

# The New “Chairs text”. What Still Needs to be Done?

Arriving in the sunshine of Bali after being buried in the basement of the UN in New York throughout the earlier negotiations gives an immediate lift to the spirit. And taking up the Chairman's crisp new text after being buried in the waves of brackets in New York's compilation text adds to the pleasure. Now at last we can see that we are getting somewhere. We have not been struggling up the slopes of the Summit in vain.

There is still a good deal to be done however to complete the work, to turn the text into the effective action-oriented approach that everyone has been looking for, to develop a strong and inspiring political overview, and to create the framework for genuine partnerships with other actors for implementation.

Both the South African non-paper produced during Prep Com 3 and the “Agenda for Action” document produced by Stakeholder Forum called for a clearer structure to the Johannesburg document. This was in order to help:

- Highlight how the various means of implementation (finance, technology transfer, education etc) relate to a specific sector;
- Give greater clarity about how different sections of the agreement relate to each other;
- Ensure an action-orientated and comprehensive approach to the agreement;
- Improve the interpretation and monitoring of commitments made.

The new “Chair's Text for Negotiation” has made some progress in this direction, but in our view could still be strengthened further if certain key elements could be enhanced throughout the text:

- Principles: Rights-based approach
- Targets: Planning ahead
- Financial commitments
- Education and awareness raising
- Participation
- Governance: National strategies, an integrated approach; local and sub-national processes; programmes of action
- Information for Decision-making: Assessment, monitoring and indicators

**1. Principles: Rights-based approach.** Common principles and values are important tools to outline the motivation behind commitments to take action. Most sections in the text currently give only a minimal indi-

cation of the aims and purpose of the proceeding action points. This could be significantly improved by recognising the global call for a more equitable and rights based approach to sustainable development. There should be consistent and clear reference to relevant international Social, Cultural and Economic Rights in the text.

**2. Targets.** Some sections include target dates for certain goals or programmes. This approach should be applied in all remaining sectors, to give a guideline for countries to develop intermediate targets and schedules for reaching these benchmarks. Where relevant there should be inclusion of intermediate target dates to break down the process into more manageable stages.

**3. Financial and resource commitments:** International resources are essential to meet the targets. Where-ever possible the financial estimates required to meet global targets should be specified to act as a bench-mark for the international community, or at least a process identified for quantifying the costs of the different programmes, and how countries and agencies intend to work together to mobilize the necessary resources. The absence of such a system was one of the great weaknesses of the Rio deal – it would be tragic to repeat this mistake.

**4. Education, and awareness-raising:** References to education and awareness-raising appear in certain parts of the text but this important cross cutting theme should be more clearly supported in the introduction of the text and/or referred to throughout the rest of the document.

**5. Participation.** Recognition of the need for clear, balanced and equitable participative processes in decision-making, policy formulation, programme development, and implementation is key. The text should avoid the overly simplified adoption of a tripartite approach (government, business and the rest of civil society) and take a more “nuanced” inclusion of stakeholders according to issues being addressed. On some of the topics, local authorities have a crucial part to play; on others trades unions and the social partners need to be strongly engaged. In many cases other groups such as women, children, elderly, disabled, indigenous peoples, especially need recognition and sufficient resources to participate more effectively. Clearer definition of stakeholder roles in different sections of the text will also give stronger linkage between the “Type I” agreements and the “Type II” partnership-based initiatives.

## 6. Governance.

**National Strategies - an integrated approach:** There are some references in the text to the development of strategies, such as for water resources management. This needs to be applied more consistently throughout the document - every sector requires a strategy outlining the key elements for action, plans, policies, programmes and monitoring mechanisms. Similarly there should be a reference to how different strategies relate to each other and will be incorporated into the broader national / local / regional strategies for Sustainable Development. The organisations that will facilitate

these processes, such as national councils/commissions, should be identified.

**Local and sub-national processes.** The importance of the sub-national and local level cannot be over emphasised. There ought to be greater acknowledgement of their significant role, the need for “up-flow” of experiences to national, regional and global levels. This should not only be applied consistently throughout the text, but should also be outlined more comprehensively in the introduction.

**Programmes of action:** Every sector needs to develop a programme of action or action plan detailing how a particular aspect of a strategy is going to be implemented. The initiation of such programmes/plans also need to be incorporated consistently in the different elements of the text.

#### **7. Information for decision-making: Assessment, Monitoring and Indicators**

All issues require a degree of monitoring and assessment to ensure that progress is being made, help identify the possible barriers to progress, and make recommendations for improvement. Reference to these areas should be adopted more consistently.

