

# OUTREACH 2002



Issue I

Working Towards Earth Summit 2002

Monday 27 January 2002

Prep. Comm. II



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## Major Group Views for a Sustainable Future

*Can't see the wood for the trees? Overloaded with documents even before the process has begun? Stakeholder Forum's Rosalie Gardiner comes to the rescue by providing an executive summary of Major Group recommendations on the key issues.*

The papers are in, the scene is set, Prep. Comm II is upon us. One of the first items on the agenda is that of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues. However, this is just the next step in a journey that started nearly a year ago, at the first Prep. Comm. Since then the Major groups have defined and refined their positions, recommendations and commitments.

This article pulls together some key recommendations from the different stakeholder submissions as a contribution to the debate on option to be addressed at the Summit and beyond.

### Principals, Vision and Strategy

All stakeholders subscribe to the vital importance of the concept of sustainable development as a guide to how the world should evolve. In this context there is continuing support for the 1992 Rio Declarations on Environment and Development. However, many would like to see further operationalisation of the principals contained in agenda 21, including precautionary, subsidiarity and polluter pays principles. These should provide the foundation from which all activities and

policies that come out of Johannesburg. **Poverty Eradication, Human Security and Human Development**

Sustainable Development is not just an environmental demand it is a developmental necessity. The Millennium Summit reaffirmed and restated international commitment to agreed development goals for 2015. However, it was not specific about how to meet these targets and measures that were agreed at the Millennium Summit, particularly regarding the central goal of alleviating poverty.

### Globalisation: Setting Trade and Investment to Sustainability

Now that Doha is in the process of launching a new trade round, the key issue for sustainability will be to ensure that the round delivers on the legitimate aspirations of developing countries for better market access to the developed world, and for the elimination of distorting and environmentally perverse subsidies, as well as other distorting market practices in the North. The trade round also needs to provide for greater coherence and support for the Multi-lateral Environment Agreements, ILO conventions and Human Rights Principals, as well as other international obligations, establishing mechanisms to put these obligations at the core of the trade agenda.

### Sustainable Production and Consumption

Global markets need to make the shift towards more sustainable and efficient frameworks. This will include enabling and increasing corporate responsibility, such as through introducing eco-taxes, adoption of ISO 14000, use of environmental and social accounting, and Sustainability reporting. It will also be vital to stimulate public debate and awareness, as well as to engage a more informed consumer and producer position e.g. through product labelling, independent product verification, publicity campaigns, technical training and capacity building in sustainable production

methods, investment in the research and development of sustainable alternatives. The Second Prep Com offers an opportunity to initiate a debate to develop a process for enhancing such activities. This process should be met more substantially with international commitment and the development of a clear strategy at the Johannesburg Summit.

#### **Natural Resource: Integrated Management and Regulation**

Governments, regional bodies and international institutions need make progress on taking an integrated and ecosystems approach to natural resource management and regulation. This will include greater coordination between different environmental areas, e.g. Climate and Oceans, but also coordination with institutions that impact the environment, including development and economic bodies. Funds and resources (human, technical and information) for local, regional and international environmental issues need to be significantly enhanced. The adoption of the polluter pays principle, should be used to raise further funds e.g. through eco-taxes which can be ring fenced for mitigating polluting impacts and developing environmentally sound alternatives. Similarly, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle, broad stakeholder participation, community-based and local level activities should be further endorsed and supported by multilateral and national bodies, to build on-the-ground implementation or integrated natural resources programmes.

#### **Health and Environment**

Critical issues related to health and environment, include the need to provide access to an adequate quality and quantity of water supply and sanitation, sustainable and affordable energy, basic health care and family planning services (medications, education and training, clinics and hospitals), provision of essential food requirements, adoption of occupational health standards in order to tackle major chronic and acute global diseases e.g. HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, waterborne diseases. Further national and international commitment to address these issues needs to be made at the Summit. There is a need to clarify trade law in relation to intellectual property rights as compared to the production of essential generic medicines. Also indigenous and traditional knowledge of biological resources with medicinal potential need to be legally and financially acknowledged and respected. The precautionary principle should be further applied in the development and use of biotechnology, e.g. in new medicines and food crops.

