



Voice of the NGO Community at the UN CSD



"Working Towards Earth Summit III"

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SIDS left behind

The negotiations on Small Island Development States (SIDS) have ended up in a logjam. Few of the industrialized nations have been agreeable to SIDS demands. EU in particular has not been forthcoming. NGOs from SIDS nations assembled at CSD are becoming increasingly disconcerted over their status as CSD is fast approaching the end. The SIDS NGOs gave OUTREACH this background.

Small Island Developing States are back on the international agenda at the CSD this year. Fears that SIDS will be overtaken by the more powerful players in the globalized economies remain in the foreground. We need look no further than the banana dispute between the EU and the USA for real examples of this taking place. With ever falling levels of Overseas Direct Assistance, the outlook for SIDS does not look bright.

SIDS only bystanders

The industrialized rollercoaster is pushing trade liberalization and financial re-

form down tracks that leave people in SIDS as bystanders. This has been compounded by a migration from SIDS that has led to a reliance on remittances and has provoked a greater loss in skills at all levels. This shortage of skilled workers marred to high levels of joblessness is an unwelcome yet growing feature of some SIDS and has done nothing to aid the pressures of destabilization of SIDS' economies. In addition the unsavory effects of increasing tourism have led to the popularization and promotion of sex as a commodity and child labor as *(continues on the next page)*

To the Point

SIDS negotiations in a deadlock

Interview with **Gorden Bispham**,
Network for 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 market for their export. And when they have social and economic control, they don't need to have direct political control.

- Is it possible to carry out the PoA without the financial support from Northern countries?

- We have confidence in our people, and we will do it with any means necessary. But the changes in the world of trade and finance in the last couple of years and the results of the WTO agreements have made the economic situation even worse for many SIDS. Therefore it has been even more difficult for SIDS to accomplish sustainable development.

ØLP

(SIDS left behind continues)
an alternative to controlling production cost.

Changing markets being imposed on the economies of SIDS have forced the closure of preferential markets. Parallel to this phenomenon is the marked increase in the

reliance on agro-chemicals and high input technology in order to increase local productivity. These market trends
(continues on the next page)

- Consumption and Production
- Oceans

NGO CAUCUS VIEWS
and what they want

- SIDS
- Tourism

Oceans

Governments fishing for complements?

Chris Tydeman takes stock of the Oceans negotiations so far, and questions what it is exactly we are looking for. More importantly, what exactly we are going to get.

Reviewing program on the drafting of text on Ocean and Coasts has been somewhat difficult. After all what can we consider as progress? Despite the best efforts of the chair who even found it in his heart to attempt humor in order to break deadlock and then also looked to a Greek philosopher for sympathy, the process has moved very slowly. There have been waves of activity followed by periods in the doldrums. The more active moments have followed periods when delegations, in particular Guyana on behalf of the G77, were helpful in making compromises in order to reach consensus. As the day wore on this level of helpfulness appeared to wane – perhaps through ‘provision of advise’ from elsewhere within G77.

Certain words make all the difference it would appear. Should it be welcomes or notes; urges or encourages; who can CSD ‘invite’ to do something? At one stage the debate descended to abysmal depths regarding the role of CSD and what it is able to do. Can this really be the best use of time in a discussion on

sustainable management of the world’s oceans and seas? The Chairman of CSD urged action orientated text but it seems certain delegations find it difficult to be so dynamic preferring ‘encouraging consideration of’ at the expense of ‘urging action by’.

At the end of the week there will be some fairly elegant prose, but will it end in meaningful results? Will the large distant water fleets be restrained from their excesses? Will the over-capacity issue be resolved or perverse subsidies controlled? How many additional countries will become Parties to UNCLOS? Will seabirds be safer where longliners operate? Will the global Program of Action ever make significant progress? It would be interesting to ask these questions again a year or two on. Much depends on the willingness of governments to act positively. Judging by the way they hold back from asking for specific commitments, let alone making them the outlook, cannot be regarded with optimism.

By CT

(SIDS left behind continues)
are clearly not in the best interests of long-term sustainability. Urgent attention should be made to reduce reliance on pesticides determined to be problematic to public health as well as the envi-

ronment. There is a need for integrated pest-management strategies for sustainable agriculture and equipment to be implemented.