Indicators, for monitoring and assessment, are specific to what is being measured, the different issues, information available, and other factors. However, the importance of their development and effective use should be recognized when reference is made to the need for assessment and monitoring of progress.

**Conclusion.** If negotiators could take on board at least some of these points during the week ahead we should have a text worthy of being carried forward for endorsement by Heads of Government at Johannesburg.

*Derek Osborn & Rosalie Gardiner, Stakeholder Forum*

## Reports from the Weekend Sessions

### *‘Om, Santi, Santi, Santi, Om’*

Fresh off a fourteen hour flight from the UK and yearning to explore the wonders of Bali, we were soon on a shuttle bus to the BICC and straight into Plenary. The session was opened with a prayer of peace — ‘Om Santi, Santi, Santi, Om’ - During a brief opening session Member States were invited to building of bridges between various groups towards ensuring agreement for all on statements contained within the ‘Chairman’s Text for Negotiation’ with particular focus on those text currently in bold. It was stressed that the resulting document from PrepCom IV — ‘Plan of Implementation’ must be action orientated, comprehensive and pragmatic. In fear of discussions resulting in a repeat of the lengthy, un-wieldy ‘Compilation Text’ as was produced during the first week of PrepCom III (New York, 25th March—5th April) delegates were asked not to offer new text for inclusion, but to work with the text as it stands and build consensus. To ensure this level of consensus is reached, Vice-Chairs have been given the mandate to set-up ‘contact groups’ to deal with issues of contention.

The weekend sessions of Working Group I and Working Group II were mandated to set firm foundations for negotiations over the following week (27th—31st May). Vice Chairs were asked to use these sessions as a means of identifying where consensus lay, and to set those issues for further discussion to one side, until formal

negotiations commenced on Monday (27th May).

Working Group I moved straight into negotiating the ‘Chairman’s Text for Negotiation’ line by line, with Governments immediately aligning themselves to familiar positions. It felt something of a *deja-vu* of PrepCom III. Paragraph 1, took an entire hour to discuss. It became clear that this was set to be an extremely long and somewhat painful process.

Governments faced real problems over reaching consensus on even these, seemingly uncontroversial initial sentences. This highlighted underlying suspicions of the meaning of specific elements of text. USA in a moment of honesty admitted that they are ‘extremely text sensitive’ and that they had to ensure that each word would not contain any underlying connotation, which could result in unforeseen commitments being made. This admission was to hold true throughout the rest of the discussions. The European Union were making great efforts to confine themselves to limited number of key amendment proposals in the spirit of building consensus for the Chair’s text, but this restraint was not matched by some other delegations. The outcomes of Rio were revisited several times, however there was a lot of uncertainty on a number of conventions and agreements post 1992, and the phrase ‘commit ourselves’ proved to be one of the more major sticking point of the day.

There were rumblings in the side-lines with various NGO’s voicing serious concerns with the new texts. A call for a revised text by the end of the week was clearly audible.

In amongst all of this, we have to hope that all Governments and stakeholders can keep in their minds Salim’s final statement of the Plenary:

*‘... there will be no session after Bali, this is your last chance to reach consensus. Bali is the last harbor before we sail into Johannesburg, and this is why we must make this meeting a success.’*

*Georgina Ayre, Stakeholder Forum*

#### **What is the difference between ‘require’ and ‘need’?**

The Working Group II informal session on Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> pointed to some of the central tensions and conflicts within this preparatory process. The meeting examined the text in Chapter V, VI and VII – on Sustainable Development in a Globalizing World, on Health and Sustainable Development and on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

One country, in particular (which had better remain nameless) wanted to ‘loosen’ language – as in the example at the top, or other examples: ‘promote’ rather than ‘ensure’, or ‘improve’ rather than ‘secure’ – all of which weaken the commitments.

And what about the attempts to ‘lose’ all the meaningful target dates? Doesn’t the Summit need a time-bound framework in order to make it effective and worthwhile? The Vice Chair of the session repeatedly reminded delegates that dates were important, as benchmarks for evaluation, and goals towards which to work.

Another worrying element is the concentration on ‘adaptation’ to the effects of climate change, rather than any preparedness to consider changes that the North needs to make to ‘mitigate’, or even better, ‘prevent’ the dangerous and life threatening effects of global warming, particularly on Small Island Developing States, and on countries in the ‘majority’ world who are, even now, experiencing greater problems almost certainly as a result of global warming.

One is tempted to agree with the comment (which I am afraid cannot be attributed) that the Chair “man”’s text is a core document for a “Northern Government Summit for Unsustainable Development.

Let us hope that there will be much greater political will to make

WSSD into a real charter for Sustainable Development, with the North (or the 'minority' world) taking real responsibility for the effect of its behaviour and practices.

