By Felix Dodds

Last year at CSD 13, Stakeholder Forum published an article in Outreach protesting the removal of multi-stakeholder dialogues from the CSD agenda (“CSD Goes Back to 1996,” 12 April 2005). Dialogues were first used as a mechanism for engaging Major Groups in the CSD process in 1997. Last year, for the first time since 1997, this tradition of dedicated space for multi-stakeholder dialogue with governments was missing from the agenda. In response, Major Groups signed a statement requesting the return of stakeholder dialogues.

We welcome the return of this important space to the CSD agenda. However, while the tradition of dialogue is being respected in words, in practice the spirit of multi-stakeholder dialogue is not being embraced.

The first problem is that the interactive nature of the dialogues in previous sessions—where representatives of Major Groups and Governments gave short interventions of no more than two minutes, which were followed by even shorter responses—has been lost. Rather, we have prepared lengthy interventions read out one after another, with no true discussion of the issues taking place and very little linkages.

We believe that in a dialogue of stakeholders, representatives not only state their views but listen to each other’s views for the purpose of developing mutual understanding, including each other’s value-base, interests, goals and concerns. Dialogue requires the willing participation of all participants; even one person whose primary orientation is towards getting her or his way can destroy the dialogue.
Lucien Royer from the trade unions he said: “Trade Unions are concerned that governments at CSD 14 do not yet seem prepared to fully engage in true dialogue about reviewing their roles as overseers and legislators and in understanding or resolving problems posed by CSD 14. We pose a challenge to government delegations and invite them to fully participate in CSD discussions in general, and in the upcoming multi-stakeholder dialogues in particular.”

Another problem is the length of time dialogues have been assigned in the CSD agenda. While up to 12 hours were dedicated to multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions before CSD 13, at CSD 14 this space has been chopped to a mere hour and a half. This allows for only 23 minutes of dialogue on each of the cycle’s themes! Given the complexity of the issues on the table at the Energy Cycle, it goes without saying that this is hugely inadequate.

The CSD is often championed as one of the most progressive UN institutions in its approaches to stakeholder engagement. However, this year the approach to multi-stakeholder dialogues gives us cause for concern. It is a concern because it seems that the space for stakeholders at the UN is slowly being whittled down and corralled, as the recent examples of the World Summit and the High Level Panel on System-wide Coherence demonstrate. The lessons from previous CSDs must be now relearned so that the multi-stakeholder dialogues can again take their place as one of the most creative spaces in the UN interface with stakeholders.

Educators are a Major Group

Pam Puntenney of the Education Caucus said: “we were very upset that we were not included this year or previous years in the stakeholder dialogues. Particularly this year, considering the issues have a major focus on education as a cross cutting issue.”

It is clear that the JPOI added educators as a Major Group:

149. With regard to the practical modalities and programme of work of the Commission, specific decisions on those issues should be taken by the Commission at its next session, when the Commission’s thematic work programme will be elaborated. In particular, the following issues should be considered: (d) Furthering the contribution of educators to sustainable development, including, where appropriate, in the activities of the Commission.

This was then further underlined in the CSD 11 decision:

2. (c)(iv) Contributions from major groups, including scientific experts, as well as educators, taking into account paragraphs 139(g) and 149(c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, on their result-oriented activities concerning the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Pam said: “we have and will continue to offer our active participation in the CSD and would like future Bureaus to reflect on how educators can be integrated into the planning and organization of future multi-stakeholder dialogues.”
At its 11th session in 2003, the CSD adopted a far reaching multiyear programme of work, including an innovative two-year ‘Review and Policy’ implementation cycle. CSD-13 in April 2005 marked the conclusion of the first two-year “implementation cycle.” Participants held high expectations for the first cycle: some of which were met, others were not. While the new work format still requires time to mature, several governments and stakeholders have expressed an interest in exchanging views on the way in which the cycle and methods of work operated in practice. To assist in further consideration of these issues, Stakeholder Forum initiated a process in 2005 with a number of governments and other stakeholders to help identify recommendations on how the CSD could be strengthened in its ability to deliver concrete outcomes on the key issues of sustainable development. The following is a summary of the recommendations which emerged during this consultation process.

