

speaking for the CSD/NGO Steering Committee

“Working Towards Earth Summit III”

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NGO Energy Alert

Energy and Transportation will be the main focus issue for CSD-9 in 2001. This is so important that the preparatory process, by direction of the General Assembly, is to be started now. It is essential for all major stakeholders to participate in defining and carrying out the process.

Energy is an extremely complex issue. It crosses all economic, cultural, social and environmental boundaries. It is of vital importance to all the sectors. For developing countries the provision of, and access to, energy is central to all their development planning. Without the sustainable use of energy, there can be no sustainable development.

UNGASS recognized the importance, complexities and interdependencies inherent in addressing energy issues within the context of sustainable development and directed that CSD-9 shall propose and recommend a sustainable energy future for all. It has also directed that preparations for the 9th session of the CSD should be initiated at the Commission's 7th session, i.e., April 1999. Furthermore the Commission was asked to convene an open-ended inter governmental group of experts on energy and sustainable development to be held in conjunction with the inter-sessional meetings of the 8th (2000) and 9th (2001) sessions of the CSD.

A complex process

The 7th session of the CSD (April 1999) is expected to decide on the modalities for effective preparations for the discussion on energy and sustainable development to take place during the 9th session of the CSD in 2001. The process is intended to involve the following components:

- * Two meetings of the openended Inter-governmental group of experts on Energy and Sustainable Development to be held in conjunction with the inter-sessional meetings of the CSD in 2000 and 2001.

- * The new Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development

(CENRD) which is expected to meet in April 1999, will make recommendations regarding possible contributions to the preparatory process for the 9th session of the CSD.

- * Contribution to the openended experts group work with assessment studies and other activities, provision of secretarial work to the preparatory process from the U.N. system and other international organizations.

- * Contribution from governmentled initiatives and Major groups.

The process is to be initiated today, Friday 5 March 1999. An informal briefing during the 1999 meeting of Ad-Hoc Inter-Sessional working group of the CSD will take place at 10 am.

EU and US ambiguous, G 77 split

Unfortunately this will not be an easy process. In spite of the obvious need for long-term planning and integration of energy issues into all aspects of sustainable development, there are few real indications that governments are willing to work for an energy consensus. Attempts to block the process of incorporating energy concerns into U.N. policies come from several regions, some more expressive than others. The G77 are divided in their position on this issue.

The United States wants the process started in principle but has shown little enthusiasm or initiative in promoting energy links to climate change, transportation or consumption. So far the EU presents an ambiguous position with respect to energy planning for CSD-9.

Accordingly, the Energy Caucus invites all sectors of Civil Society to participate in supporting and ensuring, as far as possible, that the member governments

of the United Nations, and particularly the members of CSD, exercise their responsibility to deal with energy issues in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

The NGO Energy Caucus will hold a CSD-9 inaugural meeting Friday 5 March in Conference Room D at 3:00pm for one hour.

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Russia and US (finally) lead the way:

11 more signatories needed on Fish Stocks Treaty

NGOs congratulate the US and Russia on their leadership ratifying the Convention on the Straddling and Migratory Fish Stocks. Norway has moved one level higher, by actually incorporating the Fishing Agreement Principles into national law. NGOs are now calling for all countries that have signed to announce their dates for ratification and for countries that have not yet signed the Convention to do so in April. We understand that the EU and their member states are will soon be taking action on this. We would hope that the agreement can be completed by the end of the year.

Records of the CSD member countries:

Countries which have ratified

Russian Federation, United States

Countries which have signed

Africa: Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Mauritania.

Asia: China, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines.

Western Europe and others: Brazil, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UK.

Countries which have taken no action :

Africa: Algeria, Benin, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Sudan, Zimbabwe.

Asia: South Korea, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

Eastern Europe: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia.

Latin America and Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Columbia, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Venezuela.

Oceans and Institutions

NGOs and other Major Groups want to be able to participate in the mechanisms set up to report to the General Assembly. If the CSD decides upon a GA process, then NGOs and others will almost certainly be frozen out. For this reason, NGOs will vigorously oppose the US suggestion relating to the 2nd and 6th Committees, and will continue to support the need for the process to go through the CSD and ECOSOC. Under such a preferred process, a subsidiary body would then be set up which would report to ECOSOC each July. Many of the delegates who spoke on the issue on Thursday saw the need and value of having NGOs actively involved, and their statements clearly emphasized it.

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Oceans Caucus Statement

Elements for a Draft Decision by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD7) from the NGOs.

