

OUTREACH 2002



Issue III

Working Towards Earth Summit 2002

Friday 1st February 2002

Prep. Comm. II



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OUTREACH Staff

Editor:

- Toby Middleton

Journalists:

- Anna Birney
- Rosalie Gardiner

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PUTTING AGRICULTURE SQUARELY ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TABLE FOR WSSD

At the multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions, held earlier this week, both major groups and governments brought attention to increasing extreme rural poverty in relation to food insecurity and land degradation as they assessed progress and hot-spots concerning the development of sustainable development since Rio.

Yesterday evening an informal multi-stakeholder side event was scheduled on this topic, co-sponsored by the Major Groups and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisations.

During the 8th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in April 2000, five major groups conducted a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Land and Agriculture. The Decision from CSD 8 invited major groups to continue their dialogue through to Johannesburg together with the FAO. A follow-up Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Forum held at FAO headquarters in March, 2001, has helped to identify

important areas of common concern and potential new commitment on the parts of representatives of both major groups, intergovernmental organisations and government.

Representatives of FAO and Major Groups active on land and sustainable agriculture issues will provide their assessment of progress, lessons learned since Rio, new challenges and main constraints in the area of integrated land, food, and agricultural policy within the framework of poverty eradication, resource management, sustainable production and consumption and other cross-cutting sustainable development themes.

Specific emerging commitments of stakeholders will also be presented to be developed through the WSSD preparatory process between January and August, 2002. These initiatives include three which will be presented at the side event:

- Access to resource for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD);
- Global practices for SARD;

- Global Campaign on Fair (decent) conditions in employment in agriculture.

The side event represented one of the first opportunities to address these issues in isolation, and has set a pathway to the summit

to build a foundation upon which these issues can be tabled at the highest level in Johannesburg.

For more information contact Thomas Forster on sardngo@yahoo.com

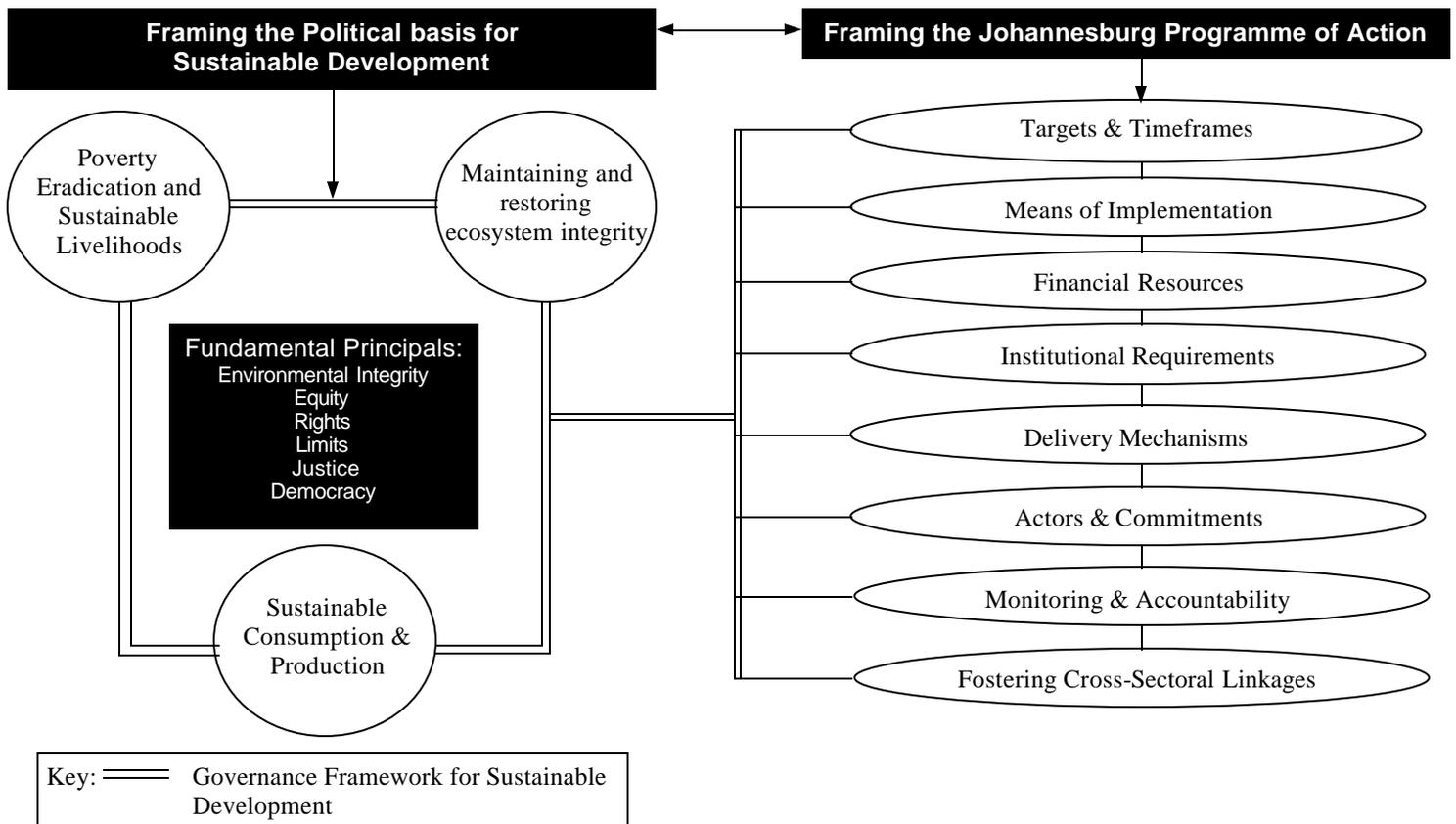
Proposal for developing a Framework for the Chairman’s Text and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Programme of Action

