



## South Africa to hold 2002 Earth Summit

**On December the 8th the UN General Assembly agreed that the UN will host a "World Summit on Sustainable Development" in 2002 in South Africa.**

In a statement, Rejoice Mabudafhasi, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, said that South Africa welcomed the decision to bring the conference to the African continent. The summit would be held in Johannesburg.

"Bringing the Earth Summit to South Africa is a major boost for Africa as the major conference on sustainable development on our soil will firmly place these issues and debates on the agenda of our continent" said Mabudafhasi.

In February, President Thabo Mbeki made a formal offer to the United Nations to host the 10-year Review Summit, popularly referred to as the Earth Summit 2002.

'It is significant that it should take place in the developing world.' Several heads of state

will attend the summit that is expected to draw about 40 000 participants.

More than 130 heads of state participated in the summit in 1992 and it is expected that the majority of the 188 members of the UN will send delegations to the 2002 conference. More than 15 000 NGOs were represented at the 1992 meeting.

Mabudafhasi said that the significance of the conference went beyond the actual event because it set the agenda for sustainable development and the environment for the next decade.

"It is therefore significant that it should take place in the developing world where the issues

*(continued on page 7)*

## Climate Change Heads UK Environment Agenda

**London, 24th October – UK Prime Minister Tony Blair commits to Earth Summit Process during "Richer and Greener" speech to Confederation of British Industry/ Green Alliance Conference on the Environment**

At his first environment speech during his term of office Tony Blair outlined new government commitments to the environment for the UK and globally. His speech focused on the role of government, business and the environmental movement saying that they needed to develop "more understanding, more dialogue, a healthy recognition of areas of disagreement ... to put across the urgency of the problems and the viability of the solutions" to effectively deal with the growing environmental needs of the UK.

He set climate change as the number one issue for protecting the global environment. He

highlighted the findings of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, which recently warned that the UK needs to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> production by 60% by 2050 if the country was to help avoid a global disaster. He also referred to the UK's environmental achievements so far, stating that the UK leads on issues such as tough air quality standards, cleaning of beaches, environmental legislation and fiscal incentives, investment in transport through the Comprehensive Spending Review, the use of transport tax to develop cleaner

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**Thanks to BP Amoco  
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## 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



The Spring 2001 issue of **Connections** has a strong focus on preparations for the 9th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-9), to be held in May 2001 and on Earth Summit 2002. On 20th December, the final decision on Earth Summit 2002 (Rio+10) was adopted by the UN General Assembly

– the event is now officially titled as **'World Summit on Sustainable Development'** and will be hosted by Johannesburg, South Africa (see cover article by Felix Dodds).

In the centre pages, we look at the issue of transport – one of the issues to be discussed at CSD-9 – from various stakeholders' perspectives: Frazer Goodwin from the European Federation for Transport and Environment reflects on the progress at European level to establish binding commitments to action in the transport sector. Hugh Somerville, Head of the Sustainable Development Unit of British Airways writes about BA's contribution to sustainable aviation.

Roger Torode from the International Association of Public Transport and European Affairs Manager of Transport for London reflects about growth in traffic and what public transport can do to achieve sustainable mobility. And Professor Kerry Hamilton, Head of Transport Studies at the University of East London gives the full picture by elaborating on Transport and the "Great Gender Divide".

A big thanks to all contributors to this issue!

On 20 March 2001, UNED Forum's National Conference: **'UK Preparations for Earth Summit 2002: What Should the UK Advance at the World Summit on Sustainable Development?'** will gather UK priorities for 2002. Please look out for more details on UNED Forum's new web-site at [www.unedforum.org](http://www.unedforum.org) or contact Gregoire (Phone: +44 (0) 20 7839 1784; e-mail: [info@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:info@earthsummit2002.org)).

Again, I would like to encourage **Connections** readers to send their comments / feedback on the articles of the Spring 2001 issue. And now enjoy the read!

**Jasmin Enayati**  
Editor

### Visit UNED Forum's new web-site at **[www.unedforum.org](http://www.unedforum.org)**

Find all relevant information about UNED Forum's

- Domestic and international activities and projects
- Partnerships with organisations from the different stakeholder groups
- UK and international multi-stakeholder round tables
- Research in policy development areas
- Regularly updated web-sites / reports / newsletters and books
- Compilations of international agreements
- Conferences (past and future)
- Extensive list of links listed by stakeholder group
- Download page with documents in txt, zip or pdf format

# Meeting on the European Union Sustainable Development Strategy and its Connection to Rio +10

Stockholm – 17/18 November 2000

**The European Environment Bureau together with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation held an Expert Conference on the above subject with the participation of the Swedish Minister for the Environment, Mr Kjell Larssen, many NGOs from most of the EU Member States and Accession Candidate Countries, government officials from several Member States and participation from business and the trade unions.**

The object of the meeting was to discuss the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) which the Commission is currently preparing and which is to be presented to the European Summit to be held in Gothenberg, June 19–21 2001. A sub-theme of the meeting was the relationship of this draft strategy to the preparation for Rio + 10 (now known as the World Summit for Sustainable Development). The Minister commenced the meeting by stressing the great importance which the upcoming Swedish Presidency (first six months of 2001) attached to sustainable development and to the three pillar approach. As Minister for the Environment, he considers that his input to the Gothenberg Summit and the integration of the environment into the EU's economic development is of the utmost importance. He also intends to use his presidency to begin early preparations for the World Summit in 2002. He felt it was essential that the EU should take a strong leadership early on in co-operation with the Accession Candidate countries. He encouraged the meeting to produce a document which could be sent to the European Commission and the Swedish Presidency, so as to get a head of steam behind the two interlinking processes.

Representatives of the Commission outlined, from a general and more specific point of view, the progress of the work to date on integration of environment into EU strategies in general, and the broadbrush approach which will be needed for the Sustainable Development Strategy itself. The three pillar approach is the basis for the draft currently being written and the social aspect was explained in some detail. Clearly the new strategy will build on the achievements of the past, particularly Community legislation in the field of environment and of social affairs. The Commission's work is still in the stage of internal consultation with all the Directorates General in the Commission and it is hoped that a draft will be produced early in the year. It was not clear however at which stage the draft would be available for multi-stakeholder consultation (possibly by April). What is clear is that the document must be ready for approval by the Heads of State and Government at the Gothenberg Summit in June, therefore the last draft must be approved by the Commission by Easter at the latest.

