

# Connections

UNED FORUM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN 2000 ISSUE

## Millennium Assembly 4–8 September 2000

*Derek Osborn, UNED Forum Chair*

**The UN Millennium Assembly brought together over 150 world leaders in New York at the beginning of September. The Assembly gave general endorsement to the inspiring document “We the People” which the Secretary General had released earlier in the year and in a final Declaration reaffirmed the support of the world for the United Nations and its crucial role in the world.**

Among the steps aimed at development and poverty eradication, the Declaration contains commitments to make the right to development a reality for everyone. Concerned about the obstacles developing countries face in mobilising the resources to finance their sustained development, the participants agreed to make every effort to ensure the success of the High-level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development and of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, both to be held next year. The document calls for adoption of a policy of duty-free and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries and an enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries.

By the year 2015, world leaders also resolved to halve the proportion of people with income of less than one dollar a day and of those suffering from hunger and lack of safe drinking water; to ensure equal access to all levels of education for girls and boys and primary schooling for all children everywhere; to reduce maternal mortality by three quarters; and to begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases. By the year 2020, they resolved to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

On environmental protection, the Declaration states that no efforts must be spared to counter the threat of the planet being irredeem-

ably spoiled by human activities. Therefore, the participants of the Summit resolved to adopt a new ethic of conservation and stewardship, making efforts to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002. The document encourages better management, conservation and sustainable development of forests and sustainable exploitation of water resources. It also presses for the full implementation of conventions on biological diversity and desertification.

The Assembly served a useful purpose in reaffirming political commitment and support for the work of the United Nations at the start of the new Millennium. It was noteworthy that in addition to making their set piece speeches to the Assembly many of the world leaders took part in additional interactive events and Round Tables to discuss topical themes and issues, and engaged themselves personally in the occasion. Although some of the commitments made merely reaffirm past commitments or contain weasel words there was a sense of common purpose about the occasion, and more reality than sometimes occurs. By common consent the reports prepared by the Secretary General and his team for the occasion were outstanding, and provided the basis for well-based resolutions by the Assembly. The involvement by civil society first

*(continued on page 9)*

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### **Multistakeholder Dialogue Session on Energy**

*A Report from the 8th Informal  
Environment Ministers Meeting*

*centre pages pull-out*



#### **Earth Summit 2002**

*UK Preparations*

*pages 3 & 4*

*International Preparations*

*pages 5 & 6*



#### **UK Contributions to Istanbul+5**

*page 12*

*... and all the regular sections*

*see page 2*

*for full List of Contents*



**Thanks to BP Amoco  
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## In this issue ...

	pages
UNED FORUM NEWS	3
CSD	6
UN	8
UNEP	9
CONVENTIONS	10
GOVERNMENT	12
MEDIA	12
NGO NEWS	13
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	16
WOMEN'S GROUPS	17
FAITH COMMUNITIES	17
OBITUARY	18
PUBLICATIONS	19
DIARY	20
USEFUL WEBSITES	21
ADDRESSES	22
UNED PUBLICATIONS	back cover

## Connections

**Editor: Jasmin Enayati**

The United Nations Association's Sustainable Development Unit acts as the Secretariat for UNED Forum

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### UNED Forum

The United Nations Environment & Development Forum (UNED Forum) is a multi-stakeholder organisation, committed to the promotion of global sustainable development. Based in London, England, UNED's activities support the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

Established in 1993 as an outgrowth of the Sustainable Development Unit of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, UNED Forum has grown from a UK Organisation to a global multi-stakeholder network. Directed by and accountable to a democratically elected Executive Committee of UK stakeholders, UNED's newest project – Towards Earth Summit 2002 – is guided by a multi-stakeholder international advisory board.

## From the editor



In this issue of **Connections**, energy – one of the themes to be discussed at CSD-9 in April 2001 – receives close examination from various perspectives. In the Centre pages Danielle Morley from UNED reports on the Bergen multi-stakeholder Dialogue Session on Access to Energy for a Sustainable Future at the 8th Informal Environment Ministers meeting. We have Charles

Nouhan on the UNED Energy Roundtable discussions and, we have asked BP to tell us what the step towards 'Beyond Petroleum' really means to them. Check it out.

As the new editor of **Connections**, I'd like to thank my colleagues from UNED for their support for my new role. I encourage **Connections** readers to send me feedback on the changes and the articles of this relaunch issue (design/content). Your input will be appreciated and be taken into account in the future!

I also would like to invite **Connections** readers to become a UNED Forum member. As we accelerate our efforts towards the Earth Summit 2002, both internationally and in the UK, support from our membership is even more important to us. As a UNED member, you will continue to enjoy **Connections**, but also receive invitations to UNED conferences, seminars and workshops at reduced rates and have the opportunity to vote at annual general meetings. Some levels of membership entitle you to receive new publications as they are produced (see the box on the last page).

UNED is aiming to support all stakeholders to be effectively involved in sustainable development.

Indeed, everyone should know about sustainable development and should be able to contribute. We need debate and action everywhere and we need all stakeholders to engage to achieve the changes our planet and ourselves so desperately need – now.

Lastly, UNED's thanks goes to Miyuki Pechorro for her editorial assistance and to Anjalee Pandya, Jennie Oldham, Nicky Rounce, Rachel Crawford and Zoë Dale, our new team of interns working with the International Team.

**Jasmin Enayati**  
Editor

## Receive Connections online

We would like to encourage *Connections* readers to subscribe to the newsletter online. This will reduce our printing and postage costs, and allow us to send you *Connections* as soon as it is finalised.

We hope that by reducing postage to UK organisations we will be able to increase our circulation to other parts of the world, and also that we will be able to send you more indepth articles than we have space for at the moment.

Please notify us at [connections@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:connections@earthsummit2002.org) if you would like us to send *Connections* to you as a pdf file in future.



**UNEDForum**

## UK NGOs Meet to Discuss Earth Summit 2002

*11 September 2000*

**F**or the first in a series of meetings planned by UNED-UK, UNED Forum's domestic arm, representatives from 15 environment and development NGOs were invited to an informal dinner. The aim was to focus on the Earth Summit in 2002 and the opportunities it may offer for advancing the sustainable development agenda within the UK.

The venue for the 2002 event is not yet agreed, though it will probably be in South Africa and likely be at Summit level. Within the UK, NGOs and major groups will no doubt be establishing their own preparatory processes, and relating them to national and international processes through their own channels. But in view of the potential significance and impact of the 2002 event, UNED is meeting with key NGO leaders to exchange views on the potential of the 2002 process.

UNED's mission remains – as when first set up by NGOs and other major groups in the UK – to facilitate good process and information flow, and to support the work of other groups.

The evening began casually but soon got down to business over a meal in the Blue Room at the Royal Commonwealth Club. Attending the event were Andy Atkins of Tearfund, the New Economics Foundation's David Boyle, Nigel Cross of IIED, Paul Jefferiss of Green Alliance, Stephen King of the International Council for Social Welfare, Rob Lake of Traidcraft, Stephen Tindale of Greenpeace, Stephen Turner of Wateraid, Graham Wynne of the RSPB and Prof. Adrian Phillips of WWF-UK.

Derek Osborn, UNED Forum Chair, launched the group discussion underscoring UNED's wish to understand UK NGO positions and priorities regarding Rio+10. Furthermore, to understand the role – if any – that participants believe UNED can take as a facilitator and/or creator of space to move the Rio+10 process forward.

Some participants expressed concern that there would be insufficient media attention or profile. Mr. Osborn stressed that the significance of the event will depend on how the process grows. 'Furthermore,' Osborn went on, 'the Secretary General has signalled the importance of multi-stakeholder participation in the process' but the issues to be tackled at Rio+10 are as yet undecided. RSPB's Graham Wynne expressed his belief that the process will need 'tangibles' to be signed or agreed at the Summit. 'Climate Change and the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol is the biggest profile option currently available'.

Another concern raised by Wynne was the issue of business participation. 'At Rio, business community involvement was limited, and it has receded since then.' It was suggested that if the business community can be given ownership of key issues – such as the use of energy and water – at an early stage, based on responsibilities, it could gain meaningful participation

in the process. Nigel Cross of IIED pointed out that the Global Compact has the support of its donors, ie business leaders, who want such an idea linked into the Summit process. Cross went on to say, 'although there is minimal US support, Southern and European businesses are more strongly onboard'.

WATERAID'S Stephen Turner commented that efforts to bring stakeholders together at the recent Second World Water Forum in the Hague, especially business, were seen as crude and monochrome. 'The results,' according to Turner, was 'alienation, barriers and distrust between the needs and demands on the freshwater agenda'.

Derek Osborn suggested that future events, such as the Bonn Freshwater Conference in December 2001, are likely build on multi-stakeholder processes, developing into a significant process for 2002.

The continuing dialogue drew attention to multiple issues in regards to the UK 2002 preparatory process. It was suggested, for instance, that sub-regional processes could be more effective in creating dialogue at the ministerial level, and should be considered in planning 2002 regional PrepComms. Moreover, there remains among some sectors of civil society an underlying tension about whether multi-stakeholder dialogues are an effective route to progress, and a belief that there is a need to hold governments accountable to what they have already agreed – to get public interest this process needs to be sharp.

The Greenpeace representative Stephen Tindale voiced concern that 2002 could be a waste of time: 'At Rio, Agenda 21 was a soft policy document that Governments have wriggled out of – any progress on the Climate Change agenda, Bio-safety and forests remain uncertain. We cannot assume success at Rio. The conventions and their associated protocols are not economically viable. Therefore, in terms of business solutions they are doomed to failure.' Greenpeace is looking for the following from 2002 – ratification of Kyoto and the bio-safety protocol, money behind the G-8 initiative on renewables to those not on the grid, and a Forests protocol developed under the CBD.

Paul Jefferiss of Green Alliance had concerns on raising public awareness. The media, and how it is engaged, will be an important component of the 2002 process, especially in the US. According to Jefferiss, 'We [NGOs] are viewing this through the wrong lens. We need to step outside ourselves to view the process, as the general public will. Discussions on issues such as institutional reform is too vague to engage meaningful media coverage. Focus should be on the Rio Conventions. The agenda will be too complex for us, let alone the general public.'

One measure of the evening's success was the shared thinking around the table and a good deal of positive reflection on the potential of the 2002 process. It was suggested that UNED Forum continues in its role as information provider and helps to establish a core agenda throughout the preparatory process. Other ideas included: UNED taking an intelligence role around the process, taking leadership on behalf of the group as a whole, taking a convening role of all stakeholders, take the lead in incorporating multi-stakeholder dialogue initiatives throughout the preparatory process, and giving guidance/expertise on how these processes work. Stephen Tindale of Greenpeace was even more specific by suggesting that UNED '...focusses the agenda, taking 6 months to gather ideas, and 6 months narrowing the agenda down for governments.'

In closing, Derek said, 'we are encouraged to hear your support for the role UNED is looking to play, not as leaders of the process, but a facilitator linking others into the process. A first stage, as endorsed by the group, could be to write to the PM with a wake up call to get the process moving, based on the UK's lofty position. We should incorporate our November meeting as an opportunity to focus this process into this letter. Our spring conference on the UK Preparation for 2002 can act as a continuance in addition to other events similar to this dinner. I would like to finish by calling for your creativity in the next 6 months in shaping the debate and its outcomes, before events surpass us.'

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## Seminar Preparing for Earth Summit 2002

**O**n the 16 & 17 of November, UNED Forum in co-operation with the UK Sustainable Development Commission, newly chaired by Jonathon Porritt, will host a seminar to discuss the UN's global review of UNCED in 2002.

As an extension of the process begun on 11 September, when UNED hosted a dinner with UK NGOs, it is hoped that an ongoing and comprehensive exchange of views between major groups will begin.

The preparatory process for Rio+10 has been launched formally at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and several other international meetings will lead up to the Summit itself. These are also likely to include regional preparatory meetings, and it is hoped that there will be strong national preparatory processes. In fact, the CSD has publicly encouraged nations to do so.