#### **Financing for Sustainable Development**

The decline in Official Development Assistance should be reversed, and put bthe 0.7% GNP target, as well as the untying of aid. There needs to be debate on how debt relief and debt cancellation can be extended, as well the use of Special Drawing Rights. There needs to be a substantial replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and an extension of its scope. Additional finances (to ODA) need to be made for the provision of Global Public Goods (GPG) e.g. eradication of global diseases, climate enhancement, conservation of biological diversity. The redirection of national military expenditure towards sustainable development aims, need to be openly debated. The Summit should also be an opportunity to review and establish new financial mechanisms e.g. currency transfer taxes.

#### **Technology Transfer, Capacity building and Education**

In applying the principles of partnership and "Common and Differentiated Responsibility", significant international, regional and bi-

lateral steps need to be made to increase the adoption of environmentally sound, ethical, affordable and socially responsible technologies and practices. Stakeholders, as well as governments and multi-lateral institutions, can play key roles in this process. Global multi-stakeholder networks along sectoral lines could be established at the Summit, to enhance this process. The role of Information and Communications Technology will clearly have a part to play. Sustainable development should be set at the core of education from primary to tertiary levels, cutting across disciplines and research.

#### **Governance and Participation**

*Environmental Frameworks:* There are calls for UNEP to be given agency status, its resource base should be assured and strengthened. The political weight of UNEP within the UN would be increased, under the auspices of the UN Environment Management Group. It should be given stronger regional capacity and a specific mandate in order to better promote and coordinate the clustering of MEA's secretariats.

*Development and Economic Frameworks:* Current reforms in the area of economic institutions, such as the WTO, World Bank, IMF and other multilateral economic and development institutions need to make further step to ensure they set their overarching goal toward sustainable development. Reform should include the strengthening of the role of stakeholders, establishing rules of major group accreditation as exists in UN ECOSOC.

*Sustainable Development frameworks:* The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) should be strengthened to fully establish its overarching and integral relationship to other UN agencies and commissions, external institutions. The mechanisms and processes to do this need to be clarified. The involvement of stakeholders further enhanced within CSD dialogues and outcomes. Also the CSD Intersessionals need to become much more pro-active.

*Participation:* The Summit should seek to strengthen and consolidate the process for engaging a wide range of stakeholders in debate and action relating to sustainable development. Their participation is not simply a token gesture but is essential for ensuring progress on implementation. They contribute to Sustainable Development through bringing expert and local knowledge on key issues and best practice, independent assessment of programmes. Multi-stakeholder activities should be linked to more substantive roles for the further implementation of Agenda 21. These roles should be recognised by and established in partnership with governments. ack on a steady path of growth, towards meeting

#### **Global Deal**

At Johannesburg heads of state and high-level ministers will need to set out a strong statement of global commitment, endorsing the key steps that will help make the shift towards Sustainable Development. *Its principles would include:*

**Equity** – eradicating poverty through equitable and sustainable access to resources;

**Rights** – securing environmental and social rights;

**Limits** – reducing resource use to within sustainable limits;

**Justice** – recognition of ecological debts and cancellation of financial debts;

**Democracy** – ensuring access to information and public participation; and

**Ethics** – rethinking the values and principles that guide human behaviour."

# Earth Summit 2002

## Visions

*OUTREACH invites Egypt's Prof. Ahmed Gamaleldin, South Africa's Minister for Environment, Valli Moosa and Maurice Strong to share with us their Visions for the Summit. Interview by Felix Dodds.*

*(Q) We are now just three months before the Second Preparatory meeting for the World Summit. How do you think we have been doing in the preparatory phase?*