The overarching goal of the World Summit to develop a shared vision and a set of broad strategic objectives for global co-operation in implementing global sustainable development agreements and processes. In order to address the new and emerging issues, GLOBE Southern Africa has proposed the following screen/framework to develop concrete proposals and suggestion for the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. This proposal is based on the strengthening the CSD Bureau’s proposal to prepare a Chairman’s text which has a limited focus on:

- b) Major constraints hindering the implementation of Agenda 21, and specific time-bound measures to be undertaken, and institutional and financial requirements, and identify the sources of such support. The latter will also include proposals for new implementation initiatives.”

While the CSD Bureau suggestion may serve as the basis for the development of the WSSD outcomes and Johannesburg Programme of Action, the following framework may be more of an adequate approach to framing these outcomes.

- a) Major accomplishments and lessons learned in the implementation of Agenda 21;



Prepared by Richard Sherman, Head, Research and Policy Unit rsherman@globesa.org

GLOBE Southern Africa recognises the valuable contribution of Tom Bigg (IIED), Melanie Steiner (WWF) in the development of this paper

Towards Sustainable Development Governance

An issue that has remained somewhat in the background of the Johannesburg process till now is that of governance - the institutions and frameworks from local to global levels that set the context within which Sustainable Development takes place. This broad issue was addressed at another side-event, co-hosted by Globe Southern Africa, Stakeholder Forum and WFUNA, on Wednesday lunch-time.

