

# OUTREACH 2005



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY 21ST

## REGIONAL COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

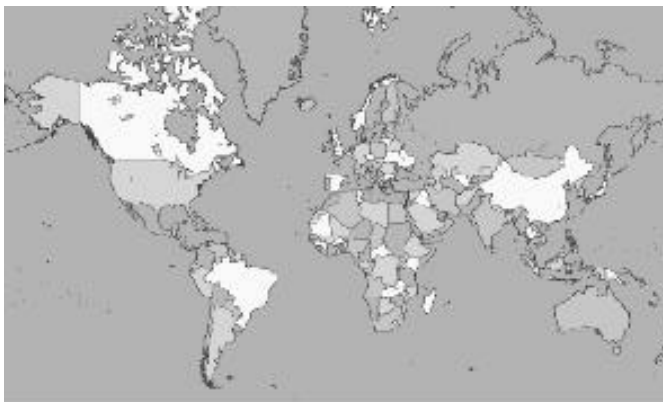
### Convergence and Divergence in Regional Implementation Experiences

The organisational reform of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) agreed to during its Eleventh Session introduced an innovative process for reviewing implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and for enabling solutions – of many guises – to be identified for overcoming challenges to implementation.

Building on and learning from the experience of the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, it was agreed that the CSD would adopt a bottom-up approach in its review and decision-making processes, ensuring that stakeholders, national bodies and regional institutions all played a part in facilitating and informing deliberations within the international setting of the CSD. To ensure the realisation of this approach, a number of stages of reporting were encouraged, these included: civil society state of implementation reports; national reports; regional implementation forum chairs summaries; Secretary General's State of Implementation reports.

Within this processes, UN Regional Economic Commissions were invited – not stipulated – to assist with the facilitation of meetings at the regional level to review progress in implementation within that region. The purpose of such meetings would be to identify challenges, obstacles and constraints to implementations, to provide lessons learned, and outline opportunities and recommendations to further the implementation of sustainable development commitments.

This was a useful suggestion. Each region, and each country within that region faces a unique set of characteristics, which either enable or inhibit effective implementation. These may be of an environmental, financial, cultural or political nature. Recognising this through the regionalisation of the work programme of the CSD was an important move forward.



In taking up the task, the UN Regional Economic Commissions each facilitated, in conjunction with other organisations and agencies, a Regional Implementation Forum. As requested, each of the meetings sought to undertake a comprehensive review of implementation within their region. These concluded with the UNECE meeting in mid-January.

In order to ensure efficiency in the hosting of these meetings, a number of the Regional Forums were hosted as part of a pre-scheduled meeting. This both saved on resource allocation and time spent in meetings, and given the time period afforded, and the often over-stretch financial capacities this was a practical solution.

As a result, the Regional Implementation Forums took place under a broad range of headings additionally there were disparities in their structure, their level of participation and their focus. This is no bad thing, the task was to discuss and share experience within the region on the implementation of water, sanitation and human settlement commitments, and this was by enlarge achieved. However, the balance of the discussions, the depth to which they were discussed, the level of stakeholder engagement, and the cross-cutting issues which were dealt with differed. So did the final reports.

The deliberations at and achievements of the Regional Implementation Forums were presented in the form of Chairs Summaries. Each of these seeks to articulate the main challenges, obstacles and constraints as well as achievements, lessons learned and recommendations in the implementation of agreements on water, sanitation and human settlement, including cross-cutting issues such as education, financing and capacity building. Whilst thorough in their content, the reports differ greatly in their presentation. Such discrepancies in reporting procedure potentially results in two key difficulties; summarising regional outcomes; comparing outcomes at the inter-regional level. The lack of meaningful inter-regional comparison intern potentially undermines the effectiveness of the regional process, as it removes the ability to effectively identify where the disparities and commonalities are in regional

*(Continued on page 2)*

implementation experiences, and thus the ability to identify where you need regional solutions and where global solutions would be more appropriate.

In recognising this challenge – Stakeholder Forum sought to under-take a comparative analysis of the Chairs Summaries. The process intended to compile the regional outcomes into a stream-line presentation where by comparisons could be easily made. Needless to say, this exercise was useful in illustrating common challenges and constraints to implementation, and in some cases illustrating areas where there is clear scope for the sharing of experience between regions where one region has provided recommendations or lessons learned in the same instance that another region is facing a challenge.