(A) The momentum for the Summit has definitely started to pick up and the substance and the possible outcomes are starting to take shape. I believe that the preparatory process at the sub-regional and regional levels has provided us with lessons which would certainly help us to be more efficient and effective in handling similar undertakings in future. In my personal opinion, the sub regional meetings have not produced the contribution expected and maybe in the future it would be better to concentrate our efforts in preparing for good regional meetings which should be structured to benefit from the inputs of major groups which should inform the governmental deliberations. In addition, I believe that the experience has taught us that intergovernmental documents should be prepared by a core group of government representatives not by secretariats or consultants so as to guarantee ownership by the countries concerned. In this regard, I am pleased that the African Ministerial Meeting held in Nairobi produced a solid and concrete declaration representing the views of African countries.

We have also learned that countries can face a major constraint to undertake their national assessments due to the lack of institutional capacities and resources made available to them. The lesson here is that we need to start the national processes earlier and that there needs to be adequate funding and capacity building, especially since these represent the prerequisite for determining their future priorities. On the positive side, I believe that the Earth Summit 2002 is now definitely on the radar screen of Governments at the highest levels. However in order to guarantee the interest and participation of Heads of State and Governments it is important that they see that the Summit will represent a serious turning point that will result in a concrete work programme with time bound targets and a proper follow up mechanisms. I am sure that developing countries do not want to see a repeat of the experience of the Millennium Declaration which lacked a reference to the commitment by the north to provide the necessary means of implementation to help them achieve the international development not to mention those targets in the outcome documents of other UN conferences and Summits. We need a clear road map on how to achieve all those targets because this should be a joint responsibility between the north and the south.

*(Q) What issues should the Summit be addressing?*

UNCED has produced the Rio Principles and Agenda 21. It is imperative that Earth Summit 2002 not result in the renegotiation of the outcome of UNCED but in reaffirming the commitment of the international community to their full implementation bearing in mind the fundamental principle of common but differentiated re-

sponsibilities. Of course many developments have occurred since Rio. These should be addressed in the context of A21. One such development is the process of globalization. We should see how we can make it contribute to sustainable development, and ensure that an equitable share of its benefits accrue to developing countries who for the time being bear a disproportionate share of its costs and suffer from marginalization. Another important issue that needs to be urgently addressed is that of financial resources to overcome the major disappointment that developing countries feel nine years after Rio because of the lack of provision by the developed countries of the requisite financing.

Let me remind you that achieving the target of halving by the year 2015 the number of those living in abject poverty in Africa requires the continent's economy to grow by at least 7% between now and 2015 and thus an investment ratio equivalent to 33% of regional GDP. How can you achieve this target without ODA, FDI, debt cancellation and market access in the sectors where African countries have comparative advantage. The European Commission estimated that removing all obstacles to trade can generate an additional \$700bn to developing countries. We need to see concrete actions in Doha, Monterrey and later in Johannesburg to show that the international community is serious about achieving the poverty reduction target of the Millennium Declaration. We do not need another academic discussion describing poverty but multi-pronged actions to address it. In the case of Africa, it is estimated that 70% of its poor live in rural areas, and that tremendous amount of lands have been degraded. Thus the international community should as a matter of priority reverse the decline of resources provided by the World Bank to the agricultural sector, ensuring access to energy at affordable prices and to water. Enough resources have to be channeled for the full implementation of the United Nations Convention for Combating Desertification as it is the closest avenue to address poverty. Of course we recognize that domestic resources will need to be activated but they cannot alone deliver what is needed. At present only 4 countries have reached the 0.7% GDP target for ODA and two other countries have now set dates to achieve 0.7%. For Johannesburg we expect to see the other developed countries to set dates to deliver the ODA target and I hope that Doha results in a significant move in the trade negotiations to address the concerns of developing countries. This would represent the kind of political commitment developing countries are hoping for.

