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LETTER

OUTREACH

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Industry, NGOs and the UN: Building a new alliance!?!?

COMMENTARY

The Intersessional is over.

Some thought it had already ended several times during these two weeks, as the energy level at times was very low. Much solid work was accomplished, but for some reason, this intersessional seemed more of an intermissional nature. Looking over the pallid state of affairs, one of our NGO colleagues from the CSW urged us to peep into the women's meeting to get inspired and energized. It might have helped.

Most of the plenary meetings started late and ended early, thanks to an extraordinarily thrifty use of words by delegates. Attendance at the NGO sessions was not very encouraging either. To start with, too few NGO representatives, and hardly any from the South, attended made NGO sessions less vibrant and creative. Despite this, it would be a fair claim to say that NGOs have contributed to MAI, focussing on maintaining meagre momentum at the intersessional. Highlighting the negative linkage between sustainable development and the notorious MAI, focusing on corporate accountability, and establishing dialogue among industry, trade unions, NGOs and governments were among the serious attempts by the NGOs to draw the attention of the delegates to issues beyond the monotone of too many statements and texts.

It would be too cruel to say that the whole intersessional was a shining example of the noble human activity of yawning. Things did move, and some small steps for humankind have never-the-less been taken, however faint they might be.

Talk of Water everywhere,

but not a drop... The first week's deliberations on water produced a good document. It reminds us that water is essential for satisfying our basic needs. It also states that water need not become a limiting factor for sustainable development if we take the necessary measures in time for judicious management of water locally, nationally and internationally. The co-chairpersons' report in no unclear terms points out that CSD will be able to implement Agenda 21's goals for fresh water only if new and additional money is available. New resources are absolutely necessary for freshwater management in developing countries. A number of follow-up measures have also been suggested in the document. The intersessional in the year 2000 will revisit water. The real test will be if millions of people affected by water shortage and the accelerating process of desertification will get any drop of water during the next century.

Chimneys without smoke

The MAIn issues discussed during the second week was on industry and sustainable development. Co-chairs' draft report has a number of recommendations for governments, industry and the international community. The report however does not address important issues such as corporate accountability to environmental and development issues and renewed commitment to 0.7% of industrialized countries' GNP to ODA and arms industry. The document encourages industry to report progress in its voluntary initiatives and environmental protection but reMAIn silent on the need for social audits. Eco- efficiency, greening of the industry and all efforts to create enabling environments for business get lot of attention in the paper.

But, we remembered the 2nd Earth Summit, UNGASS. The CSD was given the task to end up each year with specific actions to be undertaken. The NGOs took that challenge and entered a proposal on the review of voluntary initiatives moving industry to support sustainable development. Soon, the buzz was that it was liked by the governments, who were apparently at a loss for specific actions to come out of this year. The proposal entered a broad "multi-stakeholder" process, and was tailored to hold the interest until the April meetings at least. NGOs proved that their participation can substantively help the CSD in its work.

Indonesia, while commenting on the co-chair's report on behalf of G77 emphasized that MAI would infringe on governments' ability to direct and control investment flows and policies will have to be established for a transparent and open process on all multilateral investment agreements, both under the aegis of OECD (MAI) and WTO (MIA). If nothing thing else, NGOs managed during this session to draw the attention of the delegates to MAI's possible fatal traps. It was interesting though to hear the delegate from Japan. While commenting on the co-chairs' statement, he applauded MAI and was urged to expunge any negative connotations to MAI in the document. He claimed that MAI would foster sustainable development. With such statements, rich countries are yet again attempting to keep the North-South divide. MAI is good for the capital exporting nations while those at the receiving end have little way to choose what kind of investment they would like. Where is the sense of solidarity? Those who would like to have more at the expense of those who have less widen the gap between rich and poor.

G77's comments on the document were prompted by the fear that environmental protection will lead to less market access. If CSD is not be able to create understanding among the nations that environment and development are not mutually exclusive but necessary for future generations then which other body can do it?

Consumption: coughing our way to 1999

The excellent consumer guidelines slated for discussion during this session was shot down on procedural grounds with USA leading the team to close the agenda to consumer guidelines. EU on the other hand was very positive to discussing the guidelines during the CSD 6. Many governments wanted time to deal with the document and felt that 1999 CSD was the time for the theme. This is in conflict with the UNGASS decision that consumption and production will have to be a recurring theme every year not just a one time issue. The CSD document needs to pay more attention to

consumer rights especially that of women and children, and the impact of certain patterns of consumption on cultural heritage.