However, the comparative analysis indicated some implementation anomalies, for instance, that the ECE experience a greatest number of challenges and obstacles in the implementation of water and sanitation agreements, and that ECA reports the greatest number of achievement in the area of human settlements with ECE reporting the least. Whilst it is indisputable that obstacles do exist, and that regions have made good progress in implementation, it is suspected that the disparities in the reporting processes has, when attempting to make direct comparisons, distorted the implementation picture.

It is fully recognised that there are some inherent problems with this exercise, the foremost being that the Chairs Summaries are not a comprehensive report of the experience of that region - but more, they provide an over-view of the key issues raised during the Regional Implementation Forum. However, it does beg the question to be asked, in future Regional Implementation Forums – which it is recommended that there are – should a reporting framework be considered? A question that might be addressed during the coming weeks.

*Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future*

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## Outreach 2005

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**Published by,** Stakeholder Forum *for Our Common Future*

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# HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

## UN Habitat - Message from the Executive Director

As the world becomes increasingly urban, it is essential that sustainable development is understood in the context of urbanization.

Almost a billion people—or over 40% of the urban population in the developing world—live precariously in slum settlements; and if present trends continue, the number of slum dwellers will more than double over the next 30 years. The situation is most acute in Sub-Saharan Africa and South-Central Asia, where around 70 % and 60 % of the urban population, respectively, live in slums. This was recognized by the Commission on Sustainable Development when it adopted water, sanitation and human settlements as an integral cluster to follow-up on the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for the next two years (2004-2005).

In a rapidly globalizing world, achieving sustainable development and alleviating poverty requires the integration of international, national and local economic, social and political objectives into a coherent overall framework. Sustainable cities with livable environments require comprehensive, adaptable and participatory development that can adjust to the changing contexts of a dynamic society.

UN-HABITAT's recently integrated programmes are designed to focus attention on sustainable human settlement development through the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goal 7, Targets 10 and 11 related to provision of safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and improving the lives of slum dwellers. UN-HABITAT has been charged with coordinating the realization of Goal 7, Target 11 - to significantly improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers around the world by the year 2020. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in its political declaration has placed adequate shelter alongside other priority areas – water, sanitation, energy, health, agriculture, and biodiversity.

The themes of CSD 12, on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements focus on important challenges especially when related to the growing urbanization of poverty. Human settlements provide a concrete context for this action. Planning and provision of water and sanitation services needs to be done in a spatial context, in the context of city development plans and strategies.

City and metropolitan governments are robust platforms for implementing pro-poor policies of all types. They are closest to the communities in need and they are well practiced in managing urban demands for resources. Decentralization of responsibilities to local level and building capacity in local authorities are critical to ensuring sustainable water and sanitation services in urban areas. Before sustainable urban development can occur, city and metropolitan authorities must be enabled with more authority and

more resources to engage civil society in decision-making processes that include policy-making, budgeting and monitoring

At the same time, in many cities, market failure in providing basic services to slum dwellers proves the need for strong planning, management and regulation that will insure equitable taxation and expenditure plans that are front-loaded in favour of the poor. What is often forgotten is that when water and sanitation services are planned and provided as an integral part of settlements development, it contributes to livelihood development through income and employment generation and can help address the overarching poverty and environmental issues more effectively. With experience and understanding also comes the recognition that urban and shelter finance mechanisms are essential to poverty reduction and, are best achieved through collaborative partnerships.

Urban poverty reduction strategies derive from an understanding of current conditions and from the principles that guide the United Nations' response. These norms and principles including, among others, environmental protection, sustainable urban development, adequate shelter for all, improvement in the lives of slum dwellers, access to safe water and sanitation and social inclusion, help us focus on the best way to tackle poverty. And as slums are the most visible manifestation of urban poverty, UN-HABITAT has committed all its programmes and activities to help the international community implement the Habitat Agenda, the Millennium Development Goals as a way to achieve sustainable development.

*Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director - UN Habitat*

## LEARNING CENTRE

### Strategic Planning for Sustainable Development: the NSDS, from concept to action

On Monday the Learning Centre hosted a session on National Strategies for Sustainable Development. Over 40 participants from a wide range of countries explored ways and means for producing an effective Strategy. What follows are the notes of that meeting, courtesy of an experienced and well respected Government representative, including a summary of the main questions arising.

