

OUTREACH 2002



Issue II

Working Towards Earth Summit 2002

Wednesday 29 January 2002

Prep. Comm. II



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OUTREACH is produced in partnership by ANPED - the Northern Alliance for Sustainability and Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future.

OUTREACH is produced due to the generous support of the governments of: Finland; the Netherlands; Germany; Canada; and the United Kingdom, and by the following organisations: RICS Foundation, Heinrich Böll Foundation UNF, UNEP, European Union and BP

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New Opportunities for Issues

In order to prepare for the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, international NGO caucuses and networks have joined forces in a global mutual support network.

As the second Preparatory Committee meeting begins for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, a new network of NGO networks announces its official launch. Over the past decade, since the Earth Summit in Rio, NGO's have worked together in caucuses, networks and organising committees to help improve their participation and influence in realizing the vision and promises made in Rio.

Ten years later, however, as the reports come in it is clear that despite good intentions and inspiring speeches the world is far behind in accomplishing the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing waste and over-consumption, safeguarding people's health and quality of life, and protecting ecosystems and local communities.

In addition to the lack of progress by governments and industry, civil society groups have also recognized their own weaknesses in effectively organising themselves to effect

meaningful change.

As the World Summit on Sustainable Development approached, NGO's working on different environmental and social issues such as food, forests, water and production & consumption, corporate accountability sustainable communities, women, indigenous peoples, legal and institutional issues, values, health and environment and other concerns agreed that if they were to make a difference they needed to not just make an even greater effort but try something different. That new, greater and different effort is SDIN - The Sustainable Development Issues Network.

Partners in this initiative include caucuses and networks with NGO's from north and south including groups such as the Third World Network, the Environment Liaison Centre International, the Northern Alliance for Sustainability, the Global Forest Coalition for Sustainable Production and Consumption, International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture, the Citizens Network for Sustainable Development and many more.

Although committed to empowering NGO's in their work to promote sustainable development, SDIN does not claim to be the voice of the NGO community. Recognising that the

NGO community is extremely diverse and can have no single spokesman, SDIN aims instead to provide mutual support and encouragement among those networks focused on specific issues where qualitative change is desperately needed. Thus, SDIN has defined its objectives as:

- To Facilitate information exchange among networks about their work and the issues they are addressing;
- To share information to help NGO's new to the UN system to get orientated to the different issue-orientated processes

and organisations;

- To facilitate information exchange between issue networks and other major group networks and intergovernmental bodies, and;
- To help these networks in publicising and promoting their activities as needed.

To get involved, attend the SDIN morning briefings. See back page for details.

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 cooperation 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:

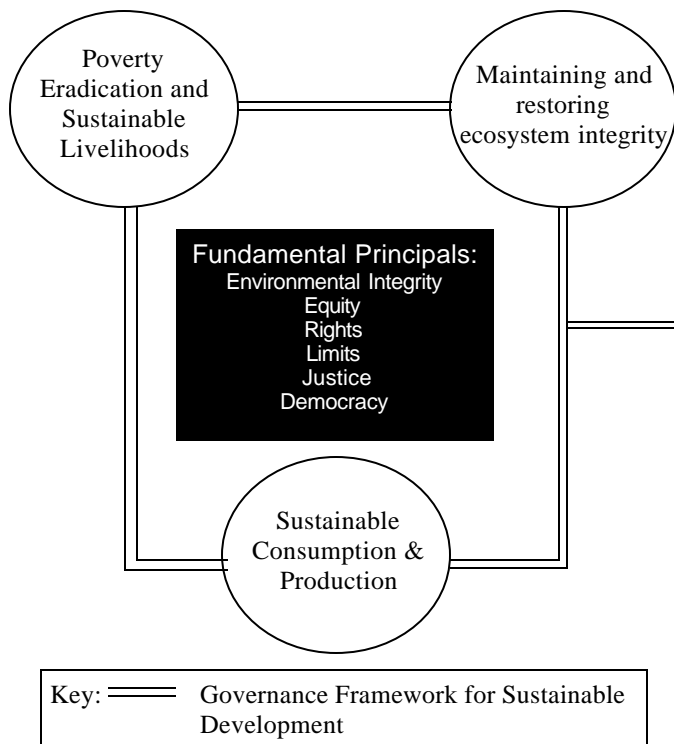
- a) Major accomplishments and lessons learned in the imple-

mentation of Agenda 21;