Man made technologies

The discussion on technology transfer produced little enthusiasm. The only notable voice was from the International Alliance of Women, who noted that environmentally sustainable technologies should recognize traditional knowledge and should promote cultural sustainability. She added that any underutilized commodity represents lost local ingenuity and resourcefulness in providing the best use of resources.

Lack of resources or resourcefulness?

With NGO initiatives and the commitment by governments and other stake holders to the causes of sustainable development there should be room for optimism at CSD 6. However, could it be that there has been a unintended submission to separate WTO/MAI agendas that has made, or will make CSD ineffective? Let us hope that all these two weeks' lethargy was just some kind of institutional somnabulence, and not indicative of a more insidious strategy to divert attention while the real work is being done at the WTO.

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NGO Statement on Sustainable Consumption

I speak on behalf of the CSD NGO Steering Committee.

We welcome and applaud the Secretary General's Report on Consumer Protection/Guidelines for Sustainable Consumption (E/CN.17/1998/5) as a useful foundation for the continuing discussion on sustainable production and consumption.

The CSD Session 1998 is a very suitable forum to discuss the issue of consumer guidelines: It is closely related to educational issues which are one of the main topics of the D\CSD 6 Session in April, and it is closely related to the topic of industry as a whole.

We would therefore like to contribute to the timely discussion on consumer guidelines by highlighting five areas which we feel need to be strengthened or introduced in the document:

1. While the definition of sustainable consumption offered in the Secretary General's Report (Section FF, Paragraph 1) articulates many of the essential elements of such a definition, especially the importance of making "environmentally sound goods" available, it neglects giving the same degree of importance to ensuring that consumer goods are also socially and ethically sound.

Governments should be encouraged to initiate and support the development of an agreed list of criteria indicating social justice and equity throughout the whole process of production and marketing. These criteria should be incorporated in institutional frameworks and certification schemes to introduce mechanisms of Ethical Labeling. The relevant criteria should be drawn from previous international agreements, such as ILO Conventions, Human Rights Conventions, the Beijing Agenda and the presently negotiated ECE Convention on Participation. Also, the development of relevant criteria should take into account labels which already exist, such as the Fair Trade label which has been voluntarily introduced in some European countries. The criteria for Ethical Labeling should include employment and management policies, purchasing policies and practices as well as pricing and marketing strategies.

As a long term goal governments should aim at developing an Integrated Sustainable Development Labeling System encompassing environmental as well as social criteria. The CSD should utilize the UN system to introduce a monitoring and reporting scheme on Sustainable Development Labeling including annual reports to the CSD.

2. In the Secretary General's Report (Annex, Section FF19), Governments are encouraged to "take the lead in introducing sustainable practices". Furthermore, the CSD should encourage governments to act as examples with regard to publishing their environmental policies as well as their social policies. Governments should report on their social policies and share their good practices at the UN Special Session in 2000 to review the Copenhagen Agreements on Social Development. This provides an opportunity to link and closely relate processes such as UNCED, the Social Development Summit etc., which have not been adequately linked to date.

3. As encouraged in the Secretary General's Report, "each government should set its own priorities and timebound targets for the protection of consumers" (Section II, Paragraph 2.). Governments should always adopt the highest international standards. In particular, Governments should be encouraged to share and exchange with other governments and the public about possible approaches, mechanisms and institutional frameworks for the protection of consumers. In the long term, Governments should aim at developing with all relevant stakeholders' common sets of strategies towards consumer protection and enabling well informed consumers' choices.

The CSD should at its 1999 Session organize a workshop providing a forum for Governments to share their national experiences, interalia with regard to advertising and independent information services.

4. With regard to educational efforts, awareness raising schemes and information services, it is especially important to prioritize women as they make most of the households' consumption decisions. Any of these efforts, schemes and services should be designed, implemented and maintained in close cooperation with women and women's groups. This is to ensure the measures' quality and applicability as well as to ensure that they are not designed to perpetuate the dominating distribution of labour between the sexes. Also, they should be easily accessible and free of charge.

