to interested parties.

However, the Learning Centre is perhaps most effective as a focal point for youth initiatives at the CSD. By providing a structured yet informal setting the Learning Centre has an atmosphere that is productive and helps foster a youth perspective.

The Daily meetings of the Youth Caucus have done much in creating this atmosphere. Enter the Learning Centre and you are likely to see small groups (often

young people) huddled intently over a computer, or in a corner holding focused discussions.

I asked Benson Obua-Ogwal, Secretary General, All Africa Students Union, to offer his thoughts on the learning centre. "Much to our satisfaction, the Learning Centre at the CSD7 became the hub and nucleus of youth activities by providing a resourceful base for learning, coordination, sharing of experiences and dissemination of information."

So, if you have not yet seen the learning Centre please come by. And if you have seen the Learning Centre only to use the computers, come back and see what else it has to offer.

By, Stephen Salett, Foundation for the Future of Youth

The Learning Center was created by the Foundation for the Future of Youth in partnership with the CSD Secretariat.

What is in Your Milk???

The Mystery in Your Milk (or What Monsanto Doesn't Want You to Know About BGH) was made by Steve Wilson and Jane Akre of FOX-TV News. These reporters were later fired for not watering down the news report and they are now pursuing a lawsuit. The order to water down the news story came after Monsanto, the maker of rBGH, threatened FOX-TV with legal action. This is the story that was censored by Monsanto and FOX-TV.

VIDEO SHOWING:
Wednesday, April 28, 1999
4:00 PM, Church Centre
Hosted by Earth Action

The video will be followed by a discussion on genetically engineered foods and how to organize against them. Further literature will be provided.

The Maltese Proposal

Forgotten Sustainability Since the 1970s

Midway into the second week of the CSD, the focus on oceans and sustainable development brings back memorable speeches and urgent recommendations from one of the world's most distinguished and respected environmental leaders. "In thirty years of diving I've seen slow death everywhere I've gone underwater. If it continues, I predict that man has only fifty more years to live on this planet"

Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau.

By Jette Winckler Jensen

This historical call for general action was echoed last week during the High Level Dialogues. Although not directly related to oceans issues, the debate raised the need for increased action and implementation of the many U.N. treaties and conventions. It should be clear by now that the world does not need another ocean treaty. The world, the U.N. system, and the oceans need coordination between the agencies and organizations mandated to protect this amazingly abundant yet fragile resource. What is puzzling and fascinating is that more than 25 years ago, the U.N. had a visionary proposal on the negotiating tables which could have developed into a paradigm for sustainable development research and institutional integration of ocean issues.

The International Sea Service

Between 1967 and 1973, the Government of Malta led a foray of other nations concerned with the fate of oceanic resources and introduced three revolutionary proposals into the U.N. General Assembly. Two of them, the Seabed Proposal of 1967, and the Draft Ocean Space Treaty of 1971 were ultimately incorporated into the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This multilateral treaty entered into force in 1990s. The third proposal, on the creation of an International Sea Service (ISS), could have set precedence for research and education projects in sustain-

able development and protection of the oceans. What happened to this proposal?

Independent Research Capacity

The vision for the ISS was that it operate as a seaborne agent working for organizations in the UN system utilizing refitted naval vessels to carry out oceanic research on behalf of U.N. specialized agencies. Within the ISS framework, it would then be possible to enhance the integrated scientific, technical, and maritime training of young scholars from around the world. The ships were to operate independently from the U.N. system but monitor and study issues related to the conservation and pollution prevention of the oceans. Malta and the Scandinavian countries supporting the proposed ISS, envisioned the research fleet as a coordinating vehicle for the already existing international schemes protecting the marine environment.

Ocean Pioneering and Funding

Nothing came out of the pioneering ISS proposal, at least not at the international level or at the UN. The International Sea Service was buried in the deep oceans of the cold war. But an American law professor, former Captain in the Navy and Judge Advocate General, Dr. Jack Henry Glazer, continued the efforts to realize the ISS ideal of integrating graduate education and maritime experience. It was his students who initially wrote a research paper on the adapted ISS concept which found its way to the Maltese Ambassador to the U.N. in

1972. A few years later, money was raised for a selected group of law students specializing in maritime law to embark on a California State training Ship, T/S Golden Bear for Pacific maritime training. During the 1980s, several groups of law students sailed the oceans through the California ISS in search of integrated studies and optimal solutions for sustainable developments in the maritimes.