*Catherine Budgett-Meakin, Stakeholder Forum*

## The WSSD Leaders "Political" Declaration

While the main focus of the WSSD Prepcoms has been the "Implementation Text", the second week of Prepcom IV in Bali will see the launch of negotiations on a Leaders' "Political" Declaration - "Declaration" that is expected to be finalized by leaders in Johannesburg. One of the ministerial dialogues in Bali is also scheduled to discuss the contents of this Declaration.

Bearing in mind the difficulties experienced at Rio+ 5 in 1997 in New York, when both the implementation texts and Leaders' declaration were negotiated simultaneously with the result that no declaration was agreed, the Chairman of the Bureau, Dr. Emil Salim, has attempted to ensure that discussions on the Declaration do not begin before negotiations on his Implementation Text are completed. No draft text on the Declaration has been circulated, rather the Chairman has tasked two Bureau vice chairs to prepare draft elements based on input received from regional groups, individual delegations and major groups. It is assumed that these elements will be among the inputs used by the Chairman in preparing a first draft of the Leader's Declaration.

As one of the two Bureau members engaged in this exercise, along with Ihab Gamaleldin of Egypt, I can confirm that most delegations and regional groups are focussing their efforts on preparing their positions on the Chairman's new implementation text and the co-chairs new text on institutional arrangements for sustainable development governance. When contacted, some delegations were awaiting instructions while others were unwilling to provide any detailed input before the Chairman's new implementation text appeared or was finalized as they viewed the Declaration as being an outgrowth of that text. As a result, the input received by the two co-chairs has been more in the nature of general guidance than detailed text although some detailed text has been received both from countries and major groups.

As I am writing this article after compiling my input for the Chairman and before a first draft text of the Declaration has appeared, I can only give my personal views on the form and substance of the Leaders Declaration.

In my view, the Declaration should be relatively short, 4-5 pages, and draw on the implementation text without attempting to be an executive summary of that document. It should focus on trends and issues of particular concern to world leaders and set out a future course of action in concise language that speaks clearly to the public in words that will be remembered.

It should not attempt to duplicate the Rio Declaration by setting down a number of new guiding principles, rather it should begin by recalling and reaffirming Rio and Millennium outcomes. As the Chairman's Implementation Text also touches on issues dealt with by other UN conferences since Rio, consideration should also be given to mentioning their outcomes as well.

The Declaration should then go on to provide some analysis of the

progress made since Rio drawing on the Secretary General's report and other analyses that have appeared in recent months. It should point out where progress has indeed been achieved but also make clear the implementation gap that remains and why.

The Declaration should then make mention of the developments since Rio that need to be taken into account in plotting a future course, such as globalization, the revolution in information and communication technologies, and the spread of HIV/AIDs. As well, it should also make mention of several recent international conferences that have influenced the direction of some key issues to be discussed at the WSSD, e.g. climate change, trade and finance for development.

The Declaration could then set out the prerequisites for achieving sustainable development such as peace and security and good governance and the need by both governmental and non-governmental actors to mobilize resources at both the domestic and international levels.

Finally, the Declaration should attempt to highlight issues that are of major concern and set out a future course of action on them while endorsing the programme of action contained in the agreed Implementation Text. In particular, leaders may wish to give particular attention to such issues as poverty alleviation, access to water and sanitation services, access to modern energy services, the needs of Africa, health, food security, improving resource management and good governance as well as the Millennium Summit Goals.

*Richard Ballhorn, Vice Chair & Canadian Government*

## Stakeholder's Priorities for Prep. Comm. IV

### Women's Priorities

At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio women were formally recognized for the first time as key actors in achieving and maintaining sustainable development. Ten years later, despite the gains they have made at subsequent UN international conferences, women remain challenged by a global economic system that exacerbates poverty and environmental degradation. The future, as envisioned by women, must be built on the principles of peace and solidarity; equity and shared power; environmental integrity; social justice and respect for human rights, cultural and biological diversity.

In August, at the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)— in Johannesburg, South Africa, diverse women from all regions of the world will put forth a comprehensive blueprint of their dreams and goals for the future. Crossing issues, cultures and nations, Women's Action Agenda for a Peaceful and Healthy Planet 2015 expresses core visions and values for a sustainable society. Following are highlights:

#### Peace

Peace is a prerequisite for sustainable development and steps must be taken to address the ecological, social, economic and political causes of conflicts, violence and terror. Women are calling for the universal ratification and implementation, without reservation, of the International Criminal Court. They are also calling for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 and the promo-

tion of non-violent forms of conflict resolution.