In considering the acceleration of

SIDS

The SIDS Caucus has polarized its address on the problems facing SIDS by calling for moves on the following:

- Smarter use of limited resources: The co-ordination of Donors and greater collaboration between SIDS;
- Integration of the SIDS Plan of Action in all national development strategies;
- Optimize the use of available human and other resources in within local sectors other than government;
- Facilitation of participation at all levels, via the decentralization of national structures;
- Strengthening of regional and international agencies for SIDS;
- Generate ownership of SIDS through education and dissemination of the SIDS Plan of Action, to ensure participation.

poverty and social marginalisation within the context of present liberalization trends, the SIDS NGO Caucus has been lobbying to see a review of the sustainability of liberalization. This point draws sharp attention to the vulnerability of SIDS. The work of the UN and other international agencies on this issue has exposed the vulnerability of SIDS to external economic and environmental shocks. The NGO Caucus’ reaction to this concern is to urge the international community to give greater weight to the vulnerability factor in all development assistance vis-à-vis SIDS.

TB

On the agenda for CSD 8

Sustainability Assessment of Trade Liberalisation

Sustainability assessments are increasingly recognized as important tools to facilitate the integration of trade, social development and environmental policy objectives. With finance as an important item on the agenda during CSD 8, this discussion will become central.

Several governments have already conducted national environmental reviews of trade policies and agreements (e.g. US, Canada). At the WTO Trade and Environment Symposium held in Geneva on 15-16 March 1999, the US formally announced that it will join the European Union and Canada in carrying out a sustainability assessment of the next round of trade negotiations due to start in January 2000.

Assessments and special needs

Commitments have also been made at the multilateral level. Already CSD 2 in 1994 recognized the importance of developing a multilateral framework to facilitate the assessment of the environmental and social development impacts of trade. CSD-2 and 3 invited UNEP, UNCTAD, UNDP and other relevant international organisations to cooperate in the development of this framework. It was stated at CSD-2 that such assessments should take account of the special needs and conditions of developing countries, and be carried out with an overall perspective of promoting sustainable development.

Strengthen the processes

CSD-3 called on Governments to develop and strengthen processes to assess the environmental effects of trade policies, and enhance coordination between environmental and trade policies. It also requested WTO cooperation on the analysis of the implications of the Agreement

on Agriculture (AOA) in the Uruguay Round for sustainable agriculture and rural development. Indeed, Article 20 of the AOA requires that WTO members review the agreement for its impacts on world trade in agriculture, as well as non-trade agricultural sector concerns.

Recommendation for Intersessional Experts Meeting

To provide the institutional coordination, work on sustainability assessment must begin as soon as possible before the next CSD in 2000. Steps are needed to bring together relevant expertise and to define specifications and a timetable for the International organizations (WTO, World Bank, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNDP and other relevant organisations) that were invited by CSD-2 and 3 to cooperate in the development of this multilateral framework.

- WWF recommends that an Intersessional Experts Meeting on Sustainability Assessment of Trade Liberalisation be held as a contribution to CSD-8.
- WWF calls on Governments to sponsor this meeting in collaboration with the CSD and other relevant agencies and with the participation of major groups.

An appropriate time for the Experts Meeting would be September 1999 in advance of the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Seattle on November 30 to De-

ember 3, 1999 and the beginning of the next round of trade negotiations in January 2000. The objectives of the Experts Meeting will be to:

- Define specific actions and timetable for the development and implementation of the multilateral assessment framework.
- Discuss existing methodologies developed for assessment of trade policies and agreements.
- Outline potential research gaps and areas issues requiring further analyses and case studies.
- Review case studies of the impacts (both positive and negative) of trade liberalisation on different sectors and products, especially in the fisheries, agriculture and forest sectors.

Several NGOs also call on Governments to provide relevant case studies on agricultural trade liberalisation and, more generally, trade and investment liberalisation as background material for CSD 8. Together with a coordinated assessment such actions could ensure that trade liberalisation supports sustainable development, and thus does not undermine the fundamental objectives and decisions of the CSD. It will also help governments identify and develop the appropriate parallel policies necessary to secure sustainable development.

Charles Arden-Clark, WWF

Youth at CSD

Youth Caucus - What have We done so far?

Maybe you haven't seen or heard so much to the Youth Caucus at this CSD, but we are here and we are active. It is necessary to mention that even though there never has been so many NGOs at CSD, there is a very low representation of youth. Why is it so, and what can we do about it? The Youth Caucus has mainly been working on this issue. This year, only three countries have official youth delegates on their delegations - United States, Canada and the Netherlands. That is really sad, as 50 % of the world's population consists of youth. It is very important that youth are involved

in the discussions and decisions taken within the area of sustainable development.

So what do "important people" think of extended youth participation? The Youth Caucus posed this question to the Dutch Minister of Environment who agreed to discuss this issue with his colleagues in the European Union. The same question was asked to The Canadian Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans where asked the same question. They agreed to produce a letter of support for the mission of the Youth Caucus and they will bring

up the issue at the next JUSCANNZ meeting.