There was wide discussion by all the parties addressing what should be the main elements of the strategy, how the EU should take leadership, how it should be linked to other processes such as the Commission's Strategic Objectives 2000–2005, what is the value added of having a European strategy, what should be the political and public process, including monitoring results and implementation, and which should be the priority issues. The meeting chose the themes below which they feel could be selected as priorities:

- Social exclusion and poverty
- Public health
- Resource use and Mobility
- Economic convergence within the EU
- Climate Change, and
- Global equity.

There was subsequently a discussion on the preparation of the World Summit. I opened the discussion by describing to participants, many of whom had not been associated with the (post) Rio processes, what were the real achievements of Rio, how it had been followed up in the CSD and elsewhere, and why Rio + 5 had not been the success we would have all hoped. I laid considerable emphasis on the unique multi-stakeholder process which we have achieved within the CSD and its importance jointly and severally in the run up to Rio +10. I also explained the role of UNED Forum in acting as a conduit for information in bringing together the different stakeholders, and in raising awareness and enthusiasm throughout all the constituencies. Much interest was expressed by many of the participants, particularly those from Central and Eastern Europe and I distributed information from the web-site, our network and recent publications. There was a strong feeling amongst participants that the EU should seize the opportunity of the Swedish presidency to take the lead and that there had to be joined-up thinking between the sustainable development strategy and Rio + 10.

Reference was made to the document currently under preparation within the European Commission which is intended to jump start the preparations at EU level for the World Summit. Emphasis was laid equally on environment and development by the participants and it was hoped that the Commission would be able to clear this paper as rapidly as possible and full account of it should be taken within the final drafts of the Sustainable Development Strategy. It is understood that the Paper to be presented jointly by the Environment and Development Commissioners should (hopefully) be available by the end of January.

The Conference concluded that it would draw up a report on all the above considerations and that it would be sending a strong message to the president of the Commission, to the Swedish and other Prime Ministers and Ministers of the Environment that the EU must produce a Sustainable Development Strategy which should be the overarching medium and long term driving force for all EU policies. This strategy should be as ambitious as possible and should be adopted at Gothenberg also with the support of the accession candidate countries.

*There was a strong feeling amongst participants that the EU should seize the opportunity of the Swedish presidency to take the lead and that there had to be joined-up thinking between the sustainable development strategy and Rio + 10.*

Strong emphasis was put in the Conclusions on the external dimension of the sustainable development strategy in view of the EU's role as one of the largest trading partners and donors of official development aid. It is necessary that the strategy should be outward not inward looking and should fully take into account the needs of developing countries, particularly the poorest amongst them. In a subsequent development, Commissioner Lamy, responsible for Trade, in a meeting with NGOs, publicly stated that he attached great importance to the SDS and thought that it should have a strong external dimension, particularly on trade. He wished to see the trade policy oriented to take full account of the interests of developing countries and to assure much greater market access especially for the least developed countries.

The letter and the conclusion have been sent out to President Prodi and the Prime Ministers and other Ministers and also

to the European Parliament as well as to a wide circle of NGOs. The letter reproaches the Commission with not being sufficiently advanced in its work on the strategy and expresses the hope that an ambitious proposal will be published as soon as possible so as to allow full time for debate with all stakeholders involved from early next year. Clearly the SDS can only gain from such consultation and its value would be much enriched by the contributions of NGOs, business and other stakeholders.

The meeting was an interesting and useful one and has put both the Swedish Presidency and the Commission on alert. They must produce a good strategy and do it fast. Europe's NGOs expect nothing less and expect the EU to take the lead in this and in the preparations for the World Summit.

**Margaret Brusasco-Mackenzie**  
Vice-Chair, UNED Forum

## UNED FORUM NEWS



**UNEDForum**

### New UNED Project: A Framework For Multi-stakeholder Processes

**U**NED Forum has embarked on a new project in collaboration with Novartis International AG, BP Amoco plc, and the Ford Foundation. Carried out between November 2000 and June 2001, the project aims to develop a methodological framework of multi-stakeholder processes, based on analysing various examples and relevant scientific research, as well as consulting a large group of stakeholder representatives.

One of the key aspects of Agenda 21 are the chapters dealing with the role of Major Groups (women, youth, indigenous peoples, NGOs, business & industry, workers & trade unions, science & technology, farmers, local authorities). Agenda 21 is the first UN document to extensively address the role of different stakeholders in the implementation of a global agreement. Agenda 21, in each of the chapters, outlines roles and responsibilities of the respective stakeholder groups, and stresses their involvement as being absolutely crucial for successful implementation of sustainable development.

Reflecting upon the practical implications, there are numerous ways to design meaningful stakeholder involvement, ranging from governments consulting stakeholders to creating multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnerships clearly linked into decision-making processes.

Since 1992, stakeholders have in various ways tried to work out the norms and standards for their involvement in multi-stakeholder processes. Internationally, the most advanced multi-stakeholder discussions occur at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) where there are well-prepared multi-stakeholder dialogues each year on different topics. They

have also initiated ongoing multi-stakeholder processes. The multi-stakeholder process at the CSD was pioneered by UNED-UK and its development has in many cases been drawn from UNED-UK's recommendations.

Over the last few years, multi-stakeholder processes have started to generate considerable interest in other fora outside the Rio/CSD process, around intergovernmental bodies and at national levels. For example, with the Global Compact initiative, the UN Secretary General has embarked on developing a particular approach to partnerships with stakeholders; the OECD as well as individual companies have undertaken activities and organised events providing platforms for multi-stakeholder stakeholder dialogues on contentious issues in the area of biotechnology and health care; discussions on stakeholder involvement around the UN, UNEP, the World Bank, the IMF, the WTO abound in recent years as part of efforts towards institutional reform. Other examples include the World Commission on Dams; the Mining Initiative of the WBCSD and IIED; the Global Reporting Initiative; etc.