*(Q) There has been talk about Johannesburg delivering a 'Global or New Deal'. What are your views about this?*

(A) There needs to be an international discussion on what should be the elements of any deal that would come out of the Summit. It is important that an open-ended process of consultations be undertaken between the north and the south on the parameters of such deal. I welcome the recent initiative by the Danish Minister of Environment, who is a highly respected international figure in both the north and the south. I consider the paper presented by Denmark as the beginning of a long process which should be open-ended and transparent and which in my view could lead to a convergence of minds and thus to making the Summit the success we want it to be. But to reach such target, everyone must feel ownership of the end product and sufficient time needs to be dedicated to international consultations.

*(Q) What impact do you think the events around September 11<sup>th</sup> and beyond are having on the agenda for sustainable development.*

The events of September 11 are a sad moment for all of us. It is only normal that we all feel the mourning of the families of the victims of terrorism. However, the international community has to guard against all attempts to let these tragic events lead us away from our common humanity, or to create a clash of civilizations in a year which was destined to celebrate the dialogue among them. All civilizations and religions are unanimous in condemning terrorism in all its forms and treasure the ideals of tolerance, justice, and peace for all. We must therefore make sure that the Summit will be one of hope for the entire humanity, and a new beginning that restores the credibility of multilateralism and realizes the legitimate aspirations of all peoples of the world. Indeed, we should all work towards this objective since only multilateralism will help us to achieve sustainable development for all. Therefore, WSSD does offer a real chance for the international community to agree on a common vision for a better world and to commit the resources to deliver it.

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### **Minister Valli Moosa - South African Department of Environment and Tourism**

The Outcomes of our discussions on environmental governance will be critical for the effectiveness of our environmental programmes and the protection of the global environment over the coming decades. This must be a key output of the forthcoming Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development. I would like to share some of South Africa's initial thinking on the overall outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit. The single most important threat to sustainable development globally is poverty and the widening gap between the rich and the desperately poor. This is not only a threat to poor nations but also to wealthy nations, as the instability, conflict, disease and environmental degradation associated with poverty threaten the overall socio-economic status of our planet. South Africa would like to therefore submit for consideration the eradication of poverty as the key to sustainable development as the Summit theme. The first of these is the notion of a Global Compact/ Partnership between governments, the private sector and civil society, and indeed all major groups, regarding their commitment to resource, participate and oversee the implementation of the outcomes and programmes arising from the Summit. It is clear that there are distinctly different interpretations (of this concept), and we would need to develop a shared vision of the concept and its architecture. WSSD must adopt a concrete, pragmatic and accelerated Programme of Action for the implementation of the targets endorsed by the leaders of the world's nations in the Millennium Declaration. On the African continent we have already gone a long way to concretising such a programme with the New Africa Initiative (NAI). A key theme of the NAI, and we believe of the Summit, must be the economic issues that underpin the ongoing marginalisation of developing countries in a globalised world economy. The potential opening up of a new WTO round in Qatar, and the financing for development conference in Mexico in March 2002, provide a key basis for addressing these issues in Johannesburg. We also see the Summit addressing the key development areas of water, energy, biodiversity, desertification and land degradation, forests, food security, oceans and coasts, atmosphere and waste. In many of these areas we have the need for new agree-

ments, or extensions of existing agreements, and the elaboration and implementation of concrete programmes of action. Taken together, these issues form the building blocks of a new world order for sustainable development which can seriously address global poverty and inequality.

South Africa has taken a particular interest in the debate on the rationalisation of the Multi-lateral Environment Agreements. We note that the proliferation and lack of co-ordination between MEAs has had significant implications for developing countries capacity to fulfil the national environmental functions. South Africa supports the realisation of MEAs into issue-based clusters with secretariats geographically located in the same centre. Cross-cutting functions can and must be coordinated between the various clusters of MEAs. There needs to be further debate on whether this institution would be best situated in an enhanced UNEP or in a strengthened Environment Management Group. The discussion on the review and possible restructuring of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a critical component of this debate. At the very least, the Global Ministerial Environmental Forum must be able to define the criteria and rules for GEF funding, based on its experience of defining a prioritised and synergised response to environmental problems. We can construct a rationalisation that enables us collectively to do much more with our very limited resources in a manner that better enables an enhanced participation, particularly by the developing world. We urge participating countries to work constructively towards consensus on the action that must be taken.