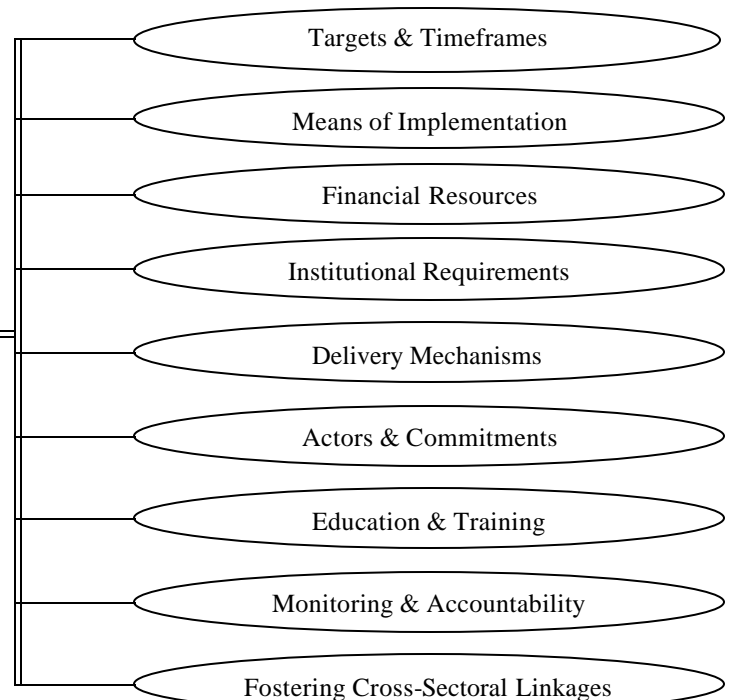
- b) Major constraints hindering the implementation of Agenda 21, and specific time-bound measures to be undertaken, and institutional and financial requirements, and identify the sources of such support. The latter will also include proposals for new implementation initiatives."

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.

Framing the Political basis for Sustainable Development



Framing the Johannesburg Programme of Action



Prepared by Richard Sherman, Head, Research and Policy Unit rsherman@globesa.org & Felix Dodds, Executive Director - Stakeholder Forum
 GLOBE Southern Africa recognises the valuable contribution of Tom Bigg (IIED) and Melanie Steiner (WWF) in the development of this paper.

Education Alliance key to Sustainable Development

Was Education the forgotten issue of Rio? Do we need to re-address the way we integrate education throughout all levels of our work on Sustainable Development? What can we achieve on this in Johannesburg? Stakeholder Forum and Peace Child International convened a meeting of the informed to find out. Anna Birney Reports.

Education was an important element of Rio process and the participants in this meeting believe it should be equally important at Johannesburg. However there is a challenge to this quest. Education has been reduced to a small subsection of the poverty issue in the Secretary General's report for this PrepCom, when it is actually a cross cutting element of all the priority issues in the report and is mentioned in the dialogue papers by the woman, train union and youth groups. Education is not recognised as a means of implementation as seen in Agenda 21, is this because education has fulfilled its goals or because it is no longer seen as a key imperative? No the issue has become side lined but is still just as important.

Chuck Hopkins, UNESCO chair asked if education was seen as having a role in sustainable development or just as an overarching theme, Chris Maas-Geesteranus from the Dutch Government, went on to mention the need to look at how ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) relates to the problems of the world but also pointed out that what is often missing is the national strategy's on sustainable development do not know how to and are not linking this to ESD, this represents the lack of cross departmental thinking.

How can we address this strategically? This was the key element addressed at the workshop.

CSD created a great work program to implement ESD, but lacking financial backing many action points were not carried through. A key action of this work program, pointed out by David Woollcombe of Peace Child, was the bringing together of a broad alliance of educators. Yesterday progress was made when all participants agreed this was needed and that we should start with the people here such as Living for Sustainable Future, GreenCOM and NAAEE. Racine Kane from Capacity 21 UNEP sees that something should be done especially in Africa, as education is very important in this region of the work. Eco-Accord went on to mention that education is still the forgotten priority and also agreed a broad alliance was needed. Patrick Van De Coevering from Russian/European NGO, saw the need for a process which would include adult education and progress into ways networks can assist with the outcomes of the Summit.