Dr German Jerry Velasquez of the UN University (UNU) kicked off the session, with a broad summary of the UNU's project on "Inter-linkages", of which he is the coordinator. The project is now in the final year of a three year research project looking at UN frameworks, with a particular emphasis on environmental architecture. He said a number of questions on governance had yet to be fully addressed. In particular he thought there was a real need for thorough assessment of institutional mechanisms, to identify what are their limits, their gaps but also opportunities for further mobilizing sustainable development. Also, he felt there was a need to develop models of what governance frameworks might become in the future. Velasquez then focused on the Multilateral Environment Agreements and their relationship to other governance frameworks. Pointing out the debate had focused mainly at the global level, he argued that local, national and regional frameworks were also crucial in understanding why implementation and regulation of MEAs has been problematic. UNU has undertaken a comparative study of a number of countries and they had found considerable fragmentation within national governments with regard to environmental regulation, as well as significant under-resourcing and lack of capacity. One example he gave was of government environment department with only three staff member – three people who had to become experts on more than 300 MEAs that currently exist. UNU has examined a range of solutions to improve such problems including the idea of better clustering of MEAs – along functional or thematic lines. Also the important role of multi-stakeholder partnerships was identified, to assist implementation at national and local levels. UNU will release their main findings of this study at Prep Com 3.

Werner Obermeyer, from UNEP, outlined the progress to date on the inter-governmental working group on International Environmental Governance, which was initiated last year at UNEP's Governing Council (GC) Session. So far the debate has focused particularly on three areas. Firstly, on the role of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF), including whether membership should be made universal. On this point Obermeyer said that although different governments were members of different MEAs, MEAs are open for universal signature, thus by having all governments involved in environmental debates around GMEF, this might

help cross-fertilisation and further ratification of agreements. Secondly on finance – there has been a call to make supply of resources more predictable. One approach, he suggested, would be to retain the voluntary nature of the contributions but to assess them along the UN scale of assessment to help governments and other see what members should be paying. Thirdly, with regard to MEAs, he spoke about the need for clustering and building up national capacity to ratify and implement agreements, as well as look at enhancing compliance through mechanisms, such as an environment court. The IEG process is set to conclude in Cartagena, Colombia at the next GC meeting (February 12-15th 2002) and their recommendations will be presented at Prep Com 3.

Geneva Guérin Youth Agenda 2002, presented a more personal view of the governance debate, as well as an overview of the statement from youth representatives to Prep Com 2. She highlighted that in the trade arena governments are willing to relax national sovereignty to respect global trade rules, hence was it not also conceivable that a similar framework for sustainable development governance could be established? She felt that not enough work had been done to address the economic reforms and scaling-down of existing institutions necessary to build a more balanced global architecture. Outlining the current emphasis on free market principles in learning and education, she argued that it would be logical to build up education and public awareness on sustainable development to encourage a more balanced understanding of governance structures. She also said that Multi-stakeholder engagement would substantially aid this process of enhancement in governance frameworks.

Felix Dodds, Director of Stakeholder Forum, outlined some of the work of the "WHAT Governance Program", that Stakeholder Forum is undertaking in collaboration with Globe Southern Africa. He presented some general findings of a paper on "Governance for Sustainable Development" that was prepared for the UNEP IEG group in Montreal in November 2001. The paper indicated a more cooperative model of governance was needed and supported the UNU findings on the need for clustering with regard to MEAs. He said that finances for environmental governance (GEF and UNEP) remained incredibly low – UNEP receives \$60 million annually, something equivalent to the RSPB, a UK-based national NGO. He went on to widen the debate out the future of the CSD, arguing that it was essential to begin to develop its work program for the next few years beyond the Summit. He also pointed to the need for improving the multi-stakeholder dialogue segment of the CSD, based on clearly defined principles and ground rules, as well as an enhanced role of the Regional Commissions and more balanced ministerial representation during the dialogues processes. He felt that the Interagency Committee on Sustainable Development could take a stronger coordinatory role

and report to governments each year on activities within the UN. The CSD should also seek greater tie-in with other commissions, such as on women, social development, population, with high level commission meetings to deal with cross cutting issues. Dodds suggested that ECOSOC might play a key role in this to ensure a cross-fertilisation in work programs of the commissions. Some issues he felt could not be effectively addressed in short time before the summit but they would need to be addressed. This included assessing how the Bretton Woods Institutions and WTO to be more effectively drawn into the process of sustainable development. It should also include a wider review of all the UN agencies mandates, their cross-over and linkages.