As governments plan their strategies for 2005, Outreach would like to invite its readers to come forward with their recommendations and answers to these questions, which will be published in future issues.

Main points of the presentation:

1. Strategic planning (*defines where the country is going, how it's going to get there and how do we know if its has got there or not*);
2. Sustainable development (*is the new paradigm of "development" recognized by the international community, evolution of the concept and principles*);
3. NSDS (*is a tool or process for harmonizing national and local policy initiatives and bring coherence in the policy-making; modus operandi and various kinds of experiences*)

Explanation was given on how you can develop an NSDS from a PRS (*1. assess the PRS; 2. identify gaps and priorities; 3. formulate economic, social and environmental objective harmonized with poverty reduction objectives; 4. organize public consultation, tradeoff, negotiate compromises; 5. implement*)

Attention of participants was called on the *global map* and the *assessment report* of NSDS which will soon (next two days) be published and made available by the Secretariat to CSD12 participants. They will show that many countries are "on the way" to get their NSDS (but, most of them, not yet there).

Interesting questions were raised and interestingly discussed during the two last hours (discussion largely lead by G77 participants) about the following aspects of NSDS:

- How do you develop real participation all along the NSDS cycle ?
- How do you avoid conflict with other existing plans not integrated in the NSDS ?
- How do you "integrate" all components of SD, especially when the process is lead by Ministries of Economy and Finance who are not interested in the development of the human and environmental resource base of the country in the long term ?
- How do you get money for NSDS knowing that some international institutions (WB was mentioned) have other goals to be achieved under very short time constraints ?
- What is exactly the nature of national council of sustainable development and their role in the cycles of NSDS ? Are they distinct from coordination/integration bodies of public authorities ?
- How do you introduce NSDS high enough in the very strong political agendas of most governments, where they are usually completely marginalized ?
- Is there a "model of NSDS" which could be valid for/used by countries which would have the same size, for example ?
- What is the best body in the administration to locate the intersectoral/interdepartmental/ inter-agency work on NSDS (Planning offices ? Environment departments ? National SD Councils ?...)
- How do you link the decisions of the NSDS to their goals ? How do you monitor implementation ?
- To be able to "think globally" the framework of the NSDS, how do you introduce SD education and SD capacity building at all levels ?
- When a (LT)SD strategy has been accepted by a Government, how do you sell it to the next One ?
- Does it help to legalize and/or provide legislative provisions to the SD planning process (which is internal to the NSDS) ?
- How do you evaluate NSDSs ? Should the evaluation also



be supported by a consultative process?

- What size of budget (additional capacity) do you need ?
- We need to learn from each other to find the best answers for us to all these questions and overcome the constraints preventing implementation; how can we know precisely what other countries have already done ?
- How do you link the NSDS to the commitments of the World Summit on SD (international agenda) and still make

it part of a national agenda ?

- How shall we reach the international 2005 Johannesburg goal concerning NSDSs ?

Contact the editor with your suggestions on:

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Tel: +44 7968 597923

In person: Dashing chap in Vienna Café.

## STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

### Major Group Positions

*Continuing on yesterdays coverage, today Outreach presents three more Major Group positions. By week's end, governments will be well stocked with stakeholder views on which to deliver the most effective review of implementation possible.*

### Non-Government Organisations

Water, sanitation and human settlements policies involve every area of public concern. As such, they must be addressed holistically and comprehensively. Whatever approach is settled upon, it must face the light of constant public scrutiny if it is to be effective and meaningful to the bulk of humanity. Making safe drinking water available is not only a technical problem, but also a social challenge, encompassing issues including ownership, community rights and management concerns, the issues of water wastage, the burden of repair and maintenance of existing infrastructure, corruption, lack of accountability, the choice of options and the quantity of resources allocated.

Achieving sustainable human settlements requires a cross-cutting) from the perspective of all three pillars of sustainable development) approach to building sustainable communities, rectifying environmental and social injustices (including gender aspects) and achieving sustainable production and consumption patterns, while ensuring economic and social innovation and development. Public participation (the fourth pillar of sustainable development) is crucial in this process. All this must be done while also meeting basic human needs.

Many successful examples of sustainable water and sanitation projects and human-settlement development are developed and managed by community-based organisations and NGO's, yet these groups frequently do not participate in national policy schemes or even grander international schemes. Policies are needed to reverse current processes marginalizing crucial groups in society that play a vital role in building sustainable communities and integrated water policies.