However, there is no common or basic framework; various approaches and experiences are rarely being linked or compared. Procedures of feeding stakeholder dialogues into official decision-making processes; of dealing with power gaps between stakeholders; of successful consultation procedures; of follow-up and implementation often remain unclear. Also, stakeholder groups have to date put forward their respective ideas rather than discussed and agreed possible common procedures amongst themselves.

Researching and comparing the different approaches and distilling an acceptable "template procedure" seems a timely task to be undertaken by those interested in furthering the issues of sustainable development by addressing the necessary developments in governance structures and processes.

The **objective** of the project is to develop a methodological framework for multi-stakeholder processes around intergovernmental bodies, which can be promoted as a template agreed by a significant number and selection of stakeholders, to address issues which need public debate and stakeholder involvement and contentious issues of political, economic and technological development.

To develop the framework, the project will **review relevant examples** and experiences by analysing relevant literature and conducting interviews with stakeholder representatives involved



in the exemplar processes, as well as review current thinking on global governance issues with regard to multi-stakeholder processes.

Views of NGOs, trade unions, women, etc. and other stakeholders having a track record in MSPs will also be consulted. A starting point is to consult UNED Forum's International Advisory Board. Finally, academic experts of organisational development & participatory processes; relevant UN representatives (NGLS, Major Groups Focal Points); governments of key developing and developed countries, will be included in the research and consultation process which will be carried out during March 2001.

Relevant **scientific research** in the area of social and organisational sciences on mechanisms of decision-making in groups of high diversity, conflictual interests, and significant power gaps, will also be reviewed and findings taken into account when developing the proposed framework.

The project will include a 2 day **workshop** in New York (28-29 April 2001), with 80 invited participants, representing the consulted groups and organisations with a view to include representatives of exemplary processes, all relevant stakeholders and regions. The workshop shall include presentations of the draft methodological framework and examples of processes studied, and provide space for further discussions.

The project aims to further the **exchange of experiences with multi-stakeholder processes** around different inter-governmental processes of policy-making and implementation, thus forming a network of representatives involved in the various processes and opportunities to learn from each other.

The **outcome document**, ie the proposed methodological framework for multi-stakeholder processes will be submitted to CSD-10. A full report will also be made available in June 2001.

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*Contact:*

*Felix Dodds (fdodds@earthsummit2002.org)*

*Minu Hemmati (minush@aol.com)*

*Jasmin Enayati (jenayati@earthsummit2002.org)*

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## Towards Earth Summit 2002 Update

UNED Forum has produced three briefing papers since April 2000 these being on Freshwater, HIV/AIDS and Foreign Direct Investment. Briefing Papers on Food Security and New Financial Mechanisms are under preparation. This quarter sees the posting (on [www.earthsummit2002.org](http://www.earthsummit2002.org)) of two papers:

### **Earth Summit 2002: Where Did We Come From, Where Are We Going?**

For those of us who know nought about the Earth Summit process, and a concise summary for those of us who do, this new overview traces the sustainable development regime from the outcomes of Stockholm to the potential of Johannesburg.

### **Climate Change & Energy: Can We Weather the Switch to Sustainable Energy?**

The most recently posted issue-based briefing looks at Climate Change and Energy in preparation for CSD-9 in 2001. With 2 billion people needing access to adequate energy supplies, and those that do have access over consuming to the point of affecting our global climate, drastic action is needed to create a universally available sustainable energy culture. This paper outlines the problems, solutions, and the international efforts underway to get us there.

**Network 2002** is published every month since April. We are targeting to have a readership of 100,000 by the end of 2001.

Recent additions on the [www.earthsummit2002.org](http://www.earthsummit2002.org) web-site include an international diary section; UN Rio + 10 web-site; sections on acronyms; European Rio+10 Coalition; 8th Informal meeting of Environment Ministers and UN New York Missions.

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*For further information contact Beth Hiblin at  
[bhiblin@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:bhiblin@earthsummit2002.org)*

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## West African Workshop on Earth Summit 2002



UNED were approached by Les Amis de la Terre Togo (Friends of the Earth Togo) to help facilitate a capacity building workshop to prepare for Earth Summit 2002. The workshop had representatives from nine African countries – Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, and Togo. In attendance from UNED were Felix Dodds and Minu Hemmati.

The workshop aimed to:

- empower a core group of NGOs with knowledge on sustainable development and gender issues who will then transfer this knowledge to other civil society groups;
- empower NGOs with skills in public outreach and advocacy for the issues they identify as crucial for Earth Summit 2002;
- empower NGOs with skills to initiate and engage in multi-stakeholder processes in their respective countries;
- facilitate increased understanding of the international processes and its use developing relevant local and national processes;
- ensure effective preparation and participation at national, regional and international levels for the Earth Summit 2002;
- empower NGOs with knowledge about the overlaps and linkages between the issues and promote the necessary integration of the respective UN processes and the implementation of the Global Plans of Action;
- strengthen the NGO community as a whole by increasing its professionalism and effectiveness;
- strengthen domestic and regional networks among NGOs for mutual support and developing common positions;

- enable “trained” NGOs to carry out similar training among national constituencies.

For the workshop UNED produced a pack of material and a CD-ROM with the [www.earthsummit2002.org](http://www.earthsummit2002.org) web-site and other key material on it, including compilations of international agreements pertaining to particular issues, CSD Women's Caucus position papers, etc.

The workshop was covered by Togo TV and Togo newspapers and the Minister of Environment of Togo attended and spoke on the final day on what he thought were the crucial issues for developing countries these were climate change, finance, technology transfer and capacity building. The NGOs in attendance also prioritized issues for 2002; these included poverty, HIV/AIDS, desertification, finance, freshwater, corporate responsibility and accountability, energy, women and sustainable development, food security and networking.

A committee of three was set up to take the outcomes forward and help develop a West African Network and a funding



proposal for supporting the Network and national meetings. A list server for the participants was set up to enable them to communicate with each other.

**Felix Dodds and Minu Hemmati, UNED Forum**

## CSD

### The Official UN Web-site for Rio+10...

*... is up and running at [www.un.org/rio+10](http://www.un.org/rio+10).*

**W**e encourage all of you to visit the site regularly as it will be updated frequently to reflect the rapidly evolving efforts to prepare for Rio+10 at the national, regional and international levels. We would also welcome your help with getting information about the various Rio+10 related initiatives that your organization or others in your network have launched or planning to launch.

