

OUTREACH

Providing you an insightful lively critical analysis and news



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL

Water is a right.

Dear Friends,

In spite of numerous conferences, statements and declarations made by various institutions, including the UN Millennium Declaration, words have failed to produce the much-needed water... For the 1.1 billion people who cannot reach or afford safe drinking water, for the 2.4 billion who lack access to basic sanitation, this is an everyday reality.

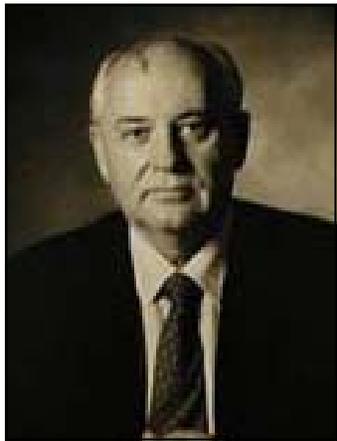


Photo by Michael Collopy

The UN Millennium Development Goals set the target of halving the number of people without access to water services by 2015. There is a danger that this objective will not be met unless drastic changes concerning the way this issue is dealt with occur.

Access to water is literally a question of life and death. I first learnt this through my experience as Secretary for Agriculture for the former USSR, when I inherited a crisis caused by the decision to divert the rivers which fed the Aral Sea. Decades later, this decision continues to destroy lives and has left an environmental wasteland. On the other hand, changing water policies for the better can have a positive effect on the environment, public health and education, and give people jobs and the chance to lead fulfilling lives. The world is at a crossroads. This is the moment of truth.

Faced with this reality, Green Cross International urges the international community to take initiative, to assume responsibility and to play their part in the mission enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals.

WATER IS NOT A PRIVILEGE, IT'S A RIGHT! This is the slogan we have chosen for the campaign and I am sure that nobody in their right mind would deny the essence of it. And yet, the situation is far from simple.

The ultimate goal of the campaign is to contribute to halting the water crisis that reduces the daily lives of millions of people to misery, and is fraught with large-scale conflict and instability.

We must aim for **universal access to water and basic sanitation** – anything less is a violation of our civilisation, our human rights, and our morality.

From a practical point of view it is the lack of suitable international legal framework for resolving the global water crisis that

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US President Endorses Rights-Based Approach

Washington, DC

The US president strongly endorsed the rights-based approach to development in a speech that contrasted sharply with recent White House positions. He referred to this approach as “a second bill of rights,” among which, he declared, are:

The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries...of the nation

The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation

The right of every businessman, large and small, to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies at home or abroad

The right of every family to a decent home

The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness accident and unemployment

The right to a good education



“The test of our progress,” the president said “is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.” The rights-based approach to development is at the center of the 13th meeting of the UN’s Commission on Sustainable Development, where Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations and other major groups are currently gathering. Rights-based language has been escalating as an issue of contention between the Governments and Major Groups; in the Chair’s latest draft, rights-based language has been virtually removed from his report.

The president’s statements came during his ‘State of the Union’ address, only 61 years before the 13th meeting of the CSD. Already suffering from declining health, President Roosevelt died on April 12th in Warm Springs, Georgia from a massive cerebral haemorrhage. His death came little more than a year after the progressive speech.

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presents such a huge stumbling block to the solution of this problem.

A cry for "Water for Life" echoes across the world, but an international document guaranteeing that everyone has a right to safe and affordable water, which would be binding for national governments and that, most importantly, would provide a schematic for the implementation of this right, does not exist.

This is the reason why Green Cross International and its partners are proposing the negotiation and adoption of a **Global Convention on the Right to Water**, which, when ratified by the member states of the United Nations, will give all citizens a tool through which to assert their right to safe water and sanitation, and would oblige national governments to make sure that this right is respected.

We have launched an **international public campaign**, with other international, national and local organizations, to convince national governments to start the negotiation of this Convention. Regular updates and full information on the campaign may be found at www.watertreaty.org, where a petition for the Right to Water, which I strongly encourage you to sign, is also available.

I realize that some may call us idealists, but I take that as rather a compliment. We at Green Cross are not afraid of difficult challenges – they are the only ones worth fighting for! And we count on the support of millions of people to meet them.

I encourage and invite all of you to become Ambassadors for this worldwide citizens' initiative in your countries, your communities, and your institutions. The Right to Water is our common cause and in order for it to succeed, we need every voice to make itself heard.