Globalisation in its current form has increased economic insecurities, especially in poorer neighbourhoods. The lack of participatory structures and accountability makes communities relatively powerless in ensuring environmental and social sustainability.

Human settlements are complex entities. Any strategy for sustainability needs to work with different disciplines and sectors, and just as every practitioner needs to understand those working around her or him, so governments need to ensure that plans for sustainable development are integrated across the sectors and genuinely meet international targets while also meeting the needs of the poorest.

A primary concern is the protection and conservation of water catchment areas and the restoration of those that have been degraded and destroyed, such as wetlands. Deforestation and degradation of water catchment areas has been going on without adequate checks. The ecosystem approach should be integrated into water resource management policies at all levels.

Human rights standards have a key role to play in sustainable water development. The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provides a framework for action that is anchored to legal accountability, which should be recognised by the CSD as a means to secure the right to water for all. As such, it should be reflected in future water management policies, including all national water management plans, which are expected to be in place by 2005.

The vital role of water resources in rural and urban livelihoods should be appreciated since water is an essential resources for reducing vulnerabilities through attaining food security, alleviating poverty and enhancing people's health.

There is a need to strengthen coordination and cooperation for the mobilization of both internal and external resources, and for the wise use of such resources, as well as to strengthen efforts to increase budget allocations for water resource management, sanitation and human settlements. Financial and other commitments must be honoured. The type and nature of conditionalities must be fundamentally reviewed rather than imposed. The donor community must rely less on standard blueprints for water development and pay more attention to small-scale water management and service provision options, which should be replicated and scaled up.

There is an urgent need to introduce innovative approaches in involving the private sector. The adverse impacts of resource privatisation and over-exploitation now call for firm regulations and strong enforcement. This will help conserve and improve the current rural and urban environments and promote corporate social accountability and good practices in private businesses.

## Women

### *Human Rights Approach*

- Access to water is a basic human right that is essential for achieving gender equality, sustainable development and poverty alleviation;
- Governments are ultimately responsible for the provision of basic human needs, including adequate water and sanitation to women and their families.

### *Women's access to and control of water and land*

- Women's access to water should be recognised as directly related to access to land and constitutional and legal barriers that bar women from owning or inheriting land should be eliminated;
- Central governments should focus on creating an enabling environment through regulations and tariffs favouring poor and equitable service delivery.

### *Women's access to sanitation*

- The success and effective use of sanitation facilities will depend on the involvement of both women and men in selecting the location and technology of such facilities. Women are also crucial in instilling behavioural norms in young children, including those relating to hygiene.

### *Gender mainstreaming*

- Gender mainstreaming tools should be developed and used at the institutional level, including: sex-disaggregated data; gender analysis; gender balance; gender review process for country reports; gender budget initiatives; and gender-sensitive indicators (particularly indicators that cross multiple themes for achievement of the MDGs and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation);
- National sanitation policies should be gender sensitive, by enabling the participation of women in the policy framework process. Gender provision should address both practical and strategic needs.

### *Promoting Women's participation and empowerment*

- Governments must consult with stakeholders at all levels of decision and policy making, and establish and strengthen mechanisms to facilitate the participation of all stakeholders, in particular poor women, indigenous peoples and other disadvantaged groups defined by race, ethnicity, economic status, age and religion;
- Partnerships between governments and NGOs and donors should be formalised and core funding should be made available for women's NGOs and CBOs to facilitate their meaningful contribution in all critical phases of policy and project design and implementation.

### *Private sector involvement in water resources management*

- Water must be identified primarily as a public good and human right and not simply as a commodity to be traded in the open market. As a public good, water must be managed for social needs and environmental sustainability rather than for short term profit;
- Shifting responsibility from governments to large private corporations is problematic, as profits often supersede

human needs and rights. Policies that favour privatisation of public services remain largely unaccountable to the people they are supposed to benefit.

### *Resource mobilisation*

- Funds and other resources should be allocated to civil society organisations, in particular those focussed on women, recognising that women are full partners and not a recipient target group for water and sanitation projects to increase the capacity enhancement and development of poor women and girls, and to women's organisations based on their own priorities.

### *Human settlement from a gender perspective*

- The expertise, priorities and solutions of grass-roots women's groups should be solicited, validated and remunerated. These organisations should be given resources to expand and consolidate their knowledge and skills base;
- Institutional expertise, resources and contacts should be used to provide back-up support to grass-roots initiatives and enable scaling-up of grass-roots practices should be enabled.

