

OUTREACH 2002



Issue VI

Working Towards Earth Summit 2002

Friday 8th February 2002

Prep. Comm. II



What's in OUTREACH...

- Prep Comm II in review
- NGOs networking
- Women's View
- Health the Summit
- Fun & the media

Which way now?

OUTREACH Staff

Co-Editors:

- Toby Middleton
- Jan-Gustav Strandenæs

Journalists:

- Anna Birney
- Gordon Baker

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The second Prepcom is coming to an end and the stage for the next one is set. The text we will receive today from the Chair will give us an idea what the challenge for Johannesburg will be. The bottom up approach that was agreed at PrepCom 1 has brought with it a rich input from the Regional Commission meetings and the Eminent Peoples meetings as we move forward it is important not to lose that regional perspective. Perhaps it might be an idea to consider retaining in the outcomes document the recommendations from the Regional PrepComs under the themes that are agreed for the Summit.

The follow up to the Johannesburg Summit will need to see a strengthening of the Regional approach and the outcome document should reflect that wherever it can.

Another reflection on this past two weeks is the worrying comments around the corridors that the stakeholders might be able to in some way deliver the work programme developed at Johannesburg. This worry exists on a few levels. The first is the lack of criteria for initiatives and partnerships for the type 2 outcome documents. Many people believe we need criteria to ensure the legitimacy and 'sustainable survival' of the type 2 outcome document. We also need them to ensure that there is a clear and strong call to governments and stake-

holders to develop initiatives and partnerships that actually complement the existing sustainable development agreements and those being developed in the type 1 outcome document.

However, any set of criteria needs to be applied in a way that supports and enables the development of initiatives and not hamper them.

The stakeholder approach at the global level is a relatively new and fragile thing. Although we have been doing stakeholder dialogues around the CSD since 1998 the methodological framework is relatively new and has involved a small number of organizations compared to what it will need to do if it is to be a significant part of the 2002 process.

The creative approach of Bonn might be worth looking at for the next stakeholder dialogue. We must move away from talking past each other to real engagement with each other and with governments.

On Wednesday we raised some concern about the time we have to negotiate the Programme of Action for Johannesburg. For Rio we had between 14-16 weeks. For Johannesburg 6 weeks. We called for the setting up of Task Groups on the different themes in the Chairs text during the intersessional and hoped they might develop detailed work programmes based around a similar model to Agenda 21. One of the strengths of

this would be to revisit the outcomes from the Regional meetings to ensure we do not lose good ideas. The suggestion on Wednesday was a text for each of the areas to be built around the Millennium Targets and new targets which would have as its elements, introduction to the issue, programme area, basis for action, objectives, activities (at all levels), means of implementation (including capacity building, technology sharing, education and training), roles of stakeholders, financial resources (including the financial mix for the different regions), timetables and targets and indica-

tors.

One of the issues that has come up loud and clear during this prep-com has been the issue of a Convention for Trans-national Conventions. The Enron issue in the US has made the discussion even more obvious that it needs to be addressed.. The Summit process could agree that the General Assembly set up an INC to address this issue. In a globalised world there is a need for their to be a set of regulations on behaviour of companies. Perhaps Johannesburg will address this.

F.Dodds

The Scope of the Summit

- UN Summit - Official Summit of the UN
- Global Forum - Participation & integration of 9 Major Groups
- Ubuntu Village - Nerve Centre of the Summit
- 'Best Practice' Ubuntu Exhibition
- Side Events outside UN premises - Seminars, Conferences and Cultural Activities

The United Nations Summit

- Location - Sandton Convention Centre: *In the heart of Africa's most advanced business and technology hub; The most technologically and environmentally advanced conference centre in Africa.*
- Dates - Monday, Aug 26 - Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2002

NGO Global Forum

- Location - NASREC; *A multi-purpose, state of the art conference venue which integrates formal and informal public events; Home to the 9 Major Groups during the Summit.*
- The host country, South Africa, is providing the venue to optimise the logistical integration between the UN and the Global Forum

Logistics & Facilities @ the Village

- SA Welcome Card kiosks
- Access to Zone 1 shuttles to the UN precinct
- Access to Zone 4 express shuttle to the Global Forum
- Mega media centre
- International food court
- Commercial business centre
- Central info and hospitality
- Central tourism bureau