### Globalization for Sustainability

Left unchecked economic globalization driven by liberalized market forces, results in growing gaps between rich and poor, increasing poverty, violence and crime, and environmental degradation. Women are demanding that the neo-liberal paradigm governing the global economy be replaced with a sustainable, gender-sensitive, and environmentally sound development framework.

### Access and Control of Resources

Earth's biological diversity is threatened by the irreversible destruction due to production and consumption patterns driven by market forces. Women demand the implementation of all instruments to halt further destruction, including the Convention on Biodiversity, and the Kyoto Protocol on global warming. Other actions include establishing systems of accountability for those responsible for polluting, mainstreaming gender in national and international sustainable development agencies and developing gender-disaggregated data.

### Environmental Security and Health

Worldwide environmental security of is at risk, and people—especially those living in poverty—are exposed to toxic substances and radiation, lack clean, safe water and sanitation, or live in disaster prone areas. Women are calling for gender-disaggregated data on environmental health risks, increased access for young people to HIV-prevention information and services and the phasing out of the production and use of nuclear energy and toxic substances by 2015. Governments should aim to halve by 2015, the proportion of people with no access to safe drinking water as recommended in the UN Millennium Report.

### Governance for Sustainable Development

Women's participation in governance structures at local regional and international levels remains woefully low. Governments and international institutions must commit to measurable goals and timetables to achieve critical mass (30%) of women in decision-making by 2003 and gender balance by 2005. A reporting mechanism to track progress should be established in the UN and Local Agenda 21 processes should be engendered and promoted as part of local government structures.

### Capacity Building

Women's education is key to poverty eradication and slowing population growth but women and girls comprise the majority (65%) of the world's non-literate. Women are calling for programs to achieve full literacy for all. They are also calling for gender sensitive education and the protection and integration of women's traditional and indigenous knowledge in education, policy and decision-making processes.

### Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Partnerships between governments, institutions and civil society should be built on principles of respect for human rights, transparency and accountability, inclusiveness, equal participation, and gender balance and equality. Women are calling for a clear and enforceable Partnership Code of Conduct along with the provision of financial and other capacity-building resources.

*Women's Environment & Development Organisation*

### Business Priorities

1. To ensure a structured and productive participation in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, ICC and WBCSD are helping business organizations around the world to come together under the common theme of 'Business Action for Sustainable De-

velopment' ([www.basd-action.net](http://www.basd-action.net)). Business aims to dialogue with governments and other stakeholders participating in the WSSD process - and integrate into the discussion a constructive analysis of the global business community's achievements and its continuing role in delivering sustainable development solutions.

Partnerships and Type 2 initiatives

2. Business solutions to sustainable development focus on concrete actions and deliverable results rather than process and procedures. Partnerships between and among stakeholders often deliver more effective and practical solutions than in isolation. Public-private partnerships are also an effective delivery vehicle for capacity-building, transfer of technology, and the linkage of official development assistance and foreign direct investment.

3. A recent report '*Putting Partnering to Work*', released by Business Partners for Development (BPD), describes 'tri-sector partnering', or strategic alliances for managing social issues, which capitalise on the expertise and experience of organisations from across business, government and civil society. For example, a partnership can benefit from the project management and logistical expertise of the investing company; the strategic co-ordination and the ability to source funding of public services of the local government; and the capacity to mobilise community participation of local NGOs and community groups.

4. UK Secretary of State for International Development, The Rt. Hon Clare Short MP, commented at the launch of the report, "*no one government or organisation can afford to work in isolation. We need to recognise the different strengths and capabilities different organisations have and build partnerships and networks at the national and international level, which make the most of these different strengths*".

5. World Bank President, James D. Wolfensohn, added, "*this is new territory. This is a new way of thinking. And my hope is that we can engage business in this new approach as well because the currency of community development is not just money; it is knowledge and it is experience*".

6. The challenge is to link these 'Type 2' partnership initiatives to Agenda 21 and the UN Millennium Development Goals, and to ensure that Type 2 initiatives support, strengthen and implement the WSSD 'Type 1' process, agreements and outcomes.

7. Business views the following guidelines as necessary ingredients to ensure effective partnerships:

Include an appreciation of the three pillars of sustainable development – economic progress, environmental protection and social responsibility.

Involve a combination of partners drawn from governments, NGOs, business and other civil society groups, recognizing the importance of participation and partnership with other groups;

Pursue and demonstrate credible, measurable results and/or impacts, with milestones and transparency.

To have the greatest impact, it is desirable for projects to be replicable, transferable and inspirational – practical examples to be adapted and emulated elsewhere.