## Youth

### *Water & Sanitation*

In the Framework for Action on Water and Sanitation, a comprehensive list of action areas, indicative targets and milestones and examples of activities needed to reach them was compiled. At this session of the Commission on Sustainable Development we should focus on developing work such as this instead of starting, yet again, from the beginning and analysing, yet again, Agenda 21, which we all know by heart by now. With only two sessions to discuss the issue, we need to go directly to the point.

Youth and children's focus is on education at all levels, both informal and formal, and on water and sanitation for sustainable development, as access and education regarding water in all disciplines will train a new generation not only to be efficient water users in their professions and lives, to create sustainable policies in their governments and to wash their hands to prevent disease, but also to develop a water culture that will be crucial in the future protection and appreciation of this vital resource.

### *Human Settlements*

Governments should implement all protocols signed and implement all agreements based on Agenda 21.

The various regulatory bodies, which include the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Petroleum Resources, should be strengthened so as to regulate the practices of oil companies in the Niger delta. There should be an increase in tree-planting, and the Government should jump-start a participatory approach to housing the poor through a joint effort by the public and private sectors as well as the community.

*Extracts drawn from the discussion papers submitted by major groups.*

## Population – the word that dares speak its name?

At the opening session there were several references to increasing numbers of people, in the context of water, sanitation, and human settlements. Does this mean that we can once more examine the role of population growth in hindering poverty alleviation and sustainable development?

So many times I hear the phrase “It’s too difficult to talk about”. Are we going to continue to behave like ostriches? The signs are slightly more encouraging at CSD 12 than in Johannesburg, when the word ‘population’ only appeared in relation to fish populations!

CSD 12 is the occasion for the launching of the *Population and Sustainability Network as a Partnership*. We think that ‘population’ must be brought from the shadows to, and we are promoting our concept: the ‘population coin’ – with unsustainable population growth on one side and unsustainable over-consumption of resources by the rich minority world on the other.

Our Network will be showcased in the ‘neck’ area today. Please come and see us and learn more about what we are trying to do – and about our Partnership event in Conference Room 6 on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. The event “Population, Environment and Sustainable Development: ICPD at 10” will have four distinguished speakers – but essentially this is a forum for discussion, not a four pronged lecture.

*Catherine Budgett-Meakin, Population & Sustainability Network Co-ordinator*

## Securing Our Human Right to Water

Privatization is a critical aspect of the world’s water crisis that is having a deeply negative impact on people’s livelihoods throughout the world. In November 2002, the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights affirmed water as a human right with its adoption of General Comment 15: “The human right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses.” Yet without accountability mechanisms to enforce this agreement, privatization and commodification of water persists, as it’s continually treated as an economic good rather than human right.

The UN CSD will examine the vital issues of water and sanitation in 2004-2005, beginning with its next session to be held April 19-30 at UN headquarters in New York. This provides civil society with a significant opportunity to hold governments accountable to General Comment 15 and to increase its impact on people’s daily lives.

The Council of Canadians, Third World Network, and Women’s Environment & Development Organization are sponsoring an events to examine the human right to water, the gendered nature of water privatization, the use of water in trade and finance policy, and to explore a proposal for a UN Convention on the human right to water.

Event “Securing Our Human Right to Water” Date/Time: April 21, 1:15-2:45pm, Location: 777 UN Plaza (1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 44<sup>th</sup> Street), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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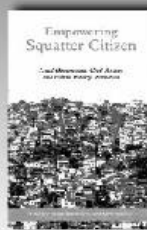


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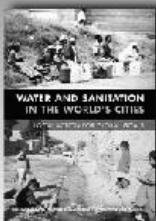


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## The light-hearted side of Sustainable Development

*What with many new, and welcome, faces present at this years CSD, Outreach thought it might be useful to explain what is meant behind all that UN-jargon:*

*Affirms - We are quite serious about this.*

*Considers - We are not serious about this.*

*Consults - We don't want to do anything about this at the moment.*

*Cooperates - The more people we involve, the less will happen.*

*Coordinates - It is a mess out there and unless we get people together, nothing is going to happen.*

*Decides - This is action! Someone - not usually governments - should do something*