Thank you Mr Co-Chairman. My name is Brendan May. I speak on behalf of UNED-UK and the NGO Oceans Caucus.

Elements for a draft decision

The Caucus welcomes this opportunity to comment on the Elements for a Draft Decision. Having now had the chance to study the document, we would like to make the following suggestions and recommendations.

We welcome the CSD's reiteration of the major steps which have been taken in respect of oceans and seas since the Rio Conference in 1992, but would remind delegates of the adoption of the Jakarta Mandate on marine and coastal biodiversity in November 1995 and recommend that this be added to the list of achievements.

We also welcome the inclusion of sustainable fisheries as a major priority for discussion. We take this opportunity to press again the need not just for effective management systems in fisheries but specifically to emphasize that any such system must be sustainable to ensure the availability of fish resources indefinitely. There are many effective management

plans in place around the world; however not all are sustainable.

On the question of the FAO's deliberations on fisheries, the NGO Caucus wishes to remind delegates of the need to examine the impact of subsidies on national fishing capacity and consider the reduction and progressive elimination of those that contribute to overcapacity and unsustainable fishing practices.

Cooperation

We would suggest that the CSD should identify a mechanism to ensure cooperation between the WTO, FAO, UNEP and other relevant bodies for the prompt initiation of negotiations aimed at agreeing new international rules and structures in order to facilitate progress on these questions.

We fully support the FAO in its work on illegal unreported and unregulated fishing.

With regard to the provision of information to consumers on the practices involved in fishing catches, the NGO Caucus urges the relevant intergovernmental bodies to engage in regular dialogue with the organizations promoting such schemes. (Continued)

tion on the Protection of the Marine environment from land-Based Activities has been highlighted as an area of concern by several governments. We recommend that the CSD calls for adequate international co-operation in support of action at local, regional and national level in developing countries and those with economies in transition, including through the provision of technical assistance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and financing.

On the question of sewage, we highlight the importance of a year-2000 global conference, but remind the CSD that provision will need to be made for additional necessary discussions on sediments in particular.

There is general consensus on the need to enhance the both the effectiveness and inclusiveness of the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Protection. The NGO Caucus strongly believes that this Group should ensure the active participation of all major groups at all working levels, and suggest that its deci-

sions should be included in Task Manager reports to the CSD at Earth Summit III.

CSD should instruct the IMO

On other marine pollution, we believe that the CSD should instruct, rather than invite, the IMO to pursue its work on fleet regulation and report on progress.

We would like particular emphasis placed on toxic and nuclear waste control in any discussions on the application of the 1996 Protocol to the London Dumping Convention.

Other measures we wish to put forward for delegates' consideration include the completion of a legal agreement to address harmful anti-fouling treatments by the end of the year 2000 and a review of the implementation of the new MARPOL Annex on air pollution from shipping.

We also take this opportunity to highlight the particular problem of pollution from the cruise industry, and request that governments pay particular attention to the provisions of the MARPOL Convention which deal with this issue. We believe

that the 'polluter pays' principle should be applied to those violating these laws.

We also believe that the CSD should instruct IMO to report to CSD and Earth Summit III on progress under MARPOL on the implementation of the 1992 amendment on tankers of 5,000 d.w.t. and above to be fitted with double bottoms and double hulls in order to minimize oil spills in case of an accident.

Finally, we ask that CSD build on existing arrangements by encouraging a more comprehensive, holistic and better coordinated approach to all legal, economic and environmental aspects of the oceans and seas debate at both intergovernmental and interagency levels, allowing the full participation of all stakeholders including NGOS.

Once again we thank you for the opportunity to submit these recommendations to the CSD. Thank you Mr Co-Chairman.

CSW Notes:

International Women Count Network

The International Women Count Network (IWCN) is and the coalition of 30 organisations, for which they also speak, would like to thank you for this opportunity to address governments. As many of you know the INWC and their coordinators have worked for more than two decades to bring the issue of measurement and valuation of unwaged work, including housework and other caring work in the home, in agriculture and food production, volunteer work, the work of natural resources management, and work in family business's to the attention of policy makers and social movements.

The IWCN now has the support of more than 2000 NGOs North and South, representing millions of women and men. The unwaged issue was one of the more important issues to have emerged from the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. In a study by the late economist Henry Neuberger, he estimated that unwaged work in the UK was valued at over 700 billion pounds and outstripped the waged sector.

The IWCN aim for the voice of women who never get out of their home coun-

tries, much less attend UN meetings, to be heard at this session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Social programmes such as welfare are dismantled in countries of the North.