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*Please send your comments, suggestions, information about Rio+10 related efforts, as well as questions and inquiries related to the web-site to [aydin@un.org](mailto:aydin@un.org), or [sharma7@un.org](mailto:sharma7@un.org).*

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### Preparations for CSD9

**T**he ninth session of the CSD in April 2001 (16–27th April) will be dealing with the following issues:

- Energy and Transport;
- Atmosphere;
- Information for decision making and participation;
- International cooperation for the enabling environment.

#### Multi-stakeholder segment

It will be holding the multi-stakeholder dialogues on the issue of energy and transport. If you are interested in being involved with the NGO preparations, go to the NGO web-site then go to the transport or energy caucus pages and join the caucus you are most interested in. The women's caucus is also working on papers on these issues in preparation for the CSD. Go to the NGO web-site to join the preparation from the Women's Caucus.

The other partners for the Dialogues are:

**NGOs:** NGO Caucus on Climate Change and Energy, and the NGO Caucus on Sustainable Transport

**Workers and Trade Unions:** International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

**Business and Industry:** World Business Council for Sustainable Development, International Chamber of Commerce, World Energy Council

**Local Authorities:** International Council for Local Environment Initiatives

**Scientific Communities:** International Council for Scientific Unions and World Conservation Union

Background papers for the dialogue segment by the various stakeholder groups will be produced in advance and will be made available at [http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/entrsegment\\_csd9.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/entrsegment_csd9.htm)

The NGO Energy Caucus has issued a note to NGOs in preparation for the CSD.

**Nuclear Issue:** We realise that people have been justifiably upset that nuclear energy was mentioned in the CSD-8 report as one of the key issues to be examined in preparation for CSD-9 (many of us certainly worked to try to stop that, but could only achieve language that mentioned some problems that nuclear would have to address before it could be considered sustainable). At this point, we are trying to get many more anti-nuclear NGOs involved in this issue, since many of us suspect that certain countries would only be too happy to see NGOs spend all their time against nuclear and forget all about fossil fuels, etc.

Of course, we suggest pointing out that building new nuclear plants simply does not make economic sense. Conservation and energy reduction programmes, plus certain types of solar and almost all wind, are already much cheaper, with none of the environmental and safety problems of nuclear. We need to focus, as we do in our Caucus's Global Action Plan, on ending nuclear energy, fossil fuel, and large hydro subsidies (even in Europe, the high oil taxes do not begin to cover all the subsidies paid out to support fossil fuel production, distribution

and consumption over the last 50 years), while supporting cost-effective conservation and the most sustainable renewables, many of which are already cost-effective completely or in certain situations, e.g., in areas that lack "modern" energy access.

There is a new **NGO Caucus on Information for decision-making** set up with the co-coordinators being Jan Gustav Strandenaes from the Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development (email: jgstr@online.no) and Barbara Gemmill from the Environment Liaison Centre International, Nairobi, Kenya (email: herren@africaonline.co.ke) if you are interested in getting involved then contact them.

NGOs will be meeting on the 15th of April at the Church Centre to prepare for CSD-9.

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*If you are interested in being involved with the NGO preparations, go to the NGO web-site [www.csdngo.org/csdngo](http://www.csdngo.org/csdngo), then go to the transport, energy or women's caucus pages and join the caucus you are most interested in.*

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**Felix Dodds, UNED Forum**

## Energy and Transport Exhibition



**D**uring 2001, the Ninth Session of the CSD (CSD-9) will address energy and transport issues through an exhibit that will demonstrate partnerships as part of the solution – through products, practices and sustainable development policies and through relations with consumers and communities.

The exhibit will be located on the North Lawn of the United Nations Building in New York, outside the visitor's entrance on the corner of 48th and 1st Avenue. This innovative temporary structure will provide 25,000 square feet of interior exhibit space, as well as allow for exterior exhibits. In addition, the structure itself will also serve as an example of the use of sus-



tainable building materials and construction methods, as well as the application of alternative energy technologies such as photovoltaics, wind turbines and fuel cells.

What distinguishes this Exhibit from past events that have accompanied other CSD sessions is its size, scale, and focus on energy and transport issues in the context of sustainable development. This Exhibit will contribute to the intergovernmental dialogue at CSD-9 by providing practical hands-on solutions to the issues being discussed on the floor of CSD. To accomplish this, a narrative approach will be taken that situates exhibits in a problem solving context – e.g. highlighting technologies, partnerships and best practices. In addition, it provides an opportunity to link CSD activities to other UN initiatives and allows participants to position themselves as part of the sustainable development solution and a key player in the implementation process.

Exhibitors will be encouraged to show how their projects advance the development of sustainable energy and transport, through their efficient use, development, alternatives, their benefits to communities, partnerships and their capacity building.

The themes of energy and transport lend themselves to dramatic visual presentations in addition to being fundamental to progress in development, the alleviation of poverty, securing sustainable communities, and the mobility of people and goods and services. Better understanding of the impacts of the energy and transportation sectors is integral to taking a holistic approach to advancing sustainable development.

The types of technologies that are expected to be on exhibit include: alternative fueled vehicles for fleet use as well as private use; fuel cells; photovoltaic generated electricity; UV water purification; wind technologies; building systems – windows, insulation, appliance equipment (integrated building control systems) and buildings standards, construction technologies; biomass; advanced fossil fuel technologies associated with coal, oil and natural gas etc.

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*Exhibition web-site: [www.etf-2001.org](http://www.etf-2001.org)*

*For further information on the Exhibition please contact:*

*SDI Ltd, 14 Greville Street, London EC1 8SB,*

*Tel: 0207 871 0123, Fax: 0207871 0111*

*Email : [sford@sustdev.org](mailto:sford@sustdev.org)*

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**Simon Ford, Sustainable Development International**

## South Africa to hold 2002 Earth Summit

*(continued from front page)*

of development and the environment are fundamental to the struggle against poverty.”

There is wide consensus that the primary focus of the summit should be poverty, development and the environment.