Recommendations for Strengthening the Second and Future CSD Cycles

1) Standing Agenda Item on ‘Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development’: Maintaining a standing agenda item on ‘institutional framework for sustainable development’ with a focus on the institutional framework outlined in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation would allow the Commission to provide guidance to, and receive guidance from, other UN and international decision-making fora.

2) Balancing Normative and Non-Normative Outcomes: The first cycle resulted in an outcome that contains both normative (the negotiated decision) and non-normative outcomes (the Matrix and voluntary commitments). While each is important in moving the sustainable development agenda forward, each also has an appropriate place in the process. There is a need to streamline, not eliminate, the negotiation process. Similarly a more elaborate preparatory process where important actors receive the necessary support in order to make an active contribution to the preparatory negotiation process is necessary.

3) Address Politically Sensitive Issues: The fact that the CSD is currently avoiding certain discussions on issues that are still critical to sustainable development remains a challenge. During the first cycle, for example, the almost total lack of discussion on international waters, the role of large-scale water infrastructure, subsidies, trade, etc. due to the ‘political sensitivity’ of such issues, clearly demonstrates one of the great weaknesses of a body like the CSD and why so many actors do not see it as ‘the authoritative body on sustainable development.’ If the CSD is to remain relevant, it must have the political will to discuss sensitive issues and deliver advice.

4) Ensure Continuity and Momentum between the Review and Policy Years: The key challenge for the second multi-year programme of work is to ensure that the debates, discussions and proposals from the Review Session are adequately translated into meaningful policy recommendations and actions by the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting and the Policy Session. Necessary resources must also be allocated to ensure continuity.

5) A Two-Year Process: There is strong consensus that the CSD should be viewed as a process that galvanizes two years of international, regional, national and local focus related to the CSD thematic cluster. The support mechanisms to the CSD must re-evaluate their roles, and the Secretariat needs direction and guidance from governments in order to shift its mandate to support a 2-year process.

6) Identifying Champions: The identification of ‘Champions’ is seen as critical to reinvigorating the CSD process and building political will. Champions – whether individuals, organisations, governments or intergovernmental organisations – will help provide leadership for action.

7) Linkages with other Meetings and International Bodies: Given the broader scope of issues and intergovernmental fora dealing with the themes of the CSD multi-year programme of work, there is a need for the CSD to address the congruence between its work and that of other international forums, in particular the governing bodies of UN Agencies, Programmes and Funds, as well as multilateral treaty bodies.

8) The Role of the Bureau: Strong management and coordination by the Bureau has long been recognised as a major factor determining the success or failure of the CSD cycle. While the Bureau’s role is managerial and not substantive, Bureau members still have a vital role in ensuring linkage, continuity and in stimulating action in countries and regions.
9) Enhancing the Contribution of Major Groups: Creating appropriate space for non-governmental input still requires the attention of Member States, the Bureau and Secretariat. The second cycle Review Session (CSD-14) should consider the proposals made in the joint statement from the nine Major Groups (CSD-12), which contains several options for ensuring the consistency in the level of Major Groups participation between sessions and cycles, and also for enhancing their contributions to the CSD process.

10) The Role of the Secretariat: The position of the CSD Secretariat needs to be strengthened and enhanced to address the new programme of work and to continue the innovative practices that have featured in the Commission’s methods of work since the WSSD. Changing the scope of the Secretariat’s responsibilities will require a clear change of mandate, some additional resources, and clear guidance to the Secretariat from the Bureau and Member States.

11) Partnerships: While there has been significant emphasis on the role of partnership for sustainable development, there should be more analysis done to understand which partnerships are actually delivering results, and how issues of reporting, transparency and accountability are being addressed. The Commission needs to develop adequate mechanisms to ensure accountability, transparency, and a process for lesson-sharing and enhancing such partnerships.

