

OUTREACH 2005



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY 28TH

CSD 12: THE STORY SO FAR

The Next Generation - *Question time*

“The purpose of the sessions, as agreed by CSD-11 was to take a hard, honest look at how we are going, explore successes and failures, and analyse the reasons why; to identify best practices, obstacles and constraints, and to discuss where and how we must strengthen our efforts.”

We are not yet at the end of the session, but it is timely already to be asking the question: ‘and have we achieved this?’. With the interactive segment all but complete it seems likely that the remainder of the CSD-12 will be dominated by pre-prepared Ministerial statements, as the review gives way to the high-level segment.

It’s been fun – admit it – we’ve been out of the UN by eight pm each night, the word bracket hasn’t been mentioned, except in some sort of quirky UN joke, and no commas have been moved. Instead – in something akin to implementation therapy – we’ve been provided with a safe and listening environment in which to talk openly and honestly about our experiences. We’ve shared the challenges, obstacles and constraints to implementation, we sympathised with one another and we’ve supported one another. We’ve been provided with a platform from which to modestly talk about our successes, the lessons we’ve learned, and our recommendations for furthering the achievement of our goals, targets and commitments. We’ve been to school and learned new skills and we’ve been provided with the opportunity to offer others the hand of collaboration.

It’s been an entirely new model for the CSD, and one which seems to have worked. The amount of activities that have been undertaken and the amount of information which has, and is now available is something to be commended. Everyone it seems has grasped – with both hands – the opportunity to review the practical implementation within their country, and to bring that experience here to share with others. And refreshingly, we have not been involved in some sort of show-casing exercise. We’ve been honest about the challenges we’ve faced, and the things that we’ve got wrong.

Hearing about in country experience from both governments, experts and representatives of civil society has been a wake-up call to us all. The stark realities of people at the local level who live in the absence of adequate sanitation, clean water and shelter have certainly

injected a new dimension to our discussions at CSD. They have focused our minds and grounded our deliberations on the real challenges facing both the international community and individual people.

The Chairs text has reminded us of all of the valuable contributions made during the discursive part of this CSD. It provides a useful summary and a valuable prompt for Ministers in their deliberations over the coming days. There is now a real need to ensure that the final outcomes of CSD-12 provide a framework and driver to link this review to the policy discussions at CSD-13 and to the 2005 review of progress on the Millennium Development goals. We look to the Ministers to provide direction on this.

In the closing of CSD-11 Vali Moosa remarked that we are creatures of habit, and we have the unfortunate habit of negotiations. Over the last 10 days we’ve proved that even creatures of habit can change, and that the CSD does in fact have an extremely important role to play in enabling the sharing of experience and information, in monitoring and reviewing progress, and in allowing civil society and governments to come together to constructively discuss the way forward.

But for all the feel good co-operation encouraged by the wide-ranging activities of the first ten days some basic questions remain. Next year the UN will be gearing up to review progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. This year’s CSD ought to be providing some of the basic input for a purposeful review of progress on the crucial water and sanitation goals. It should be illuminating in detail what kinds of water and sanitation investment are needed in the different parts of the world, how water undertakings can best be organized and governed, and above all how they can be financed.

One important contribution has come from the private sector. Their spokesman has declared more forcefully and clearly than ever before that industry are not urging the privatization of water in developing countries, and are not interested in outright ownership of key infrastructure assets. What they are offering is to place their skills and expedience at the service of developing countries on a contractual or consultancy basis where local communities want this.

This clarification should go far to put to rest the worries and

(Continued on page 2)



concerns that have been forcefully argued by many NGOs and trade unions. But of course at the same time it makes absolutely clear that the massive investments that will be needed to meet the MDGs in the water and sanitation field over the next ten years will have to come predominantly from the public sector, particularly in the LDCs and from a major increase in relevant official development assistance and funding from the international financial institutions and banks.

As ministers assemble to review the results of the past ten days of discussions and partnership development we urge them to focus first and foremost on this central question. Let them put aside the mirage of securing massive private sector investment in developing water and sanitation in the least developed world. Instead let them put in place the preparatory work which will build real programmers and commitment from official sources over the next twelve months that will match up to the scale of the challenge represented by the water and sanitation MDGs.

Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future



STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

Two million work deaths a year

Kemerevo, Siberia, 10 April 2004: fatal explosion in a mine, at least 44 miners killed. Background: the Russian mining industry is in bad shape. Due to a lack of maintenance, accidents happen frequently. Jieyan, China, 9 April 2004: electric shocks kill 12 workers and injure three others on a building site after they come into contact with a 10,000-volt cable. Background: between January and October 2003, 13,283 fatal work accidents were registered in China's industry and mines – an increase of 9.6 per cent over the previous year. The rise is particularly steep in the

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construction sector. Dublin, Ireland, 13 April 2004: a study reveals that hundreds of thousands of workers suffer from stress. Four million working days were lost in 2003, at a total cost of more than 170 million pounds (300 million dollars, 250 million euro).

Work causes injuries, mutilations, sickness and, still all too often, death. Not by fate, but through negligence. Due not to the absence of standards, but to their violation. Not because of poverty, but because of the lack of preventive measures. All too often, even today, workers' lives are unnecessarily put at risk. So is the environment. A case in point was Seveso where, on 10 July 1976, a cloud of dioxin escaped from a reactor in a chemical plant and spread across the plain of Lombardy, in Italy. Although nobody was killed, many people suffered the after-effects. Ecologically, the disaster was even more tangible: apart from the 3,300 domestic animals that died of poisoning morts, some 70,000 cattle had to be slaughtered. And major work was needed to decontaminate the agricultural land and the houses.

Six thousand deaths a day

The International Labour Organization, a UN tripartite agency (governments/employers/unions), estimates that 2.2 million people die from work-related causes every year: 750,000 women and 1,500,000 men. The difference in the figures for men and women is mainly due to the distribution of the two sexes within dangerous jobs. However, as the ILO notes, the large number of women working in agriculture in developing countries makes them particularly vulnerable to work-related infectious diseases. ILO experts also point out that the statistics in any case underestimate the real situation, given the lack of information and reporting in many countries. But by any standards, six thousand deaths a day - one every fifteen seconds - add up to more than the ravages caused by war each year.

Of these deaths, almost 350,000 occur during work accidents. The rest are due to work-related illnesses. Thus, more than 400,000 deaths are caused by exposure to chemicals. Such exposure is also responsible for 35 million of the 160 million cases of occupational sickness recorded worldwide. Every year, one thousand new chemicals come on to the market, and more than a hundred thousand different ones are used each day. Many of them, if handled incorrectly, constitute a hazard. More than 300,000 cancers per year are due to dangerous substances.

As ILO staffers emphasize, "even though there is no such thing as zero risk, work accidents must not be seen as fated. They don't just happen. They are caused." The causes can be many and varied, but they all come down to negligence: by unscrupulous employers who, in the name of profit, begrudge every penny spent on safety; by governments who ratify as few international Conventions as possible and do not give their labour inspectors the means to enforce even those they do ratify; and, sometimes, by workers themselves, usually due to a lack of training and information.

Health and safety in the workplace are the sole responsibility of the employer. Some employers take this obligation seriously and, increasingly, they draw competitive advantage from it in their advertising campaigns. Others seem to put short-term profit before safety.

"Asbestos is already banned in 25 countries, but that means that almost 150 other ones are still using it," Jukka Takala points out. He heads the ILO's occupational health and safety work. "Although asbestosis is not an infectious disease, it is tempting to



call it an epidemic,” Takala adds. “This is especially true of mesothelioma, a cancer of the pleura or the peritonium, caused by asbestos. And don’t forget that, after a worker has been exposed to asbestos, the disease may take 20 or even 35 years to appear.”

Thousands of children sacrificed

Another clear sign of negligence is that every year 22,000 children, who ought to have been at school, die at work. This despite a whole arsenal of international

conventions, declarations and legislation.

At the initiative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the trade union movement has made corporate responsibility one of the themes of its International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers, on 28 April. The ILO is supporting this event, calling upon its tripartite constituents to observe a World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

“The price of negligence

Nor is poverty any excuse for holding back on the implementation of safety standards. As a matter of fact, inaction costs a lot more. Expenditure due to occupational illnesses and work accidents (invalidity benefits and compensation to victims’ families, medical expenses, lost time etc.) adds up to 4 per cent of the GNP of all the countries on the planet. That is more than a thousand billion dollars, or 20 times more than the public assistance provided to the developing countries. The industrialized countries must take part of the blame. “In fact,” ILO specialist Takala says, “one of the trends is that industrialized countries are exporting their hazards to developing countries. Labour there is not only cheaper but also significantly less protected. Dirty and difficult jobs are left to the South. That includes mining, of course.”