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### **Maurice Strong - UN University Centre**

Human activities have their ultimate environmental, social and economic impacts through a complex system of interacting processes that transcend the traditional boundaries of disciplines of space and of time which the mechanisms through which we understand and manage them are not geared to deal with adequately. This is why I have long, with only limited success, advocated and tried to practice a systemic, or ecological, approach to issues.

In identifying issues for the Johannesburg agenda a balance must be struck between what may realistically be achievable under current political conditions and the larger more fundamental goals articulated in the Rio agreements and international instruments. At the minimum these should be re-affirmed in Johannesburg and every effort made to extend them based on evidence and experience since then.

The secretariats of climate change, ozone, biodiversity, desertification and other sustainable development-related conventions to be brought under a single framework for administrative and policy coordination purposes. While it would be desirable to have these secretariats located under a common venue, this would not be politically feasible in the near future. However, even with their separate locations, advanced telecommunications technologies would enable them to communicate and work closely together.

What a tragic irony it would be if through our own carelessness, apathy and misguided priorities we forfeit the opportunity to bring about a new golden age in which all the people of the Earth can share and continue on the unsustainable pathway that can only bring about the demise of human civilisation as we know it. It is in this context that we must see - and prepare for - the challenge of Johannesburg.

# - Johannesburg Whines -

*Picks up where Rio Grinds left off...*



Because nobody said sustainable development would be fair!

Investors in who bought shares in international governance processes are worried that the governance bubble may soon burst due to a saturated market caused by more governance debates currently underway than delegates to attend them.

Meanwhile ENRON's share value has started a climb as a possible source of renewed energy for the sustainable develop-

Rumours that a leading airline was offering 1000 Air-Miles to the delegate who gets to Johannesburg in the most Carbon Neutral manner are thought to be wide of the mark...it was only 500!

Delegates of PC II are anticipating that one of the major sticking points for the session will be the choice of review date for the review of implementation of agenda 21. A compromise of somewhere between 5 and 10 years is anticipated. The matter is currently under review.

When asked is he anticipated any violent protest at next weeks World Economic Forum an un-named delegate responded by saying 'I doubt it, most of us only come for the skiing.'

A New International Development Target has been proposed: To halve the number brackets used at UN Conferences by the year 3002. The target is thought to be ambitious...

**The Access Initiative**  
**A Side Event on Information, Public Participation, and Justice**  
**in Environmental Decision-Making**  
**January 31, 2002**  
**1:15 to 2:45**  
**United Nations**  
**Conference Room 6**

The Access Initiative is a global coalition of public interest groups who have developed and pilot-tested indicators to measure national-level conditions and performance in implementing Principle 10 by ensuring access to relevant information, participation, and justice in decisions affecting the environment. We would like to invite you to join us for a side event at PrepCom II. This will be an opportunity to hear about the progress made on Principle 10 in several of our partner countries, including Mexico, Uganda, South Africa, and Thailand. It will also be an opportunity to hear about the global progress made on Principle 10, and to learn more about The Access Initiative.

**Presenters include:**

- Somrudee Nicrowattanayingyong, Thailand Environment Institute
- Tomás Severino, Cultura Ecológica, Mexico
- Godber Tumushabe, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment, Uganda
- Thabo Madihlaba, Environmental Justice Networking Forum, South Africa

=If you have any questions about the side event or about The Access Initiative, please check out our website at [www.accessinitiative.org](http://www.accessinitiative.org) or email Gretchen Hoff at [Gretchen@wri.org](mailto:Gretchen@wri.org).