Themes and ambitions of the 2002 conference have yet to be settled. The potential scope is wide. The Summit could review the whole of the Rio agenda (Agenda 21, progress on the Conventions, the Rio principles, finance for development, institutional structures and the poverty debate) and no doubt many other issues. There is, however, a strong desire to avoid rehearsing old arguments and texts. Rather, concentrated attention could be placed on a small number of essential issues on which it may be possible to make real progress, and improve implementation on the ground. However, this is easier said than achieved. There is still time to influence the selection of priorities and this will be one theme of our seminar discussions.

One way forward would be to identify three to five key sustainable development issues that the UK should address over the next 5 to 10 years. Such an exercise would require us to outline the barriers to progress, and to identify what measures should be taken, and by whom, to adequately address the issues. Lastly, and perhaps of greatest significance, would be to explore what could be achieved at Rio+10 to support the advancement of solutions to these issues in the UK.

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email cnouhan@earthsummit2002.org*

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## International Workshop on Gender & Environment

*Berlin, Germany, 10–12 January 2001*

**U**NED Forum is coordinating the substantive preparations for an international expert workshop on gender & environment/sustainable development issues, sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety and the Heinrich Boell Foundation. The workshop will bring together 40 participants from Germany and abroad, including NGO and academic experts, policy-makers and representatives of other stakeholder groups. The goal is to produce an overview of existing research and knowledge on the gender aspects of a number of environment/sustainable development issues which will be discussed at CSD-9, these being: energy; transport; information for decision-making and participation (incl. indicators). We are aiming at developing recommendations of political strategies and impacting the CSD-9 preparations to ensure gender mainstreaming of CSD-9 decisions. Outlining win-win situations of gender mainstreaming and sustainable development goals will be a particular focus. Another goal is to initiate concrete follow-up initiatives.

Energy and transport are important issues of sustainable development, and information is a crucial tool. They cannot be addressed appropriately without a gender perspective. The need for equitable involvement of women in decision-making and in implementing Agenda 21, the Rio Conventions and the CSD decisions has been reaffirmed in all these documents. However, there is a need in many areas to state more clearly what the crucial aspects of the linkages between women and sustainable development issues are. The workshop shall contribute to clarifying the value added of gender mainstreaming in sustainable development decision-making. It therefore needs to look at gender as one of the social categories impacting significantly on people's knowledge, values, emotions, behavioural choices and freedom of choice.

Background papers from developing and developed countries perspectives are being prepared by mid-December 2000. The workshop documentation will be available by the end of January 2001 and at the CSD meetings. It is planned to hold a side event to discuss the workshop outcomes at the CSD Interessional meeting in March 2001.

It is hoped that the workshop will produce valuable contributions to the preparations for CSD-9 as well as Earth Summit 2002, help to fill gaps of expertise and input in the area of gender and sustainable development issues and contribute to well informed deliberations at the upcoming CSD meetings.

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minush@aol.com and Jasmin Enayati (Assistant Co-ordinator)  
jenayati@earthsummit2002.org. Preparatory material, relevant  
links and resources will be made available at the workshop  
web-site at <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/workshop>*

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## The Eco-telephone in Ukraine

**T**he initial Eco-telephone partnership project between UNED and our Ukrainian partners MAMA-86 will be ending in December this year. The project has resulted in a network of 11 NGOs across Ukraine operating public information services on health and environment. Following a publicity launch in May in



five of the towns and cities where Eco-telephone is now active, Eco-telephone services have reached more than six million people in Ukraine with information which can help them to make practical improvements in their diet and lifestyles which will help protect against the heavy levels of pollution in water, air and soil.

The MAMA-86 network are now considering the future development of their project, and their future vision involves a number of themes which will evolve into a multi-faceted Eco-telephone Programme in which network participants build on their existing skills and services to pursue specific aims including:

- working with teachers to develop education materials for schools which present Eco-telephone information on health and environment issues
- working with producers, suppliers and the public to promote the production of healthy and safe nutrition
- developing professional training skills to ensure the professionalism and quality of the Eco-telephone helpline staff and volunteers.

In order to develop these specific aims, the MAMA-86 Eco-telephone network is seeking new partners internationally who have experience in these fields and who would be interested to co-operate and share experience and information.

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**Clare Flenley, UNED Forum**

## UNED International

### Briefing Papers

As part of UNED Forum's project "Towards Earth Summit 2002" a series of briefing papers are being produced to provide background resources for some of the key issues likely to be addressed at Earth Summit 2002 (Rio + 10).

#### **Freshwater: A Global Crisis of Water Security and Basic Water Provision**

This paper focuses principally on the global drop in basic water supply and sanitation over the last ten years. It considers critical international and regional aspects relating to the continued freshwater overuse, mis-use and infrastructural problems. Some solutions with regards to enabling access to water, as well as furthering sustainable water use and management are discussed.

#### **Foreign Direct Investment: A Lead Driver For Sustainable Development?**

Reviewing the prospects of FDI for financing sustainable development, this paper takes a cross-sectoral look at the pros and cons of FDI in the face of increasing indebtedness, income inequality, declining ODA and financial volatility. Assessing global and regional trends in FDI inflows and outflows, and addressing environmental and societal linkages, the paper identifies areas for further consideration relating to how to maximise the benefits of FDI whilst minimising more negative aspects.



#### **\*Coming soon\* AIDS: The Undeclared War**

The devastating toll of the HIV/AIDS pandemic is examined in this paper. Its present and future impact on sustainable development, especially for the poorest members of society and least developed countries, is discussed. Some of the suggested strategies for dealing with the most critical aspects of the disease are reviewed.

*Papers are currently available on-line along with useful resource links  
<http://www.earthsummit2002.org>.*

*For info on these and future papers contact Rosalie Gardiner:  
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### General Info

#### **Towards Earth Summit 2002: Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development**

This three-year project is in support of the UN preparations and discussions for Earth Summit 2002. UNED Forum is working to encourage cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder outreach, participation and action to help make the summit a forward-looking event, one which makes some concrete steps toward the global goal of sustainable development.

**Network 2002:** Our monthly newsletter with regular up-dates on summit preparations and relevant meetings. Contact Toby Middleton: [tmiddleton@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:tmiddleton@earthsummit2002.org)

**Earth Summit 2002 website:** UNED's central point of call for information and links <http://www.earthsummit2002.org>

## Welcome to Grégoire



On 4 September, Grégoire Le Divellec took on his new post as UNED Forum's Administrator. He will be UNED's first point of contact, and work closely with Charles Nouhan on UNED's UK projects. Greg will also be responsible for membership, conference co-ordination, and other matters that will enhance UNED's work. According

to Charles, "Grégoire has made a difference from the first day. His experience and professional manner are already proving to be an asset, and he has settled in nicely as a member of our team. I'm really pleased that Greg is with us."

Grégoire has an academic background in Geography and recently worked as an agent for opera singers. He brings much-needed organisation to UNED, and with his Gaelic charm is a

refreshing addition to the office! Grégoire loves cooking and "...would be delighted to be invited to spend two weeks in Mexico!" An avid bicyclist, he wants to start a campaign for more cycle routes for London.

## Goodbye to Amy and Tom

UNED wishes to extend its gratitude to two long-time staff members who have moved on to other things. Amy Cruse,

Women & Sustainable Development Co-ordinator (formally Gender 21), and Tom Bigg, UNED-UK Policy Co-ordinator and UK Human Development Report project leader, have put in a lot of hard work over the years and they will be missed.

Tom, a former editor of Connections, has completed his final UNED project with the successful launch of the book *Poverty in Plenty – A Human Development Report for the UK*, developed with editor Jane Seymour. Amy is launching a new charity, Children's Hearts, which she hopes will prove to be a great resource for children with heart disorders. We wish them all the best in the future!

# CSD

## Preparations for CSD-9

**P**reparations for CSD-9 are well under way. The Chair of CSD-9 is Bedrich Moldan from the Czech Republic, former Minister of Environment of the Czech Republic and former Chair of one of the working groups at PrepCom 4 for Rio. The other members of the CSD Bureau are: Ms Alison Drayton (Guyana), Prof Martia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka (Uganda), David Stewart (Australia), Asia (to be decided).

CSD-9 will deal with:

- 1 **Energy and Transport**
- 2 **Atmosphere**
- 3 **Information for Decision-making and Participation**
- 4 **International Co-operation for an enabling environment**

For the Multi-stakeholder Dialogues the partners selected are:

### NGOs

NGO Caucus on Climate Change and Energy, and the NGO Caucus on Sustainable Transport. To participate in the NGO Caucuses go to the CSD NGO Steering Committee web site at [www.csdngo.org/csdngo](http://www.csdngo.org/csdngo)

### Workers and Trade Unions

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) through the Trade Union Advisory Council to the OECD in collaboration with ICEM, IMF, ITF and PSI.

### Business and Industry

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), and World Energy Council (WEC).

### Local Authorities

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).

### Scientific Communities

International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), and the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

The papers produced by the Dialogue Partners have to be done by the 1st of January and are then published by the end of February.

## Topics of the Dialogue Segment

*Achieving equitable access to clean energy: incentives, subsidies, regulations or voluntary measures? (tentatively scheduled for the afternoon session of 16 April 2001)*

This session is expected to focus on whether and how access to clean energy can be increased in an equitable fashion. The focus is primarily on various economic measures and other mechanisms that can help increase such access. Participants are expected to present and compare their experiences with existing economic incentives, regulatory mechanisms and voluntary initiatives in this area and make proposals on how to further those mechanisms that have made a positive contribution and new mechanisms that should be considered.

*Eco-efficiency, eco-effectiveness or business-as-usual: choices for producing, distributing and consuming energy (tentatively scheduled for the morning session of 17 April 2001)*

In this session stakeholders are expected to share their experiences with existing approaches used to produce and distribute energy in order to identify the merits and disadvantages each approach presents in the context of sustainable development. The discussion is expected to generate a better understanding of how eco-efficiency or eco-effectiveness impact the overall sustainability goals in businesses, workplaces, or communities; and help identify what production and distribution choices might be favorable to promoting energy for sustainable development.

*Public-private partnerships for de-carbonizing the transportation system (tentatively scheduled for the afternoon session of 17 April 2001)*

This session is expected to focus on the use of carbon-based fuels in transport, and on whether and how various collaborative partnerships can or have reduced dependence on such fuels in the transport system. Stakeholders are expected to share their experiences on partnerships they have created to generate alternative mixes of transport systems. The discussion is expected to generate proposals for future partnerships based on those that are currently producing favorable results.

*Sustainable transport planning: choices and models for human settlements, designs and vehicle alternatives (tentatively scheduled for the morning session of 18 April 2001)*

In this session, the stakeholders are expected to discuss how transport systems impact and shape urban or rural settlements. Participants are expected to present innovative examples of designing healthier neighborhoods, towns and cities by changing the transport system, or promoting vehicle and transport alternatives that would help human settlements evolve in a more sustainable way.

# UN Preparations for Earth Summit 2002

The CSD Secretariat has produced briefing material on CSD-10 (available on their web site). This identifies the key dates for the preparation for the Summit.

## Present to Spring 2001: National preparations for Rio+10

Governments will be setting up national preparatory processes to document and evaluate domestic conditions in the interdependent triangle of social, economic and environmental dimensions and to propose new commitments for national action. The preparatory committees will seek the greatest possible dialogue among the greatest possible range of people, giving all of them a stake in achieving sustainable development. Such a multi-stakeholder dialogue should involve government ministries, agencies and branches as well as a broad range of representatives from the non-governmental sectors. National focal points, National Sustainable Development Councils (where they exist), and national Parliaments need to enlist in the effort. This wide outreach will ensure the maximum possible public interest in and contribution to the assessment process. Through surveys, observations, interviews, community gatherings and national competitions, the national preparatory committees will collect information on local and national changes since 1992, as well as suggestions for strengthening trends toward sustainable development. The National Reports that governments have prepared since 1992 will be a useful place to begin outlining domestic progress in implementing the goals of Agenda 21, describing successful practices and achievements and obstacles to further progress. The national preparatory committees will also report on areas where future effort might best be concentrated, where the transition to sustainable development seems to be underway, and areas where mid-course corrections are indicated. A focus on specific indicators of movement, in the form of three or four targets for future national sustainability progressions, will provide tangible and specific outcomes.