Mikhail Gorbachev
Chairman of the Board, Green Cross international



(Continued from page 1)

Franklin Delano Roosevelt's legacies include the 'New Deal,' a program designed to pull the country out of economic depression, and the creation of Social Security. He led the US through World War II and was instrumental in the planning of the United Nations, where he hoped international disputes could be settled. President Roosevelt suffered from polio during his terms in office, which led to the paralysis of his legs. His physical afflictions, though he went to great lengths to conceal them, did not impair his leadership or popularity; he died 83 days into his fourth term of office.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt
1882-1945



I, On sport

By William T. Earley

Same game, different day. After over eleven years broadcasting (and thirty plus years participating in...I won't disclose the real number) various sports on the international pitch, it occurs to me that the fundamentals rarely, if ever, change.

Athletes must develop a game plan. Proper scouting assists in developing that plan. Who is your opponent? What are his tendencies, weaknesses and areas to exploit for advantage? In order to prevail at the highest level an athlete needs to "scout" her own game. Same questions apply regarding tendencies, weaknesses and areas of potential exploitation.

Once you have a game plan, you need to study it. Not in a passive way, but in such a manner that it naturally and instinctively becomes a living part of you. An elite athlete must make thousands of instantaneous decisions (probably more...I only ran out of synapses after a thousand or two). Just like Chevy Chase said in the well-known film *Caddyshack*, "Be the ball Danny!" No time to wait, no time to think, the action must come from a place deep within.

With the game plan and scouting report in hand, it is time to execute. Follow the plan. Things aren't working out. Follow the plan. Things are still not working out. Follow the plan. Things are spinning out of control. Quick, change the plan! Athletes know not to panic. Staying with a well-thought out strategy may wear the opponent down. Elite athletes know that once they have gone to the proverbial well often enough without success, they need to "tweak" the plan. Tennis players are masters of this approach.

The body screams for energy. The mind wavers and loses focus. Oh yeah, focus. Without focus a talented athlete is merely mortal. With it, she is invisible.

Game plan, scouting, execution and focus. Game, set and match, right? Not so fast! The will to win is the intangible which will make the difference between victory and defeat. Determination, desire and "leaving it all on the field" will bring all the elements together, right? Don't ask me...ask yourself. Game plan, scouting, execution, focus and desire are as much elements in sports life as they are in CSD life. So, I tender this to you again, ask yourself if you still have the "athlete" in you as you work the rooms, halls and coffee shops (hey Felix, a latte for me please!).

William T. Earley is a sports broadcaster and attorney in Southern California and is passionate about water issues.

Implementing Johannesburg

An Interview with Jonathan Margolis

By Felix Dodds and Zak Bleicher



Q: How do you think the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting has built into the CSD?

A: My government found the IPM a useful forum to explore specific actions to take to advance implementation. The US, joined by other governments, asked the chair to produce a **matrix that would allow us to see all the concrete policy options in an organized way**. Australia suggested that it be database friendly. The Secretariat did a great job. They came back within a week with a document that sits on the web that for the first time conveys, thru the UN system a way that allows all players to look at a range of options to figure what's right for their national circumstances. The matrix is a good way to disseminate all good work happening around the UN at all levels. **It is a huge contribution** to not just this CSD but to all UN activities.

Q: How do you feel about the cross-cutting issues being built in the future into such a matrix? We have seen that as lacking in the current matrix.

A: Good question. The matrix can capture not only cross-cutting issues, but what have historically been politically sensitive issues. With this new tool of the matrix, **we can undertake ground breaking and substantive work**. For example, you mentioned cross-cutting issues. With the matrix we can determine the best way to demonstrate in concrete terms what works thru the practical measures and case studies. **We can look at slums; we can look at a whole range of issues surrounding slum development, including case studies on urban development. This kind of breadth creates a huge learning tool that can be applicable to many countries' circumstances.**

Let me give you a second example. Many of us have heard the long-running discussion in the United Nations about rights based vs needs based approaches. By needs-based approach we mean recognizing the moral imperative of working on these issues, and doing so by prioritizing our actions for those in need. Some may choose a rights based approach which relies more on legal issues. The matrix recognizes that each of these approaches can work. It recognizes that for some countries the rights based approach is appropriate, while for others, the needs based approach would be a better fit given their national circumstance. The matrix gives countries the opportunity to determine which approach is the best for their specific situation. Putting both models out at same time, provides the opportunity for all to see, makes us the most flexible and provides

us with the best opportunity to tackle issues and find practical results.

Q: Speculate further on the impact of this new model. One of the concerns we have had is that CSD could be seen as too much of a talking show. We're painting a picture of a body that is now getting into delivery of good examples. Can you envisage a situation in the future where donors put together funding to see these situations multiplied and technology banks and see if will deliver on the ground?

A: I have two points to make.