5. Similarly, it is especially important to target educational efforts, awareness raising schemes and information services at young people. Youth are a significant consumer group in the present and will be in the future. Consumption patterns, which they develop today, will be the basis of their adult consumption patterns tomorrow. Any efforts, schemes and services targeting youth should be designed as integral parts of education towards sustainable development and as such be incorporated into regular basic curricula.

The CSD should hold a panel discussion on youth's consumption patterns in 1999.

Thank you.

Presented by Dr. Minu Hemmati, UNED-UK

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Canada to Chair the CSD

Through the grapevine we have heard that Canada may be headed for the next chair of the CSD.

A strong runner up is New Zealand.

NGO Statement on Consumer Protection

Statement by Consumers International to the CSD Intersessional Meeting 1998 on the Extension of the Guidelines for Consumer Protection into the Area of Sustainable Consumption.

We are delighted that after three years since ECOSOC agreed to extend the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection into the area of sustainable consumption, draft guidelines are ready for consideration by this intersessional working group.

The Guidelines for Consumer Protection have been a resource that many governments have found extremely valuable in developing and strengthening consumer protection policies and programmes. For example, in the last two years governments, including Cyprus, Mexico, Ecuador, Italy, Estonia and Lithuania, have used them as a framework for adopting or reinforcing their state policies on consumer protection.

The extension of the guidelines to cover sustainable consumption will encourage governments to adopt proactive policies to harness consumer demand for greening the production of goods and services. The new guidelines will constitute the first international framework for guiding consumers, industry and governments in making the kinds of changes that will ensure that people's needs are met in ways that do not destroy the environment on which modern commerce depends.

It is extremely appropriate that these new guidelines are being discussed at this particular session of the CSD alongside discussions on industry and the environment. First, sustainable consumption and industry's role in the chain of commerce are two sides of the same coin. Consumers' ability to meet their needs in an environmentally sustainable way depends on the availability of goods and services that do not threaten the health of the environment. Second, industry is uniquely positioned to provide information to consumers about the environmental impacts of products and through advertising, help consumers change their patterns of behaviour. Third, consumer choice, if made in a sustainable direction, is a key signal for industry to reduce the environmental impact associated with the production, distribution, use and disposal of goods and services. The revision of the consumer protection guidelines provides a road map for how governments, consumers and industry can share the responsibility for making the transition to a sustainable economy.

For all the above reasons, we would urge you to carry out the negotiation on guidelines at the 1998 session of the CSD. Though we are aware that governments have not had the time needed to consider the draft texts in enough depth to initiate negotiations at this intersessional meeting, we would strongly support the establishment of a negotiating group to ensure that progress is made as swiftly as possible.

The text in the Secretary General's report (E/CN.17/1998) is the product of extensive consultations with consumer, environmental and other civil society groups and of intense discussions by a group of experts. We would therefore hope that the final negotiated texts preserves, as far as possible, the integrity of the text put before you by the Secretary General.

By Maria Elena Hurtado

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Rio Grinds

1. Rumour has it that the UN is to put the 'No Snogging' sign in room B into all conference rooms, sponsored by the CSD NGO Steering Committee.
2. NGOs thank the UN for the timely renovation of the conference level women's toilets this week. We understand that the 1000 women attending the CSW meeting have been given a quota of only 1 coffee a day to reduce the pressure.
3. Outreach -- every issue with a different software, but still the same bland content.

4. NGOs, hmmm, sort of , you know, kind of, but then you know, would like to consider perhaps eventually , a very complex integrated, holistic approach, participatory ...

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The Industry Segment: what was it about?

With the chill left by last year's five year review of Earth Summit still lingering in the air, there was little in the way of bold proposals as delegates to the CSD Working Group on Industry and Sustainable Development began their week of preparations for the CSD session.

The tensions that dominated a year ago over the issue of resources or lack of them still served as a backdrop as governments retreated to fairly safe and not overly ambitious positions as the talks got underway. To promote sustainable industrial development the industrialised countries emphasised investment by the private sector with open markets only guided by government action in order to achieve environmentally and socially beneficial development. Once again, they left much unsaid about the role of international cooperation.

Developing countries predictably stressed the need for commitment by industrialised countries to finance sustainable development in their countries as well as the need to make sustainable, sound technologies available. The lack of official development assistance, especially for the least developed countries, remained a major source of concern.