## Spring 2001 to Winter 2001/2002: Regional Preparations

Governments, NGOs and other interested parties will send delegations to a series of regional conferences that will compare national findings and seek consensus on regional priorities. Such gatherings are planned for Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Western Asia, Europe, and Asia and the Pacific. Each regional meeting will guarantee dialogue among as many regional stakeholders as possible. These gatherings will formulate a "platform" of regionally relevant policy issues and priorities, with action areas of greatest success and local examples highlighted in a regional report, along with areas of primary concern.

A Regional Agenda 21 Roundtable will precede each regional preparatory conference. These roundtables will bring together prominent regional experts to conduct an unfettered discussion of regional problems, solutions and priorities including identification of regional progression targets for the next phase of work towards sustainable development.

## Fall 2001 to Summer 2002: Global Preparations and Summit Conference

The United Nations Secretary General will prepare reports based

on the findings of the national and regional preparatory meetings as well as inputs from the concerned United Nations agencies (such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Health Organisation, the Rio Conventions and others) and contributions from non-governmental sectors. A number of special inputs are already in preparation. For example, UNEP has initiated preparations for the third Global Environmental Outlook (GEO3). The GEO3 process will take a 30-year retrospective (starting with the 1972 Stockholm conference on environment) and a 30-year forward looking perspective with the aim to re-frame the way international community understands and responds to the environment in the new millennium. GEO3 will gather and synthesize knowledge of over 850 experts in more than 35 scientific institutions around the world and will be completed in 2002.

The outcomes of other recent global conferences such as the 1994 Cairo conference on population, the 1995 Beijing conference on women, and the 1996 Istanbul conference on human settlements will be considered. The South-South Summit of April 2000, the Global Ministerial Environmental Forum in Malmo in May 2000, and the high-level consultation on Finance for Development 2000-2001 will also contribute. The findings from the **Earth Summit+5** review, the *Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21* adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1997, will be thoroughly assimilated. This comprehensive progress report will fully and fairly represent the voices of developing countries, and stress measures to combat poverty along with measures to change consumption patterns.

The Commission on Sustainable Development will start the inter-governmental work on the global assessment in early 2002. In each step of the global assessment exercise, special multi-stakeholder dialogue segments will be included to welcome views from stakeholder groups based on their experience and aspirations.

The culminating step in the **Rio+10** process will be a Summit Conference in which Heads of State or Government will seek consensus on the outcomes of the assessment process and on the priority targets for further national, regional and international action to implement Agenda 21. A special multi-stakeholder dialogue at the Summit meeting will allow leaders of Governments and major non-governmental institutions to share with each other their specific sustainable development commitments for the next phase of work. The Summit meeting will attempt to offer a time-bound set of recommendations on ways to overcome obstacles to implementation, along with the institutional and financial requirements of those recommendations. If feasible, the conference will seek to identify likely sources of the necessary financial support.

## Dates

**CSD-10 PrepComm I** is tentatively scheduled immediately after the conclusion of CSD-9 (most likely from 30 April to 4 May 2001). This meeting is expected to primarily focus on organizational matters related to the global Rio+10 process. A multi-stakeholder panel will be organized at the beginning of this meeting to allow major group representatives to bring to the organizational discussion the views of their constituencies.

**CSD10-PrepComm II** is tentatively scheduled in January 2002. This meeting will start the substantive review of progress at the global level. The discussions will be based on the Secretary-General's report on overall review of progress, as well as from the outputs of the Regional PrepComms. Early in the course of PrepComm II, a two-day multi-stakeholder dialogue

with all nine major group sectors is planned. The topics of the stakeholder dialogue will be based on the outline of the Secretary-general's overall review report.

**CSD10-PrepComm III**, possibly in March 2002, may continue and finalize the overall inter-governmental review exercise unless the review is finalized at the January meeting.

**CSD10-PrepComm IV** is tentatively planned for May 2002. The focus at this stage is expected to be on identifying and building consensus on future priorities and strategies for the next 5 to 10 years. A one or half-day multi-stakeholder dialogue (depending on the length of this session) is planned to give opportunities to major group representatives to share their proposals and ideas regarding what needs to be done in the

next phase of sustainable development work.

The **Rio+10 summit meeting** will then be the culmination of the process. The exact location and dates of the Summit meeting will be decided by the 55th General Assembly, when it meets later this fall. At the summit meeting, a half-day multi-stakeholder high-level dialogue segment is planned. This dialogue segment is planned as an opportunity for major groups and governments to share their specific sustainable development commitments for the next phase. The national commitments are expected to emerge from the National Progression Targets process described above.

**Felix Dodds, UNED Forum Director**

## UN

### URBAN 21, Berlin

4–6 July 2000

This 'Global Conference on the Urban Future' followed on from Habitat II in Istanbul, 1996. Its purpose was, above all else, to bring 4000 urban administrators, planners, civil engineers, civil servants, academics, environmentalists and politicians from all over the world together to discuss practical methodologies for conceptualising a sustainable urban future, as half the world's populations now live in urban areas. The conference was held in Berlin's massive international conference centre, with its many halls of varying sizes for meetings, seminars and plenary sessions. The main outcome of the conference was a 'Declaration on the Urban Future', which had its basis in the Istanbul Habitat Agenda.

The conference was, above all else, a tremendous meeting of minds of people from a great variety of professional and geographical backgrounds. It became abundantly clear that a much better understanding is needed of the crucial role of grass roots movement in decision making about the future of cities. It also became clear that cities offer vast potential for reducing their global impacts and improving their local environmental conditions. Waste minimisation and recycling, urban agriculture, renewable energy technologies and integrated transport systems now offer realistic options for us to choose from. But does the international community have the will to apply these tools for sustainable development as essential features of urban planning?

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*The **World Report on the Urban Future 21** prepared by the World Commission Urban 21 is available online at <http://www.urban21.de/english/04-objective/world-report.htm>.*

*The report concentrates on the most important problems of the growth of urban agglomerations.*

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**Herbert Girardet**

### Business, Labor, Civil Society Groups Launch the "Global Compact"

Leaders from business, labor groups and civil society have launched a joint initiative – the "Global Compact" – in support of universal values and responsible business practices. The initiative has been promoted by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and was launched in July after 18 months of negotiation. The Compact calls on business leaders to apply within their companies nine principles that relate to human rights, labor standards and the environment. Its nine principles are drawn from the Declaration of Human Rights, the Social Summit held in Geneva in 1995 and the Earth Summit of Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Almost 50 multinational corporations have expressed support for the Compact. However, the initiative has been criticized by a group of environmental and human-rights organizations and activists. The group has suggested that the records of some of the companies in the partnership are such that they are not appropriate partners for the UN, and that the Compact could threaten the UN's integrity. They argue that the Compact could also distract from the need for "a legal framework to hold corporations accountable internationally."

The Global Compact is a declaration of principles rather than a legally binding code of conduct. John Ruggie, UN assistant secretary-general, says the world organisation does not have the mandate to make its principles binding and does not have the means to police companies.

The only mechanism that binds corporations to their pledge is a UN website. Companies have pledged to post yearly progress reports on the internet, which groups such as Amnesty International and the World Wildlife Fund have promised to scrutinise.

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*UN Global Compact Website <http://www.unglobalcompact.org>  
Citizens Compact and general critique  
[www.corpwatch.org/trac/globalization/un/tangled.html](http://www.corpwatch.org/trac/globalization/un/tangled.html)*

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## Appointment of New Executive Director of UN Habitat Agency

New York/Nairobi, 31 July 2000

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka of Tanzania as the new Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). She is currently the Special Coordinator for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked and Small Island Developing Countries in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and has extensive experience in the fields of economics, agriculture and rural development.

The appointment of Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka was welcomed by Mr. Klaus Toepfer, in his capacity as Acting Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) and in his role as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and Director General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi.

Mrs. Tibaijuka has been a strong advocate for women's rights, she is a founding Chair of several advocacy organisations, eg the Tanzanian National Women's Council (BAWATA), an independent, non-politically aligned, organisation advocating for women's rights to land, inheritance and social services.

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For further information please contact: <http://www.unchcs.org>

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## Millennium Assembly

4–8 September 2000

(continued from front page)

in the earlier Millennium Forum and then at various interactive meetings at the Summit and in the margins was also well handled.

There were numerous side events, conferences and forums in which representatives of civil society and political groupings interacted. Topics ranged from human rights to bridging the digital divide, reform of the financial institutions to our place in the universe.

UNED Forum itself was involved together with European partners for the Environment in organising a side event looking forward to 2002. There were speakers representing different major groups from North and South and a lively general discussion. There appears to be growing support for a programme focusing efforts on the implementation of concrete development programmes to deliver agreed development goals, mobilising the necessary financial support for these, ratifying the major international agreements on climate change, biodiversity and

other topics, and strengthening the international machinery for environment and sustainable development.

All in all it was a good week for the United Nations and for all who seek to build political and popular support for it. The task for us now in UNED Forum is to turn this general high level support into a much more specific programme of action and commitment in the preparation for Earth Summit 2002.

## Urban Environment Forum 2000

The UEF met in Cape Town, September 26th–28th, to discuss "Local Capacities for Global Norms and International Environmental Agreements and Conventions" and look at how international agreements might be used at the local level. Established in 1996 at the Istanbul Summit on Human Settlements, the UEF is a coalition of development practitioners in urban environmental agencies. The UEF is considered as a key instrument for the implementation of the environment dimension of the Habitat Agenda as well as Agenda 21. As such the outcomes of this meeting provide a useful precursor to the Istanbul+5 Regional PrepComms, taking place this year.

To enable delegates to address this global-local link, case studies were presented both top-down and bottom-up to see the strengths and weaknesses of both approaches. The meeting drew from experiences gained via the multitude of partnerships between cities as well as international programmes, which are developing models for planning and managing the urban environment. Two of the key questions raised were how stakeholders can become involved in the creation of international agreements so that they reflect the work that needs to be done by them and what can be done at the international level to create the 'tools' that enable stakeholders particularly at the local level to take international agreements and enact them into local decision-making processes. It was recognised that neither were happening and much more work needs to be done in engaging stakeholders early enough in the process to make the agreements more focussed.

Felix Dodds and Minu Hemmati attended the meeting for UNED Forum. Minu gave a brief presentation of UNED and its multi-stakeholder involvement, incl. local authorities. The Stakeholder Toolkit for Women project (Web-site [www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/index.htm](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/index.htm)) was demonstrated as a useful tool to get information about relevant international agreements and networking opportunities.

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*A report of the workshop will be available on the Habitat Website at [www.unchcs.org](http://www.unchcs.org)*

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# UNEP

## New UNEP Biodiversity Center Opens in UK

The World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) has joined UNEP as its global biodiversity and assessment center. The Monitoring Center will assess the health of species and ecosystems, as well as threats to their survival. It will also

assist countries in establishing their own biodiversity information systems, enabling them to develop science-based policy and regulations for the environment.

The Center, based in Cambridge, is the first new UN institute to open in the UK for 50 years.

In his address to the opening ceremony on 3 July, UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, stated that the Center would "help the world community confront one of its most daunting

challenges: protecting the Earth's precious biodiversity."

"The impact of poverty in developing countries and of unsustainable consumption levels in industrialized countries is leading to the widespread loss of Earth's biodiversity", said Klaus Toepfer, UNEP's Executive Director. "Overall, ecosystems and species populations have declined by 30% in the past 30 years and the trend is continuing."