Poverty and underdevelopment are seen as the fundamental threats to environmental security and sustainable development.

Announcing Johannesburg as the host city yesterday, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Rejoice Mabudafhasi, said the summit would be the largest conference ever to be held in to South Africa.

Reporting in the Star in South Africa Anne Cox said “Delegates will examine sustainable development globally, focusing on issues such as sustainable cities, waste management, housing development, management of urbanisation, cutting down gas



and other emissions, proper management of water resources, pollution, poverty, and gender issues.”

Project manager Ashley Alley said: “It involves several conferences at different venues at different times. We need to co-ordinate transport, security for heads of state, traffic, and accommodation. It is a huge event, the likes of which we have never seen before in South Africa.”

The Sandton Convention Centre will become the hub of the conference. It will be set up as the nerve centre as early as next month in preparation for the event. Other venues include Gallagher Estate, the Expo Centre at Nasrec and the MTN Sundome. Several smaller conference and convention venues within a 50km radius of the Johannesburg CBD will be used for breakaway sessions and work groups.

Dr Crispian Oliver, director-general of the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, said Johannesburg had been selected above Cape Town and Durban for four main reasons:

- The infrastructure, with the capacity within the Johannesburg/Midrand/Vaal region to host up to 55 000 beds (Cape Town and Durban have 23 000 and 27 000 respectively).

- Its commitment to sustainable development and sound environmental management.
- The city’s innovative proposal on the hosting of the Earth Summit incorporating other hubs and a dedicated transport system.
- Its financial commitment in traffic and transport management.

The Summit will have four Preparatory meetings.

<i>April/May 2001</i>	PrepCom 1 (New York)
<i>Jan 2002</i>	PrepCom 2 (New York)
<i>March 2002</i>	PrepCom 3 (New York)
<i>May 2002</i>	PrepCom 4 at Ministerial level (Indonesia)
<i>After June 2002</i>	Earth Summit 2002

**Felix Dodds, UNED Forum Director**

## GOVERNMENT

### Environmental Diplomacy and the UK Foreign Office

**O**n 8 November 2000 the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office launched its new Environment Policy Department. EPD is a dedicated department that will actively support the British Diplomatic Service, equipping it for the task of environmental protection and repair in the context of its existing role delivering security, prosperity and quality of life for UK citizens.

The mission of the department is to “maximise, through the application of FCO assets, the UK contribution to protecting and improving the quality of the global environment, as a foundation for sustainable development”. As well as the specialised staff in EPD, the FCO has a global network of 223 diplomatic posts which can engage governments, non-governmental bodies, business, the media and others around the world on environmental questions.

The FCO also has access to key international organisations, such as the EU, the G8 Group of industrialised countries, the Commonwealth and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In areas such as the future role and structure of the UN and the prevention of future conflicts, EPD aims to add foreign policy value to the UK approach to environmental issues.

The department has been structured around five teams:

- **Environmental Security Team:** seeks to identify the environmental causes of future conflict, and neutralise them through preventive diplomacy, as well as promoting ways of repairing damage. For example, it is working with Nigeria to bring environmental managers from communities in the Niger Delta for training in the UK. With other Government Departments, it is helping Russia deal with the nuclear contamination caused by submarine nuclear reactors in the North West, under the £84 million cross cutting programme recently announced by the Treasury.

- **Climate Change Team:** contributes to the UK’s involvement in climate change negotiations – arguably the most complex diplomatic process ever embarked upon. It also manages the Climate Change Challenge Fund which funds projects to encourage the use of climate-friendly technologies in developing countries.
- **Biodiversity Team:** helps to protect habitats and species, through international treaties and processes negotiations on forests, trade in endangered species, whaling, biodiversity and marine pollution. The Team also has a key role in working with partners in the UK’s thirteen Overseas Territories – home to many more species than the UK itself – to protect threatened habitats and promote environmentally sustainable responses to local needs – including funding projects through the Environment Fund for Overseas Territories.
- **EU and Multilateral Team:** helps to develop UK approaches to EU environmental questions and operates through multilateral fora to promote coherent approaches to new global challenges, such as safety in biotechnology, persistent organic pollutants and encouraging common approaches by export credit agencies to the consideration of environmental impacts.
- **Sustainable Development and Globalisation Team:** works closely with the other four teams to ensure key areas of policy are integrated and skills shared. It covers four key thematic areas: globalisation, business and the environment, sustainable development and poverty, and environmental democracy and participation – and also leads the FCO contribution to Summit 2002. This team is staffed by a rolling programme of outside secondees, currently from the World-Wide Fund for Nature, British Airways and – through EPD’s internship programme with LEAD International – from Nigeria and India.

To support the work of teams outside the climate change area, EPD also has a general Environment Project Fund (EPF) which



offers £1 million per financial year in support of a wide range of environmental projects. A priority of the EPF will be to fund – through UK posts in developing and transition countries – civil society involvement in Summit 2002.

EPD already has strong links into many stakeholder groups, not least through its secondees programme. It also receives advice from the Green Globe Task Force – an independent group made up of academics, researchers, NGOs and business-people acting in their personal capacity.

EPD can be contacted through its web-site at [www.fco.gov.uk/environment](http://www.fco.gov.uk/environment) – which will carry the latest news on the FCO's work on environmental issues.

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*Nick Mabey, Environment Policy Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles St, London SW1A 2AH;  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7270 3962; Fax: +44 (0)20 7270 4076*

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**Nick Mabey, Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

## New UK Government White Paper on Globalisation

*"Globalisation cannot be stopped but it can be shaped. It creates the prospect of eliminating extreme poverty from the world"*

**Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development**

**A**t a launch in London Science Museum on Tuesday 12th December Clare Short presented the government's most recent white paper, "Eliminating World Poverty: Making Globalisation Work for the Poor".

Whilst globalisation is hardly a new topic of debate, the report presents a government-wide commitment toward tackling global poverty. It cuts a broad swathe across the current critical situation facing many countries across the globe. It touches on the many and inter-related areas associated with globalisation, including; strengthening the international system, tackling corruption, HIV/AIDS, the digital divide, harnessing private finance sector, global environmental problems such as climate change and access to water resources and enhancing Official Development Assistance (ODA). It makes a commitment to enhancing the benefits of globalisation whilst fighting the more negative aspects, where "one in five of the people who share the planet are living in abject poverty", a situation that shows little signs of improving in the current political climate.