The ISS proposal thus has its merits and is still a visionary potential program. There is ample evidence, on the oceans and in international sustainable politics, that more action is needed. Efforts to raise funding and vessels to implement the original International Sea Service is underway in California and Scandinavia. Hopefully, there is still time to honor Cousteau's warnings.

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NGOs in Delegations

Lack of Southern NGOs

With more NGOs participating at the 7th session of the CSD than any other year, except UNGASS, OUTREACH wanted to see if this also reflected participation of NGOs as part of the official delegations. To find out OUTREACH conducted a small survey, and asked two of its staff, Carine Wilhelmsen and Toby Middleton to carry this out. This is their story:

The Rio process and Agenda 21 challenge governments to facilitate NGOs directly via their delegations. With so many NGOs in attendance we wanted to take the opportunity to canvas governments to take stock of their commitment to this issue. This survey reveals different responses to this challenge. The most revealing result was probably that only 13% of the Southern delegations have NGOs as part of their delegation compared to 60% of the Northern.

Positive to NGOs

Asking CSD member-state delegations questions about NGO endorsement, revealed a positive attitude towards NGOs. The challenge presented both to NGOs and Governments in developing an interaction was viewed as a positive challenge.

By addressing the governments by region, OUTREACH wanted to see if strong regional trends existed. In many cases clear trends did present themselves, equally some fields proved to offer no consistency in direction. Most evident in the results, is the difference between the number of NGOs on Northern government delegations as compared to Southern. 60% of the Northern delegations include NGOs, while only 13% of the Southern do so.

Lack of finance

Governments across the board cited financial constraints as the reason for not supporting NGOs on their delegations.

This was particularly pronounced by Southern governments. In the case of African states 92% of the respondents made reference to this issue. It is important to note that less developed line of communication between NGOs and Southern governments also contribute to this issue.

This is not to say that governments from developing regions are opposed to accommodating NGOs on their delegations. 89% of Governments from the Latin American & the Caribbean region expressed a willingness to actively engage with NGOs. This was reflected by the African region, of which 77% offered similar enthusiasm.

Consultations with NGOs

Evidence to this enthusiasm is found when reviewing the number of Southern governments who had actually worked with NGOs in preparation for the CSD. All but one of the respondents of the Latin American & the Caribbean region conferred with NGOs in their preparations for the CSD. Of the African States all had consulted to some extent with NGOs during the preparatory process, mostly in developing the Country's policy positions. This open enthusiasm on the part of the South is unfortunately not reflected in the NGO representation on delegations, despite the largest number ever of Southern NGOs attending CSD-7, independent of their government.

There seem to have developed a good relationship between those governments that

do involve NGOs. The NGOs on delegations were in cases selected by NGO Election, worked with governments in preparation and were active in the final negotiations.

NGOs must meet the challenge

Further questioning revealed that some governments were not actually aware that NGOs could form part of their delegation. NGOs face the challenge of involving themselves in the process, as analysis showed that governments across the board welcomed NGO participation in their preparatory process. In looking at the approach taken by Southern governments who did support NGOs at the CSD under their delegations, no consistent trends were present. In comparison Western Governments identified clear lines of process in working with NGOs from preparatory stages through to final participation.

The positive response from Governments to allow NGOs to participate in their delegations identifies the opportunities for NGOs to meet them half way. This opens the floor allowing NGOs to take the initiative in jointly developing these relationships with their host countries. The challenge remain to further develop the relationship between NGOs and governments that per today do not have NGOs as part of their delegation. This should be undertaken in partnership between the two groups.

CW & TM

Survey on Education Last Chance!