Recommendations for Strengthening the Regional Implementation Meetings for Future CSD Cycles

12) Enhance High-Level Participation and Ownership: Given the limited high-level participation by Ministers in the second cycle RIMs, further consideration by the CSD and the Regional Commissions, as well as from governments on how to enhance the high level interest, participation and impact of the regional processes, is urgently required.

13) Coherence in the RIM Outcomes: The CSD-11 decision on the RIMs does not provide sufficient guidance on how the outcomes of the regional processes are integrated into the cycle process. Experience from the first two cycles has highlighted inconsistent approaches to how the RIM outcomes are structured, which has led to difficulties in translating the regional information into concrete measures and policy actions for consideration by the Commission. A standardised, but flexible, format for the RIM outcomes should be considered.

14) Responding to the Regional Inputs: The Bureau and Secretariat should re-consider how they organize these discussions during the current cycle and ensure wider participation from delegates across the regions, thus allowing for the discussion of inter-regional and cross-cutting issues of importance. Further consideration on the effectiveness of the SIDS day and its possible replication for all five UN regions should also be considered for the third cycle Review Session.

15) Enhance the Contributions from Major Groups: The role of Major Groups and their contribution to the RIM process requires further clarification, including how the Regional Commissions and the CSD Secretariat can provide institutional and financial support for the participation of Major Groups.

16) Regional Information: There is currently no process and therefore limited opportunities for governments and stakeholders to submit national-based reports or other relevant information for inclusion in the regional processes. Further consideration of regional-based reporting processes, that are cognizant of the existing reporting burden, is needed.

17) Addressing the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development Governance at the Regional Level: Given the increased attention on regional and subregional cooperation, the RIMs should attempt to ensure institutional coherence among these processes and could provide an opportunistic vehicle for bringing together such processes and bodies.

18) Generating Awareness and Supporting Capacity-Building: The CSD Secretariat, in cooperation with the Regional Commissions and relevant UN agencies and programmes, should adopt a more proactive approach to outreach and dissemination of information regarding the CSD’s cycles and themes of discussions. A more detailed outreach programme may assist in addressing the low levels of awareness about the RIMs and CSD processes.

Pulling It Together

19) An Integrated Two-year Cycle: The ‘Recommended Flow Chart for the CSD Two-Year Cycle’ outlined how the different stages of the cycle might contribute to a more effective and efficient CSD, in particular streamlining the negotiation process and strengthening the focus on implementation. Working backwards from the desired outcome of CSD-15, the flow chart identifies specific ideas and recommendations for each major stage in the two-year cycle.

The full report, Strengthening the Johannesburg Implementation Track: Considerations for Enhancing the Commission on Sustainable Development's Multi-Year Programme of Work is available at www.stakeholderforum.org
Along with solar, wind is one of the most effective power technologies available today for deployment at a scale that will contribute to mitigate current climate change.

The advantages of wind energy are manifold. The Greenpeace publication available at CSD “Wind Force 12”, provides a blueprint of the global wind energy industry, demonstrating that there are no technical, economic, or resource barriers to supplying 12% of the world’s electricity needs with wind power by the year 2020.

The wind energy industry has come a long way since the first prototypes built 25 years ago. Present day wind turbines are state-of-the-art modular technology and very quick to install, providing an attractive option for safe, clean and abundant energy for economies experiencing a rapid growth in electricity demands. What is more, wind energy does not need to be invented and the harnessing systems are also already in existence and being deployed in modern wind farms that provide bulk power equivalent to conventional power stations.

At this time the leaders in wind energy technology are Denmark, Germany and Spain however countries such as the USA and China have recently placed themselves on the wind energy map.

The International Energy Agency estimated that current trend in demands could double from 2002 to 2030. The global power sector requires some 4,800 GW (of which 2,000GW is in the OECD) of new capacity to meet increasing demand while replacing aging infrastructure. By 2030 the energy sector could represent 45% of the global carbon emissions making it imperative that we opt for energy generating technologies that will not contribute to increasing CO2 or GHG emissions.