8 Key Steps to the Summit

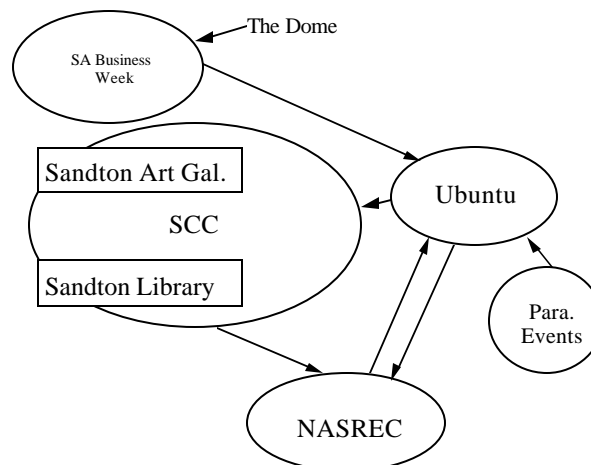
Produced with the kind permission of the South African Government

The Invitation

- South Africa is proud to invite the stakeholders to exhibit their best practice at a unique exhibition which will form an integral part of the WSSD:
 - Government
 - Inter. Gov. Orgs.
 - 9 Major Groups
 - Regional Cooperation for Development Agencies

Process

- Application forms via: www.joburgsummit2002.com
- On acceptance a formal letter of authorisation to use the wording 'Official side event of the Johannesburg World Summit 2002'
- If venue was requested, Jowco will authorise the venue booking agent to release the venue to the side event organisers



Accommodation

- Global DMC - *Official accommodation and travel agent for the WSSD 2002*
- 43,000 rooms reserved for Summit delegates
- Booking via website: www.joburgsummit2002.com

SDIN: A New Tool for NGOs

The World Summit on Sustainable Development offers a challenge to those committed to sustainability: To review the lessons of the past ten years, to identify the obstacles to progress, and to define those actions needed to overcome those obstacles. The Sustainable Development Issues Network (SDIN) represents one response by civil society to that challenge; not as a solution but a new tool for NGOs working towards those solutions.

FOCUS ON THE ISSUES

One of the main features of SDIN is the focus on the issues of sustainable development and the World Summit. Beginning two years ago as an informal coalition of CSD issues caucuses, the Issues Network now represents a partnership of NGO caucuses (e.g., Women; Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems; Corporate Accountability; Fresh Water; and several others) and regional networks (ELCI; Third World Network; ANPED). At that time little was being done to help prepare NGOs plan and strategize for the WSSD process. SDIN was created specifically to address this need to share information and to collaborate in shaping our strategies and goals.

The purpose of the network is not to replace other NGO bodies (like the NGO Steering Committee) but to provide a functional tool for NGOs working to achieve progress on specific sustainable development issues.

COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

More specifically, the Issues Network promotes communication and collaboration. Most groups joining SDIN agree that in the face of numerous speeches, papers and facts, there is not enough qualitative communication. NGOs getting involved with SDIN have emphasized the need for strategic information and exchanges that lead to qualitative political change. Thus, SDIN will continue to focus its attention on what is needed by groups to advance their issues.

One need is to identify what organizations are working on their issue in other regions, especially those groups who have never been to the CSD in New York and perhaps have only heard about the regional preparatory meetings. This need is especially important in bringing together northern and southern NGOs committed to the same issue. Another need is to begin dialogues among these NGOs far before the official dialogues and meetings, allowing for more effective preparation and the chance to work out differences in advance.

Past methods for such communication and collaboration have been inadequate, with many NGOs usually only talking to each other after they have arrived in New York for that year's CSD session. SDIN aims to address this lack of outreach and information, exploring various methods and approaches to this need.

THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

During the Second PrepCom, SDIN hosted a series of morning thematic meetings, inviting representatives from different issue caucuses to share their perspective and strategies in addressing that

day's cross-cutting theme. For this PrepCom the themes were:

- Food, Land and Water
- Rights-based Approaches to Sustainable Development
- Earth Values
- Globalization and Corporate Accountability
- Governance and Legal Institutions
- Energy, Climate and Biodiversity
- Gender and Sustainable Development

The purpose of these discussions was not to encourage speeches but for different issue caucuses and groups to talk with each other about how they approach the topic and what opportunities there might be to join forces or mutually support those strategies. For example, in the discussion on Food, Land and Water, members of the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Caucus (SAFS) talked with members of the Desertification Caucus and the Water Caucus about strategies involving common goals but different institutions and processes as well as other networks of NGOs outside the CSD and WSSD process. Similar cross-cutting points were made in the discussions about corporate accountability, an issue raised during the Dialogue Sessions by not only members of the Corporate Accountability Caucus but also the Trade Unions, Women, the Indigenous Peoples Caucus, and other Major Groups.

