

OUTREACH

Providing you an insightful lively critical analysis and news



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL

The US Team for the multilateral system?

Wolfowitz, Bolton and President Aleksander Kwaśniewski

In Monday's issue of Outreach we shared comments made by political commentators and civil society representatives on the appointment of Paul Wolfowitz as President of the World Bank.

This week the world has been watching the U.S. Senate confirmation hearings for John Bolton, the nominee of George W. Bush as the new US Ambassador to the UN. If present predictions are to be believed, he will be confirmed on Friday on a 10-8 partisan vote. The only small doubt is if Republican Senator Lincoln Chafee will vote for confirmation. Senator Chafee of Rhode Island, said he was "inclined to confirm, but I still want to talk to my colleagues on the committee."

Yesterday, Carl Ford, who ran the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, told the hearing that Bolton was a bully who tried to force an analyst to bend intelligence on Cuba's weapons to fit a speech he was preparing to give. Bolton, currently Under Secretary of State for Arms Control, on Monday denied trying to influence intelligence and told the committee he wanted the analyst reassigned because he believed he had gone behind his back.

Ford described an angry exchange with Bolton, whom he said had berated a lower level intelligence analyst for holding up the speech in which he planned to say that Cuba had a biological weapons program. Ford described himself as a conservative Republican loyal to President Bush.

"I left that meeting with the perception that I had been asked for the first time to fire an intelligence analyst for what he had said and done," Ford said. "In my experience no one had ever done what Secretary Bolton did."

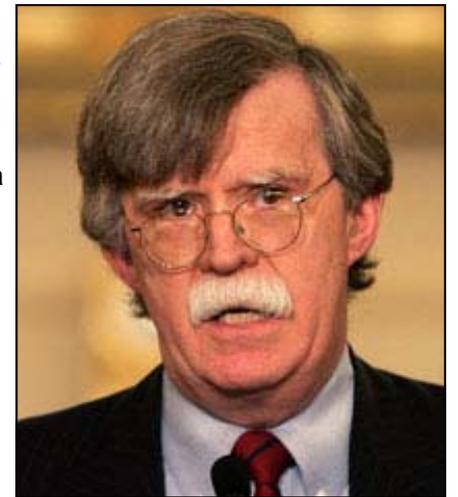
The possibility that the selection of Bolton might hurt the US in the eyes of the rest of the world, does not necessarily impress a faction of the Republican Party that currently controls American policy. Many Republicans in Congress - and perhaps a majority - not only do not care about losing votes at the United Nations, but actually see it as a positive outcome. In their view, once the vote is lost, and the adverse consequences

predicted by the UN's supporters begin to occur, it will simply provide further evidence to many why nothing more should be paid to the UN system. For the further edification of CSD delegates, following are some of the statements issued by Mr Bolton over the years which expound upon his philosophy regarding the UN:

"The European arguments against the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act demonstrate that some Europeans have never lost faith in appeasement as a way of life. It is clear that Iran is cynically manipulating gullible (or equally cynical) Europeans to advance its development of weapons of mass destruction."

"There's no such thing as the United Nations. If the UN secretary building in New York lost 10 stories, it wouldn't make a bit of difference."

"As you know, I have over the years written critically about the UN I have consistently stressed in my writings that American leadership is critical to the



success of the UN, an effective UN, one that is true to the original intent of its charter's framers."

The New UN Secretary General?

Some opposition parties in Poland claim that they would be ready to support Kwaśniewski's candidacy. "If the UN is going to change into a more active institution, then it would be quite a challenge and an interesting experience for me," said the President. The elections for a new UN Secretary General have been scheduled for 2006 unless the Food for Oil scandal has any more to offer!

Rumor has it that the Polish President's candidacy will be supported by the US. Kwaśniewski's possible candidacy is complicated by the fact that it would have to be accepted by the Polish government. It is most probable that the decision would be made by the new, most probably right wing cabinet.