Major progress was made when Mr Szollosi-Nagy Deputy Assistant Director General UNESCO agreed that ESD must be central at

WSSD and plays a role in each of the 10 cluster areas of the Secretary General's report, as education in all its forms is central to SD at all levels. He called for people attending this PrepCom to assist in promoting and raising the profile of education. He also supported bringing something to PrepCom III and IV, however it was pointed out that the process had to be influence now and then carried through at the additional meetings in March and May before the World Summit in August.

Hiroko Morita-Lou of the Summit Secretariat therefore mentioned that new initiatives can be negotiated at the next preparatory Committee if something was in placed in this process **now**. This can be done through partnership and intergration and again by asking people to look at how education can contribute to the issues such as globalisation, consumption patterns and energy?

What can we all do?

The Secretary General report needs to be influenced as if education is mentioned now, the specifics can be added later. This is being proposed to be pulled together at a UNESCO meeting in Paris over the next month to facilitate a discussion on what should be included in the text.

Governments, groups and individuals need to show their support or get their national delegations to support this initiative so that education gets a mention on the agenda. They need to announce that they think education is a key cross cutting issue for the 10 points set out by the Secretary General. However to get recognition they need to place education in the text and dialogue as not just a means of alleviating poverty but of implementation. Then the alliance can continue to influence the process, building up to the summit.

We must remember that governments are not against education, what is needed is to find ways to show them how their interested issues relates to education and therefore why there needs to be a statement and chapter on it then we are have started the building of a process with the alliance. The ideas on education need to be collected from each chapter and political commitment obtained as educators need to be apart of how the issues are being discussed.

In conclusion how can education help the cluster issues, to find this out we can collect the points mentioned on education, however education needs its own heading. For this to happen with this new-formed alliance the points where education is mentioned need to be presented to governments, by first finding out what the governments are interested in.

The education caucus and UNESCO therefore invite you to attend another meeting at Thursday lunch to show your support and to offer further ways we can work at placing education where it belongs, as both a cross cutting issue but also as its own heading within the final World Summit.

WSSD MUST PUT MILITARY ON THE TABLE

Over the last 2 days there have been repeated calls from all sides for the World Summit process to engage conflict and peace issues into its work. The debate around these issues are complex. In this article, the Peace Caucus highlights some of the key elements of the discussion.

We call upon the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to address the global crisis of militarism as a threat to the future of humanity. **The military is the most destructive and costly of all social sectors and the worst polluter world-wide.**

It is essential that the WSSD identify the military as a sector and armed conflict as a critical issue. The military must receive the same scrutiny applied to other sectors that are reviewed during the meetings of the WSSD. The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Principles 24 (on the impact of war on the environment and 25 (on the interdependence and indivisibility of peace, development and environmental protection) calls for such scrutiny.

REDUCTIONS IN MILITARY SPENDING NEEDED

Governments must investigate, study, analyze, report and publicize all of the environmental, economic, and social costs of the military sector. This study must then be related to the data on the worldwide increase in human rights violations, hunger, disease, pollution, lack of potable water, illiteracy, oppression, violence, commercial exploitation, unemployment, and infant mortality to demonstrate the fallacy of the poorly chosen priorities established in recent CSD sessions.

The review sessions since the Earth Summit in Rio have failed to address the need to reduce the \$800 billion spent annually worldwide on military. A reduction of spending in this sector would free money that could then be used for sustainable development.

Military conflict leads to a cycle of poverty and a surge of refugees around the world. Nobel Peace Prize winner in economics Amartya Sen observed that even though poverty and want have not always led to war, war has always led to poverty and want.

TOXIC LEGACY

Governments and other actors have an urgent responsibility to allocate resources and undertake the cleanup of landmines, unexploded ordnance, depleted uranium, and radioactive materials from nuclear production and use. Iraq has charged the United States and

the United Kingdom with the use of depleted uranium in both the 1991 Gulf War and the "aggression" against Yugoslavia in 1999. This conference must call for a ban on the further use of depleted uranium. The dumping of radioactive waste in the developing world, particularly in Africa, has been a cause of concern and also needs to be addressed.