In 2004 alone over 8,000 Megawatts of wind power were installed worldwide producing the equivalent amount of electricity needed to power 19 million average European homes. Europe accounts for 72% of the total installed wind energy capacity and 73% of the market growth observed for 2004. However, other countries are also beginning to emerge as substantial markets; Australia almost doubled its capacity in 2004 to reach 421 MW and has several projects lined up. The Asian market saw 900 MW installed in 2004 after a quiet period in the 1990s, this is the third largest country market taking the total up to 3,000MW.

Africa, Morocco and Egypt have shown that with adequate technical and financial backing, it is possible to successfully invest in renewable energy sources, with technological transfers and cooperation.

Today however, wind energy remains limited in its global presence in only a handful of countries. Wind power stations have to compete with old nuclear and fossil fuel power stations that produce electricity at marginal costs because interest and depreciation costs have already been absorbed. To become as competitive, wind energy and other renewable energy sources require a successful development and deployment framework that will include:

- Legally binding targets for renewable energy
- Well designed payment mechanism
- Grid access and strategic development of grids
- Good governance and appropriate administrative procedures
- Public acceptance and support.

None of these requirements are impossible if the social, political and economic will exist to choose this renewable option to build sustainable lifestyles in a clean and safe future. The investments we make today in the energy sector will determine the quality of our future; wind energy is one of the sound options.
Youth Action on Industrial Development

By Stephan Schwartz, Delegation Leader of SustainUS and Elissa Smith, Chair of the Sierra Youth Coalition of Canada

Youth advocate development that ensures the safety of human health and the ecological integrity of our planet. Young people recognize the need for sustainable job creation, especially through small scale and youth-led initiatives which are vital to poverty eradication. Micro-finance is a key tool in creating sustainable opportunities for young people.

**Sustainable Production**

Besides developing sustainable industries through sustainable consumption, young people around the world are organizing campaigns and projects in their countries to ensure sustainable production of goods. In the Philippines, youth have established small scale industries to make furniture from natural resources including reeds and grass canes; in the Netherlands, a project called SPARK focuses on youth employment and micro-credits encouraging young people to start their own businesses. In Nigeria, there is a small hydro power plant which educates young technicians to establish and maintain hydro power plants.

Young peoples’ immediate and long-term health is threatened by certain types of industrial development as a result of unsafe working conditions. Rapid industrial development in developing countries has allowed inadequate labor regulations to go unremedied in informal sectors. This leads to the exploitation and mistreatment of youth. For example, the textile industry and certain agricultural sectors (especially cocoa, cotton, and coffee) exploit young workers. Free the Children, a for-youth, by-youth organization, has been created to address these issues.

**Sustainable Consumption**

Youth can play an important role in awareness-raising of different subjects, such as organic agriculture, sustainable clothing and other sustainable businesses. Particularly in developed countries, there is a market for sustainably-produced goods. However, these products are almost always more expensive, and therefore less accessible to young people and to the general population.

Young people are lobbying governments to discontinue subsidies for unsustainable products and are asking governments to provide financial incentives for clean and renewable energy to stimulate these vital industries.

It is difficult for youth to take part in industrial development or influence industries directly. As a result, some young people feel that the most effective way to influence unsustainable industries is to refuse to purchase their products. Because youth are the most influential consumer group, North American and European students have run successful boycott campaigns.

**Room to Grow**

Youth also experience obstacles and constraints when they try to advance the implementation of industrial development. The role of young people as innovators and entrepreneur is often overlooked. Young people experience difficulty securing credit, materials, resources, and micro-finance. There is a lack of government funded youth employment strategies. In many parts of the world, there is a lack of training for business, education and mentorship opportunities, skills and training apprenticeships, internships as well as co-op work placements. These could be supported at low cost by youth-run sustainable businesses and social enterprises. Governments and businesses can be more supportive of young peoples’ initiatives to bring sustainable industrial development to our communities. In particular, governments have a special role to play as incubators of youth run-businesses.