The event presenting the ambitious UK report was only dampened somewhat by concerns expressed within certain NGO groups and media reports. They questioned a potential contradiction between the report's liberalisation orientated agenda and its commitments to meeting targets for sustainability.

While economic growth, through expanded trade and investment flows, are presented as the best means of alleviating poverty and increasing welfare there is the suggestion in the report that, in certain cases, domestic market protection, social safety nets and environmental restraints may be necessary. Hence there remains an uncomfortable tension about exactly how and to what level international trade liberalisation can be framed to fit with pressing microeconomic, social and environmental priorities.

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*For further information or a full copy of the report contact:  
[enquiry@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@dfid.gov.uk) or Tel: 0845 300 4100*

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*For information on NGO perspectives on the report contact:  
Jagdish Patel at the UK Food Group Tel: 020 7523 2369*

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## Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

**T**he Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) is funded by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR). It provides a grant of up to £2,000 to make homes warmer, more energy efficient and more secure. HEES will focus on households with the greatest health risks – older people, people with children under 16 and people who are disabled or chronically sick. The eaga partnership runs the scheme in the West Midlands, South West, London, South East, North West, and North East on behalf of the Government. The scheme is particularly aimed at owner-occupiers and people who rent their homes from private landlords, as this group contains the largest number of households in difficulty. HEES will provide a package of insulation and heating tailored to each property. If you would like to find out whether you qualify for a HEES grant and would like to obtain more information, please contact Eaga Partnership Ltd. at the address below.

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*Eaga Partnership Ltd., PO Box 130  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 2RP  
Freephone 0800 316 6011*

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## Climate Change Heads UK Environment Agenda

*(continued from front page)*

fuels and placing 60% of new housing development on "Brown-field" sites.

Mr Blair said that key changes to energy use would have to be made by setting the right level of energy consumption. This could happen through stimulating consumer demand for better environment, supporting science and innovation, encouraging the efficient use of environmental resources and through enhancing business opportunities within the renewable energy sector. He also called for greater business and NGO partnerships to help provide communities with the tools to better respect their environment.

## New UK Environmental Commitments

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### Emissions Targets

To cut Greenhouse Gas emissions by 12.5%, CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 20% and supply 10% of energy from renewable sources.

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### CO<sup>2</sup> Emissions Trading System

To set overall limits on CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and allow producers to trade between themselves to encourage cleaner industry. To be launched in Spring 2001.

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### Renewable Technologies

A New Opportunities Fund (£50 million) to invest in offshore wind and biomass industries. Department of Trade & Industry is already involved in offshore wind turbine projects and the Policy Innovation Unit will carry out a review of the future of renewable energy. A Carbon Trust will be created for low-carbon technology research, funded in part from climate change levy. A Capital Allowance will be generated for businesses who use energy-

saving technologies. Finally the new "Kyoto Mechanisms office" will export low-carbon technologies overseas.

### **Rural and Urban Regeneration**

Rural and urban White Papers have recently been published and another New Opportunities Fund (\$50 million) will target better quality of life for urban rural settlements.

### **Recycling**

A third New Opportunities fund (£50 million) for kerbside recycling to 700,000 households.

### **UK Sustainable Development Commission**

The Commission was recently set up and is chaired by Jonathon Porritt.

Blair indicated his commitment to the wider issue of sustainable development by announcing he would be attending the third Earth Summit in 2002. He also said he would encourage other national leaders to attend. During the meeting the Prime Minister also promised that the UK would take the lead in the "Kyoto protocol" negotiations at the climate change meeting in the Hague. The recent failure of the climate change negotiations suggests that there is a need for a lot of international diplomacy, public consultation and strategic thinking if the UK is going to help ensure international commitment and progress on issues of global environmental security.

*For an outline of the full speech see Confederation of British Industry's web-site at <http://www.cbi.org.uk>*

**Rosalie Gardiner, UNED Forum**

## NGO NEWS

### **UK Preparations for Earth Summit 2002 (the World Summit on Sustainable Development)**

*16–17 November 2000 – Kent Seminar, held jointly with the UK Sustainable Development Commission*

UNED Forum and the new UK Sustainable Development Commission, chaired by Jonathon Porritt, issued a joint invitation to key opinion formers and practitioners dealing with sustainable development, to attend a residential seminar in Kent. 55 delegates attended to consider the opportunities that the ten-year review of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, (UNCED), will offer for advancing sustainable development in the UK and internationally.

It was recognised that many organisations are already preparing for the conference. The seminar was designed to build a degree of consensus around key issues and actions from a multi-stakeholder group. In particular, the outcomes will be closely examined by UNED Forum to help inform their work programme for the coming 2 years.

The meeting showed enthusiasm for taking the process forward, and there appeared to be a widespread desire for UNED to play a facilitating, information exchange, and convening role to enable different stakeholders to interact constructively with each other during the preparatory process. Many in the group endorsed the suggestion that UNED should identify key themes on which consensus could be reached for pursuing.

During Session I, aimed at identifying key issues, when asked 'In terms of promoting sustainable development in the UK, what key issues should be on the agenda of Earth Summit 2002?' the plenary group identified seven. Sustainable Production & Consumption was the number one issue, subsequently broken down into two parts, changing public attitudes and habits, and resources for innovation, paradigms for progress, and sustainable business. Climate Change, Poverty, North & South, Participation & Empowerment, Human & Environmental Rights & Justice, and Sustainable Cities & Communities rounded off the list.

In Session II, seven breakout groups specified and explored their selected issues, charged with identifying the underlying

causes and barriers to progress in the UK and internationally. Session III followed with a process by which to identify what practical measures should be taken, by UNED and others, to make progress on the issue in the UK over the next 5–10 years, and at Earth Summit 2002.

An analysis of the meeting suggests that although UNED cannot possibly do everything that was suggested it should or might do, many of the goals in UNED's draft work plan were independently identified by the groups. Moreover, many of the new ideas aired in Kent can be advanced by UNED, or by other organisations represented at the seminar.