Boosting safety

Yet the ILO is convinced that many disasters and everyday hazardous practices at work are preventable. Priority must be given to overcoming them, and ILO standards can help to achieve this. Almost half of the 184 Conventions adopted by the ILO have a bearing on health and safety issues.

Ratification of these standards, i.e. countries’ formal commitment to respect them, is uneven. Some have been widely ratified, such as Convention 81 on labour inspection (130 ratifications). Others, however, have produced less encouraging results. For instance, Convention 155 on worker safety and health has garnered just 42 ratifications.

In addition to these standards, all the available studies confirm that the existence of social dialogue within a workplace boosts health and safety. Where unions are fully recognized and there is a workplace health and safety committee (with equal representation of management and the unions), the serious accident rate may be halved in relation to workplaces where unions are not recognized and no such committee is in place.

“Safe Work is not only sound economic policy,” declared UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2002, “it is a basic human right.” Getting that basic right respected everywhere will take some major changes of attitude.

by Luc Demaret and Ahmed Khalef

Water and Sanitation - An Integrated Approach

Statement prepared for the 12th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development by the International Environment Forum (New York, 14-30 April 2004) Water is fundamental to life and an essential resource for development. It is thus natural that it also has an important place in the cultural and spiritual traditions of the peoples of the world. The vital necessity of water for physical life makes it an obvious metaphor for the importance of spiritual life. The deep and varied roots of this attachment to water and its cleanliness can support efforts in public education, participation and responsibility for water protection and management.

The various religious scriptures emphasize the link between water and purity, both material and spiritual. We read in the Qur’an: “And pure water send We down from Heaven,” in the Gospel: “Except a man be baptized of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God,” and in the Bahá’í writings: “Wash ye every soiled thing with water that hath undergone no alteration.... Be ye the very essence of cleanliness amongst mankind.”

The cleanliness so essential for good health has strong roots in spiritual and cultural traditions, as reflected in such practices as ablutions. The importance of using pure water, of washing with clean and not polluted water, must be emphasized in programmes to help people rise out of poverty and raise health standards. Educational programmes that combine the scientific arguments for water purity and cleanliness with religious and cultural precepts will achieve greater acceptance.

The concept of sustainable development is founded in justice and equity within and between generations. Equitable access to and distribution of water resources must be at the foundation of any water strategy. This applies not only at the community and national levels, but also in the relations between States that share transboundary watersheds and river basins. Formal consultative mechanisms between States, and opportunities for participation and dialogue among all relevant stakeholders, are required to resolve disputes over limited water resources with transparency and justice.

As water becomes an increasingly limited resource for development, the principle of moderation in water use must be emphasized. Each user must become aware that waste and excessive use of water will deprive others, and that a spirit of solidarity is necessary to ensure that water benefits everyone. This should be come a theme for consumer citizenship and educational programmes.

Water is also essential for natural ecosystems and environmental quality. Many aquatic freshwater and coastal habitats have suffered from water pollution and reduced supplies. Water and sanitation

policies and programmes should take into account not only human uses, but also the importance of maintaining the natural ecological balance of the world and its diverse and productive natural systems and cycles.

Meeting the international targets for water and sanitation will require not only governmental and intergovernmental efforts, but a vast public mobilization that can only be achieved if the two great knowledge systems that are science and religion are both fully implicated.

Marta Benavides of the International Institute for Co-Operation between Peoples in El Salvador spoke next, stating El Salvador has the highest rate percentage of pregnant teenagers in the world. Benavides stressed the importance of good governance, communication and education at all levels. Good governance is not created only through advocacy at the national and international level but starts at the community level by providing education and reproductive health services to allow women and families to choose the number and spacing of their children, allowing them in turn to educate their families and become involved in community and national policy.

Toby Aykroyd, on the Networks Steering Committee started by saying that every hour 6,500 more people are added to world population and this, alongside climate change, is the largest global issue facing conservation. While the impact of population on the environment has been studied, population must also be considered within an economic framework. Growing population increases the cost to basic infrastructure and social services, diverts scarce resources away from capital investment and hinders poverty alleviation. Aykroyd proposed a project that would collate existing information on the economic impacts of population. The results could then be used to develop proactive strategies by all sectors. Finally, he proposed developing and publishing the counter point to the work being done to increase fertility rates in global north.