The transition of WCMC to a UNEP Centre has been achieved by retaining its close links with the non governmental community, while at the same time building important new partnerships with the private sector and Governments. In particular, WCMC's transition has been achieved with the active political and financial support of the UK Government.

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Website: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org>

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## Global 500 Award

To encourage individual and community action in defense of the Environment, UNEP launched the Global 500 Roll of Honour for Environmental Achievements Award in 1987. This prestigious award is granted for outstanding achievements in the protection and improvement of the environment. UNEP invites you to nominate individuals or groups who, in your opinion, deserve to be considered for the Global 500 Award. The Awards are made in 17 + 'Other' areas, from 'Toxic chemicals and hazardous waste' to 'Water' and 'Legislation' etc. Deadline for nomination is before the 31 December 2000.

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Contact: Global 500 Award, Communication and Public Information, Tel: (254 2) 62-3401 or 62 3128, Email: [cpinfo@unep.org](mailto:cpinfo@unep.org), Website: <http://www.global500.org>

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# CONVENTIONS

## Politicians and Representatives from Civil Society discuss Progress in Environmental Transparency

### Environment takes on Human Rights

Environmental practice is being infused with thoughts and ideas from the world of Human Rights thinking. This was clearly one of the sentiments voiced by the participants at the Second meeting of Signatories for the so-called Aarhus Convention held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, this summer. If the targets are met, the Convention would enter into force during the first half of 2001. When that happens, a water-shed has been passed in environmental matters and civil-society action. The Convention itself has been developed in the UN ECE (Economic Commission for Europe) region, and as such its legalities will only apply to that region. A timely question to ask is whether or not this Convention should go global.

### Principle 10 goes global

The Aarhus Convention is about the right to a healthy environment. This is neither a philosophical question, nor is it something with relevance only to the industrialised world. The global implications of the Convention are woven into the text in all areas.

The Convention itself carries a long and rather cumbersome name: **The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**. The intentions behind the convention are all well founded in Agenda 21, its principles derived directly from Principle 10 in the Rio Accord.

The Convention is made up of three components: the first is simply phrased as the right to know; rules and requirements are set up for governments to disclose environmental and other relevant information to the public. The second area is the right to participate; this section deals specifically with how the public and public interest groups can participate in environmental

decision making. The third area is the legal area. This deals with the right of the public to seek judicial remedy for non-compliance by governments and corporations within legal obligations established by the first two pillars.

### Civil society upgrades its participation

As civil society participation in the Rio+10 process increases, so the need for clarity regarding rights and responsibilities becomes more apparent. To many proponents of environmental rights, taking the content of the Aarhus Convention and formulate this into a global document seems the obvious course to take from now on. With the coming CSD in April dealing with information for decision-making as one of the main areas of discussion, this must seem to many as the next obvious arena to propagate for this Convention.

### Going global is difficult

To the surprise and some consternation of many of the official participants in Dubrovnik, the NGOs, that met for a small pre-conference, decided against such an action forward. Fear of bringing yet another northern industrialised solution to the rest of the world may have been the rationale behind their cautious approach. Not so with the official delegations. It was as if they felt they almost had a moral obligation to bring a good and operational document, well-founded within the universal tradition of human rights thinking, to a global audience. They will be looking for opportunities to work the document into the CSD process.

### Similar approaches all over the world

And such an approach will not be met with all-out opposition from the rest of the world. In the Americas, an Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-Making for Sustainable Development (ISP), is being negotiated. In Africa, discussions on environmental, procedural rights are underway in a number of sub-regional and continental fora. Environmental declarations or protocols are currently being developed by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADCC).

## A totally new approach

The Aarhus Convention is interesting in a lot of different ways compared to other environment conventions. By contrast, the Aarhus Convention focuses on the process by which environmental decisions are made. The emphasis on process rather than on outcome provides an innovative model of multilateral policy-making. This in turn may hold the promise of creating a new operating environment for public agencies and the corporate world. In addition, the Convention integrates environmental protection and government norms.

## High stake for the NGOs

The NGOs have played a central role in drafting the Convention itself. Through various rather ingenious ways, civil society came up with substantive legal, environmental and process advice. **The NGOs participated not in parallel fashion as often is the case with official multilateral processes. They actually assumed the practical status of full and equal partners.** This role was fully reflected at the Dubrovnik meeting. The NGOs participated as equal partners throughout the negotiations, were allowed to contribute text during the final adoption of the report. Perhaps most important, that meeting agreed to establish a Bureau comprising seven people including the officers, with one being a representative of environmental NGOs. The Bureau was to assist the Chairperson in performing his duties with respect to the preparation of the next meeting and intersessional activities. However, the meeting concluded, the composition of the Bureau would not serve as a precedent. Be that as it may, but rarely have the NGOs attained such a high and important political profile. Maybe that is the reason for their overly cautious strategy with regards to the way forward. I asked one of the prominent NGOs present if this Convention could have been developed, say in conjunction with UNEP in Nairobi? After a few moments of reflection, he nodded yes, pointing to the universal message in the Convention. Would you have had the same qualms about going global with such a Convention, then being able to call it the Nairobi Convention instead, I asked? He only smiled in reply.

## A global necessity

It would be a pity, should a northern name from a Danish city hinder the contents of this Convention from being globally respected. The Convention promotes citizen involvement as a key to combating environmental mismanagement. It takes the first steps in promoting environmental transparency and accountability norms beyond the nation state. It establishes common regional disclosure and participation standards. Its principles of transparency and accountability are integral to the meaningful practice of democratic governance. Maybe it is precisely because the NGOs have been so active in this process, they now turn overly cautious in propagating the principles in this Convention. To be honest to themselves, they too need to be completely responsible, accountable, transparent and participatory. And this is some challenge to all.

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*For more information visit UN ECE website on the Aarhus Convention: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp>*

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**Jan Gustav Strandenaes, Chief Editor of Outreach**

## World Action on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Elimination

**T**he economic boom since World War II has supported the parallel boom in the invention and use of chemicals, many of which are associated with the convenience and flexibility of modern living. Ordinary food supplies in most regions of the world, especially fish, meat and dairy products, are now contaminated with substances that include industrial chemicals like PCBs, pesticides like DDT and unwanted wastes like dioxins. Both people and wildlife, everywhere in the world, carry body burdens of these organic, carbon based chemical compounds at or near levels that can – and often do – cause injury to human health and entire ecosystems, even far from their original point of origin.

The movement of concerned individuals, organizations and others demanding that governments take action to eliminate POPs and their sources can be traced back to the work of Rachel Carson over thirty years ago, that helped focus public attention on the harmful effects of DDT.

The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Governing Council provided a mandate for an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) to prepare a legally binding global treaty on POPs. Since 1998, governments have been engaged in an international negotiating committee (INC) to frame a global, legally binding instrument to deal with emissions, discharges, manufacture and use of POPs.

More than 120 countries are currently negotiating a global POPs treaty.

The fourth round of negotiations on a global treaty on POPs concluded on 25 March 2000, with governments reaffirming eventual elimination as the goal of the Convention and including exemptions for use of DDT in controlling malaria mosquitoes and for existing uses of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), subject to periodic review. Intensive discussions also laid the basis for deciding on technical and financial assistance needed by countries to implement the Convention, at the last round of negotiations (INC 5), to be held from 4–9 December, 2000 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The final signing ceremony is scheduled in May 2001 in Stockholm, Sweden.

An active coalition of NGOs have been working to monitor government positions in the negotiations and influence treaty development through the International POP's Elimination Network (IPEN). The coalition kicked off its activities with public hearings and a dramatic demonstration highlighting the impact of POPs on women with pregnant bellies before the first INC, and has held workshops, panels, discussions at each meeting since. In addition, briefing papers have been issued to delegates to ensure that the goal of a strong treaty focused on POP's elimination is reached. Women's groups, through the IPEN Women's Caucus have been particularly active in focusing attention on the impacts of POPs on women and children, such as its accumulation in breast milk worldwide and its effects on fetal development.

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*Find additional information from UNEP Chemicals in Geneva at [www.chem.unep.ch/pops](http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops)*

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**Pamela Ransom, WEDO**

## UK Contribution to Istanbul+5

In June 2001, there will be a Special Session of the UN General Assembly which will review progress made in implementing the Habitat Agenda. The Habitat Agenda is the UN document which sets out the environmental and developmental framework for human settlements agreed at the 'Cities Summit' in Istanbul in 1996. The UK government will be reporting at this meeting on urban and housing action both in the United Kingdom and in its development assistance to other countries.

The government departments concerned are the Department for International Development (DfID) and the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) who work closely together over Habitat-related matters. They are being advised by a National Advisory committee which met for the first time early in September, chaired by Ruth McLeod of Homeless International with representatives from the Local Authority, Academic and NGO community, including UNED Forum.

While the UK report being drafted by consultants, Roger Tym and Partners, will set out the government's viewpoint on progress on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (including the contribution to Local Agenda 21), it is intended that the Special Session should be open to contributions by the non-governmental and local government sectors. Being concerned primarily with local development, the Habitat Agenda needs the active participation of a whole range of partners in development.

The National Advisory Committee is working towards a conference on the Istanbul+5 process during the winter months. It is looking beyond the June event to the role of the Habitat Agenda and its increasing contribution to sustainable development, in its environmental, social and economic dimensions, in coming years.

**Tony Lloyd-Jones**

*Urban and Physical Planning Advisor  
Department for International Development*

## Jonathon Porritt is New UK Sustainable Development Advisor

UK Prime Minister Tony Blair has appointed Jonathon Porritt as his key adviser on sustainable development. He will chair the new Sustainable Development Commission, which will promote the concept across all sectors of the economy.

"Jonathon has been one of the most prominent voices promoting green and quality of life issues over the last 25 years" said Tony Blair. "He is deeply committed to sustainable development and has been particularly influential in working with the business community to take the agenda forward. This experience will stand him in good stead as chairman of the Commission."

The 15-member Commission will report to the Prime Minister, the First Minister in Scotland, First Secretary in Wales and First Minister and Deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland. Its initial remit will be for five years. It will review how far sustainable development is being achieved in the UK in all relevant fields, and it will have "capacity to do its own thinking and to investigate more of its own ideas", says Downing Street.

The Director of Forum for the Future and a trustee of WWF UK, Porritt was formerly Director of Friends of the Earth (1984-90) and Chair of UNED-UK (1993-96). Jonathon Porritt was appointed CBE in January 2000 for services to environmental protection.

## UK Round Table Final Report

The UK Round Table on Sustainable Development has issued its final report before being subsumed into a new Sustainable Development Commission. There is a democratic deficit in the English regions, which is hampering progress towards sustainable development. That is the central message of *Delivering sustainable development in the English regions*. The report outlines the work on devolved, regional and local aspects of sustainable development undertaken by a subgroup of the Round Table. This work included a workshop, conference, seminar and three surveys. The report highlights the work being done at regional level to promote sustainable development, and makes recommendations for further action.

The Round Table has also published its fifth, and final, annual report. This report highlights the work undertaken by the Round Table over the past year. It looks at: the scope and role of the new Sustainable Development Commission; indicators of sustainable development; the role of economic instruments; sustainable development at regional and local level; and how the planning system might be reshaped to give the pursuit of sustainable development a more central role.

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*Copies of Round Table reports are available free of charge from the secretariat, at 5th Floor, Romney House, Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RA, tel: 020 7944 4964, fax: 020 7944 4959, e-mail: ukround\_table@detr.gov.uk.*

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## The People's Planet

**A major TV series on global environmental problem solving**

UNED-UK Executive Committee member Herbert Girardet is series editorial consultant on *The People's Planet* a six-

part TV series for CNN and NHK, Tokyo. It focuses on the environmental revolution needed to bring our activities into balance with the natural world. It was shot in 24 countries on five continents. Developed with the Worldwatch Institute in Washington, it is a scene setter for the 2002 UN Earth Summit.