There was agreement by virtually all delegates that policy considerations for achieving sustainable development at the local and national levels could be achieved through dialogue and partnership between government and industry and other major groups. However, expectations for any new ambitious initiative are extremely unlikely. The U.S. said the current session should conclude with a non-negotiated chairman's text that indicates the issues raised during the week, a sentiment that was echoed by the Group's co-chair, Michael Odewall of Sweden.

Yet it was the differences that predominated, in terms of substance as well as style. As the initial positions were staked out by governments, familiar disagreements between developed and developing countries that have been voiced in other forums became apparent. Differences over labour related issues were especially pronounced. The European Union and the United States both called upon governments to adhere to "core" labour standards, but Indonesia, representing the G-77 and China, pointedly remarked that developed countries must ensure that "international trade agreements do not pose an obstacle to the creation of employment in developing countries."

The G-77 also suggested caution on eco-labelling, a tool often supported by environmental groups because it allows consumers to choose between sustainably produced products and those that are not. Indonesia warned that eco-labelling could create barriers for trade, especially for those countries where trade plays a major role in promoting sustainable economic and social development. However, New Zealand, which championed good governance as the key to promoting sustainable development, said that eco-labelling makes good use of market forces to achieve desirable objectives.

None of the developed countries offered any promise of greater resources, but most of the industrialised countries did offer considerable advice to anyone who wanted it. The European Union and Japan proposed that the CSD promote the use of best practices while the United States stressed the need to develop corporate management tools for sustainable development, including education and training and said that the transfer of technology was vital in order to expand opportunities for sustainable development. Virtually all developed countries proposed that the CSD establish mechanisms for promoting responsible entrepreneurial activities, voluntary codes of conduct and for furthering the commitment to the national implementation of sustainable development frameworks.

Some issues that are seemingly laden with implications for industry and the future of sustainable development were noticeably absent from the early discussions. Chief among them was the issue of climate change, which most delegations steered clear of because of the ongoing talks following up the Kyoto climate-treaty conference last December. Poland was a noticeable exception in that it mentioned the Kyoto talks.

One delegate from a large developing country said he was disappointed that the developed countries had focused largely on national implementation, and had, for the most part, forsaken international cooperation.

Although some governments discussed the need for proper regulatory frameworks, the clear emphasis of all groups was on voluntary codes of practice. The United Kingdom explained that since countries are in various stages of development, the establishment of common global regulations would be viewed as being “an imposition by the North on the South.”

Several business-centered NGOs, such as the Business Council on Sustainable Development and the International Chamber of Commerce also favoured voluntary standards for industry. But another NGO initiative, led by the NGO Working Group on Business and Industry and the CSD, that seeks to look at voluntary codes to determine which work and which do not, has not been warmly received by the industry groups. Jeffrey Barber, who is working on the initiative, said some sort of study of the voluntary proposals could be one of the major outcomes of this year’s CSD discussion on industry.

By Daniel J. Shepard

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Trade Unions Okay with Direction Taken

The spokesperson for Trade Unions at the CSD Intersessional said he is pleased with the direction taken so far by the current discussions taking place at the United Nations on Business & Industry. “For the first time we have received clear signals from Governments which now recognize that real progress on sustainable development can only take place if workers and their trade unions are seriously involved in implementation plans through workplace actions”, says Lucien Royer, representing the ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), and the TUAC unions from OECD Countries, (the Trade Unions Advisory Committee).

Commenting on the draft Co-chairmans’ text prior to its initial review, yesterday, he said that comments by many governments in the two day discussions that led up to the proposed text, give clear indication that trade unions and employers must work together in building acceptable workplace tools, world-wide, to agree on tangible targets, monitor and report on progress, and implement common programs of change. He said that “the deepening environmental crises, as reflected by climate change and the growing problems emerging in different regions of the world, has emphasized the need for quantum leaps in progress within a very short period of time in human history”

“**We now know** that every measure available must be taken to involve the hearts and minds of workers in implementation plans”, he said in his address to the country delegates, “but employers and governments must be willing to work with and support trade union initiatives to help alter individual and institutional patterns of consumption and in cleaning up outdated production habits.”