All speakers returned to the fact that the discussion must not only be about the amount of people consuming resources but also about the amount of resources each person consumes. Benavides proposed restating the familiar “live simply so that others can simply live” to “Everyone has to live simply so that everyone can live fulfilling lives.”

The links between population growth, over consumption and sustainable development were on the agenda at Rio in 1992 and at the 1994, the International Conference of Population and Development in Cairo. Ten years later neither the Commission on Population and Development nor the Commission on Sustainable Development has discussed these links. Is it possible to reach the MDGs without discussing these connections?

Leslie Adams, POWER, Canada, Caron Whitaker, National Wildlife Federation, USA

SIDE EVENT

Out of the Shadows: Population and Sustainability

To meet the MDG of halving the number of people without access to safe water, countries will not only have to meet the needs of half of the 1.1 billion who do not have access today, but also the needs of the 1 billion additional people who will be added to the global population by 2015.

This morning’s Population and Sustainability Network Partnership Presentation highlighted the interface between population growth, environmental degradation and sustainable development. While the speakers approached the issue from different aspects, several themes were consistent through out including the need for reproductive health services, good governance and an increased focus on unsustainable consumption.

The first speaker, Mr. Farah of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), stressed that population is growing fastest in many of the poorest countries stressing already strained resources-whether they be natural resources such as water and land, or human resources such as education and health care systems. To slow population growth rates, policy and practices must include good governance and management of resources, as well as increased awareness and advocacy as to the relationship between population growth and natural resources. Finally he stressed the role of consumption in providing a sustainable future for all. While everyone has the right to reach a high quality of life, we need to find a way to meet that right through consumption patterns which will sustain all people and the planet.

Daisy Owomugasho of the AWEPN, Uganda brought to the discussion the themes for the CSD and reproductive rights. In a passionate presentation, she connected these issues of water and sanitation to reproductive health. After presenting stark facts and figures around deaths of children under 5, women dying in the birthing process and impacts of HIV/AIDS in Africa, she stated that the average life expectancy has dropped 10 years making 43 the average lifespan. “Living to 50 is a dream.” Despite this, the population of Uganda is growing by 3.4% annually and poverty has risen in Uganda from 35% to 39% over three years. She finished her presentation by asking, “Is this sustainable?”

STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

Twice As Much Water Is Needed to Feed the World in 2025

Although 70% of all water withdrawal (blue water: water in rivers and groundwater) currently is allocated to agriculture, rainfed agriculture uses twice as much (green water: soil water), also affecting groundwater recharge and river flow. Thus, focusing only on irrigated agriculture in food production is only one-third of



No denying the power of the issue

the story, from a water resource perspective. The additional water requirements to alleviate hunger and malnutrition by 2025 in fact are equivalent to all present water withdrawn for societal use – a situation most acute for the priority countries highlighted in the 2003 UNDP Human Development Report. Further, important environmental problems which undermine today’s food production must be actively mitigated. These include groundwater overexploitation, salinisation, water logging, water pollution and the deterioration of ecosystems and biodiversity.

“Water development and management must be addressed and changed if we are to reduce the number of malnourished people in a sustainable way” said Ms. Viveka Bohn, the Swedish Ambassador for the Environment, at last Tuesday’s side event. And, added other speakers present, all the water must be accounted for if the total equation is to be understood.

In a report produced by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and presented at the event, five policy areas were presented, supported and proposed for further discussion in the process leading up to CSD 13 in 2005.

1. Close the productivity gap between what can be and what is produced.

There is tremendous potential for water productivity gains in rainfed and irrigated areas through innovative agronomic, economic and social interventions.

2. Facilitate the diffusion and use of new technologies for increasing water productivity.

Application of new technologies – whether low-tech or high-tech - to increase efficiency in irrigated and rainfed agriculture has to be facilitated, encouraged and made socially acceptable.

3. Identify and influence unsustainable consumption patterns.

Massive urbanisation and increasing wealth changes food preferences normally to a more high-water use (meat) diet. Incentives are needed which stimulate preferences for nutritionally satisfactory food items which are not excessively water depleting.

4. Identify minimum ecological service criteria for protection of aquatic ecosystems against water depletion.

In many river basins today, river depletion has reduced vital environmental flows. Minimum ecological service criteria must be

identified in all of the areas where we foresee that future depleting water use will further threaten aquatic ecosystems and the goods and services that they provide to humanity.