*The People's Planet* portrays the quest for sustainable development at the turn of the new millennium. Against the



background of the world's major environmental problems, it focuses on the efforts now being made to improve the relationship between humanity and our 'host planet'. World-wide adoption of American and European living standards would require the resources of three planets rather than the one we actually have.

The series argues that joint initiatives by civil society, governments and companies can lead to a dramatic reduction in our global impacts. The six programmes are: Consuming Passions (on alternatives to consumerism), Transforming the City (on sustainable urban development), Feeding Nine Billion (farming and diet), What Price Nature? (the value of ecosystems to humanity), Racing for the Sun (new energy systems), and The Search for Global Justice (on economic and cultural globalisation and its consequences).

The series has been a year and a half in the making and probably provides the most comprehensive overview of initiatives on improving people-planet relationships as yet attempted. It will be available for transmission by other broadcasters from autumn 2000.

**Herbert Girardet**

## The Media: A Resource for Sustainable Consumption?

**T**he Commission on Sustainable Consumption has met twice since its launch at the UNCSO in April 1999. It aims to act as a catalyst for action by individuals, communities and organisations to achieve sustainable consumption, and is developing an Action Plan for Rio+10.

The Commission's strategy combines analysis, community and stakeholder participation, and learning through action. It is supported by a research team at the Oxford Centre for the Environment, Ethics and Society. Commission Members are also organising projects in their own countries that involve local communities and stakeholders in setting out visions for sustainable consumption, and then developing and implementing local action plans to achieve those visions.

The Commission is focusing on important themes, in particular the consumption of food, transport and housing. At its meeting in April 2000, it discussed a report on the ethics of consumption (available from Laurie Michaelis at the address below). The next meeting will address the role of the media in shaping consumer aspirations and lifestyles.

Consumption patterns are communicated and learned in many ways. The broadcast media plays a role here alongside family life, schools, religious institutions and the printed word. Advertising has received considerable attention but less is known about the influence of the full range of media content.

The Commission is inviting a group of media professionals and experts to Oxford in January 2001 to explore how the media, including news, documentary, drama and other entertainment, helps to form public conceptions of normal and desirable lifestyles. It will also address the role of celebrities in providing role models and helping to shape consumers' aspirations.

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*For further information please contact Laurie Michaelis, OCEES, Mansfield College, Oxford OX1 3TF, UK.*

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**Laurie Michaelis**

## NGO NEWS

### Eco Forum Meeting in Kiev

**R**epresentatives of 104 environmental citizens' organisations (ECOs) gathered in Kiev, Ukraine from 14th–16th September for the European coalition Eco Forum's Strategy Meeting. The aim of the meeting was to prepare for the next Environment for Europe (EfE) Minister's meeting due to be held in Kiev in 2002. Eco Forum is a pan-European network active in promoting a constructive role for ECOs in the Environment for Europe process. Since the last meeting in Aarhus in 1998, Eco Forum has been active in monitoring implementation of the Aarhus Convention and pushing for policy development on some of the key issues addressed by the Convention.

The Strategy Meeting agreed the Eco Forum position on issues for the Ministerial Agenda for Kiev. The first of these is the need to address the "crisis of implementation". Numerous commitments already made within the EfE process are still only on paper in much of the regions, for example the Guidelines on Energy Efficiency, the Protocols on Heavy Metals and Persistent Organic Pollutants and the



*Some delegates from Romania, Yugoslavia and the UK*

Pan-European Strategy to Phase-out Leaded Petrol.

A number of initiatives have already been proposed and the following received the support of Eco Forum:

A **Kiev Charter on Environmental Policy Integration** to address the current lack of harmonisation especially in trade and investment policy in the region. This would help to avoid

further trade barriers in the West, and dumping of unwanted products and hazardous technology transfers to the East.

A **Framework Convention on Transport, Environment and Health**. Eco Forum calls for negotiations involving all three Ministries from each country, and for a regional approach which would respond to the differing nature of the problem in different areas of Pan-Europe.

A **Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** which would require environmental assessment for strategic plans and programmes as well as policies and legislation on the local, national and international levels. NGOs have already been involved in negotiations on the Protocol, and it is hoped that governments will sign in Kiev.

A **Charter on Environmental Education**, suggested by the Government of Ukraine, is a popular proposal among Eco Forum participants. ECOs called for a life-long learning approach to education, with special training for civil servants working outside environmental authorities, as well as in the agriculture and business sectors and for the media.

New issues for the Agenda were proposed including:

A **European Agreement on Environmental Liability**, which would establish national and cross-boundary liability systems to resolve current gaps in existing laws on issues including water, nuclear technologies, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The Lugano Convention of the Council of Europe, which was signed by nine countries in 1993, but is not yet ratified, is proposed as a basis for the preparation of this agreement.

As the Kiev meeting will take place in Ukraine, and is expected to have a special focus on the New Independent States of Europe, the issue of nuclear energy is considered to be particularly pressing. ECOs demand the agreement of a **time-tabled strategy for the phase-out of nuclear energy**, ensuring the phase-out of existing plants, the scrapping of any new installation plans, and an end to the export of nuclear technologies, and of waste and spent fuel to CEE and NIS countries.

GMOs are an emerging issue in many CEE and NIS countries, where legislation is currently being developed. Eco Forum will **push for a five year freeze on GMO commercialisation** to allow time for more monitoring to be undertaken.

A **European Chemical Strategy** emphasising the precautionary principle was called for. This would mean a harmonisation of national chemical policies focussing on full right to know, an independent safety assessment of all chemicals on the market, and a phase-out of persistent or bioaccumulative chemicals. Eco Forum will push for a ban on the transfer of hazardous chemicals and production facilities, and on chemical weapons production and storage.

## Links to Earth Summit 2002

Eco Forum calls upon Ministers to ensure that the Environment for Europe Agenda will complement the Earth Summit preparations. Europe plays a particular role in global sustainable development in several ways: Europe has a special responsibility for the globalisation of the economy, and should therefore address the negative consequences of this within the EfE process. The militarisation of some societies and the consequences of this for civil society is also an issue of concern for Europe.

## Environmental Rights

The European region has changed dramatically since the last Earth Summit. According to the UNDP, Central and Eastern Europe and the NIS are now experiencing the biggest rise in

poverty worldwide. It is essential that poverty eradication and the protection of human environmental rights are addressed in any plans for sustainable development in Europe. The social development dimension which is so key to the North – South Earth Summit discussions are now highly relevant in Europe also.

*Our latest information is that the Kiev Environment for Europe meeting will probably be postponed until spring 2003, following a proposal from the official preparatory meeting.*

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*For further details of Eco Forum contact: Victoria Elias, Chair of Eco Forum, Email: victoria@Alvaschenko.home.bio.msu.ru or Olga Ponizova, Email: accord@olgapon.gins.msk.su. There is an open list-server on the link between Environment for Europe and the Earth Summit 2002 process at anped-rio+10@egroups.com. To subscribe, send a blank email to anped-rio+10-subscribe@egroups.com*

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Clare Flenley, UNED Forum

## Montreal International Forum

### ***“Human Security: new definitions, new roles for global civil society and multi-lateral institutions”***

**T**he second Montreal International Forum (FIM) took place 1st–3rd October. FIM was set up two years ago as an international convening of civil society practitioners. Using a small-group workshop format the forum encourages practitioners to compare and reflect upon a range of campaigns and activities, as well as examine their relationship to multilateral institutions.

At this year's forum participants focused on five case studies linked to the theme of human security:

- Peace and Security: Steve Grose (USA) looked at NGO role in supporting the treaty to ban land mines
- Environmental Security: Tewolde Efziabher (Ethiopia) discussed how civil society had impacted the Biosafety Protocol (Cartagena)
- Food security: Antonio Quizon (Philippines) outlined the role of the “Popular coalition” and its impact upon agrarian reform
- Economic security: Ann Petifor (UK) took the case of the Jubilee 2000 campaign and examined its influence on the debate around global debt
- Health and human security: Dr. Sherad Gokhale (India) examined society interaction with the World Health Organisation to deal with Leprosy

Over the three days, participants used the case studies to begin to extract some shared lessons and identify particular strategies and examples where civil society involvement had been critical in moving the debate forward. Approximately 50 NGOs attended from a broad range of backgrounds and regions.

A report from the forum will be made available soon. Next year's forum will review NGO involvement in the + 5 World Summit Reviews.

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*Contact: Mario Lavoie, Forum international de Montréal (FIM), 380 rue St-Antoine Ouest, Bureau 3200, Montréal (Québec) Canada H2Y 3X7, Phone: +514-499-9468, Fax: +514-987-1567*

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Rosalie Gardiner, UNED Forum

## PRSPs – A Process to Engage In

A recent spate of meetings has brought the new Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) initiative of the World Bank/IMF to the attention of UK stakeholders.

PRSP is an initiative whereby highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) wishing to take advantage of debt relief on World Bank/IMF loans must submit a strategy for in-country poverty alleviation which would be undertaken with the debt relief funds. As PRSPs will be the basis for at least 20% of World Bank lending, it is worthwhile development practitioners becoming engaged in the debate.

There are many characteristics of the PRSP process which lend it the potential to be very successful, for example the requirement of civil society participation in strategy development and that the process is country-owned rather than prescriptive. However, just by requiring a PRSP the World Bank/IMF are being prescriptive and by approval or not, debt relief will be an indicator of the strategy and the participation process.

After the failure of structural adjustment the international financial institutions are attempting to take a back seat in lending conditionalities, but there is a fine line between inappropriate imposition of conditionalities and unproductive debt relief. This uncertainty gives us all the more reason to watch and participate in the PRSP debate – to support moves in the right direction and to holler if and when the process veers off track. As with all new processes, it is easier to shape as it develops rather than try to alter once it is established.

UNED is looking at the link between environment and development, particularly with respect to PRSPs and National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs). However, at none of these meetings could we find a clear answer as to how these would relate in practice. Hierarchies were outlined placing PRSPs at a practical level of NSSD implementation, but due to the ethics of not wanting to be prescriptive no one seems to want to outline how these will fit together in practice. Nor can we know how soon developing countries' civil society will become fatigued by consultation on these externally imposed policies!

....

The 4th of September saw the most recent DFID/NGO PRSP meeting. DFID staff are consulting with NGOs in a series of regular meetings to gain insight into UK civil society work relating to PRSPs and its relative success or failure. Primarily consisting of NGOs involved in development work in southern and transitional nations, the meetings are a chance to input the lessons of practical experiences, raise queries on PRSPs and to generally generate government/NGO dialogue. The next meeting is scheduled for 27th November.

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Contact Susan Pieri of DFID ([s-pieri@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:s-pieri@dfid.gov.uk)).

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The joint BOND/Bretton Woods Project event held on the 8th of September 'NGOs and the PRSP Process' brought together NGOs and World Bank/IMF staff in a primer on PRSPs which also allowed for plenty of discussion. With a comprehensive pack of initial reading material on PRSPs, and several more papers available on the day, those who could not make the event but wish to do some initial research on PRSPs should:

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Contact Alastair Fraser of BOND ([afraser@bond.oeg.uk](mailto:afraser@bond.oeg.uk))  
for links to these documents

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Finally, PRSPs also featured in the Environment Strategy consultation held by the World Bank at LSE on 11th of September. This was just one of a series of international consultations giving civil society the chance to input to the draft strategy currently under development which aims to make environment an integral part of World Bank's poverty alleviation work. However, the chances of environment becoming a part of business-as-usual planning were debated – by both World Bank staff and the stakeholder participants – with hope but some dubious resignation.

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More information on the ongoing consultation process  
can be found at [www.worldbank.org/environment](http://www.worldbank.org/environment).

For more information contact Beth Hiblin,  
Email: [bhiblin@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:bhiblin@earthsummit2002.org)

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Beth Hiblin, UNED Forum

## Climate Action Network UK

Climate Action Network UK has acted as the umbrella organisation for UK NGOs working on climate change for over ten years. We co-ordinate meetings between our members and Government and co-ordinate joint policy actions between our members. Climate Action Network UK also aims to widen the debate on climate change to reflect the universal nature of the problem. We are developing a web-based information resource for this purpose. We currently publish 'Hot News,' a free monthly newsletter available to anybody with e-mail.