Because of the positive reactions to this kind of discussion, we will explore ways of developing this approach in the upcoming PrepComs. (The list of themes for PrepCom3 is now on the table. What cross-cutting topic do you think we should discuss then?)

SDISSUES.NET

Another method SDIN is developing to improve NGO communications and collaboration is a website dedicated to the sustainable development issues and groups working on those issues. In contrast to other WSSD websites, the content of the SDIN site (sdissues.net) is managed by the issue-based networks or caucuses working on those issues. For example, the content for the pages on corporate accountability is being managed by the NGO Taskforce on Business and Industry (ToBI) and members of the Corporate Accountability Caucus. The pages on governance and on legal and institutional issues is being managed by the Legal and Institutional Issues Caucus. Food and agriculture is managed by International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture. Production and consumption is managed by the International Coalition for Sustainable Production and Consumption (ICSPAC) and members of the SPAC Caucus. The same for other issues, which to date are:

- Corporate Accountability
- Desertification
- Earth Values
- Education
- Energy and Climate Change
- Environmental Governance
- Forests
- Fresh Water
- Health and Environment

Cont. P.6

WOMEN ORGANISING FOR WSSD

Every morning 25 to 40 women gathered in Conference Room B for the Women's Caucus. It is a caucus with a history: in 1991 it was this daily gathering in which women's concerns were voiced that engendered Agenda 21. Although recognized as a Major Group and a majority of the world population there is no time for women to sit back and relax: there is still a lot to be improved regarding women's full participation in decision making in the WSSD process and beyond, and in taking fully into account women's concerns and perspectives.

Su January 27th. the Women's Caucus held a Strategy meeting in which the Prep.Comm. process was explained, experiences and concerns were shared. The team for the Multistakeholder Dialogue, 6 from the South and 4 from the North, was presented. There was a lot of energy around and willingness to make women's voices heard.

Mo January 28th at 10 am. the first of ten meetings of the Women's Caucus started. Programmes were shared and tasks divided. Small groups of people organised along specific themes, such as visions for sustainable development, peace (incl. HIV/AIDs), globalisation and impoverishment (of people and the earth), and food production.

That same day Thais Corral from REDEH (Brazil) and June Zeitlin from WEDO co-chaired a Panel on the Women's Action Agenda for a Peaceful and Healthy Planet 2015. Distinguished guest was prof. Emil Salim, chair of the Prep.Comm. He informed the group why he felt it important that women were fully involved in the preparations for the Earth Summit and beyond. The process by which the Women's Action Agenda is developed – through an international team of experts and worldwide consultations – was explained, and participants brought main concerns forward.

During the Multistakeholder Dialogue specific Action Points (formerly called: bullet points, but that is militaristic language) put forward, such as:

- Ensure and assess full participation and involvement of women in any decisions, policies, and programs at any level related to sustainable development.
- Gender mainstreaming in all institutions working in the field of (sustainable) development.
- Globalisation, trade, financial investments and international environmental agreements must work to countervail impoverishment to guarantee sustainable development for all.
- Make the protection of people's – in particular women's – environmental health, risks and security, as well as the earth's integrity central goals of local and global (sustainable) development.
- Governments, private sector and trade unions should work with local people, especially women, to create a culture that makes production and consumption processes sustainable, socially and economically just and empowering.

In the discussions it became obvious that women shared concerns and are willing to partner with other major groups such as local authorities (on LA 21), trade unions (on safe work places), indigenous peoples (on safeguarding natural resources), youth (on education for sustainable development), and NGOs (on globalisation, govern-

ance and corporate accountability).

The Women's Caucus developed a Statement – presently signed up by more than 30 women's organisations and networks - as input in Prep.Comm.II.: *'The Summit should recognize that the full range of human rights, with specific attention to women, must be promoted and protected. Those rights include civil, political, social, economic, cultural and environmental rights, all of which are fundamental and necessary preconditions for sustainable development. Equitable development is security for all.'* Also:

- Create an enabling environment for PEOPLE to work for their sustainable development and a healthy planet.
- Build a Global Coalition of People and Institutions FOR sustainable development.
- Promote non-violent ways of ensuring peace and conflict-prevention: peace as a condition for sustainable development, sustainable development as a condition for lasting peace.
- Protect human health through the conservation of the natural resources base.
- Strengthen the UN process and system as a whole, particularly in those areas that impact women economically.