5. Identify unsustainable agricultural subsidies and trade barriers.

Unsustainable agricultural subsidies and trade barriers -- and the degree to which trade can help solve regional food deficiency problems – must be identified, particularly for water scarce regions.

Additional aspects raised were the sustainability of international trade in food products; the need to internalise environmental costs from, for example, transports; the need of closing nutrient loops and making sure that nutrients are returned to the agricultural lands, a high priority problem in many African countries. An important opportunity to close a loop, and address the Millennium Development Goal target on sanitation, is the reuse of urban domestic wastewater for peri-urban agriculture.

Ambassador Bohn highlighted the need for CSD to focus on the event’s issues and recommendations. “Discussions on sustainable production and consumption patterns in the water sector must pay high attention to the role of water in agriculture, and thus these issues are crucial,” she said.

The process will continue, with the next step being a series of seminars organised jointly by SIWI and IWMI at the World Water Week in Stockholm in August 2004. For further information and to download the report, visit www.siw.org or www.iwmi.org

Stockholm International Water Institute

DIARY OF A
CSD VIRGIN

I came to the CSD expecting to hear much talk with little corresponding action. Even with all my cynicism, I’ve been surprised at the art some have perfected of speaking a lot without saying anything useful.

Yet contrary to my expectations, I have been genuinely impressed with the passion of an articulate few who have challenged the conversation.

It has been much more exciting to see what happens after the meetings when the people who want to listen to each other connect and plan. In fact, it has been exhilarating to be part of such a fascinating community.

I could spend years hanging out in the Vienna Café. If only they served fair trade coffee.

Deanna Fowler

SIDE EVENT

World Information Transfer, Inc.

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**13th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT: GLOBAL PARTNERS
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Linking Conflict with Environment and Population
April 29 & 30, 2004 United Nations Headquarters, New York City

*Organized by World Information Transfer
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World Health Organization, UN AIDS and Physicians Weekly, LLC.
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THURSDAY, APRIL 29

10 am – 1 PM: CONSEQUENCES OF CONFLICT ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Moderator: Mrs. Lyutha Al-Mughairy, Chief, Information Centres, UN-DPI
H. E. Vladimir Drobnjak, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the UN
Dr. Vladimir Micovic, Rijeka Public Health Inst.,
H. E. Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for
LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States
Dr. Adnan Amin, Director, UNEP, New York Office
Dr. Alberto Concha-Eastman, PAHO

1:15-2:45 PM LUNCHEON SPEAKER: Dr. Bernard D. Goldstein, Dean,
School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

3-6 PM: HIV/AIDS: UN 3X5 INITIATIVE - CURRENT RESEARCH, NEW TREATMENTS

Moderator: Dr. Bernard Goldstein, University of Pittsburgh
Dr. Teguest Guerma, WHO Senior Advisor for Africa
Dr. Kathryn Anastos, Montefiore and Lincoln Medical Centers
Dr. David Scott Rubin, Assist. Professor of Medicine, Weill Medical College, Cornell Univ.
Dr. Marie Charles, Founder and President, ICEHA

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

10 am – 1 PM: THE CHORNOBYL TRAGEDY: PAST AND PRESENT

Moderator: Dr. Christine K. Durbak, Chair, WIT and Physicians Weekly
H. E. Valeriy Kuchinsky, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to UN
Mr. Oleksandr Kapitula, Deputy Minister, Ukraine Ministry of Emergencies
Dr. Kerstin Leitner, WHO, Assistant Director General
Mr. Kalman Mizsei, Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for
Europe and the CIS (RBEC)
Prof. D. Tronko, Director, Kiev Inst. of Endocrinology & NIH Thyroid Advisory Board
Dr. David A. Savitz, University of North Carolina

**1:15-2:45 PM LUNCHEON - K. Kovshevych Foundation Award
SPEAKER - Dr. William Rom, Health & Environmental Policy Office of
Senator Hillary Clinton**

3-5 PM: "I Am David," Film and Discussion

Moderator: Dr. William Rom, Office of Senator Hillary Clinton
Produced by Walden Media, this gripping drama recounts the tale of an 11-year-old boy who escapes from a Soviet labor camp and journeys across post-WWII Europe to search for his identity.