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For more information, contact Paul McConnell, Climate Action Network UK, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP  
E-mail: [can-uk@wcl.org.uk](mailto:can-uk@wcl.org.uk) Phone: 020 7793 9296  
Fax: 020 7820 8620 Website: [www.canuk.org.uk](http://www.canuk.org.uk)

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## Welcome to Richard Jolly as New Chair of UNA

UNA was delighted when Professor Richard Jolly agreed to become the Association's National Chairperson from 1st January 2001.

After a variety of posts in East and Central Africa in the 1950s to 70s, Jolly became Director of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, acted – on secondment – as a consultant on North/South issues to the Secretary General of the OECD in 1978 and, in 1982, joined UNICEF as Deputy Executive Director. From 1996 until his retirement from the UN this June, Richard acted as Special Adviser to the Administrator of UNDP and Principal Author of UNDP's annual *Human Development Report*.

Always an active supporter of the people's voice in UN circles, Richard told me that he was very attracted by UNA as a people's movement in the UK in support of the UN.

We are truly fortunate to have such a 'giant' of the UN join us in this role and I know that our members will find him an invaluable ally and mentor.

Malcolm Harper



## Councils Launch Initiative to cut Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

**C**limate Change has become a significant political issue over the last decade. With a strong consensus among scientists and politicians that human activity is affecting global climate, it is recognised that action is urgently required to cut the level of Greenhouse Gases. The UK Government has committed itself to a 20% cut in carbon dioxide (the main greenhouse gas) emissions by 2010. Councils have a significant role to play in cutting GHG emissions. 24 councils from across England and Wales are involved in the pilot phase of the **Councils for Climate Protection (CCP) Initiative**.

Each Council will undertake a five stage 'climate action plan', with the aim of quantifying the current levels of emissions in their area, and then developing and implementing a GHG reduction strategy with quantifiable targets.

The CCP links into an international programme of action involving 400 local authorities across the world, run by the ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives). In total, the councils involved in the ICLEI scheme worldwide account for almost 10% of Global GHG emissions and many in other countries have already achieved impressive cuts in emissions.

In addition to supporting the work of the 24 pilots, the CCP will be assisting all Local Authorities across England and Wales through the preparation of Best Practice Case Studies and the organisation of a series of Regional Workshops on Climate Change.

Councils for Climate Protection is funded by the DETR (Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions) and is part of the Government's Draft Climate Change Strategy. The CCP is being run by the IDEa (Improvement and Development Agency) and is also supported by the Local Government Association (LGA).

CCP Co-ordinator Phil Matthews commented 'Action by every sector of the community is essential if we are to reduce the impact of Climate Change. The response by Local Authorities to the CCP has been excellent, demonstrating the desire of Local Government to play its part [...]. As has been shown both here and abroad, action to cut GHGs is not only good in itself, but also can lead to a range of other benefits in terms of quality of life and employment.'

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For further information please contact: Phil Matthews, CCP Co-ordinator, IDEa, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London EC1M, 5LG Tel. (020) 7296 6598 Email: Philip.Matthews@idea.gov.uk

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## Local Quality of Life Counts: A Handbook for a Menu of Local Indicators of Sustainable Development

**T**he DETR has issued a new handbook which offers ideas for measuring sustainable development and quality of life in local communities. It provides a menu of 29 indicators, developed jointly by the DETR, the LGA, IDEa, Audit Commission, local authorities and Local Agenda 21 groups, and tested by thirty local authorities. In the context of the new duty on principal local authorities to prepare Community Strategies, local authorities, LA21 groups and their partners are encouraged to select and use those indicators from the menu which are most appropriate to their local circumstances.

The local sustainable development indicators include eight best value performance indicators. The indicators in this handbook reflect a broader view of quality of life of the local community, so they cover issues where the influence of the local authority may be indirect or shared with other partners in the community. The handbook includes, for each of the indicators, a definition and source of data or suggested methodology for collecting new data. Involving the local community in data collection is important as it can help to raise awareness, but it may also mean that results are less standardised and so less comparable over time or with those of other authorities. However, using the definitions and methods for collecting data recommended in the handbook, should allow authorities to compare their results with national and regional norms, and with those of other authorities who are also using these indicators.

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Available from DETR for free, tel: 0870 1226 236

email: [detr@twoten.press.net](mailto:detr@twoten.press.net)

internet: [www.environment.detr.gov.uk/sustainable/localined](http://www.environment.detr.gov.uk/sustainable/localined)

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## Sustainable Solutions

**T**he Local Government Association (LGA) has embarked upon a programme of Futureswork – aimed at securing a healthy long term future for local government and for local communities. An initial stage of the LGAs Futureswork identified ten challenges to local government, and has recently published a pamphlet which addresses one of these challenges: Sustainable solutions. These are about improving our quality of life now and for future generations. The need for local authorities to become leaders for their communities to create a better quality of life is central to their future role. This pamphlet discusses what communities should look like in the future and seeks to identify initiatives which all local authorities could adopt to help achieve that better quality of life.

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To obtain a copy of **Discussing sustainable solutions: learning from the past for better decisions in the future** go to LGA's website  
[www.lga.gov.uk/lga/socialaffairs/solutions.pdf](http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/socialaffairs/solutions.pdf)

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# WOMEN'S GROUPS

## Engendering Local Agenda 21

**T**he call for sustainable development is not simply a call for environmental protection, but is in fact, a call for a new, wholistic concept of economic growth and social justice. Under this view, development should provide fairness and opportunity for all of the world's people, without further destroying the world's scarce natural resources or its carrying capacity to support life. While Agenda 21, particularly Chapter 24, launched at the 1992 Earth Summit, embraced the notion that that aggressive steps must be taken to establish policies and plans that elevate women's role in environmental decision making and planning, in many cases these steps have not been taken. The importance of including women in the process as articulated at Rio, was the result of active organizing prior to the Earth Summit. The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) played a crucial role in this organizing by bringing 1500 women worldwide to Miami in 1991 to shape *Women's Agenda 21*, a document that articulated women's vision for a sustainable future.

The Earth Summit catalyzed widespread efforts by local governments to implement Local Agenda 21 (LA21) planning processes, often with the support of international organizations such as ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives). This year, ICLEI gathered in Desau, Germany, from June 28th to July 2nd with approximately 500 representatives in attendance from cities from all over the world. The meeting, which was entitled "Global Cities 21 – Local Governments

Transformations for a Sustainable Future," explored ICLEI's campaigns on climate change, water and Local Agenda 21. Marking the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the organization, it was an occasion for municipalities to share planning processes and strategies.

On the final day of the conference WEDO and ICLEI held a strategic workshop on engendering Local Agenda 21 in which 25 participants from 16 countries took part in discussions on how to better integrate women's roles and needs into local sustainable development policies. Women are often poorly served as citizens because the services, equipment, and design of cities are not geared to their specific needs. In addition, a majority of women have to juggle domestic and family duties, which generally leaves them with little time for political involvement or taking part in decision-making. Municipal governments must embrace creative plans to overcome these barriers. Activists attending the workshop discussed strategic planning to help more communities formally recognize the role that women's groups can play as co-producers of local environmental policy.

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*Contact: WEDO (Women's Environment and Development Organization), 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017-6603, USA, website: [www.wedo.org](http://www.wedo.org)  
ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) [www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)*

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**Pamela Ransom, WEDO**

# FAITH COMMUNITIES

## Summit Inspires Religious Commitments to Sustainable Development

*New York*

**L**eaders from the world's major religions voiced agreement on a range of ethical standards and committed to significant actions in a declaration issued at the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders, which was held at the United Nations in August.

Through the declaration, leaders representing the Bahá'í Faith, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Indigenous Peoples, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, and Zoroastrianism pledged themselves and their communities to actions and activities in support of world peace, the eradication of poverty, and sustainable development.

"Humanity stands at a critical juncture in history, one that calls for strong moral and spiritual leadership to help set a new direction for society," said the Summit's final declaration, which was titled "Commitment to Global Peace. "We, as religious and spiritual leaders, recognize our special responsibility for the well-being of the human family and peace on earth."

In addition to promising to pursue peace, tolerance, and

respect for ethnic, religious and cultural diversity, the declaration clearly identified environmental protection as paramount, pledging as one of eleven commitments to "educate our communities about the urgent need to care for the earth's ecological systems and all forms of life and to support efforts to make environmental protection and restoration integral to all development planning and activity."

The Declaration also commits religious communities "to develop and promote a global reforestation campaign as a concrete and practical means for environmental restoration, calling upon others to join us in regional tree planting programs."

The gathering, which brought together more than 1,000 religious leaders from at least 100 countries, also upheld the equality of women and men, stressed the "right to freedom of religion," and called for the abolition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

Earth Council Chairperson and former UN Under Secretary General Maurice Strong, who chaired the Summit's International Advisory Council, delivered a major address.

"I am convinced that we are now witnessing a convergence of the spiritual and moral with the material dimensions of life," Mr. Strong told the Summit. "Respecting and caring for, sharing and cooperating with each other can no longer be seen as pious ideals, divorced from the real world of practical affairs, but as indispensable requirements for a peaceful, secure and sustainable future."

Leaders also heard presentations on the Earth Charter by two Earth Charter Commissioners: Steven Rockefeller (also chair of the Earth Charter drafting committee) and Kamla Chowdry. A consensus document developed through a broad consultative process by civil society over the last several years, the Earth Charter represents perhaps the best attempt yet at embodying the core principles of sustainable development in a

single document. Participants were urged to join the campaign to endorse and widely circulate the Earth Charter in preparation for its consideration for adoption by governments at Earth Summit 2002.

**Peter Adriance**  
**Bahá'í International Community**

## OBITUARY

# Death of a Friend

**J**acqueline Roddick has died. Jackie was a good friend of UNED and a member of our first UNED Board from 1993–1996. She helped the organization become an important contributor to the post Rio agenda in the UK and at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. Before that she was one of the key NGOs who helped ensure that the CSD was set up. She worked with Bill Pace and Tony Simpson in lobbying the developed countries who were not in favour of a new UN body being set up after the Rio Summit.

Jackie attended the General Assembly meetings and the UN Economic and Social Council meetings in late 1992 and early 1993 keeping an eye to ensure governments did not go back on their pledges. She was an active participant at the CSD in 1993–1996 and worked in particular on institutional issues and finance issues. She helped in the setting up of the CSD NGO Steering Committee and was always ensuring that there was a Scottish voice at the CSD.

Jackie was born in Guelph, Ontario, on the 3rd July, 1946, died in Edinburgh on the 20th July 2000. She graduated from Queen's University, Ontario, obtained the First Year Prize in Sociology at the London School of Economics, and gained a Masters and a PhD at the University of Sussex. She was for many years a Research Fellow at the Institute of Latin-American Studies at the University of Glasgow. She taught in Glasgow, and at Stirling and Aberdeen Universities, and in her last years was a research Fellow in the

Department of Sociology at Edinburgh University.

Dr Roddick was an internationally-renowned scholar in the development and contemporary politics of Latin American societies, with a particular concern for Chile, Brazil and Argentina. The books she wrote about Chile, either alone, or in collaboration with others, included most prominently *Chile: The State and Revolution* (translated into Spanish); *Allende's Chile*; *Chile: The Pinochet Decade* and, the wider study on Latin America *The Dance of the Millions – Latin-America and the Debt Crisis*, alongside numerous articles.

Jackie was unusual among scholars in that she dedicated herself unsparingly to bringing together theory and practice. When the Pinochet coup took place, Jackie became a prominent activist in the Chile Solidarity Campaign. Jackie and her husband made room in their house for many refugees driven from their Chilean homeland, some not just for months but for years. Those guests and many other Chileans in turn gave their thanks and honoured her memory through Latin-American music and poetry at her funeral. She wrote a haunting poem to honour one of her friends, Helena, who after being tortured in Chile, committed suicide in Paris where she went into exile.