Material from AP, Reuters and BBC

NRG4SD

NRG4SD, the sustainable development network for those state, provincial and devolved governments immediately below the UN state, held its first General Assembly as a legal entity last month at Lake Toba in Indonesia and is here at CSD13 with a newly elected steering committee and increased membership.

Stakeholder Forum helped set up this exciting new network at the Johannesburg summit and has been watching its progress with interest.

The UN system currently tends to think only of national and local, but with increasing decentralisation worldwide, this second tier of government – be it called a province, state or region – is becoming a key player in the implementation of international agreements and an essential part of sustainable development thinking.

Typically, the second tier of government will have responsibility for such key issues as water basin management; spatial planning, environmental protection and strategic transport. These governments also operate at a scale that makes the connection between different issues and the engagement of stakeholders much more meaningful and provide a strategic context for the important actions that must be taken at the

municipal or city level.

The network wishes to promote greater recognition of the role of this sphere of governance as a central part of the solution to the challenges of achieving sustainable development as well as sharing best practice and offering practical assistance.

The network sees itself as a significant future player in the development of CSD and the MDGs. It now has some 30 individual state governments and representative bodies of state governments in full membership, covering all the UN regions. All these members are signed up to the founding Gauteng declaration (named appropriately enough after the province in which Johannesburg is situated). The declaration commits members to promote sustainable development best practice and understanding and the implementation and furthering of international agreements.

The network has held major conferences in the Basque Country; Western Australia; Wales and North Sumatra, that have helped it to develop its procedures, policy positions and practical programme of action.

The immediate plans of the new steering committee are:

- to encourage additional membership – especially in under-represented areas such as North America and Asia;
- to develop specific partnership projects, especially work on post-tsunami reconstruction with its member North Sumatra and Aceh; and
- to build its links and achieve appropriate accreditation with the UN organisations

The steering committee of the network has adopted a new communications strategy and forward programme for its work. The network plans to participate in the MDG +5 summit; the Forum on Forests and KOP in Montreal as its main activities this year. It has also established a formal structure for UN regional meetings building on its existing successful activities in Latin America, with lead regions appointed for different geographical areas.

The network will have a stand in the Partnership Fair on the morning of Friday 15th April and members of the network are available throughout CSD13 for discussions. Or for more information and of policy papers, see the network website at www.nrg4SD.net,

Outreach 2005

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Published by, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future.

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*"International Court of Environmental Arbitration and Conciliation
Corte Internacional de Arbitraje y Conciliación Ambiental*

"Multistakeholder Water Conflict Management"
Wednesday 13th of April at 18:15
in Conference Room N.6

Major Groups access restored ... for now?

By Jane Forshaw

The issue of Major Groups' participation in CSD plenary and negotiations formed a central focus of Governments' plenary discussions on Tuesday.

Before starting her intervention at the Human Settlement dialogues on Tuesday morning, Rita Raum-Dereve, the EU delegation spokesperson from Luxembourg, raised an important point of order and issued a ringing defense of the rights of NGOs :-

" The EU wants to underscore that the fact that Major Groups did not have access to the plenary session yesterday is absolutely unacceptable and represents a serious step backwards. Until this date CSD has been rightly considered an exemplary UN forum in terms of Major Groups involvement and participation. The EU is convinced that downsizing the importance of Major Groups puts the role model status of the CSD at stake and risks to diminish the credibility of our efforts under the new modalities of the CSD. Major Groups should be given the possibility of full participation in plenary discussions, in particular according to the current programme of work of CSD 13, which does not provide for a specific major groups session, a fact the EU does not support"

Ms Raum-Dereve later added a personal remark, stating that " This cannot be allowed to happen, because otherwise all this

effort makes no sense "

A government spokesperson for South Africa said that he thought the omission of Major Groups from the plenary "was just an aberration". Let's hope he's right and it is not the start of a trend.

It seems almost silly to have to re-iterate the many reasons that active participation by civil society representatives is beneficial not just for the CSD process but for Governments, for the United Nations, and for the success of implementing the larger issues as well. To note just one, NGO statements can bring a liveliness and broad political overview to a debate that other delegates' statements simply may not bring. Moreover, having an NGO clearly frame a strong position on an issue can allow individual governments – who sometimes do shy away from tackling tricky issues – to follow in a way that seems both pragmatic and principled, leading to better quality decision making.