Yes, you may be about to breath a BIG sigh of relief that CSD-7 is nearly over, but that doesn't mean the work of educating and informing the rest of the world shouldn't continue... Last weeks questionnaire for our survey on education for sustainable development resulted in a valuable stream of information, which has partially been reported in OUTREACH yesterday. Today, we invite all those who haven't yet responded to fill it in, as this is your last

chance to share your views!

This survey is sponsored by the CSD NGO Steering Committee and undertaken on behalf of the NGO Education Caucus.

The aim of this questionnaire is to determine whether education and related issues receive appropriate support through the CSD process.

The survey is to be completed by all delegates and members of the CSD staff.

Please return this to **Conference Room A** in box labelled '**Education Caucus Survey**' by **Thursday April 29**.

Please respond in the response boxes on a scale of 1 to 5 for the following questions.

How **important** do you consider **education** (formal and non-formal) to be, if we are to build a sustainable world, when 1 is not important and 5 is very important?

Considering the CSD as a whole, do you believe that **education** has been given appropriate **prominence**, when 1 is strongly no and 5 is strongly yes?

Where do you think **efforts** should be concentrated to make education's contribution to sustainable development more **effective**, when 1 is strongly no and 5 is strongly yes?

UN Generally	<input type="checkbox"/>
CSD	<input type="checkbox"/>
UNESCO	<input type="checkbox"/>
UNEP	<input type="checkbox"/>
UNDP	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional Level	<input type="checkbox"/>
National Level	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Level	<input type="checkbox"/>
NGOs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you believe that the agenda of CSD7 gives **education** appropriate **emphasis** in the following topics, when 1 is strongly no and 5 is strongly yes?

Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oceans and Seas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Production and Consumption	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small Island Developing States (SIDS)	<input type="checkbox"/>

How **effective** do you believe **UNESCO** has been as task manager for Chapter 36 of Agenda 21 (the Education, Public Awareness and Training Chapter), when 1 is not effective and 5 is very effective?

How **effective** do you believe the **NGO Education Caucus** has been in maintaining CSD interest in education for sustainable development, when 1 is not effective and 5 is very effective?

Please indicate the appropriate response:

National Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name: _____
NGO Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Area of Work: _____
UN CSD Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	Country: _____

Please return to the box labeled '**Education Caucus Survey**' in **Conference Room A** by **Thursday 29 April**. For further details or a copy of the preliminary report contact Jenny Young UNED-UK/University of Surrey by e-mail on j.young@farn-ct.ac.uk.

<h1>Thursday's Program</h1>		
8:45am	Women's Caucus, doors open at 8:30	CR-A
9:15am	NGO Briefing Session, NGO Steering Committee	CR-A
10 am - 1 pm	Official Session: Work of the Drafting Group	CR-1
10 - 11 am	Caucus meeting: Sustainable Production and Consumption Caucus (SPAC)	CR-A
11 - 12 pm	Sustainable Community Caucus	CR-A
12 - 1 pm	Learning Center: Rescue Mission Millennium Conference Presentation	CR-B
12 - 1 pm	Side event: Rescue Mission Millennium Conference Presentation	CR-B
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Side event: Roundtable on Travel and Tourism, Airline Ambassadors	CR-1
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Side event: Presentation on Costa Rica-Canada Initiative on Forests, Government of Canada,	CR-6
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Side event: Update on the UN Funding Issue and Sustainable Development, Worldwide	CR-A
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Side event: Innovative Tools for Sustainable Development: UNEP's Financial Services Initiative, Norwegian ForUM	CR-2
1:15 pm	Southern NGO Caucus Luncheon Meeting	U.N. Caf.
3 - 6 pm	Official Session Work of the Drafting Groups	CR-1
6:15 - 8 pm	Side event: SPAC Watch: Monitoring Progress towards Sustainable Consumption and Production, NGO Caucus on Sustainable Production and Consumption (SPAC)	CR-6
6:15 - 8 pm	Side event: Making Indicators Work: Integration of CSD, National and Local Initiatives Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning	CR-A
6:15 - 8 pm	Side event: Learning Center, Earth Day New York	CR-B
6.15pm	CSD NGO Steering Committee Meeting	Church C.

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.