The draft of the Co-chairmans’ text has proposed that industry partnerships include workers and trade unions in the general implementation measures involving eco-labeling, codes of conduct and other industry voluntary plans. It also recommended that “core ILO labour standards” be respected as a means of offsetting the negative effects of competitive trade. It also emphasizes the importance

of employment measures as a means of combating poverty as well as including the trade unions in stakeholder dialogues for implementing sustainable development at all levels.

“I am aware that the draft may be changed in upcoming concluding discussions at the intersessional”, he said, “but a clear signal has, nonetheless, been given and we look forward to the 21-22 April CSD “Business & Industry Segment” in which a 25 member trade union delegation from throughout the world is expected to participate.

Royer says that the objective conditions of our deteriorating environment, more than anything else, are the determining factors pushing governments to recognize the role of workers and trade unions in implementing sustainable development plans. As the world gets more desperate for tangible changes to take place, the attention on workplaces, workers and employers will grow tremendously, he said, and the current discussions reflect that reality.”

“Trade unions have long committed themselves to working with other stakeholders in implementing change. We hope that governments and employers will, sooner rather than later, facilitate our workplace involvement to bring about the change that is so necessary now”, he concluded.

Through about 2.3 million workplaces throughout the world, The ICFTU and TUAC collectively represent over 137 million workers.

By ICFTU

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The 42nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has been in session for a week. While the CSD were struggling to get 40 NGO representatives to show up, the organisers of the CSW were able to include over 1,000 women in their work. Alice Mastrangelo Gittler reports from the CSW:

As the first week of the CSW’s 42nd session comes to a close, two things seem clear. First, the gap between the commitments to women’s rights and the realization of those rights is still a frustrating reality. Second, women’s NGOs are determined to speed efforts to close the gap, not just between words and action, but between actions and results.

This year, the CSW is focusing on four of the 12 critical areas of concern identified in the Platform for Action - the girl child, women in situations of armed conflict, violence against women and women’s human rights. Member states of the CSW will also be considering the UN’s System-Wide Medium-Term Plan for the Advancement of Women 1996-2001 as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

This “rights” focus is no coincidence. 1998 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the 5-year review of the 1992 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights. Implementation of the Platform for Action has been called the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for women.

This first week, panel discussions are setting forth both the issues and strategies under the four main session themes. Governments have begun to report on actions towards implementation of the Platform.

A sampling of some of the statements this week: Canada is establishing an independent policy research body on gender while the Philippines is creating an inter-agency commission on human rights and setting up women’s desks in all police stations. Norway will be giving subsidies to parents who stay at home to care for children, and the Swedish government is increasing government

funding for women's shelters and supporting men's groups being formed to deal with men's violence against women. 86 governments have submitted progress reports to the CSW - just 46 per cent of all member states (E/CN.6/1998/6). More governments will be reporting on progress as the session continues.

While the CSW is officially a space for governments to meet, it is coming to be recognized as a regular time and place where women's NGOs come to listen, to reconsider national-level strategies based on what they hear, and to make specific demands of governments and the UN. This year is no exception. Women's NGOs have come to the meeting in record numbers and are taking part in daily strategy meetings and roundtables on the major 4 themes, as well as in regional caucuses and on issues relating to older women (an emerging theme this year), young women and leadership, gender mainstreaming, globalization and feminist macroeconomics.

Women are actively following and lobbying delegates around the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women now under development. The Optional Protocol will provide the means for women to seek redress for rights violations under CEDAW.

Some of the major challenges and calls for action by women at this year's CSW:

- young women and girls are speaking out about their issues and priorities and demanding the increased participation of young people in deliberations and action that affects their lives
- increasing demands for attention to social, economic and cultural rights - the right to development for example, particularly in view of the current financial crisis in Asia, its alarming effects on women's employment and livelihoods, and the possibility for governments to shirk responsibility for social services.
- increased visibility and protection for women's human rights defenders in the UN Draft Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which is presently under negotiation in Geneva
- see the ratification of CEDAW by countries who have not yet done so as well as the removal of all reservations to CEDAW.
- the creation of a global network for older women
- call for reallocation of global resources towards ensuring and protecting women's rights

As this first week closes it is clear that women are determined to see that governments meet the commitments made in Beijing as well as those made in the many other declarations and conventions signed by them. It has been almost three years since the Platform for Action was signed.