Single mothers in particular are forced into low waged work while often having inadequate care for their children, low and no waged women are discouraged from breast feeding or even bonding with their children as they are forced to leave their babies.

Measuring and valuing the unwaged work of Breastfeeding, an integral part of women's care of young children

"Nursing a baby may look pretty effortless, but it can burn up to 500 calories a day-the equivalent of running about five miles"

(Time Magazine, March 8, p61)

The IWCN are launching a project to highlight the economic and social value of human milk and the work of breast feeding. Uncovering the economic value of the work of breastfeeding will raise the social value of the

women who do it.

Monetary valuations of human milk

Most existing valuations of human milk are estimates.

- In Mali GDP would increase by 5% if human milk were included, based on the value of \$1 per liter.
- In Indonesia, mothers produce 1 billion liter of milk a year valued at \$400 million, that is, at \$2.5 per liter, making mothers milk one of Indonesia most precious natural resources.

In contrast, in industrial countries, when expressed milk enters the health care system as food /medicine, we see much higher valuations.

- In Norway the government includes the value of milk in its food balance sheet but not in GDP. The price of banked milk dispensed for premature and sick infants is \$50 a liter.

US milk banks charge a processing fee of \$2.50 an ounce (\$80 a liter) although women donate their milk for free.

Wanted on the CSD7 agenda:

Military sector's production and consumption of goods

In 1999 The CSD-7's agenda includes issues relating to production and consumption patterns. However, the military sector's production and consumption of goods does not yet form a part of the CSD discussion on sustainable development. The Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development would like to see this changed and have it as an agenda item.

A possible reason why the effects of all military activities on the environment and world economic development have not yet been subjected to due political scrutiny, is the secrecy in which such matters are encased. The same applies to investigations and critical inquiries into such activities. Such inquiries are routinely and on too narrow a view referred to agencies concerned with disarmament rather than environment.

In general the military sector is not held accountable for either the use of the world's resources or for destroying people's lives and the basis of their subsistence both in war and during preparations for conducting war.

Governments and international agencies analyzing the cost-benefit values of depending on arms to achieve security as compared to using the monies involved on reducing poverty and correcting and counteracting the legacy of serious damage to the environment.

It is of great importance that the CSD emphasizes the fact that the high expenditures devoted to the military system are irreconcilable with efforts to protect the environment and secure sustainable development.

The world's military systems with their advanced weapons are capable of destroying humanity itself and the basis on which life is sustained on the planet. Nuclear weapons pose a special threat in this regard.

CSD has truth about arms race

Negotiations in the CSD 7, should contribute actively towards revealing the catastrophic environmental consequences of nuclear weapons by demanding an evaluation of the sustainability of all stages of the process of procuring fissionable materials: from research, financing, mining, the construction of plants for enrichment and manufacture, the running of nuclear reactors, disposal of nuclear waste materials, recycling, storage facilities of dumps, marketing of and trade in, as well as use of

such material for tests, as threats in situations of conflict, or ultimately in war. Even the costs of nuclear power catastrophes need to be included.

The mining of uranium and thorium is the start of a production process for the manufacture of the fissionable materials used in nuclear arms and power stations, with plutonium obtainable as a by-product in power stations. To illustrate the grotesque dimensions of the problem of disposal involved one might mention that by the year 2000 the amount of plutonium expected to be produced by civilian power plants world-wide would approximate that required for the production of some 37000 nuclear weapons.

An amendment to the Charter of the IAEA should be sought whereby that body is empowered to promote the pursuit the nuclear power as a solution to the world's energy needs. Norway ought, instead, to advocate the establishment of a UN body dedicated to the pursuit of sustainable alternatives in the field of energy supply.

The Rio Declaration against military production

Among the principles adopted by the Rio Conference of 3- 14 June 1992 are the following:

24: Warfare is inherently destructive to sustainable development. States shall therefore respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict and cooperate in its future development.

25: Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

26: States shall resolve all their environmental disputes peacefully and by appropriate means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

The Brundtland Commission – Our Common Future

The Brundtland Commission also has direct references to what later came to be

known as the peace dividend

"Traditionally, nations have adhered to an 'culture of arms'. They find themselves locked into arms competitions fuelled among other things by powerful vested interests in the 'military-industrial complex' as well as in the armed forces themselves. Industrial nations account for most of the military expenditures and the production and transfer of arms in international society. However, the influence of this "culture of arms" is not confined to these nations. It is present also in the developing world, fostered both by the desire of many governments to seek security through acquisition of arms and by a burgeoning world arms trade."