8. Organisations involved in partnerships are invited to submit, via the BASD website, details of suitable projects and initiatives, using an on-line facility.

*Business Action for Sustainable Development*

### Local Authority Priorities

Local governments and civic leaders are committed to creating sustainable cities and communities. Since the Rio Earth Summit,

thousands of local governments worldwide have acted on the goals and targets outlined in Agenda 21, the Rio Conventions, the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Declaration, particularly in the key areas of water and sanitation, energy and health. It is vitally important to recognize and tap this potential at the local level to accelerate implementation of sustainable development globally.

The outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit must recognize:

- the importance of good local governance in creating sustainable communities;
- the urban dimension of sustainable development and the interdependence of urban and rural areas;
- the role of local governments in developing partnerships for sustainable development, working with national governments, international agencies, and civil society;
- opportunities to promote and encourage diversified action at the local level.

*Five strategies are proposed for joint action by all spheres of government in order to advance sustainable development locally and globally:*

1. Strengthen local government.
2. Strengthen inter-governmental and intra-governmental cooperation.
3. Foster international solidarity and cooperation.
4. Build a new culture of sustainability.
5. Accelerate the transition to sustainable communities and cities.

To effectively implement these strategies, the following actions will need to be undertaken by the international community:

- Involve local governments as equal partners in action-oriented national sustainable development strategies.
- Involve local government as an equal partner in the UN system, and acknowledge its unique role as a sphere of government, through the enhancement of initiatives like the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities.
- Build the capacity of local government to foster good local governance and sustainable development at the local level, through demand-led international support programmes and a partnership and policy dialogue between donors and local government.
- Promote local government's awareness of, and active commitment to, the international development targets set out in the General Assembly's Millennium Declaration through the organization of a world-wide Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign in partnership with the appropriate UN agencies.
- Recognize and support international campaigns of local and sub-national governments aimed at building healthy, sustainable and resilient communities as effective mechanisms to meet commitments of international conventions and to protect global common goods, such as:

a) Local Agenda 21: Establish long-term national campaigns to initiate and promote local-level sustainable development participatory planning processes, and introduce criteria for investment programs that consider the strategies and targets of action plans in the selection and design of projects for support.

b) Climate Protection: Support local government action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency through the implementation and expansion of the international Cities for Climate Protection Campaign.

c) Sustainable Water Use: Launch an international program to fa-

cilitate the creation and implementation of national and local integrated water management plans.

d) Sustainable Patterns of Consumption and Production: Set up action plans for sound public procurement at all levels of government and establish national collective procurement mechanisms in order to create more effective public demand for sustainable products.

e) Management and Prevention of Disasters (natural and other): Develop local management capacity to create more resilient communities and cities and reducing their vulnerability.

*International Council for Local Environment Initiatives*

### NGOs Priorities

The Multistakeholder Dialogue (MSD) to officially start PrepCom 4 will be an unique (and last major) opportunity for Major Groups to influence the meetings outcome, despite running parallel to the informal intergovernmental negotiations. As the scope of negotiations are still wide open, a focussed discussion and input from the MSD cannot do anything but enhance the outcome. Besides, isn't Sustainable Development about involving "all relevant actors" in the decision-process?

The modalities given to the Major Groups have in reality left a barn door open for inputs to the negotiations, just waiting to be utilised. The specific themes given for the four segments of the MSD are: Sustainable Development Governance, Capacity Building for Sustainable Development, Framework for Partnership Initiatives -- and as the last theme is "Future Priorities" any relevant issue connected to Sustainable Development can be brought up. The trick is to not turn the opportunity into a shopping list.

Preparing the MSD each of the nine Major Groups have written a dialogue paper, issued as official UN documents. Being the longest, the NGO's paper addresses 11 themes to be part of the two single-most important outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit:

- **A Political Declaration** that strongly commits to step up poverty eradication, with the Millennium Summit goal as a minimum, and boost sustainable development, including through improved institutions and mechanisms for speeding up implementation of Rio and other UN agreements. This should recognise the need for reshaping globalisation to achieve a new balance between economic, social and environmental development, and a realignment of power relations between and within States.
- **A concrete Johannesburg Plan of Action** moving from "principle" to "action", through a programme with clear targets, indicators, time frames, financial resources, co-ordination, institutional arrangements and necessary capacity-building. Clear mechanisms are needed for monitoring, enforcement and compliance, accountability as well as for improved civil society access to information and decision-making.