1. You're right on target. Let's start with technology banks. You're getting at one tremendously useful contributions namely the assembly and collection of data. Data, meaning ways of doing things and ways to achieve huge benefits. We're seeking ways to gather and disseminate this type of information and with the matrix, we see exactly that. Governments have been asking that the matrix be open ended and to be a conduit to exchange information, best practices, and experiences that may be useful in many situations around the world. Scores of different methods and tools are available so that anyone can access loads of useful information. Something new in these proceedings is that now, when someone takes the floor, the UN has the ability to stream whatever anyone says on the internet so that anyone, anywhere, with internet access can see exactly what is happening.
2. Second, is regarding funding. Beyond the data banks that you mentioned, one thing that will be useful to produce out of this CSD is the mechanisms that allow us to produce results and to deliver concrete actions. One example is the Global Water Partnership. It is a delivery mechanism for Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) Strategies. By engaging all relevant stakeholders in preparing an IWRM plan, GWP efforts can help build institutions that are responsive to their constituents for the water sector. We are very gratified by GWP's efforts. Several donor countries including the United States have stepped up to provide funding to this partnership to aid other countries. Here donor funding helps people to achieve a common goal – IWRM - thru a common mechanism – partnerships - but in a way that allows us to do it country by country and develop unique processes. Up to 18 countries have been aided.

Q: What do you think we can accomplish here this week?

A: That's really the question that all delegations have been struggling with. The Matrix, the GWP effort, the web-based innovations are all things that we achieved before this session of CSD-13. So what's the value of coming to New York for this specific session? Example 1- Capacity building features prominently in almost every delegations' list of priorities. Here at the CSD, we are actually carrying it out. **Con-**

gratulations to the UN Secretariat, for the new mechanisms that we have developed called the learning center. Some statistics: at CSD 13 the secretariat has held over 15 courses with over 50 lecturers that have drawn over 35-40 participants per class. That's hundreds of people trained this week alone. The topics have been right on target, courses on domestic and international water and sanitation issues, how to apply for funding and how to attract private finance for water and sanitation. On the procedural and technical side, at this CSD for the first time the learning center conducted a virtual seminar, you could get it thru hooking into international websites. It was a remarkable accomplishment. Example 2- And this is very important. We saw this past week alone a number of UN organizations, governments, and NGOs coming forward and announcing a partnership by saying there are a number of issues that are very important to us. WHO and UNICEF have come together to develop, along with other governments like the US, a number of programs to explore the linkages between water and health. The CSD session is providing the political momentum to inspire new mechanisms for delivering results thru partnerships.

Q: In this new CSD, how do you see the role of major groups and development?

A: These changes that I have been describing offer to major groups a huge opportunity to play an even more important role in this implementation era. Major groups have been

given the opportunity by the Secretariat to put their examples and input right into the matrix, and a platform to expand well beyond these confines to get info to any one.

In the past, the role of major groups has been largely confined to lobbying governments as they prepare to negotiate texts. The measure of their success before was whether they had managed to get their word changes in the documents. Now, major groups have a chance to really contribute and place experiences directly into so-called learning banks.

Second, thru partnership mechanisms major groups can be direct players in solutions and into areas that are of the most concern to them. They can also perform the traditional role of NGOs and that is to shine a light onto partnership areas that they find to be especially important whether positive or negative. The beauty of this database is that it is transparent and it gives the opportunity to major groups to review, assess and contribute to the larger effort. One thing that I find particularly intriguing is that Columbia University, Colby College and the SEED Initiative thru GPPI, held a forum on partnerships as a contribution to this process and to the MDGs. They are using the CSD partnerships database as one of their key resources. Major groups have gone from being mainly lobbyists to being partners in implementation.

Jonathan Margolis, Ph.D. is the United States Special Representative for Sustainable Development.

'Reclaiming Public Water' presents policy makers with concrete examples of public utility reforms which have resulted in major improvements in access to clean water and sanitation, including for the poorest. The book is written by public water utility managers, academics and civil society organisations from more than twenty countries. These case studies reveal a number of policy actions available to governments that should receive more attention at the CSD 13

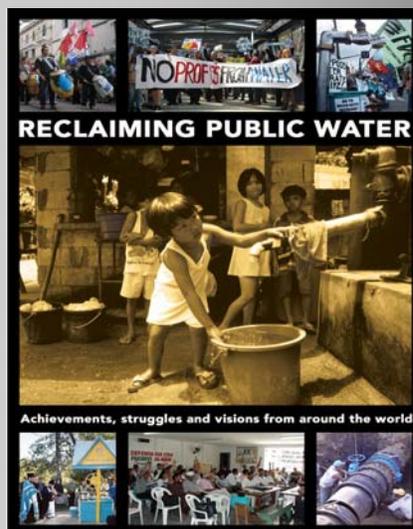
The real-world experiences with privatisation have shown that multi-national corporations are ill-equipped to deliver clean and affordable water to the poor. Public operators, responsible for over 90% of the world's water and sanitation services, therefore hold the key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The improvements achieved in Porto Alegre (Brazil), Santa Cruz (Bolivia), Olavanna (Kerala, India), Penang (Malaysia), Bogota (Colombia) and Savelugu (Ghana), show that a broad range of workable public options exist, including reformed municipal utilities, users' co-operatives and various forms of public-public partnerships