In a few years, today’s young people will be the leaders in the area of industrial development. However, youth do not intend to wait for the aforementioned obstacles and constraints to be meaningfully addressed – we commit to act now and play a larger role in making industry more sustainable.
NRG4SD AT CSD 14

NRG4SD is the International Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development initially formed by the regional governments that attended the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, to share information and experience about sustainable development policy-making at the regional level of governance.

NRG4SD aims to be a voice for all regional governments at the global level — understanding by “regional governments” the level of governance of the territorial subdivision immediately below the central government of an individual State represented at the UN—, promoting sustainable development within and among regions around the world.

According to the priorities currently set up at international level, NRG4SD and its member regions are committed to both: participate and co-operate into the international arena (having taken part since 2003 at the CSD sessions and Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, producing position papers and reports and being directly involved at international conferences on specific topics related to sustainable development); as well as to play an active role in seeking innovative sustainable development approaches, best practices and concrete co-operations and common projects from a Regional Government sphere.

The participation of NRG4SD at the Partnerships Fair of the 14th Session of the CSD on May 2006, is focused on practical experience and information exchange gained on the promotion and expansion in the field of renewable energies at regional level which, by reason of scale, is crucial to promote changes in energy consumption and supply systems and policies implementation.

As it is detailed in the Program below, NRG4SD will present these best practice examples included at the Worldwide Regional Internet Portal for Renewable Energies — www.regional-renewables.org— initiated by North Rhine-Westphalia on behalf of NRG4SD. The aim of the Internet Portal is to promote a worldwide networking among experts and decision-makers in the field of renewable energies on regional level and the website contains a data pool which provides services, such as: contacts and links of regional governments, experts and institutions; information about best practices and regional experiences and support programmes; and data about the different areas of renewable energies: wind, hydro, solar, geothermal and bioenergy.

Further information about the NRG4SD activities, conferences, policy papers, membership, structure... can be found at www.nrg4sd.net and by contacting the NRG4SD Secretariat at nrg-is@ej-gv.es

NRG4SD would like to invite different stakeholders to strengthen relationship and work with this Network, as well as to call on each Regional Government through the world to contact and join NRG4SD in the promotion of Regional Sustainable Development. There is much to do and learn from one another about the practice and implementation of innovative sustainable development initiatives!

Friday 5 May, CSD 14

NRG4SD will also display and distribute information about NRG4SD and its initiatives to delegates on Monday the 8th in the Neck Area.
To achieve the goal of a sustainable energy economy the full cost and risk accounting principle must be applied to make all energy systems comparable and allow for equitable energy planning and implementation.

The International Standards Organisation ISO with its standard for energy systems analyses ISO 13602-1 offers the required tool to determine all energy emissions, by-products and risks. It allows also the complete life cycle analysis (LCA), which is indispensable to judge on the long-term viability of any energy system on the demand side.

Another important work item of ISO/TC203 is the creation of an international standard for true energy statistics, since all existing statistics ignore important renewable energy sectors, like the wide spread non-commercial energy sources ranging from fuel wood and solar cookers in Africa to the millions of off-the grid solar systems, animal and human muscle power with hundreds of millions bicycles and the evolving passive solar and low-energy architecture.

For more information contact Gustav R. Grob at info@uniseo.org

**NUCLEAR DOUBLE-SPEAK**

Today at 1:15 there will be two panels on Nuclear Power: one promoting its expansion, the other warning of its colossal dangers. While the IAEA has a permanent seat in the UN and a vested interest in self-preservation, regardless of the poison and lies they have to peddle, we do not. The CSD is the opportunity for Civil Society and UN Missions to have a constructive dialogue for forging a truly sustainable course for development, energy access, environmental protection and peace, free from nuclear threat.