Although the re-admission of Major Groups is a welcome development, the larger question of stakeholder integration into the CSD for 2006 needs to be urgently revisited. The need to relook at the stakeholder dialogues as an integral part of the CSD was addressed by Outreach on Monday we would underline that any future CSD must find a creative way of integrating the outcomes of any Dialogue session into the debate.

Reducing our footprint

Concerned about transforming society towards sustainability?
Need a phalanx of Masters of Action for Sustainable Development to help?
How about a qualified cohort of active citizens capable of delivering locally relevant sustainability outputs?

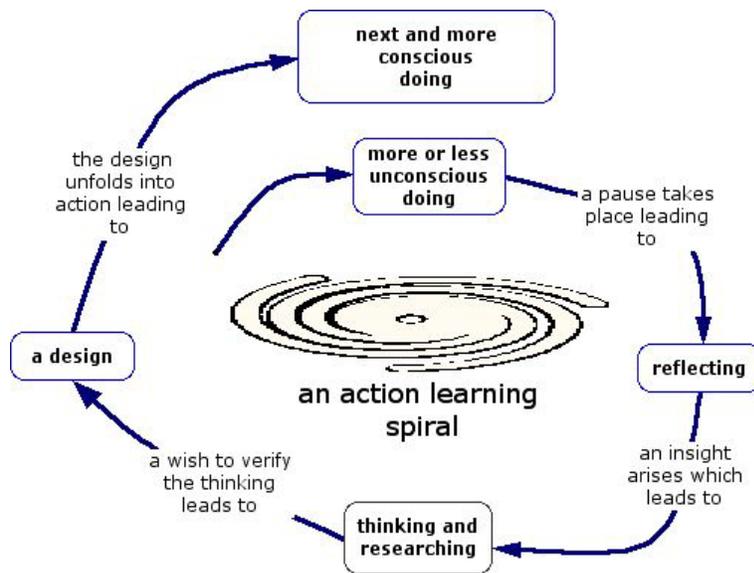
Then you need Gaia University, the latest offering from The EcoEarth Alliance, a UN Partnership Initiative which includes a host of actionists from NGOs such as The Global Ecovillage Network, Village Earth, Sustainable Village, The Earth Rights Institute, Global Eco-Restoration and Development Foundation, Restore the Earth, International Institute for a Sustainable Future, Green Angel and Paul Coleman, Earthwalker.

Gaia University takes 'Education' and transforms it into accredited, localized learning through delivering projects - active citizens can earn Masters and Bachelors degrees for generating real, on-the-ground, sustainable development outputs.

And there's more - associates (as a student is called in the Gaia University ecology) can work/learn in their own language and their own community supported by local learning counselors. The same associate can present their work in a range of formats including video, photo albums, an artistic performance or even have the accrediting agents visit their project for the purpose of review.

This flexibility in recording outputs enables people of intelligence and commitment but without conventional academic literacy, to receive a genuine validation for their essential efforts.

Associates meet regularly in small groups called 'sets' where they listen to each other present their work and gain a valuable opportunity for peer support and reflective observation. They are tutored and mentored and have specialist advisors in their area of interest.



The decentralized organizational structure of the University generates income for local centers of excellence in sustainable development as the bulk of an associate's fees remain in the local economy to buy workshops, tutorial support and expert advice. And the fees are low too. About \$4500 is needed to support an associate through a Masters degree pathway and about \$15,000 funds a full Bachelors degree.

For further details of this prime initiative in perfect tune with the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development contact <info@gaiauniversity.org> - web site ready by 30th May 2005.

Are stakeholders welcome to the MDG summit in September



By Mehjabeen Price

Are stakeholder welcome to the MDG Summit in September? It is looking like perhaps we are not! Let me return to that later.