Using an over-arching concept such as a "Global Deal", priorities must be given to: Renew the North-South partnership and Vision that began at Rio; a "rights based" approach to natural resources; progress to be made at local, national, regional and international level regarding good governance, democracy with popular participation and stronger institutions; strengthen the existing framework for global governance of sustainable development, to create a more balanced global power structure with a far more active and internationally-oriented civil society; cooperation or "partnerships" that add to and support intergovernmental agreements dedicated to sustainable development, without pre-empting the role and responsibilities of the State; corporate accountability; fundamentally change the way industrial societies produce and consume;

*Cont. Page 8...*

# SIGNED ANYTHING LATELY?

Rio gave birth to a number of key conventions. Over the next few days, we look at what has been delivered over the last 10 years. Focussing on the legally binding instruments of 5 of these Conventions, we assess what's been done. (Data from UN Biosafety Website)

## The Bio-Safety Protocol

|                      |   |               |   |                        |   |                  |   |                            |   |   |   |
|----------------------|---|---------------|---|------------------------|---|------------------|---|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan          | ☹ | China         | ☹ | Greece                 | ☹ | Luxembourg       | ☹ | Paraguay                   | ☹ | Switzerland   | 😊 |
| Albania              | ☹ | Columbia      | ☹ | Grenada                | ☹ | Madagascar       | ☹ | Peru                       | ☹ | Syrian Arab Republic  | ☹ |
| Algeria              | ☹ | Comoros       | ☹ | Guatemala              | ☹ | Malawi           | ☹ | Philippines                | ☹ | Tajikistan  | ☹ |
| Angola               | ☹ | Congo         | ☹ | Guinea                 | ☹ | Malaysia         | ☹ | Poland                     | ☹ | Tanzania  | ☹ |
| Antigua & Barbuda    | ☹ | Cook Islands  | ☹ | Guinea Bissau          | ☹ | Maldives         | ☹ | Portugal                   | ☹ | Thailand  | ☹ |
| Argentina            | ☹ | Costa Rica    | ☹ | Guyana                 | ☹ | Mali             | ☹ | Qatar                      | ☹ | Togo  | ☹ |
| Armenia              | ☹ | Cote d'Ivoire | ☹ | Haiti                  | ☹ | Malta            | ☹ | Rep. Of Korea              | ☹ | Tonga   | ☹ |
| Australia            | ☹ | Croatia       | ☹ | Honduras               | ☹ | Marshall Is.     | ☹ | Rep. Of Moldova            | ☹ | Trinidad & Tobago   | 😊 |
| Austria              | ☹ | Cuba          | ☹ | Hungary                | ☹ | Mauritania       | ☹ | Romania                    | ☹ | Tunisia   | ☹ |
| Azerbaijan           | ☹ | Cyprus        | ☹ | Iceland                | ☹ | Mauritius        | 😊 | Russian Fed.               | ☹ | Turkey  | ☹ |
| Bahamas              | ☹ | Czech Rep.    | 😊 | India                  | ☹ | Mexico           | ☹ | Rwanda                     | ☹ | Turkmenistan  | ☹ |
| Bahrain              | ☹ | DPR Korea     | ☹ | Indonesia              | ☹ | Micronesia       | ☹ | Saint Kits & Nevis         | 😊 | Tuvalu  | ☹ |
| Bangladesh           | ☹ | DR Congo      | ☹ | Iran                   | ☹ | Monaco           | ☹ | Saint Lucia                | ☹ | Uganda  | 😊 |
| Barbados             | ☹ | Denmark       | ☹ | Ireland                | ☹ | Mongolia         | ☹ | Saint Vincent & Grenadines | ☹ | Ukraine   | ☹ |
| Belarus              | ☹ | Djibouti      | 😊 | Israel                 | ☹ | Morocco          | ☹ | Samoa                      | ☹ | UAE   | ☹ |
| Belgium              | ☹ | Dominica      | ☹ | Italy                  | ☹ | Mozambique       | ☹ | San Marino                 | ☹ | UK  | ☹ |
| Belize               | ☹ | Dominican Rep | ☹ | Jamaica                | ☹ | Myanmar          | ☹ | Sao Tome & Principe        | ☹ | USA   | ☹ |
| Benin                | ☹ | Ecuador       | ☹ | Japan                  | ☹ | Namibia          | ☹ | Saudi Arabia               | ☹ | Uruguay   | ☹ |
| Bhutan               | ☹ | Egypt         | ☹ | Jordan                 | ☹ | Nauru            | 😊 | Senegal                    | ☹ | Uzbekistan  | ☹ |
| Bolivia              | 😊 | El Salvador   | ☹ | Kazakhstan             | ☹ | Nepal            | ☹ | Seychelles                 | ☹ | Vanuatu   | ☹ |
| Botswana             | ☹ | Eq. Guinea    | ☹ | Kenya                  | 😊 | The Netherlands  | 😊 | Sierra Leone               | ☹ | Venezuela   | ☹ |
| Brazil               | ☹ | Eritrea       | ☹ | Kiribati               | ☹ | New Zealand      | ☹ | Singapore                  | ☹ | Viet Nam  | ☹ |
| Bulgaria             | 😊 | Ethiopia      | ☹ | Kuwait                 | ☹ | Nicaragua        | ☹ | Slovak Rep.                | ☹ | Yemen   | ☹ |
| Burkina Faso         | ☹ | EC            | ☹ | Kyrgystan              | ☹ | Niger            | ☹ | Slovenia                   | ☹ | Yugoslavia  | ☹ |
| Burundi              | ☹ | Fiji          | 😊 | Lao PDR                | ☹ | Nigeria          | ☹ | Solomon Is                 | ☹ | Zambia  | ☹ |
| Cambodia             | ☹ | Finland       | ☹ | Latvia                 | ☹ | Niue             | ☹ | South Africa               | ☹ | Zimbabwe  | ☹ |
| Cameroon             | ☹ | France        | ☹ | Lebanon                | ☹ | Norway           | 😊 | Spain                      | 😊 | <b>Key</b><br>😊 Signed & Ratified<br>☹ Signed<br>☹ Oh dear... |   |
| Canada               | ☹ | Gabon         | ☹ | Lesotho                | 😊 | Oman             | ☹ | Sri Lanka                  | ☹ |   |   |
| Cape Verde           | ☹ | Gambia        | ☹ | Liberia                | 😊 | Pakistan         | ☹ | Sudan                      | ☹ |   |   |
| Central African Rep. | ☹ | Georgia       | ☹ | Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | ☹ | Palau            | ☹ | Suriname                   | ☹ |   |   |
| Chad                 | ☹ | Germany       | ☹ | Liechtenstein          | ☹ | Panama           | 😊 | Swaziland                  | ☹ |   |   |
| Chile                | ☹ | Ghana         | ☹ | Lithuania              | ☹ | Papua New Guinea | ☹ | Sweden                     | ☹ |   |   |

