

OUTREACH



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY 2ND

ENVIRONMENT and STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION LOW PRIORITIES for MDG SUMMIT

Contributor: Felix Dodds, Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum

The UN Secretary General's office recently did a survey of 60 representative missions in New York. The survey was on what top five issues the Millennium Development Summit should deal with. Only three of the sixty countries taking part in the survey put down the environment – of the three, two were European and one African! It is increasingly looking as if the environment will be the missing part of the Summit. A problem with the original Summit in 2000, when environmental groups gave the Summit a miss, not convinced that it would be important for environment – hence such a weak MDG7.

Is there time to change that? The CSD in April could play a critical role in building the coalition of governments and stakeholders for the Summit but what will be the message? The two year cycle of CSD means that the vast majority of work has been done on water, sanitation and human settlement. The outcomes from CSD13 should play a significant role in the input to this discussion. Unfortunately it doesn't mean there will be input on the environmental components of the other MDGs. Unlike other UN Commissions, such as Beijing and Copenhagen, there is no ten year review being conducted from which to provide a much fuller input to the MDG Review.



E.M. Hyland

In November the UN Secretary General released a report outlining the proposed modalities for stakeholder participation in the Millennium Development Summit. The proposals were of great interest to stakeholders worldwide, and not just because the summit will be a major opportunity to push forward global action on the Millennium Development Goals where they have a significant role to play in implementing, but also as this High Level Event is also the first to be organized by the UN following the publication of the recent 'Cardoso Report' on UN – Civil Society relations. Given that the 'Cardoso Report' recommends increased and improved UN interaction with stakeholders, it is therefore very disappointing to find that the suggested modalities appear to take us backwards, not forwards.

In response to the UN Secretary General's suggestions, Roberto Bissio from Social Watch recently wrote a letter in response on behalf of a number of NGOs, which said:

"We are extremely worried that in your recent report on "modalities, format and organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the 60th session of the General Assembly" the opportunities for civil society participation (paragraphs 20 to 22) are restricted to one intervention at the General Assembly and a consultation meeting months before that. The preparatory process for the Summit is being described as "open, inclusive and transparent", (paragraph 23). We do not feel that openness and transparency can be achieved through a process that largely excludes citizen organizations. The lack of appropriate civil society participation in the Millennium Summit four years ago is one of the reasons, and probably the major one, why it took so long for public opinion to even learn about the MDGs. The lack of political will

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E.M. Hyland

Perhaps the work undertaken by the French Government on enhancing UNEP through the development of a UNEO might be one of the successes of the 2005 process. It offers a real opportunity to reform the UN and to create a much stronger voice for the environment. Success in the environment field might show the way for reform in other areas. Failure here might show that reform isn't possible.

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

(Continued from page 1)

has often been cited to explain the slow pace of action towards the goals agreed by the Heads of State and Government. And political will goes hand in hand with active civil society engagement and participation. It cannot possibly happen if the same modalities that failed to achieve it in 2000 are repeated in 2005, and if the very same organizations that are supporting the UN work, that have substantive agendas largely coincident with the UN agenda, and that are mobilizing public support for the same goals, find the doors of the UN shut when they are trying to contribute to its work.”

Stakeholder Forum shares the concerns raised by Roberto in his letter, and we are working hard to promote the inclusion of greater stakeholder participation at this major event.

In December Stakeholder Forum sent out a questionnaire to over 15,000 stakeholders enabling them to start conversations with their governments and the UN directly. Copies of the questionnaire can be found in the December issue of Network SFs monthly newsletter (see www.stakeholderforum.org)

Let it Reign: the New Water Paradigm for Global Food Security

Contributor: Ms Viveka Bohn, head of Swedish Delegation

“Let It Reign: The New Water Paradigm for Global Food Security”, is a new report from SIWI, IFPRI, IWMI and IUCN, that is presented as a working draft here at the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the CSD-13. It forms the basis of this side event. This is the second year that Sweden hosts a side-event on this important topic – critical as it is to global food and water security. Last year, the main purpose was to put the issues on the table and spur a debate on the critical links between water and food production. This year, we would like to move one step further and present possible policy recommendations.