On Earth Day (last Thursday), the Youth Caucus tried to make people pay attention to the waste of resources in the UN building. We find it hypocritical to discuss sustainable development in a building where disposable cups, plates and cutlery are being used in the cafeterias. Youth are very conscious of this kind of behaviour, as are many other visitors from the rest of the world.

Henrik Johansson, Youth Caucus

Sustainable Development Training Centres

The Sustainable Development Training Centres (SDTC) project has finally been launched. *Peace Child International* have received funding from the EU to set up 4 INTERNET CAFES - in **Guyana, Senegal, Ghana and Uganda**. The centres will provide,

- (a) Courses on sustainable development for both teachers and students,
- (b) Access to global communication and information for young people, and

(c) Electronic services to local businesses, companies and individuals through which financial independence can be achieved.

These centres will act as regional focal points for both youth groups and NGOs, providing electronic infrastructure and communication systems. Rescue Mission groups are working alongside others to ensure that these centres are set up in line with the needs of local youth.

Mission Terre Senegal, our Rescue Mission group in Senegal, have also received support from David Pines and the World Bank. The Foundation For The Future Of Youth is involved in similar projects in South America. We see the provision of 'sustainable' educational centres in developing countries as a key component in our quest for sustainable development. We look forward to seeing them evolve!

Gender and Sustainable Consumption

Gender perspective of Consumption was the topic of debate at the Gender and Sustainable Consumption side event yesterday evening. The debate was based on a report by Shalini Grover, Minu Hemmati and Clare Flenley of UNED-UK. The report seeks to identify the key role Gender mainstreaming has to play in achieving sustainable patterns of consumption. Here are some of the significant findings of the report.

Gender should be a cross cutting issue.

As such it adds tremendous value to the on-going work on sustainable production and consumption (SPAC). Gender equality is central to any paradigm for sustainable development. Many of the current issues that the NGO caucus on SPAC is focussing on, needs to be seen through a gender lens. Other gender-specific issues also need to complement the on-going work on SPAC.

Spending priorities

Focussing on consumer behavior can be

particularly useful in understanding the nature of men and women's spending priorities and motivations that impact on consumption patterns. Men and women have different spending responsibilities, priorities, needs and constraints that are inter-linked to sustainability. Furthermore, indicators that are being formulated to measure "changes in production and consumption" need to integrate more structural issues. They need to be disaggregated on the basis of gender, (continues on the next page)

There are still not many Eastern European NGOs actively involved in the CSD process. OUTREACH is today presenting a Polish view on tourism. Jolanta Kamieniecka, Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD), Warsaw gave us this story:

Sustainable Tourism - A Perspective from Poland

The ISD was founded to integrate environmental policy into economic and social development. It serves as an inspiration and catalyst for introducing and disseminating new ideas on sustainable development in the process of economic reforms during the transition to a market economy.

Coming to New York, I assumed that this CSD session would prove to be a turning point for sustainable tourism in moving society away from unsustainable mass tourism. Its antithesis, eco-tourism is not a new philosophy but a return to normality. Sustainable tourism has the potential to bring together all societal sectors - politicians, business, local communities - and of course, the tourists themselves.

Polish politicians reluctant

Even NGOs are not campaigning on this issue in my country. Is it that we do not recognise the role of tourism in protecting the most valuable regions and in creating green jobs? Politicians and business are also passive in using tourism to drive development. They are reluctant to get actively involved in meeting new challenges.

Documents no guarantee

We have many official documents relat-

ing to this issue: the National Environmental Policy and National Strategies for Environmental Education and for the Development of Domestic Tourist Products. But these documents lack tools for eliminating those developments in tourism and related social, economic and political impacts which are not sustainable.

What is missing in Poland is an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to the market - supposedly free, but directed in some way. The average tourist consumes what is offered by the tour operators, namely, mass tourism. Roundtable discussions organised by the ISD have revealed that the tourist industry is not mentally prepared for sustainable development. Will it therefore lose out?

ISO 14000 certification for tourism

During the High-Level segment of the CSD, the Polish Environment Minister referred to the country's booming tourist industry and expressed concerns about its

impacts on the state of Poland's natural resources. Will they withstand the impact of this boom?

Poland like many other countries, is developing farm tourism. But can this type of tourism really be environmentally friendly if it ignores the implementation of environmental policies in the development of rural areas? Why is it that environmental impact assessments are the only tools used? Why not also use green taxes, incentives to drive the demand for organic food, environmental certification of accommodation - not just hotels - even ISO 14000 certification of travel agencies? These type of standards not only determine the quality and price of tourist products, but can also help in the shaping of eco-consumption.