The United Nations summit as we know will review the implementation of the Millennium Declaration (2000), and the integrated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. One question we should be asking is why the input to the Summit is only on MDG7! Other Conference and Summit processes have produced a far more substantive input than the CSD. Beijing, Copenhagen and Cairo have done full reviews and so their views have been able to be absorbed much more by the Secretary General and those preparing for the summit .

The Secretary-General's report 'In larger Freedom Towards Security, Development and Human Rights for All, on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and issues of peace and security, as well as UN reform has given us all some very clear agenda items to consider. It raises the link between Human and environmental Security which could play a critical role in the deliberations in September

Over the past year and half many civil society groups have been inputting to the work of the Cardoso panel on the UN and Civil Society. When in October the Secretary General's report on "modalities, format and organization of the MDG Summit was released stakeholders were just stunned!

The report took stakeholder involvement in Summit processes back to pre Rio approaches. Civil society participation (paragraphs 20 to 22) are restricted to one intervention at the General Assembly Session (Summit) and a consultation meeting months before that. The preparatory process for the Summit being described as "open, inclusive and transparent" (paragraph 23) can only be described as a sick joke. The civil society very strongly feels that openness and transparency cannot be achieved through a process that largely excludes citizen organizations.

In a side event on Tuesday, civil society representative got

together again to express their concerns at the limited participation of civil society in the Millennium development review process. We believe that the inclusion of civil society is important because of the following four points:

- NGOs especially and civil society as a whole bring policy expertise to the process – they are closest to the community and are aware of the issue , complexities and views of communities more than any one else could.
- NGOs are needed to implement outcomes of any international process – NGOs expertise can enhance the implementation of outcomes manifolds and they bring the 'on filed experience. They know what works and what does not on the ground in some ways much more than governments or UN. It is a proven fact that NGOs are the best partner for government and international organizational machinery for implementation of any policy outcomes
- NGOs and other stakeholders are needed to educate the public for raising awareness of the MDGs, for awareness of sustainable life styles, for understanding the better management and use of resources
- NGOs are needed to educate the public on political constituency issue and in turn be able to hold the government accountable for their commitments and actions.

Stakeholder Forum organised an outreach to alert stakeholders about the problems with the modalities and format for the Summit in December mailing over 15,000 stakeholders groups with a questionnaire and then wrote to many governments and the UN directly on the outcomes of that consultation. The reality is nothing has changed. Do governments really want us in the process or not? If not then there is a film festival on in San Sebastian at the same time and maybe we should all go there instead!

We all know that the lack of appropriate civil society participation in the Millennium Summit in 2000 resulted in lack of public awareness of MDGs. What happened in 2000 should not be repeated in 2005, we still have time to address the very vital issue of participation of all stakeholder groups based on principal of enhancing participatory democracy through multi stakeholder dialogues.

Our event on "*From CSD to The Millennium Development Summit – Challenges for the Next Decade* though will highlight the linkages of the outcomes of CSD 13 (Water, Sanitation & Human Settlement) to Millennium Development Summit agenda. The aim is also to make the point that no dialogue is meaning full until all components of society – all stakeholders - are involved in deliberations and decision making. Please come along!

Legacy of Istanbul

By Jane Forshaw



Dinesh Metha, coordinator with the Urban Management Programme of UN HABITAT, opened the session with something hot !! He was promoting the acronym SPICE as providing the solutions for slum development - SPICE standing for - Strategic, Participatory, Integrated, Creative, and Equitable.

You could ask why we need a target on slum reduction when logically if the other MDG are achieved then the problems of slums should also disappear, but we all know that the integrated nature of the issues means that the situation on the ground is far more complex.

For instance one of the worst areas affected is Sub Saharan Africa. The definition of a slum dwelling breaks down into several indices. In Chad 99% of dwellings are defined as slums, meaning that the households have one or more deprivations, in fact the majority have more than 3 or 4



Photo from <http://www.peacechild.org>

deprivations, usually around water, sanitation, overcrowding and durable nature of the housing.