'Reclaiming Public Water' emphasises that expansion of access to clean water and sanitation to the poorest happens against major odds, including the continued bias against public utilities in the policies of international financial institutions and donor governments. The book includes concrete recommendations for creating a more appropriate 'enabling environment' for public water supply in developing countries. It highlights the enormous positive potential of public-public partnerships, in which weaker utilities learn from the opera-

tional methods and management structures of successful operators.

'Reclaiming Public Water' concludes that the political, financial and other hurdles that prevent public water delivery from achieving its full potential are by no means insurmountable. It will require new policy tools and upscaling existing working models. Country delegates at CSD 13 should develop and concentrate on such policies and actions, rather than continuing to push the failed commercialisation models which are being lobbied.



'Reclaiming Public Water - Achievements, Struggles and Visions from Around the World'

Edited by Belén Balanyá, Brid Brennan, Olivier Hoedeman, Satoko Kishimoto and Philipp Terhorst. Transnational Institute and Corporate Europe Observatory, January 2005 (ISBN: 90-71007-10-3) Available at: <http://www.tni.org/books/publicwater.htm>

The book covers the cities of Porto Alegre (Brazil), Santa Cruz (Bolivia), Olavanna (Kerala, India), Penang (Malaysia), Grenoble (France), Bogota (Colombia), Recife (Brazil), Cochabamba (Bolivia), Savelugu (Ghana), Harrismith (South Africa) and Manila (Philippines), and includes

overview chapters on the United States, Germany, Argentina, Venezuela, South Africa, Uruguay, Ukraine, Slovakia, Indonesia, and Mexico.

Combine the single pieces of the puzzle to a picture

Interview with Mr. Josef Pröll,
Austrian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and
Water Management

Q: With the first CSD cycle of the new work programme nearly being over, we might have started a bit of analysing the newly established practices already. Minister, in your view, have the new working methods of the CSD proven to be successful?

A: Well, I think in general it is successful. The review year has promoted the possibility of exchanging experiences and tacking stock of the progress of implementation. This has enabled the CSD to combine the single pieces of the puzzle to a picture – and now, we must take care of the blind spots.

What turned out to be a bit problematic was the transition from the review to the policy year, which seemed to cause difficulties for delegations in the beginning.

A positive development of the “new” CSD is that we have managed to reach more interactive discussions – even between ministers. Of course the process can still be enhanced but I am convinced that we are on the right track.

Q: So you think that the CSD working methods have been successful so far. But there are voices who say that if we cannot achieve good results at CSD13 the CSD process is endangered of losing credibility. Would you agree to that?

A: See, you are credible when you make deals and you stick to the terms of these deals. The preconditions are that we take the process seriously and really implement the political commitments and actions. If this is done, we stick to the rules of the game, we are accountable and we will be successful and credible. I am convinced that the CSD13 will come up with clear and negotiated decisions on water, sanitation and human settlements, on a proper mechanism for follow-up and in addition to that give a strong input to the Millennium Review Summit.

Q: This first CSD cycle can somewhat be seen as a blueprint for the upcoming cycles. How are your expectations and how is your administration preparing for the next two years?

The upcoming CSD cycle bears a major significance – it will be difficult not only through its heavy agenda but also through the diversity of its subjects. You can be sure that energy, climate change, air pollution/atmosphere and industrial development together with the cross-cutting issues will lead to intensive discussions. Nonetheless, it will be an opportunity: the input of the various stakeholders will be significant for the further development of the environmental agenda.

Our preparations are going to be two-fold. On the one hand, we as Austria will need to make valuable contributions to the review year. In this respect, energy will constitute a vital ele-

ment of our work. On the other hand, Austria will have the honour to hold the EU-Presidency during CSD14 and we are looking forward to a good cooperation with all partners.