The report highlights key facts, conditions and trends regarding water aspects of food production, consumption and ecological sustainability. It presents policy recommendations within governance, capacity

building, awareness raising and financing – necessary in order to improve water productivity and increase the possibility to produce the food needed, improve diets, and raise consumer awareness – all in an equitable and ecologically sustainable manner.



E.M. Hyland

The time to take up these issues is now, since the food security issue is so alarming: food needs are increasing, and food consumption is moving towards more water-consuming items. Irrigation possibilities are limited and agricultural land is shrinking. In pursuit of the human livelihood improvements identified in the UN Millennium Goals (MDGs), however, co-ordinating efforts in sectors can generate substantial synergies at a time when globally food consumption patterns are changing rapidly.

Co-ordination is needed since today food consumption drives food production, which is dependent on water. Consumer food preferences in combination with new patterns in the processing and trade of food items are changing the consumptive use of water for food production and impacting the already-stressed water resources, ecosystems and the water available for other societal uses. Yet food production will always be highly water consuming, from both the “green” and “blue” water perspectives. For the projected per capita human diet of 3000 kcal/year, water needs are 70 times greater than for basic household water needs.

Co-ordination is also needed since malnourishment is trending upwards – 852 million people are hungry today. Paradoxically, malnutrition is equally rampant. These public health threats hinder people from fighting hunger, poverty and disease.

This is the dilemma, and the opportunity. Eliminating under nourishment by 2025 may require as much additional water as is already withdrawn (often unsustainably) today for agriculture, industry and domestic uses; improved green water use and irrigation are crucial. Improved access to food, and the resource implications of trends in food consumption patterns also warrant due attention.



E.M. Hyland

Outreach

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Roadmap: From GC-23/ GMEF to CSD-13

Contributor: Roy Hathaway, Head of Environment and Sustainable Development International, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK

Last week's UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum saw the coming together of Ministers and Heads of Delegation to discuss UNEP's contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Discussions centred on the environmental underpinnings of MDG1 on poverty eradication, MDG3 addressing gender equality and empowerment of women, and MDG7 on environmental sustainability.



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The outcome of the Ministerial Consultation - the President's Summary agreed during the final Ministerial Session co-moderated by UK Minister Elliot Morley - provides a valuable contribution to CSD and to the Millennium Review Summit in September. The summary carries the key message that environmental sustainability is an essential ingredient to achieving all Millennium Development Goals and the targets and commitments of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).

UNEP's mission statement "environment for development" usefully encapsulates the approach that needs to be taken. Although UNEP is the lead UN agency for the environment, UNEP alone cannot bear the burden of ensuring that environmental sustainability is at the centre of efforts by the international community in implementing the MDGs and JPOI goals and commitments - even the strengthened UNEP that Ministers called for. What is also required is increased interagency cooperation and coordination both within and outside the UN system and at all levels. The report of the Secretary General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change offers some interesting options for achieving this. The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and UNEP and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity

Building should assist in building the bridge between environment and development activities.

During the Ministerial Consultation it was recognised that overuse of natural resources and environmental degradation can undermine development efforts and contribute to conflict and instability. It was also acknowledged that the links between poverty and environmental sustainability are still not being made at the operational level. The integration of environmental considerations, in particular water and sanitation, within nationally owned development strategies including poverty reduction strategies is a first step to overcoming this. It is important to recognise the intrinsic link between unsustainable water management and poverty. The implementation of integrated water resource management strategies is an appropriate response to this challenge.

Ministers also recognised that women are those most affected by environmental degradation and their empowerment is crucial to sustainable development. If we are to achieve the MDGs and implement our commitments under the JPOI gender equality must be mainstreamed within policies, programme and strategies, including those mentioned above.

These messages from the Ministerial Consultations enrich our deliberations here and our preparations for the Millennium Review Summit. At CSD13 we need to focus on agreeing practical policy guidance backed by concrete action to accelerate the implementation of all MDGs and the targets and commitments from the JPOI on water, sanitation and human settlement. In doing this we need to identify specific and prioritised actions to expedite implementation by all actors and so seek to ensure that environmental sustainability is fully integrated within the outcomes of the Millennium Review Summit.



E.M. Hyland

CSR



Michael Rake

"The first thing to understand about corporate social responsibility is that the business case is very strong", says Michael Rake, International Chairman, KPMG.