One of the biggest issues is obtaining legal security for the dwelling, including rights of tenure. UN Habitat have said that in the census information they will record with the monitoring agencies, from now on, that this measure is included. One of the other important gaps in the data is the number of homeless people, because of the difficulty of collecting the information.

Nefise Bazoglu said that the current target 11 is too modest, partly because it was set when there was no data

available. We need a new target based on the reality. UN Habitat endorse the proposed 50% target.

It was refreshing to hear a consensus in the Government perspectives :- Ghana speaking on behalf of African coun-

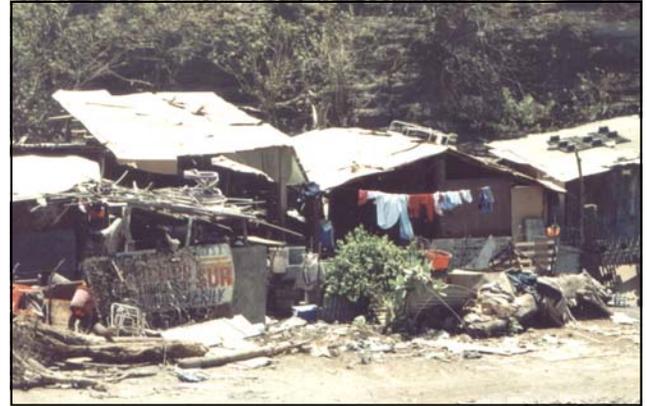


Photo from <http://www.wme.org>

tries endorsed the stronger UN Habitat target, but made the point that they also need help more generally in developing their cities sustainably.

Brazil said that it was not enough to provide good housing but also to create and maintain the economic conditions to sustain the improved conditions so that the solutions persist. Outside of the meeting he added that in order to continue their good track record then the economy needed low interest rates and commercial banks needed to back the micro lending programmes.

Generally it is encouraging to hear endorsement for a more ambitious actions on improving human settlements, including Governmental support for the rights based issues. What has not been raised are the management issues in achieving these improvements whilst safeguarding the other SD principles. How do we manage the resulting environmental footprint of raising living standards ? Improving 500 million slum dwellings will each require wood, metal, concrete and infrastructure. How can we quantify the resulting impacts to ensure these necessary improvements happen without adverse environmental effect. For instance at a very basic level, for every tree chopped down, one or even two are planted. Majority views would undoubtedly say that priorities must be given to technology transfer so that Developing Countries do continue to advance, taking the best in local knowledge, technology transfer and good practice.

BUT it is not obvious that this is happening with the necessary intensity of response- the vast majority of ecological trends are going in the wrong direction. It will be interesting to see if the cross cutting themes debates tomorrow pick on these issues.

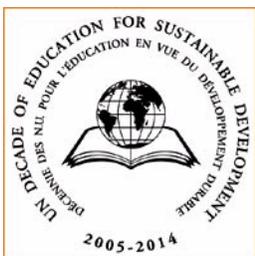
RIO GRINDS—the light hearted side of sustainable development



Outreach welcomes the coming into force of the Tobacco convention on 27th February 2005.

To date out of 168 who have signed it, 62 countries have ratified. One of the main opponents to the convention has been the Vienna Café who was unavailable for comment on its intention to ratify.

An unnamed official close to the cafe management said that customers were worried about a possible sanctions being suggested by Parties to the Convention. This might include compulsory fingerprinting and iris scans of anyone using the café found to be smoking. The United States has already accused these measures as being a total infringement of personal liberty, something the US could never agree to.