It has also become clear that UNED's approach must go beyond the commonly travelled path of reviewing where we have got to since Rio and providing input to its successor. It must persuade potential partners that it is worth putting real effort and resources into the exercise. The point and reward for them, as we have recognised from the beginning, is that the end result will advance their agendas. To do so, we must address, far more clearly than we managed at the Kent discussions, why a global conference in 2002 presents a more effective peg for promoting these agendas than sticking to the domestic agenda alone. This is – mainly – because the global agenda and global trends persistently raise questions of interconnectedness, choice and consequence essential to our future, issues often difficult to move forward in our domestic system.

**Charles Nouhan**  
[cnouhan@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:cnouhan@earthsummit2002.org)

### **Education Task Force Prepares for World Summit on Sustainable Development**

The Education Task Group, facilitated by UNED Forum, has begun to outline its work plan for the run-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Earth Summit 2002). With the departure of UNED's Amy Cruse in August, the group is now jointly co-ordinated by South Bank University student Neveen Shadi and UNED deputy director Charles Nouhan. Neveen's studies in Environmental and Development Education at South Bank, and previous work on a UNDP project to assist the office of the minister of state for environmental affairs in

Cairo, Egypt, make her an asset to the task force.

The group has begun to move forward with the preparation of an updated Education 21 document to be presented at Earth Summit 2002, and an action plan for education for sustainability worldwide. The group recently met, at UNED, on November 13 and December 5; it has decided to advance, among other ideas:

- an education for sustainable development conference, in South Africa during the week following the Earth Summit, to discuss the outcomes of the Summit as it relates to educational issues;
- devoting more energy towards working on a pilot project such as "Education for All and Beyond" and moving it forward on a practical level in order to take good-practice examples to Earth Summit 2002;
- contacting southern voices and investigating possibilities for North-South partnerships;
- engage teachers from the formal and informal sectors as well as people from the general public and the education community; and
- include social and political elements into the process, to complement educational priorities.

As a part of this process, a seminar to discuss priorities for Earth Summit 2002 will likely take place in February 2001, possibly at South Bank University. The seminar will address the key education for sustainable development issues and include workshops in which to identify ways forward in the UK and internationally.

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Contact: Neveen Shadi, Education Task Group Intern –  
[nabushadi@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:nabushadi@earthsummit2002.org)  
or Charles Nouhan – [cnouhan@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:cnouhan@earthsummit2002.org)

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## Engaging the 'Social' in the Environmental, Social and Economic Equation

October saw 700 delegates from 80 nations converge on the 29th Conference of our International Advisory Board member the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW). Held between 23rd and 27th in Cape Town the theme of the event was "Poverty, Social Welfare & Social Development: Challenges for the 21st Century".

Influenced by its South African location, the two pre-dominating issues were poverty alleviation and HIV/AIDS. In fact, one of the successes of the conference was undoubtedly the linking of these issues between the South African and international contexts. This linkage was supported by the high proportion of African delegates attending, who were able to offer insight into the social development processes of the world's poorest continent.

The Towards Earth Summit 2002 project exhibited a stand at the conference, to try and encourage development practitioners to become involved in the Earth Summit process. In light of the *perception* of the Earth Summit process as an environmental one, many social development practitioners have little knowledge of the process, concentrating instead on the Copenhagen process of the World Summit on Social

Development. This apparent lack of ownership of the Earth Summit process was reflected in the minimal turnout for the side event held by the project.

A major concern, in light of the fact participants were asked to rank their choice of issues, was that they felt unable to using a ranking system, due to the inter-linkages and the equal value of solving different issues that would benefit sustainable development as a whole. However, education and health were the two most mentioned issues, closely followed by poverty, HIV/AIDS and the enabling issue of access to information. Issues related to land and ecosystems, i.e. land use, agriculture, biotechnology, forestry and biodiversity, were also widely advocated. Interestingly the concept of equity was also a recurrent theme, despite it not being originally included in the list of issues for consideration.

The project's experience at this conference indicates a low level of real knowledge of the Rio process by the social development community. Therefore we should increase our efforts in outreaching to the sectors of major groups that are focused on the social point in the sustainable development triangle. At least now we have identified the 'gap' we can begin the challenge of redressing the imbalance.

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ICSW, 380 St Antoine Street West, Suite 3200,  
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 3XT, Canada;  
T: +1 514 287 3280; Fax: +1 514 287 9702;  
Email: [icsw@icsw.org](mailto:icsw@icsw.org); Web-site: [www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org)

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Beth Hiblin, UNED Forum

## David Attenborough – State of the Planet

In the three part series on BBC1, State of the Planet, David Attenborough makes a personal study of the impact that humans are having on the natural world and investigates the future of life on Earth. He works with experts to ask whether nature really is in a crisis of species extinction, to examine why has this come about and finally to understand what options for the future remain open to us. His quest takes him on a truly global trail, from Kenya to Ecuador, from the Philippines and the Maldives to Easter Island, and from South Africa to California – visiting habitats of threatened species and exploring ways in which life can be sustained for the future.

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Video available for £12.99 + delivery charges at  
<http://www.bbcshop.com> (under 'Science & Nature')

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## Investing in Community Capital

On Tue 28th November the Social Investment Forum held its Millennium Annual Lecture, presenting their report "Enterprising Communities: Wealth Beyond Welfare". During the lecture the report was formally presented by the Social Investment Task Force (SITF), an initiative set up by the Social Investment Forum, in partnership with The New Economic Foundation and the Development Trust Association. The report outlines their recommendations for revitalising community

development. The task force makes a particular point of calling for policies on financing that better reflected the regional priorities of different communities throughout England. The report proposes five key recommendations toward mobilising community-based financing:

- Community Investment Tax Credit;
- Community Development Venture Fund;
- Bank disclosure;
- Encourage charitable investment in community development initiatives;
- Financial institutions for community development

The report also highlights the need for greater funding in the form of grants and the provision of guarantees. It suggests that support for Community Development financial institutions (CDFI) could be enhanced. Community development banks, loan funds, micro-loans and venture funds would be a part of this.