**What?**

Side Event on The Access Initiative and the Implementation of Principle 10

**When?**

January 31, 2002, 1:15 – 2:45 PM

**OECD &**  
**The International Energy Agency**  
**& the World Summit on Sustainable Development**  
**January 30th, 2002**  
**6.15-7.30pm**  
**United Nations**  
**Conference room 6**  
**Presented by Joke Waller-Hunter**  
**Director, OECD Environmental Directorate**

In 1998, OECD Ministers agreed '...that the achievements of sustainable development is a key priority of OECD countries and asked the OECD to undertake a three-year horizontal programme of work. This culminated in policy recommendations to the OECD Ministerial Council meeting in May 2000. Ministers endorsed a policy framework outlined in Policies to Enhance Sustainable Development, support by a comprehensive analytical report, Sustainable Development: Critical Issues.

**A new SD mandate given to OECD by their Ministers**

In May 2001, OECD Ministers in charge of Finance, Economy and Environment asked the OECD to continue to support their work towards sustainable development, and in particular to:

- Develop agreed indicators that measure progress across all three dimensions of sustainable development, including decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation;
- Identify how obstacles to policy reforms, in particular to the better use of market based instruments can be overcome;
- Analyse further the social aspects of sustainable development including work on social and human capital;
- Provide guidance for achieving improved economic, environmental and social policy coherence and integration.

Key messages of OECD on sustainable development will be highlighted in a special OECD report to the WSSD, for release at the 4th Prep. Comm.

# Diary Dates

Monday 28th: 9-10am	Sustainable Development Issues Network - Conference Room B
1.15-2.45pm	'Women's Action Agenda for a Healthy and Peaceful Planet 2015'. WEDO - Conference Room B
1.15-2.45pm	'Food Policy, Food Security & Rural Poverty'. World Bank et. al. - Conference Room 1
6.15-7.45pm	'Accounting for Sustainability Development - How does it work?'. World Bank, WWF - Conf. Room 1
6.15-7.45pm	'Globalisation & Sustainability Development: Challenges for the WSSD'. TWN - Conf. Room B
Tuesday 29th 9-10am	Sustainable Development Issues Network - Conference Room B
1.15-2.45pm	'Education: The forgotten priority of Rio'. Peace Child International - Conference Room B
1.15-2.45pm	'Johannesburg: Putting water and sanitation on the political agenda' - Conference Room 1
6.15-7.45pm	'Lifeonline - Earth Summit 2002 Online Debate'. Panos Institute - Conference Room 6
6.15-7.45pm	'Earth Charter Briefing'. Earth Council - Conference Room 4
Wednesday 30th - 9-10am	Sustainable Development Issues Network - Conference Room B
1.15-2.45pm	'Governance for Sustainable Development'. Globe International - Conference Room B
1-15-2.45pm	'Young People and Youth Employment'. ICFTU - Conference Room 6
6.15-7.45pm	'The Future of National Strategies for Sustainable Development'. UNDP/Capacity 21 - Conference Room 1
6.15-7.45pm	'OECD and the World Summit on Sustainable Development'. OECD. Conference Room 6
Thursday 31st 9-10am	Sustainable Development Issues Network - Conference Room B
1.15-2.45pm	'The Access Initiative: Implementing Principal 10'. WRI - Conference Room B
1.15-2.45pm	'National Preparations for Earth Summit 2002'. Norwegian Forum & Stakeholder Forum - Conf. Room 1
6.15-7.45pm	'Land, Food & Agriculture in Agenda 21'. Sust. Ag. & Food Sys. Caucus. - Conference Room 1
6.15-7.45pm	'Local Agenda 21'. Government of Sweden - Conference Room 6
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 41
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	'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
1.15-2.45pm	'Where is the Social in Sustainability'. World Bank - Conference Room 1
Future meetings will be listed in the next issue of OUTREACH	