Richard Sherman of Globe Southern Africa, spoke on behalf of the role of parliamentarians in governance processes. They could, he said, increasingly serve as a means of oversight, ensuring that governments commitments are met. The International Parliamentarians Union could play a key part in this, addressing past failures of implementation, and help move away from the current fragmented approach in national governance. Globe International could also play a particular role in assisting building capacity in the legislative arena. Sherman outlined that Globe International wanted to see a long-term vision developed for beyond the Summit, one that converged the need to make progress on existing issues with addressing new emerging areas. Globe Southern Africa will hold a conference in Cape Town before Prep Com 3 which seeks to ad-

dress: the need for long term institutional building and analysis; strengthening the role of stakeholders; encouraging the corporate responsibility over social and environmental areas; harmonizing regional and national policies; as well as effective means for legislation.

The final speaker, Dhesigan Naidoo from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa, gave a brief background to why questions of governance are on the agenda. Noting that multi-national concern has grown since the cold war and the appearance of regional economic blocks, as well as a steady process towards democratization, he said that global inequality and poverty are now squarely in our face. He said that the WSSD has actually become a positive example for governance frameworks for South Africa since it has meant that the 17 cabinet ministries have had to dialogue more integrated way. He felt that the links between different processes needed to be emphasised, including the financing for Development conference and WSSD, not forgetting WEF and Doha. The Summit he said must focus on practical actions on governance as well as other issues, through establishing a clear Programme of Action, with targets on key issues, time-frames, resourcing. Political commitment would be crucial to all of this.

Further informations:

www.earthsummit2002.org/governance

A View from 21

The hallowed, if smokey, halls of the United Nations are populated by people of all types, including the young type. As youth participants in the PrepCom, seeing the workings of the United Nations up close has been an intriguing experience to say the least. True, complex UN documents hardly qualify as intriguing, but nonetheless this experience has been filled with many surprises for us, both pleasant and otherwise.

We never expected to find the leaders of countries snoozing in plenary sessions, and couldn't imagine that "partnership," "initiative," "process" and "consensus" would become the most popular words in our vocabularies. We didn't anticipate that a discussion on sustainability would take place over lattes in disposable cups and in a building without a sufficient recycling system. We weren't aware that it was vogue to adopt a blasé attitude to the greatest challenges facing our planet. But you must forgive us, we are young and perhaps naive.

However, we have also been inspired by the dogged commitment to this project embodied by virtually every representative here. After ten years in this process, experienced diplomats might not fully appreciate the intelligence and dedication that is apparent here, nor the impact it can have on the world, but this has not been lost on us. Despite the tempta-

tion of becoming young cynics, we continue to believe in the potential of this endeavour, and are glad to be part of it. If our youthful idealism can be of help to you, then all the better.

If the tables were turned, and youth were at the head of these meetings, we must admit we would do some things differently. If it were up to us, each country would come to Johannesburg equipped not only with a book of suggestions on what other countries SHOULD do, but also with a simple, clear, short list of what they themselves WILL do. Leading by example would be the name of the game. The goal is to achieve sustainable development.

The Summit is an important step towards this goal, and evidently not an easy one to take. But as youth we are committed to seeing this through to Johannesburg and beyond. From our point of view, every step is worth ten times the trouble.

Submitted by:

Giselle Weybrecht

Megan Bradley

Canadian Youth Caucus Members

Africa & WSSD Analysed

Earlier in the week we had the pleasure of hearing the deliberations from last years regional review processes. Was it what the NGO's from each region wanted to hear though? Ritesh Bhandari, Lawyers Environmental Action Team based in Tanzania, give a critical appraisal of his regions input.

It was very disappointing and shocking to see that once again Africa seems to have failed not only the implementation of Agenda 21 but also its people.