UN Member States who are currently Non-Signatories to the Bio-diversity Convention: Andorra, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brunei, Estonia, Iraq, Somalia, Swaziland, Former Yugoslav Rep. Of Macedonia

# UNGASS 1997 COMMITMENTS

**ASK NOT WHAT YOU CAN COMMIT TO NOW,  
BUT WHAT DID YOUR HEAD OF STATE COMMIT TO DO 5 YEARS AGO!**

| Country             | Commitment Made   | Resources Committed   | Time-Bound Commitments  |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Angola              | Enactment of a basic environmental law incl. The most recent concepts to defend biodiversity, user and polluter fees, measures of protection for urban environment etc.; adopt a national program for environmental management incl. environmental education, strengthening of agencies and implementation of environmental policies at the local level                           | Not clear   | Not clear   |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Protection of coastal and marine resources; main -streaming women's concerns and participation in the planning, implementation and monitoring of all development and management of environmental programs;<br>Calls on the GA to convene a two-day Special Session in 1999 to review the implementation of the Barbados Program of Action   | Not clear<br>Calling for increase of support by multilateral and bilateral donors |   |
| Australia           | Natural Heritage Trust of \$ 1.1 billion (biodiversity, sustainable use of land and waters)   | Yes   | yes   |
| Austria             | Greenhouse gas reduction by 2005 and 2010; launch decade for sustainable energy use in 2001; cleaner industrial development, reduction of poverty by 50 % by 2015   | Not clear   | Not clear   |
| Azerbaijan          | Improving drinking water  |   |   |
| Bangladesh          | Founded committee headed Prime Minister, esp. concerned with sea levels and role of women   | Not clear   | Not clear, but have an 8-point program                                |
| Barbados            | Must and will address the problem of unfulfilled targets: Island Action Plan (regional and national)  | Not clear   | Not clear   |
| Belarus             | Creation of new society; reduce and ban weapons: political and financial support for National CSD   | Yes   | Spend 30 % of the budget on Chernobyl effects                         |
| Belgium             | Multi-year program for 1996 to 2002 re research on SD, increase dialogue with civil society; change taxation policy away from taxation of costs of labor towards indirect taxation of energy; support GEF financially   | Not precisely   | yes   |
| Benin               | Established national committees to combat desertification and to combat poverty: aims at innovative financing of projects   | Not clear   | Not clear   |
| Botswana            | Population policies; community-based management policies; desertification compliance  | yes   | yes   |
| Brazil              | Renew efforts in the war on poverty; broadening the environmental agenda incl. Urban environments; promoting constructive participation of NGOs in the social debate; give priority to basic education and to environmental education in particular   |   |   |
| Bulgaria            | Develop programs for energy efficiency; support to the German initiative to set up a worldwide network of protected areas under the Biodiversity Convention; encourages a framework for larger inter-sessional meetings incl. attendance of ministers of finance, planning, development, forestry, agriculture etc.; enhance the development of environmental skills by education | Not clear   | Not clear   |
| Burundi             | Ratified national plan for action; developed training on environmental issues; solid waste management; change agricultural pattern  | Not clear   | Not clear   |
| Canada              | Poverty elimination; elimination of land mines; toxic chemical laws; legally binding greenhouse gas reduction regulations   | Higher investments in developing countries  | Not clear   |
| Cape Verde          | Trying to reverse previous mistakes   | Governments ministry set up with funds  | none  |
| Colombia            | Forest conversation areas   |   | no  |
| Costa Rica          | Invest in social well-being; new education goals; multi-sector evaluation of Agenda 21  | yes   | 2010 Clean Energy Project, 1997 computer / bilingual education access |
| Croatia             | Support more resolute action consistent with the polluter pays principle in the establishment of an efficient mechanism for addressing the problem of cross-border pollution and regulating compensation  | no  | no  |
| Cyprus              | Will adopt a comprehensive bill for the protection of the environment; will reinforce the role of institutions responsible for the environment and for sustainable development; need to abandon this "business as usual attitude"   | no  | no  |
| Czech Republic      | Want to change gradually from recipient to donor country; launch own program of technical assistance (water supply systems, fresh water protection, sustainable forestry, combating desertification); actively contribute to developing and testing an appropriate set of indicators; raising public awareness  |   |   |