Jackie committed herself actively to the struggles for democracy and human rights in Chile, Argentina and Brazil. She played a leading role in the Chilean Solidarity Campaign, the Argentine Human Rights Campaign and in the organisations to help street

children in Brazil. She was a pioneering campaigner on ecological issues, an active member of the Scottish Green Party for many years. In the British Miners' Strike she provided material and political sustenance for the Ayrshire miners and their families. In later years, at the time of the founding debates around the Scottish Parliament, she championed The Women's Claim of Right (subsequently published in 1991 as a Polygon volume) and through this, the goal of making women more visible historically.

After the closure of the Latin-American Institute by Glasgow University and with research still very much in her lifeblood, Jackie moved to the University of Edinburgh. There she continued to write articles until her death. Her erudition and her self-denying social action were her most remarkable traits but she was also distinguished by her love of literature (she published a number of poems), and her imperturbable good humour. She leaves Philip, a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Glasgow University, and two grown-up sons, Brendan and Ruairi, for whom she provided an unfailing example of courageous independence. At a time when there are marked pressures to conduct research for instrumental reasons and when, conversely, practical action is all too often divorced from learning, Jackie aspired to combine together the best traditions of social science and politics as vocations.

Jackie will be missed by people all around the world.

**Felix Dodds**

# Publications

## **Global Sustainable Development in the 21st Century**



*Edited by  
Keekok Lee,  
Alan Holland,  
Desmond  
McNeill  
Edinburgh  
University Press*

*"we consume too much when consumption becomes an end in itself and makes us lose affection and reverence for the natural world" Mark Sagoff, Ch. 7*

This collection of essays looks critically at the concept of Sustainable Development (SD). The book illustrates something of the range of interpretations that exist around our understanding of the different "pathways to Sustainable Development". Several of the papers describe a present-day view of SD which is largely utilitarian and rationalist, one which fails to take account of the poorest and most marginalised groups in society, and largely ignores intrinsic "non-human" environmental values. Lee suggests that social injustice and inequality have been exacerbated by Agenda 21, which broadly sanctions different strategies towards SD for the North and South. Lee calls for a return to a more unified strategy in the fight to sustain global integrity. Neefjes points to the continued lack of real participation of the South and particularly rural areas in policy-making for SD. He sees this input as crucial if individuals are to take greater responsibility over how they interact with their environment. Redclift proposes that economic liberalisation and globalisation has shifted political control away from the UN toward "unaccountable" international finance and trade institutions which are driven principally by neoclassical economic principles. Dobson warns that as long as the environment remains subservient to economic goals the natural world and future generations will face an increasingly insecure future.

Several of the contributors suggest that SD remains an ambiguous and theoretical ideal and they call for a more

equitable and unified SD strategy, one which moves toward greater "environmental democracy". This approach would recognise the right of self determination, inter and intra-generational justice, and seek to define and reconcile diverse perspectives on SD. Although it has few specific examples, the book does identify some of the key barriers to progress and it highlights the need for further discussion about the fundamental precepts which underlie SD. A concurrent question runs throughout the book as to why there is a continued failure to act more collectively towards SD. Sagoff underscores that whilst unsustainable practices have clearly brought financial and material wealth to a few, any whole-scale gain to livelihoods has been minimal.

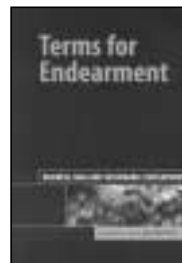
- £16.95 in paperback from Edinburgh University Press; 22, George Square; Edinburgh; website: [www.eup.ed.ac.uk](http://www.eup.ed.ac.uk)

by Rosalie Gardiner

## **Terms for Endearment: Business, NGOs and Sustainable Development**

*Edited by Jem Bendell*

Business and NGOs are seen by many to be locked in a perpetual war of values and ideologies. This book



demonstrates that the war has moved on. Many companies are now engaging with their stakeholders – even those with which they have traditionally had antagonistic

relationships – as part of their strategies for improved social and environmental performance.

With contributions from a diverse group of experts from business, consultancy, research institutes, NGOs and academia, *Terms for Endearment* investigates the how and why of these

new collaborations and provides concrete examples of business working with stakeholder pressure for sustainable development. This book forcibly argues the notion of organisations of civil society setting the standards for business behaviour in the 21st century. For those companies that choose not to pursue high standards of social and environmental performance, confrontation with NGOs must be expected, with negative consequences for sales, costs and social capital, i.e. the bottom line. *Terms for Endearment* therefore presents business with both a threat and opportunity as we move closer to establishing a social basis for global economic activity.

- Available from Greenleaf Publishing for 35.00 plus 3.00 for post and packing within Europe.

## **Reaching the Parts**

*By Sustain*

The Community Mapping project has shown that Participatory Appraisal (PA) methods can be used successfully to engage large and diverse groups of people in the policy-making process. The project and methods encompass a great variety of visual and innovative techniques such as maps, diagrams and drawings, unlike traditionally 'wordy' decision-making methods. This encourages participation of those with poor literacy skills in the problem-solving processes.

The 100 page, full-colour report describes the project, illustrating detailed case studies from Brighton, Coventry and Leicester, and demonstrating a range of lessons for people interested in community mapping. The report also provides new insights into what food poverty is and how it affects people, and makes a range of policy recommendations.

- Available for £20.00 or £10.00 if you are a member of Food Poverty Network (inc. p&p), contact Sustain, the alliance for better food and farming, 94 Whitelion St. London N1 9PF.

# Diary

## UK Diary Dates

### ● 5–11 November 2000

'Renewable Energy: Advancing Technology for Industrialisation and Sustainable Development'  
ORGANISED BY: International Networking Events

#### **Brighton, England**

Contact: Robert Pinheiro, The British Council, 1 Beaumont Place, Oxford, OX1 2PJ, UK, Phone: +44(0)1865/316636, Fax: +44(0)1865/557368, Email: network.events@britishcouncil.org, www.britishcouncil.org/networkevents

### ● 15–16 November 2000

'Marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): Partnership in Action'

#### **Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot Watt**

Contact: Bob Earll, Phone/Fax: 01531 890415, Email: bob.earll@dial.pipex.com

### ● 25 November 2000

'Global Tourism and Rural Development: Farming, Food and Community Life'  
ORGANISED BY: Farmers' World Network

Contact: Farmers' World Network, Arthur Rank Centre, N.A.C. Stoneleigh Warwickshire CV8 2LZ, Tel: 024 76696969 ext.421; Fax: 024 7641 4808; Email: fwn@fwn.org.uk, Website: www.fwn.org.uk

### ● 28 November 2000

'Health and Well-Being: Does your Environment Matter?'

ORGANISED AND HOSTED BY: the MRC Institute for Environment and Health  
**NSPCC National Training Centre, Leicester**

Contact: Seminar secretary of MRC Institute for Environment and Health, University of Leicester, Tel: 0116 223 1614, Fax: 0116 223 1601

### ● 26–28th March 2001

'Wilderness Britain?' A three day conference on society, policy and the environment

HOSTED BY: **the University of Leeds**

Contact: Steve Carver, School of Geography, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, Tel: +44 (0)113 2333318, Email: steve@geog.leeds.ac.uk, www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/conferences/

### ● 2/3 April 2001

'The UK Sustainable Cities and Aviation Network (SCAN-UK) – Environmental Capacity at Airports'

#### **Manchester Metropolitan University**

Website: www.scan-uk.mmu.ac.uk/

Further information can be sent please fax requests to Jane Walkington-Ellis +44(0) 161 247 3654

## International Diary Dates

### ● 13–24 November

Sixth Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change  
**The Hague, Netherlands**

Contact: UNFCCC Secretariat, Website: <http://cop6.unfccc.int>

### ● 16–17 November

Annual International Roundtable of the UNEP Financial Services Initiatives

#### **Frankfurt, Germany**

'Globalisation and Sustainable Development. Opportunities and Challenges for the Financial Services Sector'.

Contact: Mr. Ken Maguire, UNEP Finance Initiatives, Email: [maguirek@unep.ch](mailto:maguirek@unep.ch), [www.unep.ch/etu/finsew/whatnew.htm](http://www.unep.ch/etu/finsew/whatnew.htm)

### ● 4–9 December

Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)  
**Johannesburg, South Africa**

Contact: UNEP Chemicals (IRPTC); Tel: +41-22-979-9111; Fax: +41-22-797-3460; Website: <http://irptc.unep.ch/pops/>

### ● 11–14 December 2000

12th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (12 MOP)  
**Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**

Contact: Ozone Secretariat, [www.unep.org/ozone/meet2000.htm](http://www.unep.org/ozone/meet2000.htm)

### ● 11–22 December 2000

Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-4) for the Convention to Combat Desertification

#### **Bonn, Germany**

<http://www.unccd.int/cop/cop4/menu.php> and <http://www.unccd.de>

### ● 10–12 January 2001

International Workshop on Gender & Environment/Sustainable Development  
**Berlin, Germany**

Contact: Minu Hemmati (Co-ordinator) [minush@aol.com](mailto:minush@aol.com) and Jasmin Enayati (Assistant Co-ordinator) [jenayati@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:jenayati@earthsummit2002.org), [www.earthsummit2002.org/workshop](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/workshop)

### ● 15 January–2 February 2001

24th Session of CEDAW

### ● 5–9 February 2001

CEDAW Pre-Session Working Group, 25th Session  
HOST: UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)

Contact: Women's Rights Unit, DAW, Room DC2-1226, UN, New York, NY 10017, USA. Fax: (212) 963-3463, E-mail: [connorsj@un.org](mailto:connorsj@un.org), [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committ](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committ)

### ● February 2001

Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee on Istanbul +5  
(exact date and venue to be announced)

Consult UNCHS's web-site at <http://www.unchs.org> or email [habitat@unchs.org](mailto:habitat@unchs.org)

### ● 5–16 March 2001

45th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

HOST: United Nations HQ New York

Contact: DAW, Room DC2-1250, UN, New York, NY 10017, USA. Fax: (212) 963-3463, E-mail: [erturk@un.org](mailto:erturk@un.org), <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>

### ● 5–16 March 2001

Intersessional meeting for CSD-9  
**UN HQ, New York**

(more information below)

### ● 16–27 April 2001

CSD-9

#### **United Nations HQ, New York**

For more information, see p.6

Contact: Zehra Aydin-Sipos, Major Groups Focal Point, Division for Sustainable Development, Tel: +1-212-963-8811; Fax: +1-212-963-1267; Email: [aydin@un.org](mailto:aydin@un.org)

### ● June 2001

Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the **Habitat Agenda, Istanbul +5**

(Exact date to be announced)

Contact: Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Coordinator, Istanbul+ 5

### ● 2001

World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

#### **South Africa**

Contact: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights World Conference Secretariat, UN Geneva, Tel: +41-22-917-9290; Email: [husband@un.org](mailto:husband@un.org); [www.unchr.ch/html/racism/racism.htm](http://www.unchr.ch/html/racism/racism.htm)



# Useful Websites

## UNED FORUM

UNED FORUM PROJECTS  
[www.uned-uk.org/](http://www.uned-uk.org/)

UNED-UK HOMEPAGE  
[www.oneworld.org/uned-uk/](http://www.oneworld.org/uned-uk/)

EARTH SUMMIT 2002  
NETWORK 2002; BRIEFING PAPERS; NATIONAL  
STRATEGIES; LINKS ETC.  
[www.earthsummit2002.org](http://www.earthsummit2002.org)

ROADMAP TO 2002  
[www.earthsummit2002.org/  
roadmap/default.htm](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/roadmap/default.htm)

STAKEHOLDER TOOLKIT FOR WOMEN  
[www.earthsummit2002.org/  
toolkits/women/index.htm](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/index.htm)

COPENHAGEN+5: A SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
RESOURCE FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS  
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# Bergen Dialogue Session at the 8th Informal Environment Ministers meeting

## *Access to Energy for a Sustainable Future*

For three days in September, an impressive array of environment ministers from over 30 countries around the world, heads of United Nations organisations and representatives from Multilateral Cooperation Agencies gathered together in Bergen, Norway, for the 8th Informal Meeting of Environment Ministers. This year, their discussions which took place behind closed doors, covered institutional environmental governance, climate change; sustainable energy and the Rio+10 process. 'Many beautiful words have been said since the Rio summit' said Ghana's environment minister and co-chair

of the meeting Cletus A Avoka, 'now we need to see some action. Rio+10 should not be taken as a business as usual activity. It should have achievable objectives aimed at addressing the challenges of sustainable development in the new millennium'. The need to incorporate poverty eradication into environmental issues was at the fore of discussions. As Klaus Toepfer, executive director of UNEP told Earth Times, 'It is impossible to have a fruitful discussion on how to improve our ecosystems without addressing poverty. In 1992 most developed countries pledged to donate 0.7% of their GNP to ODA, but only a few did. There is a need for re-commitment, a huge necessity to re-establish the spirit of Rio'.