The Minister ambitiously reported that the progress assessment was done with taking into account civil society and NGOs. This may have been an overstatement as Civil Society and NGOs in many parts of Africa are disappointed with the superficial and lack of constructive inputs and participation in the assessment of 10 years of progress for WSSD.

He went on to report that there was little progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 due to lack of fulfilment by the international community of its commitments made at Rio thereby hampering achievement of sustainable development in Africa.

We as Africans are shocked but not surprised that once again our governments have nothing major in terms of development progress or prosperity to report. Once again we find our governments blaming others for their failures and lack of achieving objectives. We may not have seen the desired 0.7 ODA but we have achieved some percentage that has been provided? Why can't our leaders give us an account at such forums of what these achievement are, even if they are limited.

Why are we not getting an account of what major strides if any made in protecting our Environment and Natural Resources and putting in place necessary laws and institutions to manage these resources for the benefit of improving the lives of our people? Why are we still blaming others for our failures when we cannot report any successes? This summit and prep meetings are about reporting progress and status of Agenda 21's implementation and not a summit of what has not been achieved. ODA affects the whole developing world. How come we don't see other regional blocks report failures of not achieving the objectives of Agenda 21 and not showing any progress achieved in the past 10 years?

The presentation reported of a New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative for a reversal of the current situation. It would be interesting to know what are the actual imple-

mentation mechanisms for result-oriented progress of such an initiative are. It is not globalisation that is to blame but are ineffectiveness in participating in a beneficial manner.

Debt relief (HIPC) was mentioned as urgently being needed to address the many problems listed in the presentation. It should have been acknowledged that some African countries have qualified for debt relief and the relief is underway. We have noted that even with countries that have been successful in securing a commitment for debt relief under the HIPC initiative, like Tanzania and others, have only identified Education and Health as priorities that will be facilitated in social sector. How than does the presentation justify that absence of debt relief is a cause of inaction for the achievement of progress in all the sectors mentioned by the Honourable Minister?

The presentation also talked about the many rich natural resources that Africa is endowed with that are not being processed in a beneficial way within Africa. How is this true when it is the government structures and institutions that negotiate their use and exploitation with the local or foreign players? What are these ghost factors that are causing the decline? Are the governments saying that they are participating in the mismanagement of these resources?

Once again the presentation goes on to outlining over population and insufficient food production as negative trends. It would be helpful to know what our governments are doing about it and what has been the success rate in achieving population control and food security.

Towards the end of the presentation, lack of ODA and foreign assistance is once again highlighted as a factor hampering implementation of Agenda 21. Most African countries have been independent for almost 40 years, endowed with rich natural resources and biodiversity, why then are we still so poor and still blaming others for our lagging behind in achieving progress and prosperity? When are we going to take responsibility for our own inaction and mismanagement?

Outreach: Ritesh Bhandari, Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT), Tanzania.

Response to the Africa presentation (on behalf of African Ministers) by Zambian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the outcome of the PrepCom for WSSD in Nairobi, Kenya

A Movement for Change

Stuck in the UN basement for 2 weeks, without the benefits of natural sunlight, sometimes it can be easy to lose yourself in the process. However, believe or not, there is a world out there full of diversity and full of people. Many of whom have been exploring their own sustainability. Stakeholder Forum's Rosalie Gardiner reports on options that exist not far from your own front door...

One side event, on Wednesday evening, stood out like a breath of fresh air after a day of dialogues and corridor discussion. Albert Bates, the regional Secretary of the Americas, part of the Global Ecovillage Network, gave participants a whirlwind tour of the network of "living and learning centers" or eco-villages that cross 6 continents.