What do you consider to be the main trends and critical challenges to the global economy in the next 12 to 18 months?

The dollar exchange rate and linked to that obviously is the development of the US economy and its trade and fiscal deficits. Any further development of this will have a major impact on the European economy and the global economy. Another challenge is Middle East stability and to what extent it stabilizes or destabilizes and the impact of that on oil prices and stability in Nigeria. A subsidiary key issue is consumer and personal debt in the US and UK, and whether increasing interest rates can lead to destabilization of the consumer because of debt. Holding down house prices could have an impact on consumer spending but this is an issue that I think will be managed.

Income disparities remain large in emerging economies such as India and China. What is the relationship between income disparities and economic growth?

Income disparities exist in all major economies and in the US and UK income disparities have grown in the last few years. You can have income disparities provided that you are lifting the population at the bottom of the ladder. As the economy grows, wealth must spread, even if it spreads unequally.

There is a race in China to create wealth in the cities in the east and spread that wealth to the west. This is a major challenge for the Chinese government while slowing the growth of the economy without adversely impacting it.

India has a different situation. There have always been major economic disparities there. India is a country more accepting of economic disparities but I think that this is a key issue. One major challenge for India is to move more wealth to the rural economy.

Could you explain the current buzz around corporate social responsibility. Why should business engage in social responsibility?

The first thing people need to understand around corporate social responsibility is that the business case is very strong. If you look at any survey, all other things being equal (such as price and quality), the consumer will buy from the company that has a responsible attitude towards its community. In recruitment, people want to work for a company with a responsible social attitude. Business needs the community in which it operates and a company can play major role in that community. Other than money, employees can give time in inner cities, commit time to projects, mentor and teach. We found that people value this and benefit from doing this work. It creates a sense of development and also pride in the company.

There is a clear moral case in corporate social responsibility and the business case is very strong. What is important now, given recent corporate scandals, is that companies must be seen to be doing it and not just talking about it. There is a danger that corporate social responsibility is seen a smokescreen for greed and profit.

It's not just moral issue; the most underdeveloped continent is Africa. Corporations see an opportunity there but they are not sure what to do about it. Neither do the United Nations, World Trade Organization or World Bank. The European Union and United States are saying that we have to do something about Africa which is going backwards

Company success is often measured by profits, pay and power. How has the required skills set for a business leader changed over the years?

The world in which business operates now is much more complex in terms of responsibility and perceived responsibility towards its community and stakeholders. Globalisation and the movement of capital flows lead to things happening much more dramatically and require an ability to lead a company that is flexible and quick in adjusting to different circumstances.

A company's people should retain a sense of commitment from company to marketplace and an ability to think. They should be empowered and know to deal with the market place. A leader must unleash the potential of people, rather than creating a large bureaucracy or rigidity.

Communication and understanding what people think is also important. Unless you communicate effectively, people won't understand what they are required to do. They won't know what the objectives are when faced with sig-



AFRICAN DROUGHT NETWORK

significant challenges, such as the new roles of China and India in manufacturing and knowledge-based jobs. You must bring the workforce with you, and they must understand the process.

In addition, now there are many cultural environments and multiple regulatory and legal systems. A leader must balance responsibilities towards the various stakeholders. It's also a balance between the discipline of organisation and the empowerment of people. What has gone wrong in companies with the recent corporate scandals is the culture. The tone at the top has gone wrong.

You can't legislate success. You can stop a company from misbehaving, but regulation alone is not the answer. You have to create a sense of values and integrity.

Which industries are Asian multinationals most likely to reshape?

I think that they will reshape all industries over a period of time. Japan and Korea reshaped the car industry in the 1980s and Japan has reshaped the photographic industry. Major Indian and Chinese companies are emerging. In China, companies are moving rapidly from being state-owned, to private, public and then to global companies pretty seamlessly. They are buying up brand names, such as Grundig in Germany and the IBM PC industry worldwide.

In R&D on the pharmaceutical side, India is an enormous challenge to the established pharmaceutical industry. Look at the scale and size of banks in China. Once they have sorted their non-performing loan problems they will have an impact. In telecommunications, China Mobile and China Telecoms are becoming enormous companies. In the energy sector there is Sinopac. These companies are enormous - they are starting to leave a global footprint and put a global brand in place.