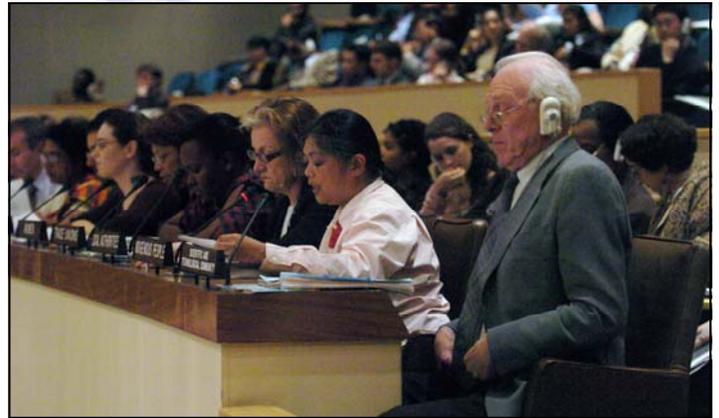


Photo from <http://www.gwpsea.org>

Q: Final but pressing question: The involvement of Major Groups has been subject of many discussions in the past two weeks. How do you see their participation and contribution to the CSD process?

A: The participation of Major Groups has always been of great importance, in particular for the CSD process. Major Groups enrich the discussions with their views and suggestions, contributing valuable ideas. Their involvement has found prominent reflection not only in the CSD-11 decision and established practices since Rio should in my view not be changed too single-handedly.

Making Progress on Principle 10 Public Participation in the Implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Action

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

6:15pm – 7:45pm

UN Headquarters, Conference Room 2

Speakers:

Helga Flores Trejo, Heinrich Böll Foundation North America
Nathalie Eddy, The Access Initiative, World Resources Institute, USA
Gidon Bromberg, Israeli NGO Coalition 'Paths to Sustainability'
Isabel Bustillos, Presencia Ciudadana Mexicana, The Access Initiative-Mexico
Sean Southey, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Partnership for Principle 10

From Copenhagen Plus 10 to the MDG



By Denys Correll
Executive Director of International Council of
Social Welfare

The World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) concentrated on four core issues – poverty alleviation, unemployment, social exclusion and an enabling environment for social development. A major achievement of the WSSD was the commitment to a very encompassing vision for social development. It included an economic, ethical and spiritual vision. There was recognition by the governments that the process of social development involved governments, international and regional organisations and civil society including the private sector.

The progress of the implementation of the Summit's goals was reviewed by the Special Session of the General Assembly held in Geneva in 2000 and then again this year.



Photo from www.un-ngls.org

Prior to the 2000 Special Session of the General Assembly, ICSW proposed eight priority issues for consideration. These were 1. **Strengthening** the structures and processes of the ECOSOC system. 2. **Reducing** the excessive volume and volatility of **speculative** activity in international **financial markets**. 3. **All governments** setting **specific targets** and adopting **strategies for eradicating absolute poverty and reducing relative poverty**. 4. **Setting** specific commitments to **Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)** and improving the effectiveness of aid programmes. 5. Reaching agreement on initiatives for developing international **standards for basic income support systems**. 6. Developing a **code** for the **design and administration of taxation systems** that are progressive, fair and economically efficient and raise sufficient revenue for national and international purposes. 7. Developing a **binding code of rights and responsibilities in the conduct of international trade and investment**. 8. Securing the **ratification and observance of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**.

Democracy, social development and civil society

The first commitment in Copenhagen included "creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development" ICSW seeks the cooperation of governments at national, regional and international level in furthering the democratic participation of civil society in the path to social development. There is a very uneven evolution of civil society inclusion and involvement in democratic forms of government. Some regional groupings of governments have made provision

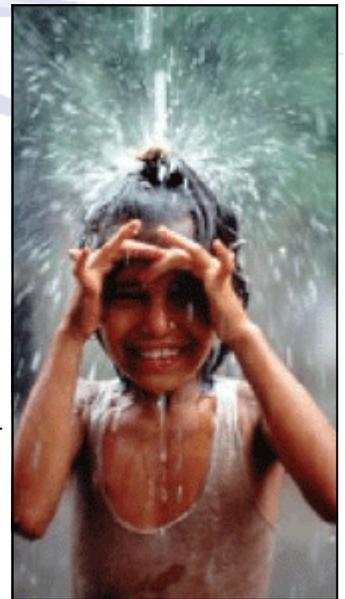


Photo from <http://www.gwpsea.org>

for civil society involvement in their work but there is an undercurrent of confusion or exclusion in governments. The proliferation of civil society organisations has not made it easy for governments to know who to work with. Civil society has not shown any ability to clarify this confusion of voices. Without coherence by civil society, governments will take the easy alternative of involving academics and individuals from civil society rather than representatives of organisations that have taken great pain to be democratic and transparent.