His story depicts a movement that has grown from a mere 9 "seed" villages in 1995 to a massive 15,000 sites today, with over 1 million people. His idea of what made an eco-village was broadly defined as "a fully featured human settlement in which human activities are integrated into the natural environment in a way that is sustainable into the indefinite future", based on principles of whole system, linking food production, with energy, water, transport and materials use in a sustainable manner. Bates peppered this description with the fact that there are no sites that currently exist that he could say really met this approach 100%. However, he emphasized that, all sites have qualities and attributes that can be applied and help enhance other projects elsewhere.

Some of the more memorable villages he described included the "urban villages", such as the roof-top garden village in the heart of St Petersburg, Russia, or a twinning project between a village in Los Angeles and Mexico Cities. In more rural areas there were villages, such as in Palestine, that used permaculture systems and seed libraries to help maintain food security and livelihoods sustainability. Also, other sites with eco-tourism and training centers, such as in Colombia and Scotland, that aimed to give visitors a better understanding of more sustainable ways of living, as well as a chance taste of life in an eco-village. There is even a youth eco-village planned for the Johannesburg Summit, in an area outside Johannesburg called Midrand.

There were many other stories that Albert went on to describe. However he also talked about some present and future problems being faced by the Eco-village approach. Many eco-villages face blocks from the outset, such as poor external support limiting the opportunities to raise funds for starting new villages. The cultural

aspects of life within an eco-village also puts pressure on people, particularly from western background, to adjust their perspective towards life in a village setting. He also referred to practical difficulties of adapting to the whole system approach, having to think about all aspects of daily lives and how we interact with our natural environment. All of which meant villages face constant trials and make mistakes that have to be learnt from and improved upon.

On a more positive note he also said that the shift to becoming a global network has helped resolve many of these problems, through a process of "mutual assistance" that enabled people to communicate and share ideas with other groups across the globe. Albert ended the presentation stating his hope that, in the run up to Johannesburg and beyond, support, such as the UNCHS, EU and some governments were beginning to make, would be substantially scaled-up and encouraged.

Further info: John Claussen and Frances Edwards Tel: + 1 203 972 0695 <http://www.gaia.org>

Stakeholder Citizenship & the Health Sector

Stakeholder Forum will be hosting a side event entitled 'Stakeholder Citizenship and the Health Sector', on Monday evening, 4 February in Conference Room 1. This side event will take the form of a panel discussion, with four speakers addressing interweaving topics relating to health, sustainable development and the role of stakeholders, followed by a Q&A session.

The aim is to present the outcomes of a weekend workshop hosted by Stakeholder Forum, Novartis AG, Novo Nordisk, World Information Transfer (WIT) and the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA). The workshop is designed to kick off the two issue strands of Health and Corporate / Stakeholder Responsibility leading to the Implementation Conference (IC) to be held in Johannesburg in August. The IC process is designed to feed outcomes into Earth Summit 2002.

We expect to have an opening presentation from Yasmin von Schirnding of the World Health Organisation, addressing health and sustainable development, followed by Andreas Seiter of Novartis on the role of stakeholders. Claudia Strauss of World Information Transfer will present the outcomes in the sphere of Corporate and Stakeholder Responsibility, and will hand over to Paul Hohnen of Global Reporting Initiative for further thoughts. Felix Dodds of Stakeholder Forum will chair the event.

- Johannesburg Whines -

Picks up where Rio Grinds left off...

Because nobody said sustainable development would be fair!

Q. Why did the chicken cross the road?

A. To escape the KFC delegate coming out of the WEF on the other side!

There was a rumour that the presence of NYPD outside the UN is to provide a workshop for government delegates on traffic laws. Red means stop guys!

Q. How many government delegates does it take to change a light bulb?

A. Thousands. One to thank the group for the opportunity to change the light bulb. One to reaffirm the need for a light bulb, and 998 to come back in 10 years to state that although they still hadn't changed the light bulb they were still very much committed to doing so!



World Summit - A Citizens' Call to Action

Earth Day Network has launched a Call to Action letter writing campaign urging heads of state to attend the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

By attending the Summit, these leaders lend their political credibility to raise the importance of the Summit, and EDN hopes that these leaders will agree upon both local and global plans of action.