B.C. Jahnes

Contributor: Philip Dobie, UNDP Dryland Development Centre

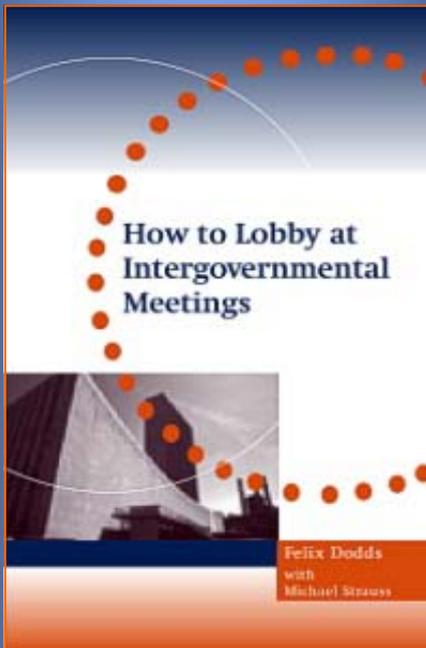
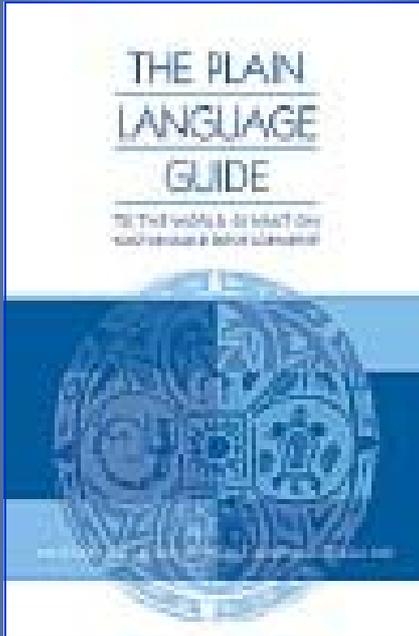
United Nations Development Programme Launches Drought Network in Africa

In the run-up to UNEP's Governing Council, UNDP convened a meeting on drought in Africa. The meeting of experts was held in Nairobi and brought together drought and development specialists from around Africa and the world. The meeting was held in response to an earlier decision of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and its partners to establish drought networks in all of the regions of the world.

The experts debated new approaches to moderating the effects of drought. They noted that in terms of the number of people affected, Africa is not the most drought-exposed area of the world. However, in terms of the number of people who die from the effects of drought, Africa rates highest. It is clear that numerous issues affect people's vulnerability to drought and most of these are associated with a low level of development. The group pointed out that drought is almost always treated as an unpredictable emergency, but that droughts occur frequently and there are many ways to prepare societies to protect themselves against the effects of drought. These include diversifying the bases of livelihoods, putting planning and development authority into local hands and adopting appropriate agriculture. The experts regretted that responses to drought are often limited to food and emergency relief, and called for development efforts to turn drought-vulnerable societies into drought-resilient societies.

At the end of the meeting, an African Drought Network was launched to promote new, development-based approaches to managing the effects of drought.

The meeting was jointly organized by UNDP's Drylands Development Centre and UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. For more information on the meeting and the African Drought Network, contact eric.patrick@undp.org.



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KNOW ENVIRONMENT NOW!

Poem by Caroline Nderitu, delivered at Opening Ceremony GC-23/GMEF

We know that the rivers, seas and trees -
 Don't really just stay as they please,
 Any more!

We know that the fish, birds and beasts-
 Don't really dance to their own beats,
 Any more!

We know the situation on sanitation,
 Either eases, or freezes contamination.

We know that the bigger the slam
 The bigger the harm

We know that human settlement
 Is the inauguration of development!

We know that our children are indeed,
 Inhaling more gases than they need

We know that industrial smoke is no joke-
 With these gases, our dear lives we mock!

We know that water, like heat,
 Brings to us the best of times!
 We know that water, like heat,
 Brings to us the worst of times!

What we know, we know!
 Where shall we go,
 With what we know?
 Oh! How so?

Do we know,
 What we don't know?

When will everyone the world over
 Know what we know?
 Knowing is living!