Please join us at 1:15 in Conference Room 9 where a panel of distinguished scholars and activists will discussing the myriad reasons why Nuclear Power is NOT Sustainable, not for our health, our planet, or our future, sponsored by Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Norwegian Forum for Development and the Environment, and the GRACE Policy Institute. The list of speakers includes:

**Helen Caldicott, M.D.**, has been instrumental in giving shape and voice to the international campaign to educate the public about the medical hazards of the nuclear age and the necessary changes in human behavior to stop environmental destruction. Having played a major role in Australia's opposition to French atmospheric nuclear testing in the Pacific, Helen went on to co-found Physicians for Social Responsibility, the international umbrella group of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985. She is widely published, the most recently releasing Nuclear Power Is Not The Answer.

**Kathy Wan Povi Sanchez**, a community activist from San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico, has worked for women’s issues related to culture, the environment, and social change for most of her life. Living in the shadow of Los Alamos National Laboratory, Kathy was a co-founder of Tewa Women United, a group that raises awareness about environmental issues, domestic violence prevention, and drug and alcohol abuse.

**Carah Ong** is the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s Advocacy and Research Director and is Director of the Foundation’s Washington, DC office. In 2004, Ong was a member of the first delegation of twelve Americans to visit Libya in order to establish relations with the Libyan government and civil society after the US lifted sanctions that had been placed on the country for more than three decades.

**Michele Boyd** is the Legislative Director for Public Citizen’s Critical Mass Energy Project, a program dedicated to safeguarding consumers against the impacts of electricity deregulation, educating the public on the dangers of nuclear power while encouraging responsible nuclear waste management, and promoting clean energy alternatives.
**Windmills of Change**

Avoid life destruction  
Through environment protection  
The world needs your care  
So that we all breath fresh air  

Look at your surroundings  
Nature, people and buildings  
They deserve proper management  
Necessary is your commitment  

Do not get tired  
Your energy is required  
Take initiative, you’re capable  
And make the earth comfortable  

A city is not a dustbin,  
Youth, keep it clean  
Animal are not to be neglected  
Rather, they are to be protected  

The world is waiting for your contribution  
Be active for environment protection  
Act now, not later  
Urban life will be safer  

This poem has been written by Virgile Mahoro, who participated in the 1st online Hip-Hop Slam in December 2004. This youth competition was organised by Baobab Connections, an urban african youth network, based in South Africa.

During CSD 14, the Youth Caucus will confront delegates and other participants with these poems in a very intimate way...beware!

**RIO - GRINDS: the light hearted side of sustainable development**

One lonely comrade, seeking guidance from the pages of Outreach on how to fight the corporatization of the UN. Maybe we should move to a smaller format and print it in red?
STAKEHOLDER FORUM
is an EcoSoc Accredited Organization

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STAFF

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<td>Global Status and Outlook for Nuclear Power. International Atomic Energy Agency</td>
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<td>Renewable Energy Technologies. Government of Israel</td>
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<td>Supporting Clean Energy Development through Policy and Legislation. World Watch Institute</td>
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<td>Eco-Efficient Sports Event as facilitator of Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns. City of Helsinki</td>
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<td>6:15-7:45 PM</td>
<td>The IPCC Special Report on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)</td>
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<td>The Sustainable Production and Consumption of Energy: Views from Civil Society. Citizens Network for Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>Green Hydrogen: Towards a Sustainable Energy Future. Friends of the Earth and GRACE</td>
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<td>How Can Institutions Help Address the Challenges of Energy, Industrial Development, Air Pollution, and Climate Change? International Social Science Council</td>
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DIARY - PARTNERSHIPS FAIR

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<td>10:45-11:25</td>
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<td>11:30-12:10</td>
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<td>“Partnerships in Practice” interactive discussion on Improving access to energy for the poor: benefits of partnering</td>
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<td>Dams and Development Project</td>
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OUTREACH 2015

EDITOR Virginia Prieto  vprieto@stakeholderforum.org

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FRIDAY 5 MAY, CSD 14