From a broad vision to a narrow perspective

A disappointing aspect and one that ICSW urges that governments reverse, is the focus on an economic perspective of development. Governments and the private sector perceive social development arising from economic progress. ICSW argues that governments first need to have a vision for social development and that the economic dimensions be part of this. ICSW is particularly conscious of the dominance of the economic perspective in the global financial institutions and in the regional groupings of government. Economics is a natural comfort zone for economic and financial ministers and the private sector. They have little comfort or understanding of the social dimensions of development except as a large expenditure item within government budgets.

Poverty

Poverty has become a major international agenda item but the response has been very unequal. In Asia there have been some remarkable strides in responding to poverty but in Sub Saharan Africa, the progress has been more negative than positive. The World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization describes an uneven decline in absolute poverty. The regions that show a rise in poverty are Sub Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. (Para 201)

The fixation on the dollar-a-day mantra of the Millennium Development Goals while being a worthwhile publicity hook for the discussion of poverty is a very limited and constricting concept of poverty. It reflects an economic bias and ignores the broader definition of poverty. In contrast the Report of the WSSD described poverty as “including lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimi-

nation and exclusion” (Para 19).

There are insidious factors that work against reducing poverty. The first is the attention and resources that are given to specific campaigns and in particular the “war on terror”. Resources are diverted to specific countries. Another factor is the lack of attention to the loss of resources to corrupt regimes and third, donor countries and agencies are constantly diverted to crises away from long term programmes. Long term programmes to remove the causes of poverty suffer every time there is a crisis and resources are diverted.

Scientists Unite in Call for Action as Global Food Demands Threaten to Outstrip World Water Supply

While many of today’s rivers, lakes and groundwater reservoirs continue to be overexploited, a new report launched today by leading scientists at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development warns that unless steps are taken to improve the way water is managed, twice the world’s current water consumption may be needed by 2050 to feed a global population of some 9 billion.

The scientists from the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), World Conservation Union (IUCN) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) said that the ambitious international commitment to halve the number of people facing hunger have missed a fundamental question: where is the water needed to grow the food to feed future generations

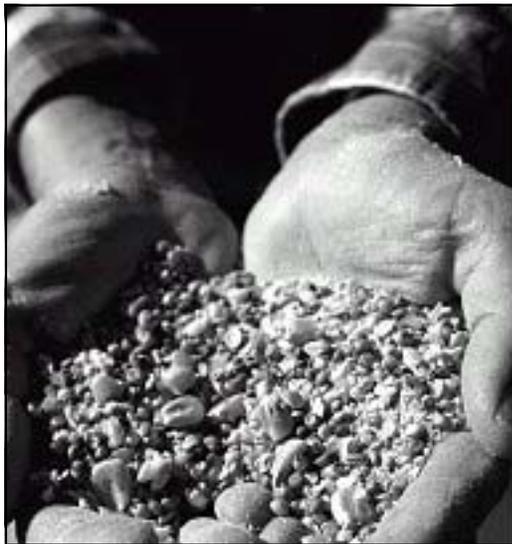


Photo from <http://www.ukfg.org.uk>

properly? The report, “Let It Reign: The New Water Paradigm for Global Food Security” points out that feeding the world is in many ways a daunting water challenge.

Food security – the enormous challenge

“The world needs more food and consumption is moving towards more water-intensive items and less healthy diets. Irrigation can only partly satisfy the thirst for expanded future

food production, and agricultural land is shrinking,” says Prof. Jan Lundqvist of Linköping University (Sweden), one of the report’s authors. “Global food security in the future requires a new water management approach today.” The report provides policy recommendations intended to facilitate such a new approach.

Today, 840 million people remain undernourished across the world. In 2025, the world will have 8 billion inhabitants, and 9 billion in 2050. The demand for food will increase with 50% every generation. How big the increase ultimately will be depends in large part on the purchasing power of consumers. According to prognoses of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, average demand will be 3,000 kcal per person per day. Even considering wastage, the new report says that if a high calorie intake becomes the social norm for all of humanity, the *increased* pressure on natural resources – above all, water, will be dramatic. An additional volume of water equal in size to all of the water used in households, industry and agriculture today (5600 km³) would be required by 2025.

Agriculture is water-driven

This is because production of food is a highly water-consuming activity. In developing countries, the report says, agriculture accounts for 70-90% of available freshwater supplies. It takes 550 litres of water to produce enough flour for one loaf of bread – a fraction of the roughly 1500 litres used to produce 100 grams of grain-fed beef. Already in large parts of the world, water is the most limited and most uncertain resource, both in food production and for different ecosystems. A fundamental consequence for crops grown in the open landscape is that large quantities of water evaporate back to the atmosphere from vegetation and soil, particularly in hot climate regions.