Clean green technology, is one broom
 Let's groom our globe, let's bloom!
 By gathering and sharing this way-
 We know... we'll save the day!

And now, a voyage begins!
 As you set out fishing,
 Into the sea of ideas,
 May your nets of skill, experience
 And know-how
 Entrap the healthiest of deliberations
 May the winds of your conversations
 Blow briskly towards unflinching solutions
 Any may you anchor at the harbour
 Of environmental fulfilment
 And prosperity!
 For all the world's people!



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WORLD INFORMATION TRANSFER

14th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on HEALTH and ENVIRONMENT: GLOBAL PARTNERS for GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

The Conference will be held on April 27th and 28th, 2005, at the United Nations in New York City.

The theme is "Bridging Policies for Action on Millennium Development Goals". This year's Conference is co-sponsored by the Government of Croatia, the Government of Ukraine, WHO (pending), Walden Media and in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme.

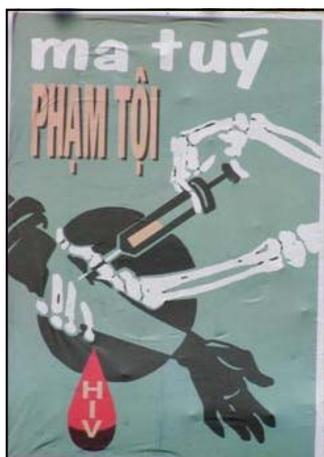


Program for Wednesday April 27, **Making a World of Difference for HIV/AIDS**

Session I 10a.m. to 1 PM Epidemiological & Historical Perspective of HIV/AIDS; HIV/ARV Treatments

Session II 3 to 6 PM Global Disparities and Challenges in Treatments; Stemming the Global Spread of HIV/AIDS

Luncheon by registration only (guest Speaker) Delegates Dining Room 1 to 3 PM



E.M. Hyland

Problems: Chernobyl Experience
Luncheon by registration only

Speakers include representatives from the Government of Ukraine, Government of Croatia, WHO (World Health Organization), UN Under Secretary-General for Least Developed Countries (OHRLLS), World Bank, UN Environment Programme, Harvard Medical School, John Hopkins University, Rotary International, International POPs Elimination Network, Pfizer Inc.

Due to United Nations Security, PRE-REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY BY MARCH 30TH. For Further Information and pre-registration contact www.worldinfo.org or wit1986@aol.com

Musicians Sans Frontiers and Stakeholder Forum invite you to an evening with

Brazilian Guitarists Carlos Munhoz

Saturday 5th of March
World Trump Tower
1st Avenue 48th Street
9pm till late

RIO GRINDS—the light-hearted side of sustainable development

Attention Smokers: Have you seen the No smoking sign in the Vienna Café?

Notice the No Smoking signs in the Vienna Café?

Beginning next week, the UN, in collaboration with the Government of the United States, will begin a monitoring program to enforce the no-smoking policy. Cameras shall be installed and a fine levied against parties disregarding the signage. The new policy aims to increase awareness of CSD-14 cluster area on Atmosphere.



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Intergovernmental Preparatory Meetings

10:00- 1:00	Conf. Room 3	Water
Parallel Sessions	Conf. Room 4	Human Settlements
3:00- 6:00	Conf. Room 3	Sanitation
Parallel Sessions	Conf. Room 4	Human Settlements

Partnership Activities

10:00 -12:00	Conf. Room 5	"Partnerships in Practice" interactive discussion session: Sharing Information on Partnerships: websites and databases
10:30 - 1:30	Neck Area	Partnerships Information Desk - Capacity 2015
2:00 - 5:30	Neck Area	Partnerships Information Desk - Equator Initiative

Side Events

1:15-2:45	Conf. Room 5	Sustainable Responses to Sudden Onset Disasters Organized by the World Economic Forum and Parsons Brinckerhoff
	Conf. Room 3	Localizing the Millennium Development Goals: Women Leading Global Change Organized by the United Cities and Local Governments, UNHABITAT and Huairou Commission

Caucus Meetings

9:00-10:00	Conf. Room C	Strategy Sessions
10:00-11:00	Conf. Room C	Education Caucus
5:00-6:00	Conf. Room C	Freshwater Caucus
6:30-8:30	Conf. Room C	Caucus Coordinators

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