## Events Diary

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Monday 27th</b><br>1.15-2.45 | <b>Implementation Conference: Stakeholder Action for Our Common Future. UNED-UK.</b><br>Conference Room. 2                  |
| 1.15-2.45                       | <b>Governing Sustainable Development - The Next Steps. UNED-UK.</b><br>Auditorium   |
| 1.15-2.45                       | Acquaculture and Sustainable Development. Sahabat Alam. Caucus Room 2   |
| 1.15-2.45                       | Good Governance: Implementing Principle 10 in the UNECE Region. Env. Law Institute. Caucus Rm 3                             |
| 6.15-7.45                       | Comparing Real Costs and Financing of Energy for Sustainability. NGO Energy Caucus. Conf. Room 2                            |
| 6.15-7.45                       | Resilience and Sustainable Development. International Council for Science. Caucus Room 3                                    |
| 6.15-7.45                       | Panel of Eminent Personalities. UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Caucus Room 2                                      |
| 6.15-7.45                       | Linking Local Action with Sustainable Development Strategies and Co-ordination Mechanisms. Bolivian & Indonesia. Auditorium |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>1.15-2.45     | UNEP & Civil Society: 30 Years of Partnership. UNEP. Auditorium   |
| 1.15-2.45                       | Inter-linkages - Synergies and Coordination among MEA's. Various Hosts. Conference Room 2                                   |
| 1.15-2.45                       | Johannesburg +10: Implementing Agenda 21 after WSSD. Natural Resource Defence Council. Caucus Room 3                        |
| 1.15-2.45                       | Collaborative Partnership on Forests: An Innovative Interagency Partnership. UNFF. Caucus Room 2                            |
| 6.15-7.45                       | Towards a Realisation of United Global Citizens. Various Hosts. Caucus Room 3   |
| 6.15-7.45                       | Disaster Risk and Sustainable Development. Int. Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Caucus Room 2                              |
| 6.15-7.45                       | WBCSD Sector Initiatives Brochure Launch. WBCSD. Auditorium   |

...Cont. from Page 5

make trade a tool that serves sustainable development, incorporating social and environmental concerns; ensure finance for Sustainable Development; ratify all conventions relevant to Sustainable Development; and to funding commitments, resolution of the debt burden, genuine technology partnerships, capacity-building, support for implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, and address the impact of HIV/AIDS, paying special attention to the least developed countries in Africa.

As the actual selection of NGO's to sit at the table during the MSD will take place in Bali, no predictions can be made of which themes to be specially emphasised. However, it is safe to predict interventions based on hands-on experiences in peoples daily lives, all too often neglected in international negotiations.

*Torleif Jonasson, the Danish '92 Group; together with Third World Network and Environment Liaison Centre International facilitating the NGO's participation in the WSSD Multistakeholder Dialogues.*