Although the world produces more food than ever, it has come at a cost: the drastic reduction of water in a number of rivers and sinking groundwater levels around the world. There is no water flowing in the Yellow, Colorado and Indus rivers in large parts of the year. Previously large lakes, like the Aral Sea and the Chad Sea, are now mere shadows of their former selves. Around 1.4 billion people, nearly a quarter of the world’s population, live near rivers where all of the available

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water is committed. Other uncertainties exist: some predict that the 40 poorest countries, with a total population of some 1–3 billion, will lose on average up to a fifth of their cereal production potential in the 2080s because of climate change.

These factors, combined with the growing needs of cities and industries for water, will minimize the food gains resulting from increased or more effective use of irrigated water in agriculture. The most promising solutions identified in the report come from rain-fed agriculture. Using rain more efficiently, "rainwater harvesting," is a time-tested practice in some parts of the world that the report says needs strong support to come into wider use. A more effective use of precipitation in combination with land care has already led to a doubling of production in large parts of Africa. Also, better use of the rainwater in the soil – so-called "green water" can help fuel the agricultural revolution needed to end hunger.

Starvation and gluttony on one planet

The report also examines the double-sided nature of the problem. In some parts of the world, supermarkets are overflowing with produce from all over the world. Literally, the shortage of food is a distant problem in this context. The problem is rather the opposite; overweight and obesity. Yet, interestingly enough, the over-consumption of the developed world leads to the same problem as the under- and malnourishment in the developing world: they reduce the chances of "productive and healthy lives".

Deservedly, the report says, the attention to the causes and consequences of obesity and hunger has been growing together with the will of the international community to tackle the problem. But behind the question of sufficient and healthy food lies another reality: the way it is produced, distributed and consumed undermines a cornerstone of sustainable development.

The ferocious demand for food and other resources from the North, together with the need to lift people from poverty in many parts of the developing world, lead to dramatic changes. The world is rapidly converting nature into agricultural land to meet growing demands, draining rivers of all water to produce food, and polluting water with pesticides and fertilizer.

Consumer behaviour

The old and fundamental question about how to produce more and better food without further undermining our environment still lingers. But a new crucial question begs for an answer; how can food demand and intake be equitable, sound and within the earth's biological production potential.

Here, the report says, though farmers, governments and technicians can puzzle on technical solutions forever, it is the consumer who faces fundamental choices: for good and healthy foods, and for food that is produced in a sustainable manner. Factual information on the way food is produced and what societal and environmental costs it brings can help

raise consumer awareness. Choices in the supermarket each day are not only choices for a healthy or unhealthy lifestyle, but also have profound impacts on the lives of poor communities and on their environment far away, according to the report.

"Let It Reign: The New Water Paradigm for Global Food Security" is available on the websites of SIWI (www.siwi.org), IFPRI (www.ifpri.org), IWMI (www.iwmi.org) and IUCN (www.iucn.org). The report was commissioned by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) as input into the CSD process and its 2004–2005 focus on water and related issues.

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UN Envoy has Contact with N. Korean Accused in Oil-For-Food

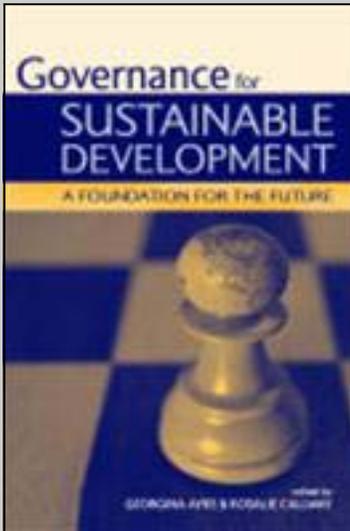
United Nations Korea envoy Maurice Strong has admitted to having contact with a Korean accused of trying to influence officials in the Oil-For-Food programme. Strong, who serves as the envoy, as well as advisor to the Secretary General, acknowledged that Tongsun Park, a native of North Korea accused in the Oil-for-Food programme, had advised him on issues having to do with North Korea. Strong denied his own involvement in or connection to any Iraq activities.

The Korean is accused of meeting with high-ranking UN officials on behalf of the Iraqi Government in the 90s. In 1993, Mr. Park was allegedly given \$2 million dollars as compensation for three meetings in New York and Geneva. The money is said to have been used to "take care" of the official. He is also accused of meeting in 1996 in New York with another UN official.

Mr. Park allegedly told a witness of approximately \$1 million of Iraqi money which he invested "in a Canadian company established by the son of UN Official No 2." The company later failed, and the money was lost. Strong, who has two sons, commented that Mr. Park "invested on a normal commercial basis in an energy company with which I was associated that had no relationship with Iraq."