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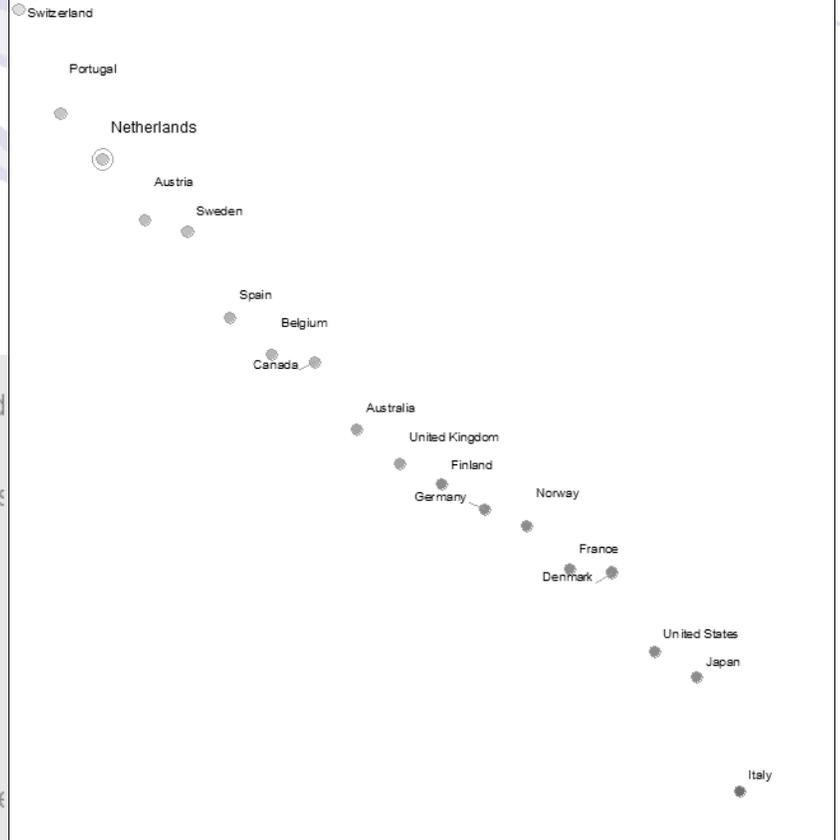
The CDI Dashboard is a tool to enable governments and stakeholders to understand critical issues that the 2005 agenda will address. The Dashboard works by creating an index of government performance and delivery against a defined set of criteria. Outreach will be running a different index each day, around issues critical to the 2005 agenda.

Index Criteria:

	Rank	Points	Country
• Emergency aid	1	987	Switzerland
• Gross aid	2	900	Portugal
• Administrative costs	3	862	Austria
• Aid: Debt forgiveness	4	837	Netherlands
• Aid: Technical cooperation	5	833	Sweden
• Partially untied share	6	660	Belgium
• Tied share	7	637	Spain
• Debt service principal	8	633	Canada
• Debt service interest	9	624	Finland
	17	478	Denmark
	18	430	France
	19	428	OECD
	20	427	Mediterranean
	21	336	NAFTA
	22	303	United States
	23	262	Japan
	24	229	Asia
	25	117	Italy

Data source: Centre for Global Development

Index Investment



Courtesy SGSDI – Consultative Group, IISD
www.iisd.org/cgsdi/dashboard.htm

RIO GRINDS



The light-hearted side of Sustainable Development

Following a great deal of contention, business and industry have proposed a solution to the challenge of adequate sanitation services in the workplace based on a 'trickle-down' approach.

Trade Unions were considering their position.

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

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WEDNESDAY'S DIARY

Time	Event and Location
8:30-10:00	CR 1: Informal Ministerial Meeting
10:00-1:00	CR 1: Opening of the High-level segment - Meeting targets, goals and timetables
10:00-1:00	CR D: Learning Centre
11:30-1:00	CR 6: Partnership Fair
1:15-2:45	CR 1: Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements in China
1:15-2:45	CR 2: Discussion on the future direction of the PWA
1:15-2:45	CR 6: Sanitation and the right to water
1:15-2:45	CR D: Landcare—Sustainable land and water management through community action
1:15-2:45	DHLA: One Water: Screening of a documentary addressing the global challenges of increasing access to safe water
3:00-3:40	CR 6: Partnership Fair
3:00-6:00	CR 1: Statements & Interactive Discussions - Creating and Enabling Environment at all levels
3:00-6:00	CR D: Learning Centre
6:15-7:45	CR 1: Launching the 'Green Data Book'
6:15-7:45	CR 2: Implementation of the Brazilian Agenda 21
6:15-7:45	CR 6: Education for Sustainable Development

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STAKEHOLDER FORUM