The dialogue session held during the 1990 UNECE Bergen meeting was a welcomed innovation and of course, that meeting was an important preparation for the 1992 Earth Summit. Civil society participation at Rio was unprecedented and has been further refined through the introduction of stakeholder dialogue sessions at the annual UNCSD meetings. In recognition of the need to advance participatory discussions at the international level, the Norwegian government decided to incorporate a dialogue session in the 2000 Bergen meeting. It was the first time that civil society participation had been permitted in this annual series of ministerial meetings.

UNED Forum coordinated the 3 hour dialogue session and worked together with umbrella organisations from the business, local government, trade unions, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples and Women's Major Groups.



*Derek Osborn shares a moment with Michael Meacher*

During the preparatory process, the participating groups discussed which topics should be tackled and agreed upon a methodological framework for the background papers. They all agreed that poverty eradication has to be properly addressed and integrated in the agenda of the next Earth Summit. Access to sustainable supplies of water and energy emerged as the most crucial issues.

They are indispensable to the satisfaction of basic needs and intrinsically linked to poverty, environmental degradation and inequitable patterns of production and consumption. Conducting a dialogue with ministers on these issues also complements preparations for other international policy processes. This year's 2nd World Water Forum demonstrated the political complexity of freshwater issues, with water emerging as a top priority for consideration at Rio 10. In any event, there will be an international freshwater conference in Germany next year to review Chapter 18 of Agenda 21. Also, energy is scheduled for discussion at CSD-9, and will also be the subject of the multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions at that meeting.

In Bergen, we had a 3 hour slot for the dialogue session which was chaired by Derek Osborn of UNED. Access to Energy for a Sustainable Future began with brief presentations from civil society. Mr Fjell, CEO and President of Statoil, the Norwegian oil company spoke in support of extending access to commercial energy to those living in poverty as a priority, as well as the competitive advantage for businesses who acted as 'good corporate citizens'. He also supported the use of carbon taxes to force the transition to a more sustainable society. Ms Brighi of the Confederation of Trade Unions (CISL), spoke of the need to engage workers for the transition to a sustainable energy future, decentralisation of energy

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supplies, regulation of foreign direct investment and coordination of the activities of the ILO, WTO and UNEP. Ms Taipale from the Municipality of Helsinki and chair of ICLEI, called for decentralised energy facilities responsive to local demands, energy efficiency and increased investment in renewable energy.

Hugo Beteta, of Fundacion Solar, a Guatemalan NGO, highlighted a few of the issues raised in the NGO, Women and Indigenous Peoples background paper. In particular he drew attention to the interdependency between rich and poor people, unsustainable consumption patterns and inequitable resource allocation. Due to budgetary constraints Indigenous Peoples and Women's groups did not prepare individual background papers but were absorbed into the NGO group. Both groups were, however, represented at the dialogue session. Ms Tauli-Corpuz attended on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples CSD

caucus and Minu Hemmati represented the Women's CSD caucus. Ms Tauli-Corpuz raised the point that Indigenous Peoples communities are often destroyed during resource extraction, yet they do not benefit from the energy produced. Dr Hemmati emphasised that if we want to pursue gender equity for sustainable development, we will have to look beyond issues of economics and technology and address human behaviour.

Following the civil society presentations the floor was opened to the ministers and other delegates. The debate was fairly lively and it was gratifying to hear ministers speaking frankly without the need to reach a formulated outcome. Ministers displayed an interest in eliciting information from the stakeholder groups on what would be their contribution in addressing the issues. The discussions covered technology transfer particularly for the rural poor; the decline in R&D funding for renewable and appropriate small-scale technologies; subsidies and the need for a more coordinated approach that links together food, water, energy, bio-diversity objectives.

After a short coffee break, the session on Access to Water for Basic Needs was convened. Again, ministers were all keen to contribute to the other dialogue and mainly focussed on government strategies to provide

access to affordable water and the social impact of full cost recovery and removal of water subsidies for poor people.

The feedback from the dialogue sessions was all positive. The co-chair of the meeting, Norwegian

environment minister Ms Siri Bjerke said that 'This has strengthened my view that interactive debate should be the way'. Many other ministers and aides said that they found it an interesting and worthwhile session, especially delegates from countries without a strong civil society presence in governance. Civil society participants were pleasantly surprised at the willingness of ministers to interact in the dialogue and in part this reflects the pertinence of the topics. They also found the preparatory process a valuable co-operative learning experience of working with other stakeholder groups. The summary tables produced by UNED clearly demonstrate that there are

several points of convergence between the groups, as based on the background papers. Given a longer preparatory process, areas of convergence and conflict highlighted in the papers could have been explored more substantially. If stakeholders are serious about

committing themselves to the issues raised as agents of change, they have a responsibility to continue this dialogue and to explore the common ground.

In conclusion, stakeholders urged ministers to consider how the process of multi-stakeholder engagement at international meetings can be developed into a recognised, transparent mechanism which links to the decision making process; to begin early preparations for 2002 allowing adequate time and resources for meaningful participation by stakeholders and that water, energy, poverty and equitable access to resources should be priorities for attention at the Earth Summit 2002.

The background papers, summary tables and presentations are available at [www.earthsummit2002.org](http://www.earthsummit2002.org). A full report of the Bergen dialogue session will be published both in print and on the

website at the end of October.

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# Beyond Petroleum

by Colin Gomm, BP

Earlier this year a global advertising campaign was launched by BP, one of the world's leading hydro-carbon and petrochemical groups. In this campaign the company used the strap line '**beyond petroleum**' to unite and link the various advertisements and to capture the imagination of a wide audience – customers, contractors, partners and employees – around the world. Ever since, people have been asking what these words mean.

Essentially **beyond petroleum** describes an aspiration. BP is a new company formed from many parts. At the end of 1998 British Petroleum merged with Amoco in what was, at that time, the world's largest industrial combination. Soon after BP Amoco acquired another American oil company, Arco. More recently it has purchased the British oil lubricants company Burmah Castrol and bought out a minority share holding in Vastar, a US gas producer. Given all these changes, there was an urgent need for a new corporate identity, which represented the new organisation and gave it a single identity.

In July of this year the first phase of this new identity was revealed – a green, yellow and white "helios" mark whose interlocking parts represent the diversity of the company's 100,000 employees, its products and its services. The radiance of this mark is intended to serve as a constant reminder of BP's purpose and goals – above all, to affect life on earth in ways that are progressive, profound and positive.

A global advertising campaign was launched alongside the new brand, which is where **beyond petroleum** comes in. It expresses a wish or a hope. But it is also a commitment – to look beyond traditional ways of doing business, beyond the constraints of conventional thinking and beyond the normal perceptions and boundaries of the petroleum industry.

This aspiration and this commitment is actually based on reality. The new BP is a very different company to its constituent parts. As British Petroleum, about 15% of the company's production was natural gas. As BP (including Amoco, Arco and Vastar), it is 38% and we are aiming to raise this to some 45% by 2003. This will make us almost as much of a gas business as an oil company – and since gas is a much more fuel-efficient and cleaner fuel than oil, with lower greenhouse gas

emissions, this development takes us significantly closer towards our goal of a cleaner, greener world.

BP Solar, one of 150 business units within BP and one of the world's leading manufacturers of photovoltaic panels with plants in the US, Spain, India and Australia, has developed thin-film solar technology – a global first. This technology is designed to generate renewable electricity directly from sunlight. Today it produces the highest efficiency silicon cells available in volume production as well as a range of crystalline products and two thin-film technology options. One of these has been in commercial production for three years while the other recently produced the highest efficiency monolithically integrated thin film solar module in the world.

Apart from manufacturing photovoltaic panels, BP is also one of the world's largest users and generators of solar energy. Currently more than 100 of our retail sites are powered by the sun in addition to many other installations and applications within the group. The development of solar energy – BP is committed to grow the business at least fivefold by 2007 when our target is sales of at least \$1 billion in that year – is just one example of the company's commitment to renewable energy – going

**beyond petroleum**. For example, we are involved with other companies in research on fuel cell and hydrogen energy technologies.

Taken together with our growing involvement in the global natural gas industry (particularly in Europe, North America and Asia), innovative internal schemes designed to reduce our environmental footprint such as our greenhouse gasses emissions trading system, and our overarching commitment to improving anything, which can be improved, we believe we are indeed looking **beyond petroleum**.

Today we are known simply as BP. In introducing this new name, our chief executive, Sir John Browne, stated that the strength of BP (which, for legal reasons, remains BP Amoco plc until our next AGM in April, 2001) will be assessed not just by its financial results but also by the way the company conducts itself – and especially by the aspirations we set for ourselves. That is another test against which we hope the phrase **beyond petroleum** will be judged.

## **Beyond petroleum**

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*The opinions expressed in this article are those of BP and are not necessarily endorsed by UNED Forum.*

# UNED Forum Energy Roundtable

## *Preparations for CSD-9*

**O**n 9 November, UK stakeholders close to the sustainable energy debate will meet to decide upon how and what to contribute to the spring 2001 meeting of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD-9). Energy is one of the four key themes this session of the CSD will focus on.

By bringing together representatives from all sectors of civil society and Government, the Energy Round Table will consider recent achievements in the UK, and identify the problems and barriers remaining. The outcome of the meetings – including possible future steps – will be presented at CSD-9.

Representatives from national and local government, the business community, NGOs, consultants, academics, and scientists, all actively involved in the field of energy and sustainable development are expected to attend. A stimulating dialogue is expected, wherein all participants will have the opportunity to share ideas and up-

to-date information. Among the energy-related topics for consideration will be:

- Accessibility to energy;
- Energy efficiency;
- Renewable energy;
- Rural energy;
- Transportation;
- Atmosphere;
- Capacity-building and technology transfer;
- Mobilisation of financial resources; and
- Institutional factors (co-operation and participation at all levels).

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*For more information please contact Charles Nouhan,  
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## The World Energy Assessment Report

**T**he World Energy Assessment (WEA) project produced a new report, the World Energy Assessment: Energy and the Challenge of Sustainability. This report draws on the findings of nearly one hundred scientists, energy experts, social researchers and development practitioners from both developed and developing countries. The report concludes that environmental problems including global warming and ecosystem degradation could be addressed through changes in public policy and private sector initiatives. However, since energy systems are capital intensive and have long lifetimes, new approaches are needed now.

The unique collaboration on the report among two UN agencies and the World Energy Council underscores

another of the dynamism of the private sector and enlightened public policies to guide it. The report concludes that with appropriate incentives, the private sector can play an enormous powerful role in driving technological progress and bringing energy services to the world's poor. But government guidance and regulations are crucial because without them the market will not meet needs of the poor, nor will it protect the environment.

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