The caucus called for actions:

- Build coherence in policies and programs and work cross-sectorally at all levels, base on principles of sustainable development.
- Provision of education and training for all people particularly women and girl children; promote sustainable development education.
- Build political and public awareness on distribution aspects of sustainable development.
- Ensure equal access and control rights to land and other global public goods.
- Guarantee access to financial services and employment to low income women.
- Ratify and implement the CEDAW Convention and its Optional Protocol.
- Build strong mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, especially from a gender perspective, using gender-disaggregated data and promoting mechanisms such as gender budgeting.

The Women's Caucus identified major issues for cooperation on the road to Johannesburg: education, peace, women in decision-making, globalisation and financial resources, and energy, water and other global public goods. Plans are being developed for a Women's Tent in Johannesburg and a Peace train going there. Women in the caucus will make sure that women's voices will be heard in Johannesburg and beyond!

For regular updates on women's caucus activities around WSSD, send a blank email message to: WED OSustDev2002-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Another important source is: women-csd listserv.

Irene Dankelman & Rebecca Pearl, WEDO

Health and Stakeholder Citizenship

Workshop, 2 - 3 February 2002

The challenge

Corporations, NGOs, intergovernmental bodies and others have been developing innovative strategies to tackle urgent issues such as equitable access to health and to other basic needs; increasing transparency and accountability of their operations; and developing partnerships amongst themselves. However, many of these efforts fail to be replicated, many problems remain unsolved, and there is no coherent framework of 'stakeholder citizenship'.

Many stakeholders are seeking to engage in exchange and learn from their respective experiences of the challenges of sustainable development. They are also seeking to identify more clearly their roles and options within sustainable development and to become more pro-active in addressing emerging and possibly contentious issues.

The 2-3 February workshop, organised by a group of partner organisations, brought together over 60 representatives of corporations, NGOs, intergovernmental bodies and other stakeholders. The meeting focused on participants sharing their understanding of key issues and actions in the health sector, and key mechanisms of stakeholder responsibility / transparency / accountability.

The goals of the workshop included to:

- Identify good practice and learn from participants' experience;
- Increase understanding of stakeholders' roles in sustainable development, and their limitations;
- Increase understanding of incentives for and barriers against stakeholder action and stakeholder collaboration, focus on both their short and long term gains;
- Identify and prioritise urgent and emerging issues, particularly in relation to health and sustainable development and those that require (joint) stakeholder action; and
- Identify areas of possible collaboration.

Outcomes:

The workshop helped participants to identify stakeholders' responsibilities and learn about their respective concerns and interests. Participants shared their and developed a better understanding of what they were able and prepared to do in order to further sustainable development. The workshop also helped to identify priority issues within the broad areas of 'Health' and 'Corporate / Stakeholder Citizenship'. Participants discussed their priorities and what contributions stakeholders and, in particular, *stakeholder partnerships* could deliver. Participants also exchanged views on the success criteria of 'smart partnerships'.

Bringing together participants from different stakeholder groups, the workshop also helped to build linkages between stakeholder communities that operate in different sectors and at different levels in various parts of the world.

Some initial potential areas for stakeholder collaboration were, inter alia:

- Working with the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in a specific country to assist the national prioritisation process;
- Working to support WHO on its main area of focus around Earth Summit 2002; and
- Lobbying governments to support the conclusions of Macroeconomic Commission on Health.

The group identified the following as necessary factors for a successful collaborative process:

- It must be FUN in order to retain enthusiasm and achieve results over time.
- Partnerships need to involve all relevant stakeholders. They need clear goals and agreed processes. They need to identify the incentives and benefits for all parties. They need to ensure access to reliable information for all participants. They need joint clarification of goals and strategies. They need clearly identified roles and responsibilities. They need independent measurement and monitoring over time. Collective trust must be established at the outset and reaffirmed during the process through open lines of communication.
- Participants need to be clear how the Implementation Conference process will add value to specific existing projects that are already underway. The aim is for linkages to be made that broaden the scope and impact of existing and planned programmes of action.

Follow-up

The Stakeholder Forum team will engage in follow-up activities towards the Implementation Conference (20-23 August 2002), which will feed into the Earth Summit itself.

- Place a summary report of the meeting on the www. earthsummit2002.org/ic website;
- Feed the outcomes into the WSSD preparatory process through wide dissemination of the summary and a side event at Prep-Comm III;
- Update the issue papers on "Health" and "Corporate / Stakeholder Citizenship";
- Invite participants to indicate whether they wish to continue to be involved in the Implementation Conference process; and
- Finalise formation of Issue Advisory Groups to:
 - advise on the topics on which to focus and further identify areas for joint collaborative action; and
 - identify and engage relevant stakeholder organisations that could play an active role in developing and implementing suggested project collaboration.