"The Role of Faith Communities in Education for Sustainable Development -- Water, Sanitation, Human Settlements"

A multi-faith panel presentation & roundtable discussion
Conference Room C, Wednesday, April 13, 6:15-7:45PM,

Co-sponsors:

Bahá'í International Community; Congregations of St. Joseph; Committee of Religious NGOs at the UN; Earth Values Caucus; Education Caucus; UNEP Interfaith Partnership on the Environment; International Environment Forum; National Council of Churches; Soka Gakkai International; Temple of Understanding; United Religions Initiative; Values Caucus;

In collaboration with
US Partnership for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
Faith Sector and Youth Sector Action Teams

STAKEHOLDER FORUM SIDE EVENT

***From CSD to The Millennium Development Summit
Challenges for the Next Decade
Wednesday 13th April 2005
1.15pm to 2.45 pm, Conference Room 6***

Speakers

Prof. Ibrahim Gambari	UN Under Secretary General and Special Adviser to Kofi Annan on Africa
Mr. Byron Blake	Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica (Chair of G-77)
Roy A Hathaway	Head of Environment & Sustainable Development International Division, Defra, UK (Chair of G-8)
Mike Muller	Director General Water Affairs and Forestry, Government of South Africa.
Felix Dodds	Executive Director, Stakeholder Forum

Chair

Malcolm Harper, Stakeholder Forum

The main aim of the side event is to highlight the linkages of the outcomes of CSD 13 (Water, Sanitation & Human Settlement) to Millennium Development Summit agenda. The discussion would cover the following;

- Following on from the two years work of CSD what kind of outcomes we would like from the MDG review summit in the area of Water, Sanitation & Human Settlement.
- A forward look to how CSD's next work programme on energy, climate change, atmosphere and industrial development can assist progress towards the achievement of MDGs
- Ways to strengthen international institutions and governance to better support the achievement of the MDGs - taking account of the Secretary Generals report - 'In Larger Freedom' and other relevant initiatives.

Partnership

AM	09:30-1:00	Neck Area	International partnership for sustainable development in the Mountain Region (Mountain Partnership)
	09:30-1:00	Neck Area	Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI)/World Urban Forum
	09:30-1:00	Neck Area	Community Water Initiative, Shared Rivers Governance Project and Capacity Building in Integrated Water Resources Management (Cap-Net)
PM	2:00-6:00	Neck Area	WSSD Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership (IGOS)
	2:00-6:00	Neck Area	Dams and Development Project
	2:00-6:00	Neck Area	Community Water Initiative, Shared Rivers Governance Project and Capacity Building in Integrated Water Resources Management (Cap-Net)
	3:50-5:30	Conf. Room 6	<p style="text-align: center;">Interactive discussion</p> 3:30 -5:30:Partnerships in Practice: Human Settlements Partnerships: Developing local capacity for sustainable habitats

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Shepherd.

AM	10:00 -1:00	Conf. Room 1	Water and Sanitation Interactive discussions 10:00-11:30: Topic: Strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of water and sanitation services 11:30-1:00: Topic: Global water and sanitation follow-up
	3:50- 5:30	Conf. Room 1	Interactive discussions 3:30 -4:30: Topic: Inter-linkages among the three themes 4:30-6:00: Topic: Inter-linkages among the three themes and cross-cutting issues

Side Events

PM	1:15- 2:45	CR 6	From CSD to The Millennium Development Summit: Challenges for the Next Decade Organized by Stake- holder Forum
	1:15- 2:45	CR C	Human Settlements, Water & Sanitation: Reports from the Field Organized by NGO Committee on Human Settlements
	1:15- 2:45	CR C	Integrated Water Resources Management in Pacific Small Island Developing States Organized by Pacific Islands Forum Group
	1:15- 2:45	DHLA *	Indicators of Secure Access to Resources Organized by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Land Coalition (ILC)
	6:15- 7:45	CR 6	Multi-Stakeholder Water Conflict Management Organ- ized by International Court of Environmental Arbitration and Conciliation (ICEAC)
	6:15- 7:45	CR C	Role of Faith Communities in Education for Sustainable Development - Water, Sanitation, Human Settlements Organized by Baha'i International Community: Soka Gakkai International; Temple of Understanding; United Religions Initiative; Education Caucus; Committe of Religious NGOs at the UN; and other partners
	6:15- 7:45	CR C	Gender and Natural Disasters with Human Rights Per- spective Organized by UNFPA
	6:15- 7:45	DHLA *	Partnership to Improve Health through Water Organ- ized by Australia; United Kingdom; United States and other partners

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