In 1997 Strong advised Kofi Annan on UN reform issues, said UN officials. For a brief time in 2000, Strong sat on the board of Air Harbour Technologies, along with Kojo Annan, who is said to have had a relationship with the company Cotecna, which won a UN contract to monitor oil-for-food shipments. Kojo is accused of concealed the relationship despite questions of a conflict of interest.

Strong told the Financial Times that he left the company because it was badly run. He did not say in which energy company Mr. Park had invested.



Governance for Sustainable Development – A Foundation for the Future a new **Stakeholder Forum** book is due out in June (Earthscan 19.99 UK pounds) builds on the hugely successful Earth Summit 2002 and How to Lobby at Intergovernmental Meetings . It is the first book of its kind to provide a 'baseline' of information on international governance frameworks for sustainable development and covers the five critical areas of Water, Energy,

Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity. Must-have for all decision-makers, NGOs and practitioners working with the Sustainability Agenda

As the process of globalization continues, and power imbalances between decision-making institutions become increasingly apparent, the need for a critical assessment of the way in which we manage our interaction with the natural environment becomes ever more urgent. Good governance was identified at the World Summit on Sustainable Development as a critical factor for ensuring successful sustainable development.

This book builds on the briefing papers which were presented at the Summit, taking further the discussions of the WEHAB agenda (Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity – the five international priority sectors highlighted by Secretary General Kofi Annan). This is a unique offering on the role and reform of global governance institutions and processes, raising issues which have been previously neglected in international discussions.

1 Introduction: Setting the Scene - **Rosalie Callway**, Inter-

national Policy Officer, Local Government International Bureau (LGIB)

2 Outcomes from the World Summit for Sustainable Development - **Georgina Ayre**, Sustainable Development Policy Advisor at the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Rosalie Callway, LGIB

Part 1. The Three Pillars of Sustainability

3. Environment: The Path of Global Environmental Governance - Form and Function in Historical Perspective - **Maria Ivanova**, Director of Global Environmental Governance Project, Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy

4. Economy: The Economic Problem of Sustainable Governance - **Andrew Sims**, Policy Director and Head of Climate Change Programme at New Economics Foundation

5. Society: Participation and Engagement - **Maria Figueroa K p c **, consultant

Part 2. The 'WEHAB' Issues

6. Water: Water and Governance, **Alan W. Hall**, network coordinator for Global Water Partnership (GWP)

7. Energy: Energy Governance, Poverty and Sustainable Development, **Richard Sherman**, former head of the Research and Policy Unit at Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) Southern Africa

8. Health: Health and Sustainable Development - Addressing the Challenges Post-Johannesburg - **Yasmin von Schirnding**, focal point' for Agenda 21 at World Health Organization (WHO)

9. Agriculture: Improving Governance for Food Security and Agriculture - **Robert L. Paarlberg**, Professor of political science at Wellesley College and associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University

10. Biodiversity: Biodiversity Governance after Johannesburg - **Andrew M. Deutz**, special adviser for global policy at IUCN

Conclusion

11. Conclusion: Where Next? - **Georgina Ayre**

RIO GRINDS—the light hearted side of sustainable development

Brackets for Coffee Scandal

A 'brackets for coffee' scandal broke out today as the US was openly seen offering brackets in the Vienna Caf . When questioned, a source close to the administration said, "Now that we are focusing on implementation, we are off-loading our stockpile of brackets while they still have some value" as he sipped coffee.



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AM	8:30-10:0	Conf. Room 6	Closed Ministerial Meeting Introductory session
	10:00-1:00	Conf. Room 1	Official Opening Interactive discussions/Official Statements Panel discussion: MDG
PM	3:00-6:00	Conf. Room 1	Topic: Turning Political Commitments into Action Introductory remarks from Eminent Persons Interactive Discussions/Official Statements

Side Events

AM	1:15-2:45	CR 2	Monitoring and Evaluation: a booster to achieve the Millennium and Johannesburg goals on water and sanitation
	1:15-2:45	Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium	Presentation of the Fourth World Water Forum
	1:15-2:45	CR 6	Immediate Action Plan for Water Resources Management in Iraq: The Eden Project
	1:15-2:45	CR C	Seed Awards 2005: Outstanding, Entrepreneurial Partnerships for Sustainable Development
PM	6:15-7:45	CR 2	Making Progress on Principle 10: Public Participation in the Implementation of the JPOI
	6:15-7:45	CR 6	Business Action on Water and Energy
	6:15-7:45	CR C	Interlinkages: Engaging People in Sustainability: Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements

Outreach 2005

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