- Johannesburg Whines -

Picks up where Rio Grinds left off...



Because nobody said sustainable development would be fair!

Diff. Kinds of Outcomes: 490: Accidental thoughts whilst listening to the wrong translation. 512: graffiti on the non-smoking signs. 609: Coffee stains in the Vienna Café. 700: Any idea from Sander van Bennekom

Media & Sustainable Development: "Without a properly informed citizenry you cannot have a properly functioning democracy... We (the media) can, for better or worse, shape the way people look at their world." (Christiane Amanpour, CNN).

From the Media & WSSD side event: "If it bleeds, it leads." Media Executive, UN media debate, 6/Feb/02. "Reporting only 'newsworthy' environmental events is like reporting economics solely through bank robberies."

- Human Rights and Environment
- Indigenous Peoples
- Legal and Institutional Issues
- Peace
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Sustainable Production and Consumption
- Women

The content is thus owned and controlled by the issue groups themselves, who presumably will not only be the best judge of relevant information, but those most closely informed and engaged in that issue. This type of engaged knowledge of the process and the politics is especially critical for getting newcomers quickly up to speed as well as for coordinating strategies among groups spread out in different regions across the world.

For each issue, web pages exist for posting information on news, events, organizations, documents and papers, and other necessities for NGOs interested in that issue and needing to quickly get updated on and engaged with the key groups, activities, and current knowledge.

SDIN AND THE WSSD CHALLENGE

Returning to the challenge of the WSSD. We all know about the "implementation gap" whereby the UN has acknowledged that "progress towards the goals established at Rio has been slower than anticipated and in some respects conditions are worse." We have replaced the optimism and dreams of 1992 to the skepticism and experience of 2002. However, what lessons have we actually learned that enable us to overcome the obstacles blocking progress? For NGOs, the assessment of obstacles and next steps may be quite different from the assessments made by governments and industry. If we are not to relive and repeat the mistakes of the past, we need to be very clear in our analysis and in our advocacy. For the NGOs networking around each sustainable development issue, this work is vital. What are the lessons and the proposals for NGOs on each of the issues?

Especially important for NGOs is the need to analyze and communicate the OBSTACLES that have impeded progress in each of our issues as well as the Agenda 21 goals overall. In far too many of the various reports, papers and speeches, the controversial and uncomfortable topic of obstacles has been minimal. Yet without this analysis there can be no progress. We will certainly repeat the same old mistakes and be in a worse position in 2012. This is one of the key contributions which NGOs can make in the global assessment and debate about implementation and governance -- whereby

NGOs and citizens make a point of holding their governments and industries accountable to society.

The second key contribution and challenge to each of us is in the actual proposals we make for action in the next decade. While it is easy to criticize governments, industry, other NGOs and the public for the lack of progress and their lack of political will, it is much more difficult to identify and work to design the institutional mechanisms needed to build the solutions we are calling for.

Hopefully with the improvements in communications and collaboration which SDIN was created to promote, we NGOs will rise to this challenge putting some new and exciting ideas on the table.

REVIEWING PROGRESS

Some may recall criticisms of the 1992 Earth Summit, that because of the influence by vested interests we would see little change from business as usual. Today the vested interests remain and indeed we have seen minimal positive changes combined with a deepening of the problems of poverty, environmental degradation and threats to health and quality of life. As the Secretary General's report puts it, "despite initiatives by governments, international organizations, business, civil society groups and individuals to achieve sustainable development, than they were ten years ago."

As NGOs point out the lack of progress by governments and business and industry in implementing the Agenda 21 objectives, we must also assess our own efforts in these past ten years. What did we achieve from all our meetings and speeches and papers and discussions in this smoky, sunlight-free New York basement? Considering all the money spent for travel, the air pollution from planes, the trees consumed to produce mountains documents (which are now all hopefully recycled, their contents all hopefully integrated in policies and best practices) the three questions stand: What have we ourselves achieved? What obstacles have impeded our progress? What will we do next? Submerged in a sea of words, we have paddled our way towards various islands of hope, gasping for those special moments of inspiration along the way, while trying to avoid the sharks. We have listened to important people talk big but deliver little. We have tried to find our way through these basement halls to a new world. Some see these wanderings as not epic journey but tragic joke.

Are we all ready for the ritual dance welcoming another 10-year round? Or will we insist on something different? And what will we ourselves do differently to improve our efforts

by Jeffrey Barber - Sustainable Prod. & Cons. Caucus