*Encourages - We hope someone is going to do something sometime.*

*Establishes - Look, we can create something that might do something that we cant do at the moment.*

*Expresses Concern - We are really annoyed that something*

*we asked for has not been done.*

*Implements - We cant avoid doing what we have been promising we are going to do any more.*

*Maintains - We should at least do what we have been doing.*

*Observes - Lets just watch.*

*Reaffirms - We still haven't done what we said we'd do.*

*Recalls - We said we would do something, and we've just remembered we haven't done it.*

*Recognises - We know there is a problem that we haven't addressed yet and probably don't have the money or political will to do anything*

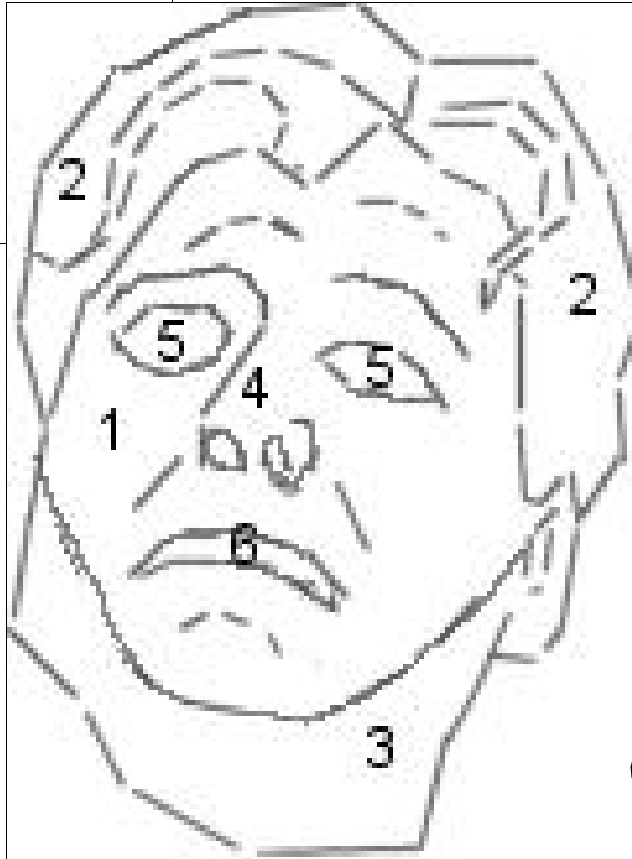
*Regulates - We are really serious this time.*

*Supports - We agree it's a problem that should be addressed, hopefully by someone else.*

Extracts from 'How to Lobby at Intergovernmental meetings'. Available at all good book shops, and some rubbish ones too.

## Paint-by-numbers Andrey!

- 1: Gender sensitive pink
- 2: Summit grey
- 3: 2am Negotiations Stubble
- 4: Smirnoff red
- 5: Peacekeeping Blue
- 6: Marlborough red



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# WEDNESDAY'S DIARY

10:00-11:30	CR 1: Statements: Overall Review
10:00-1:00	CR 2: Continued Major Group Water Discussion
10:00-1:00	Learning Centre: Investing in Communities (World Bank)
10:00-11:30	Partnerships Fair Presentations
11:30-1:00	Interactive Discussion: Practical issues of defining a partnership's goals and structure
1:15-2:45	CR 6: Science and Technology for Sustainable Development: Finding Simple Solutions to Complex Challenges
1:15-2:45	CR 2: How People Who Had No Homes Become a Vibrant Community
1:15-2:45	CR D: Best Practices for Education for Sustainable Development: Pumped Up for Peace
1:15-2:30	Dag Hammarshjold Library Auditorium: Water, Education and Youth
1:15-2:45	CR 9: An Introduction to UN Water Virtual Learning Center
3:00-6:00	Learning Centre 1. ICT Networking Approaches and Development Solutions for Sustainable Development
3:00-6:00	CR 1: Status report on request for information from CSD11
3:00-6:00	CR 2: Thematic discussion on Sanitation
3:00-6:00	Partnership Fair: Presentations: Water Partnerships
3:00-6:00	Learning Centre 2: Urban Governance Tools to Support Sustainable Urbanization
6:15-7:45	Education for Sustainable Development - The Green Schools Initiative
6:15-7:45	Immediate Action Plan for Water Resources Management in Post War Iraq - The New Eden Project
6:15-7:45	A Network of Learning in Water Supply, Sanitation and Resource Management

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