

## Working Towards Earth Summit III

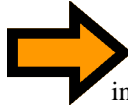
### NGOs Disappointed!

NGOs expressed significant disappointment at the elements for a draft decision by the CSD on Tourism and Sustainable Development that came out late Wednesday afternoon. The two page document seemed to not reflect many of the comments raised by NGOs, G77 or other speakers. In particular, it fails to adequately deal with:

- Defining what is meant by sustainable tourism [see below].
- Financial leakages.
- The social or cultural impacts of tourism.
- Participation of stakeholders.
- An independent, multi-stakeholder review of any industry initiative such as "Agenda 21 for the Travel and Tourism Industry".
- Addressing the role that tourism has as a development issue.

- The need for legally binding guarantees for traditional resource rights of indigenous peoples.
- The role that central governments need to play in regulating the tourism industry.
- The role of transport — in particular air transport.
- The role of Local Agenda 21.
- Land tenure.
- Support for ILO agreements on workers rights.
- The key role women play in tourism, both in the workplace and in the development and management of tourism developments.
- Sex tourism.

NGOs will be looking for most of the above to be reflected in the draft to come out of the second day of discussion on tourism.



"Sustainable tourism is tourism and associated infrastructure that, both now and in the future, operate within natural capacities for the regeneration and the future productivity of natural resources; recognise the contribution that people and communities, customs and lifestyles, make to the tourism experience; accept that people must have an equitable share in the economic benefits of tourism; are guided by the wishes of local people and the communities host areas."

WWF

### Down to Earth

#### *Sustainable Consumption and Production into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

"The need to change patterns of consumption in all its forms is becoming critical. It will be one of the main issues facing the international community in the next decade and beyond."

*Derek Osborn, Co-Chair of Earth Summit II PrepCom 1997*

A side event at lunchtime today (1.15pm in Room D) will be looking at sustainable consumption and production, for the CSD and beyond. The event is being run by Hampshire County Council who will be hosting the Down to Earth Conference on Consumption and the Consumer in September. It is hoped that the Conference, organized in cooperation with the Division for Sustainable Development, WHO and the World Bank, will start to map out some of the key work that can be done by the different Major Groups in implementing the agreements from the 1999 CSD. It will also look at behavioural patterns of the consumer.

#### "THE VOICE OF THE NGO COMMUNITY AT THE U.N. CSD"

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*The views expressed in Outreach are those of the authors,  
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Towards Earth Summit III - 2002

# The Aarhus Convention

The 1998 UNECE Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and access to Justice in Environmental Matters is being discussed as a possible global convention for Earth Summit III. The Commission on Sustainable Development could lend its support in April to UNEP starting procedures for negotiating the convention. Quite a few NGOs, and other stakeholders, would likely support government moves towards this.

## Ethical Pensions - CSD 2000

Michael Meacher, UK Environment Minister, said at the UNEP's fourth International Round Table on Finance and the Environment that "Green Chips are now as significant as Blue Chips." The Socially Responsible Investment Index launched in May by NPI aims to select companies on environmental and social, as well as financial, performance. Since its launch in May last year ethical funds have shown a constantly better performance than the FTSE all share. In the first four months compared to the FTSE Index Green Chips had fallen by around 5% compared to 11% for FTSE.

Some interesting figures came out of a recent UK survey on ethical pensions. 73% of those questioned believe that their pension scheme should operate an ethical pension. 4% favoured this only if it does not reduce financial return. 29% favoured this EVEN if it may reduce financial return. The proportion of women who felt that their pensions should ignore ethical factors was half that of men with this view. In 1996 UK pension funds had over 860 billion pounds invested.

## Daily Announcements

<i>Daily</i>		
9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Conf. Room D	NGO Strategy Meeting	NGO Steering Committee
<i>Today</i>		
1.15 p.m. - 2.45 p.m. Conf. Room 4	Caucus of Older Persons: Tourism and its Impacts	Caucus of Older Persons
1.15 p.m. - 2.45 p.m. Conf. Room D	Down to Earth - Sustainable Production & Consumption in the 21st Century	
2.15 p.m. — 3 p.m. Church Center	US NGO briefing: CSD (NB for US NGOs only)	US Government
3 p.m. — 5 p.m. Hammarskjold Library	US briefing on preparations for Habitat +5	US Government
5.45 p.m. Meet outside Conf. Room D to walk to Metro Health Club, 48 St btw. 3rd and Lex. Ave	<b>A Social Event — with substance!</b> <b>PENGUINS &amp; ANTARCTICA</b> Photo Exhibition by famed news photographer Bruno Zehndar	



NGOs and Governments did have fun! Really! Those that went to the Metropolitan Café on Tuesday found themselves not only listening to many of the key band members from the Blues Brothers, but also in the company of Dan Ackroyd — one of the better comic actors of our time. Not only a Blues Brother but a Ghostbuster! After reading the tourism text many NGOs were found "listening to the blues!"

So who is going to be the new head of UNDP? It is understood that a shortlist will be drawn up in the next couple of weeks. Bets are on a European taking the post for the first time. Or could Hillary Clinton's visits to New York have been misunderstood? Perhaps it isn't a Senate seat but an office in DC1 she is looking for?

Rio Grinds welcomes back Chip Lindner — Executive Director of the '92 Rio Global Forum. Chip is advising stakeholder groups on many of the issues the CSD is now dealing with.

Delegates and NGOs alike have found the lack of coffee at the Vienna Café a serious drawback to negotiations. A week without regular coffee intake may see negotiations 'grind' to a halt!

NGOs are a more than a little upset that the US President's Council on Sustainable Development conference in May, in Detroit, is being sponsored, among others, by Monsanto! Hardly the most appropriate company to be linked the PCSD. Angry demonstrations are expected!

Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, Editor-in-Chief of OUTREACH, will be back editing starting Monday. Will *Rio Grinds* and the *Fish Friers Review* survive? Watch this space!