Are these just my own Polish observations? I think not. The CSD discussions show that I am not alone.

(Gender and Sustainable Consumption continues)

age, income and location in order to provide a more realistic and complete picture of consumption issues.

Poverty and gender

The gender nature of poverty was also discussed This aspect is important in

determining production and consumption and possibilities for changing them. A disaggregation of poverty shows the differences in poor men and women's consumption needs and opportunities. There are more poor and illiterate women than men who have been left out of the consumption explosion.. The principal rights of the consumer - access to essential goods,

choice, safety, information, representatives, redress, consumer education and a healthy environment - are least available to poor women.

No Sustainability in Central Park!

CSD participant arrested in New York for **Bicycling** on **Earth Day**

On Earth Day, April 22, 1999, Aaron Koleszar, Canadian youth delegate to CSD and seven Americans were arrested while cycling in Central Park after joining approximately 200 cyclists for a peaceful Critical Mass bike ride in celebration of Earth Day. No crime was committed. It appeared that the police just wanted to disturb the celebration. **cy-committed.**

“Critical mass” is the name given to mass bike rides which celebrate the bicycle as an ecological form of travel, and promote awareness of cycling and cyclists' rights. Critical mass rides occur monthly in New York and many other cities across the world. Many participants wear costumes, signs, and blow noisemakers.

The police (NYPD) escorted the cyclists up 6th Avenue to Central Park, even stopping traffic so that cyclists could ride through red lights. The police used bicycles and motor scooters to confine the cyclists to the left half of the road.

Police deliberately trapped bicyclists

Once inside Central Park, the cyclists rounded the first bend in the road, into what appeared to be a trap. The road was lined with police, many wearing riot gear, and they began to move their police barricade fences to block the whole

road except for the bicycle lane.

This is when police really began to demonstrate confusion. Cyclists were told to progress through the bike lane two by two, but another officer ordered that the cyclists were to be arrested (though they had committed no crime). The cyclists who had followed the orders and began biking through the police zone were the first to be arrested. People nearest the front of the pack were suddenly arrested. Koleszar and most or all of the others were arrested in the bike lane and had broken no laws.

8 people arrested and held

The 8 persons were arrested and kept in the back of paddy wagons for over an hour, then brought to the 28 precinct. They were charged with disorderly behavior, under the pretense that I was blocking traffic. According to those arrested, it was the police in fact, who had erected the bar-

ricade across the road to stop the traffic. Some were soon released after the police reviewed their videotape. Koleszar was held for around 4 hours, then released after being given summonses to appear in court on May 24.

A number of those arrested plan to file formal complaints, in an attempt to make someone accountable for this injustice. Some of the cyclists suggested that the real threat they posed was endangering car culture threatening the automobile industry.

Koleszar to appear in court

Koleszar will be required to appear in court later this year. He remarks that he has limited financial resources, and humbly says any donation is welcome: Earth Action – 81 Prince St., Charlottetown, PEI, Canada C0A 1B0
Phone 902 659 2570 or 902 631 0719

Thursday'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: Work of the Drafting Group on Oceans	CR-2
10 - 11 am	Caucus meeting: Sustainable Production and Consumption Caucus (SPAC)	CR-A
11 am - 12	Sustainable Community Caucus	CR-A
11:30 - 1 pm	Informal Consultation on tourism and changing consumption and production patterns	CR-6
12 - 1 pm	Learning Center: Rescue Mission Millennium Conference Presentation	CR-B
12 - 1 pm	Energy and Climate Change Caucus	CR-A
12 - 1 pm	Side event: Rescue Mission Millennium Conference Presentation	CR-B
1 - 2 pm	Ocean Caucus Meeting	CR-
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.
1:15 - 2:45	Peace Caucus and the Hague Appeal for Peace will sponsor a rountable on the current crises	CR-8
2 - 3 pm	Youth Caucus Meeting	CR-B
3 - 5 pm	Drafting Group III on Energy and Other Matters	CR-1
3 - 4 pm	US Briefing for US NGOs	
3 - 4 pm	Informal Consultations on Tourism and Changing Consumptions	CR-6
3 - 4 pm	US NGOs meet with African and other Southern NGOs	CR-A
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
5 - 8 pm	Drafting Group I on Tourism and Changing Consumption and Production Patterns	CR-1
5 - 7 pm	Science and Technology Caucus Meeting	CR-A
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	Learning Center: Earth Day New York	CR-B
6:15 pm	CSD NGO Steering Committee Meeting	Church C.
8 - 9 pm	Drafting Group III on Energy and Other Matters	CR-1