As Bella Abzug, president of the Women's Environment and Development Organization put it, "we have the words of equality, now we need the music".

By Alice Mastrangelo Gittler

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Needed on the CSD Agenda: Changing From Military to Sustainable Production and Development

The need for changing our production and consumption towards more sustainable patterns was recognized by the Special Session in June 1997 as well as by the Rio Declaration in 1992. However, without peace and social cohesion there can be no real sustainable development or environmental protection. This view has not been seriously challenged or disputed by governments. Yet governments attending Earth Summit + 5 neglected to include military aspects in the program of action, including the program of work for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

Although the last few years have seen a small, but significant reduction in nuclear weapons, we are still far away from efficient nuclear disarmament. 1997 will be remembered as the year of the

International Land Mines Ban Agreement, also being honoured by the Nobel Prize for peace. In 1998, an international campaign against Small Arms has been launched. These are encouraging steps in the right direction. However, the world's military budgets remain at a staggering \$800 billion per year, while the cost of global, social and environmental needs such as preventing soil erosion, providing safe drinking water, eliminating malnourishment and providing adequate shelter has been estimated to be \$200 billion per year.

Lester Brown of the World Watch Institute stated:

“It is time to strike a new balance in our security investments – a balance that curtails the excessive reliance on traditional military means, promotes disarmament and the elimination of surplus arms, and corrects massive social and environmental investment deficits. Policies to prevent social breakdown, environmental degradation and violent conflicts would cost much less than current reactive security policies.”

Sustainable Production and Consumption has been designated as an agenda item for the 1999 session of CSD. During Earth Summit +5, The Peace Caucus and ForUM Norway put forward a resolution demanding that CSD be instructed or mandated to include the effects of military resource use as well military production and consumption in its agenda for the next five years. As a follow-up to this resolution ForUM Norway has written to the UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, asking him if the UN will take an initiative to include military production and consumption in that agenda item.

The representative of the Secretary General in responding to our initiative acknowledges the relationship between military spending and resources for sustainable development. He states, however, that the UN does not plan any in-depth work on this issue at present. However, he welcomes “any initiative taken by Member States, either individually or collectively, in line with modalities established in CSD for such cooperation.” ForUM Norway is greatly encouraged by this and will continue to lobby our own authorities to include such matters into their agenda. We would also like to see other governments take similar initiatives. The NGO Community will continue its efforts to contribute background material as well as policy analysis in order to promote these matters.

By Mari Holmboe Ruge
ForUM Norway

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Industrial Transformation and National Security

The world market for environmental technologies is already twice the size of the world arms market, and is clearly one of the major growth opportunities of the next century. The arms market on the other hand, has shrunk drastically in the post-Cold War period and is projected to remain sluggish at best in the foreseeable future. So what is the changing nature of national and global security?

The most pressing threat to national and global security arise from degradation of land and water, global warming, ozone depletion, desertification, deforestation, poverty, illiteracy and the politically destabilizing effects of all of them. None of these threats are amenable to military inspections did not resolve any environmental threats; rather, it intensified existing threats.

Ten years after the end of the cold war the world still expends vastly more of its resources on military readiness and activity than on environmental preparedness, research and remediation. Both developed and developing nations need to replace current industrial policies dominated by military goals with industrial policies inspired by goals of environmental research and resource sustainability. This involves not just a change in policy, but also a change in values and mindsets.

Industrial policies to help underwrite an expansion into various sectors of environmental technology. These may be renewable energy sources, clean cars, energy efficient buildings and building materials will move nations towards a transformation of industrial economy from being

militaristic to being an environmental and sustainable economy. This is a logical requirement to support the rhetoric of, and commitment to, sustainable development.

An industrial policy, which is dependent on militarism only, can jeopardize national and global security. Alternatively, an industrial policy tied to development of environmental technology and best practices can only enhance social and economic development and therefore national and global security. Recently the US National Commission for Economic Conversion and Disarmament has completed a major study called, "A Tale of Two Markets: Trade in Arms and Environmental Technologies." Its report will be released by 1 April 1998. Although the report is based on US policy, its lessons in the benefits of transformation of industrial policy are applicable worldwide.

By Pauline Cantwell
Peace Action

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