In the introduction to its report the Commission makes the following recommendation:

"Governments and international agencies should assess the cost-effectiveness, in terms of achieving security, of money spent on armaments compared with money spent on reducing poverty or restoring a ravaged environment."

NGOs feel strongly that these issues should have been addressed a long time ago. It is high time to start these negotiations, and CSD 7 provides the perfect opportunity for this.

MAI still alive

European Union seeks to resurrect MAI. And they meet strong accusations from Civil Society.

Documents leaked from the EU Commission indicate that the EU is working aggressively to negotiate an extensive agreement on investments within the WTO. NGOs within the EU countries accuse the Commission of pursuing a hidden agenda and negotiating *in camera*.

Just a few weeks after the negotiations on the Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI) in the OECD were officially closed in December last year, the EU Commission prepared recommendations for new negotiations to take place in the World Trade Organization (WTO). The EU strategy is revealed in an internal document from the Commission, made public by the Corporate Europe Observatory.

Massive Criticism

In spite of massive public criticism of the MAI agreement, the EU Commission has removed few of the controversial parts in its resurrection proposal. The Commission will continue to work within the WTO for an extensive agreement on multilateral investments. This includes key issues which many people fear will strengthen the power of the

multinational corporations at the expense of democracy, human rights, national sovereignty and sustainable development.

The resurrected agreement would include the non-discrimination principle by which foreign investors would be guaranteed the equivalent best treatment offered to domestic investors. Also similar to the MAI, foreign investors would be given the legal right to sue governments. Present international law only enables national states to make complaints against other state's violations of international agreements. The resurrected MAI would give companies this option. Furthermore, the broad definition of expropriation from the MAI proposal is maintained. Critics of the MAI feared the broad definition of expropriation would lead to investors demanding compensation for environmental policies which limit their profit taking.

According to the recommendations from the EU Commission, states should not be permitted to impose conditions on foreign investments. Examples of such conditions which would not be permitted include requirements for technology

transfers, joint ventures, local content of production factors, requirements for location of a certain percentage of production, investment, sales, employment, research and development in the host country, proportional hiring of local employees and required for partial national ownership

The EU lose confidence

The EU may be in danger of losing the confidence of its public. NGOs in the EU are of the opinion that the EU Commission is covering up its real intentions and negotiating in camera. In a meeting with NGOs this January, the Commission presented a draft paper on investments. The controversial points that have now surfaced were not included in the presentation. After the internal document was leaked, NGOs trust of the Commission has been weakened. Some people claim that the MAI is dead. That is true with regards to the OECD, but within the WTO, the MAI is unfortunately still very alive and well.

Stefan Midteide, The Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development

Rio Grinds

Rio Grinds proudly returns to its proper place as a column of insightful, subtle -- yet always dignified -- humor and political commentary. We assure our loyal readers that the vicious distortions concerning this column's appearance published by last week's "interim" editor were only the result of a repressive and arbitrary organizational mentality, which has now, thankfully, been replaced.

CSD chair Simon Upton's hope of government Ministers "dialoguing" with each other during the high-level segment, was warmly welcomed by NGOs Tuesday. Government civil servants will be hurriedly drafting their spontaneous statements over the next few weeks.

Rio Grinds welcomes, with a sigh of relief, and a caffeine-deprived glare of desperation, the reopening of the

Vienna Café – both for its culinary delights and political organizing advantages.

The Secretary General has been so impressed with how the Division on Sustainable Development has been able to coordinate the CSD in such a precedent setting, participatory, cost effective manner, the word is that he is now planning to instruct them to run training sessions for the entire GA Secretariat staff.

Last week's rumors concerning Ms. Hillary Clinton's political aspirations may or may not be true. But a more likely scenario now has her running for NGO CSD (Northern?) Co-Chair in this April's elections.

The US delegation claims to be in favor of reducing overfishing, subsidies of

fleets, and overcapacity – but seems phobic about using the term 'targets and timetables'. Could it be that the US is afraid of such language being used in other fora, during negotiations on other, say, climate based environmental matters?

Speaking of the United States, demonstrations against Monsanto's sponsorship of the May US President's Council on Sustainable Development meeting will, we understand, now be coordinated by an emerging coalition of European and Southern NGOs. Their action was made necessary when it became apparent that no US NGOs could be found to organize it, because they will all be inside at the meetings.

NGO quote of the day: "The real momentum will come from those who really move."