NUCLEAR POWER AND OIL ENDANGER LIFE

Nuclear power should not be considered as a viable source of energy. The lack of a proven method to store spent fuel from nuclear reactors for the tens of thousands of years the material remains radioactive has long been considered the Achilles' heel of the nuclear industry. Storage pools are filling up and are now recognized as potential targets for terrorists. Theft of weapons-grade plutonium is another danger. Nuclear energy creates large quantities of plutonium and relies on reactors that can have catastrophic accidents that would pollute the land for uncounted generations. Can the world afford another Chernobyl?

The rising demand for oil is occurring in the context of renewed political-military crises in the Middle East and the Caspian-Central Asian region. The continued dependence on oil has created a vulnerability to shocks and is also unsustainable. The conflicts in these regions have led to an increased danger of the use of nuclear weapons there.

TIME TO LINK ISSUES

Preparations for WSSD must take into account the results of all UN conferences that took place in the 1990's and their subsequent review sessions. Governments and NGO's must link the issues and deal with them in a holistic manner within the UN system so that each session builds on the good work of previous sessions rather than backsliding on issues. It is time to bring down the invisible walls that exist between review sessions of the various conferences. For instance, CSD review sessions have failed to review the military, armed conflict, and nuclear proliferation issues. CSD has focused on the lack of investment on sustainable development while the Commission on Social Development had proposals for cuts in military spending to fund needed social programmes. The WSSD must do the same.

By Pauline Cantwell for the Peace Caucus

January 29, 2002

- Johannesburg Whines -

Picks up where Rio Grinds left off...



Because nobody said sustainable development would be fair!

Q. How many NGO's does it take to change a light bulb?

A: First you need a light bulb steering committee. Then you need an electricity caucus, followed by a process of consultation on a draft 'why do we need a light bulb?' paper. Then a working group on implementing the new light bulb....

In contrast to Rio Grinds from previous CSD sessions, Johannesburg Whines will try to break new ground by actually being funny.

Shortly after writing the box to the left, OUTREACH ran out of inspiration...

Sorry!

NGOs left the first Multi-Stakeholder dialogue session in anxious mood. The ominous choice of venue, the General Assembly Hall, led to fears that this would doom any decisions never to be implemented.

**PRESS CONFERENCE...
PRESS CONFERENCE...
PRESS CONFERENCE...**

The launching of a "Treaty Initiative to share the Genetic Commons"

TIME: Friday February 1st at 09:30am

PLACE: Church Centre, 8th Floor the BOSS room.

For the first time in the history of CSD, press conferences will be held simultaneously at the Church Centre in New York and at the World Social Forum at Porto Alegre, Brasil.

A number of NGOs from all over the world have taken an initiative to launch this bold and innovative treaty. Among them are FOET – Foundation on Economic Trends ETC – Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration, IATP – Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and others.

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Youth News & Views

As PrepCom II slowly progresses, delegates might be interested to know that some of the most interesting and passionate discussions are taking place not on the floor of the General Assembly, but in small conference rooms in the basement. Without facilitation, young people from every region of the world are gathering to go through the difficult process of establishing a youth position for the multi-stakeholder dialogue. The same issues facing national delegations are heatedly discussed by youth leaders, who represent organizations focused on a variety of issues including development strategies, trade policy, environmental conservation, climate change awareness, and human dignity.

With such a varied agenda, consensus building is a long and difficult process, but in one area we are unanimously agreed. Youth participation, in the discussion of successes and failures in implementing Agenda 21 over the past 10 years, stands out as a dramatic failure. Though some of us are official members of delegations, most are not. Agenda 21, paragraph 25.9.h. calls explicitly for the inclusion of youth representatives in national delegations to international meetings, but few countries have made good on this commitment. For this reason, there are many nations of the world not represented in the youth caucus, and many young leaders who are missing the opportunity to learn first hand how to participate in the international decision-making progress.

As young people we are deeply concerned with issues of sustainable development that will effect the well-being of our generation as well as future generations. We have made an extraordinary effort to be here this week. The Youth Caucus is eager to participate fully in the negotiation process, bringing our experiences and ideas to our national delegations. We call on delegates to fulfill the commitment made to young people in Agenda 21, and invite young people join their delegations throughout the rest of the Rio negotiations, and at the final Johannesburg Summit.

Diary Dates

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
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

Wednesday, January 30	- Agriculture, land and water
Thursday, January 31	- A rights based approach to sustainable development
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