Looking back, this year's Johannesburg Summit marks the ten year anniversary of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro - a conference that proved to be an unprecedented gathering of world leaders who came together to discuss pressing environmental concerns.

The Johannesburg Summit will bring global leaders together once again to address these important issues. This time, leaders will assess past successes and failures, and look forward by charting future initiatives for sustainability.

While these issues concern the quality of life for everyone and everything on our precious planet, so far, only a handful of world leaders have committed to attend.

With the help of individuals and groups, Earth Day Network hopes to prove that the world's citizens want their leaders to attend; their attendance is essential to the credibility and success of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

*The Earth Day Network has 5,000 network members in 184 countries.

Earth Day is April 22nd

To get involved contact: Kelley Sayre
sayre@earthday.net

"Science and Technology for Sustainability: Proposals for WSSD"

1:15-2:45pm

Monday 4th February

Conference Room 6

hosted by:

the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs,
Kennedy
School of Government, Harvard University

HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKS

Implications for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

1:15-2:45pm

Tuesday 5th February

Conference Room 6,

Hosted by:

Physicians for Social Responsibility and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment

Diary Dates

Friday 1st 9-10am	Sustainable Development Issue Network - Conference Room B
1.15-2.45pm	National Strategies for Sustainable Development'. UK DfiD et. al. - Conference Room 6
1.15-2.45pm	'Briefing to Major Groups on Preparations for the Global Forum' WSSD Civil Soc. Sec. - Conf. Room 1
6.15-7.45pm	'Earth Observation Initiatives for Sust. Dev. & Global Mapping for Sust. Dev.' - Conference Room 6
Monday 4th 9-10am	Sustainable Development Issues Network - Conference Room B
1.15-2.45pm	'Options for Advancing Environmental Governance'. Env. Law Institute - Conference Room 1
1.15-2.45pm	'Science and Technology for Sustainability: Proposals for WSSD'. Conference Room 6
1.15-2.45pm	'State of the World: Ten Years After Rio'. Worldwatch Institute' - Conference Room 4
6.15-7.45pm	'Health & Sustainable Development: The Role of Stakeholders'. UNED UK - Conference Room 1
Tuesday 5th 9-10am	Sustainable Development Issues Network - Conference Room B
1.15-2.45PM	'Industry as a partner for Sustainable Development'. UNEP - Delegates Dining Room
1.15-2.45pm	'From Johannesburg to Kyoto'. 3rd World Water Forum - Conference Room 1
6.15-7.45pm	'Critical Environmental Issues for the 21st Century'. TWN. Conference Room 1
Wednesday 6th 9-10am	Sustainable Development Issues Network - Conference Room B
6.15-7.45pm	'Arctic Connections: Local/Global Linkage for Sust. Dev.'. Canadian Gov. - Delegates Dining Room
Thursday 7th 9-10am	Sustainable Development Issues Network - Conference Room B
1.15-2.45pm	'Briefing to Major Groups on Preparations for the Global Forum'. WSSD Civil Soc. Net. - Conf. Room 1
1.15-2.45pm	'Stay Alive HIV/AIDS Prevention Education'. United Families International - Conference Room B
6.15-7.45pm	'Industry and Sustainable Development'. UNIDO - Conference Room 1
6.15-7.45pm	'International Environmental Governance'. Third World Network - Conference Room 6
Friday 8th 9-10am	'Sustainable Development Issues Network - Conference Room B

Sustainable Development Issue Network Morning Meeting Thematic Issues

- **Friday, February 1** - **Earth Values**
- **Monday, February 5** - **Globalisation and corporate accountability**
- **Tuesday, February 6** - **Governance and legal institutions**
- **Wednesday, February 7** - **Energy, Climate change and Biodiversity**
- **Thursday, February 8** - **Gender**
- **Friday, February 9** - **Wrap Up**