During the presentation Stephen Timms MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, gave a broadly warm and positive response to the report. He indicated that the Treasury's pre-budget report went a long way in supporting the recommendations put forward. He also highlighted that the new Urban

and Rural White Papers focused on the pressing need for regeneration and renewal in the UK which had been clearly described by the SITF. Questions were raised with regard to how much "communities" had helped in the production of the report and whether less financially motivated initiatives for community regeneration might be lost out from the proposals. The SITF responded that it had not been the intention of the proposals to exclude other community-based initiatives but that they would serve to work alongside them. The ambitious aim of the report is that "as enterprising communities develop, asset values appreciate and the local economy will improve". This will not only require fulfilling the recommendations described above but also co-ordination and wholehearted support from business, banks, government, charities and the wider public to ensure enterprising communities can become a widespread phenomenon.

The Social Investment Task Force's Report is available online at: <http://www.enterprising-communities.org.uk>

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*For further information contact the Social Investment Forum  
Tel: 0207 749 4880 <http://www.uksif.org>*

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**by Rosalie Gardiner, UNED Forum**

## BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

### Novartis Building a Stakeholder Framework

**N**ovartis is a leading pharmaceutical company active in the discovery, development, and manufacture of innovative products and services. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, it employs about 66,000 people and operates in over 140 countries around the world.<sup>1</sup> For years, Novartis has tried to serve its customers in the prevention, monitoring and treatment of diseases, as well as in the promotion of general wellbeing.

At Novartis the latest technology and the most effective research methods are used to provide patients with the best medication possible. In 1999, Novartis invested more than CHF 3.6 billion (USD 2.4 billion) in research and development. However, in the era of globalization, it faces an increasingly complex situation because innovation can sometimes lead to risks, imbalances and costs that extend beyond national borders. Novartis cannot solve these issues alone and so it aims to build partnerships with other stakeholders such as the various public institutions, international organizations, and the private sector. The cooperation with them can lead to a more sustainable development, which in this case means the more equitable sharing of the benefits of innovation.

Novartis tries to maintain an active role in the multi-stakeholder dialogue because effective collaboration with others requires mutual understanding. For example, non-governmental organizations and public institutions have goals such as to respect human rights, protect the environment, fight diseases, foster development and reduce poverty. Business, however, adheres to principles such as profit-making, the protection of intellectual property, efficiency and speed. In addition, Novartis is aware of the necessity to develop rules and regulations which might not exist or be standardized at the international level. Thus, the cooperation with other stakeholders can contribute to the drawing of a legal framework that can clarify uncertainties and prevent problems. By engaging in the multi-stakeholder dialogue,

a mutual goal can be possibly achieved that would be unattainable if each actor were working alone.

A stable social and political framework is essential for the long-term sustainability of Novartis' businesses, hence, out of enlightened self interest, Novartis is working together with leading public and private organizations to improve the health of people living in the developing world. This public-private partnership can better utilize the resources and strengths of each partner. For instance, in a global effort to eliminate leprosy, the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development engages in programs in which Novartis provides the medication while other institutions attend to the distribution, patient education and medical follow up. In endemic malaria areas, Novartis uses a dual-branding, dual-pricing strategy which offers drugs to treat the disease to buyers from the public sector at a significantly lower price. These are pioneering initiatives from a pharmaceutical company that help contribute to maintaining people's health in less developed areas.

"The collaboration with other stakeholders provides stability and predictability for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Establishing a level of mutual trust, respect and understanding of each one's needs is a requirement for any public-private partnership. We, at Novartis, believe that this is an important factor for a successful and sustainable development," said Dieter Wissler, President of Novartis Germany and Head of Novartis Communications, during a speech at the World Bank Forum on 27 November 2000 in Berlin.

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*For further information please contact Maria Lourdes Lasquite, Novartis International AG, Stakeholder Relations (email: [maria.lasquite@group.novartis.com](mailto:maria.lasquite@group.novartis.com)), Web-site: [www.pharma.novartis.com](http://www.pharma.novartis.com). UNED's work with Novartis: [www.unedforum.org/publi/abs/abs.htm](http://www.unedforum.org/publi/abs/abs.htm)*

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1. Data as of December 2000

**Maria Lourdes Lasquite, Novartis International AG**



## Trade Union Sustainable Development Advisory Committee

A recent report commissioned from the Institute of Public Policy Research by the Trade Union Sustainable Development Advisory Committee (TUSDAC) found that there was no evidence that environmental policy had affected the competitiveness of any country. The report also found that: "whilst the details of how the economy will change in response to the sustainable development agenda are uncertain, there is plenty of evidence to help guide trade unions, government and industry on possible directions".

The report was based on a review of current available literature and was commissioned by TUSDAC to provide some background and instigate some discussion on the "jobs and environment debate".

TUSDAC was set up in 1998 and is jointly chaired by Michael Meacher, Environment Minister and John Edmonds, General Secretary of the GMB who is the TUC's General Council spokesman on the environment. The membership consists of a broad mix of trade union and government representatives enabling wide ranging discussions. The group has three main aims which it has developed over the past year:

- To direct trade union input into the policy process to enable constructive dialogue with the Government on sustainable development;
- To provide a trade union perspective on the employment consequences of climate change, and the Government's response to it;
- To help mobilise the trade union movement to become more involved in better environmental practice in the workplace, building on existing initiatives and activities, and disseminating information and experience.

During 2000, constructive discussions have taken place over a broad range of topics including the climate change levy, carbon trust, WTO, trade union education and initiatives, links between health and safety and environmental issues at the workplace; green transport plans and developing a range of tools to enable union members to participate actively in reducing the negative environmental impact of their workplace.

A working level group has been set up, chaired by Mike Malina from UNISON (Public Sector Union), to take action in between the main group meetings.

A key area that the group is developing is a series of seminars for union members about energy efficiency. A series of successful pilots have already taken place and the group hopes to roll these out more widely to trade union members in the new year.

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*For further information on the group contact:*  
 Maggie Dwyer at TUC at [mdwyer@tuc.org.uk](mailto:mdwyer@tuc.org.uk)  
 Mike Malina at UNISON at [m.malina@unison.co.uk](mailto:m.malina@unison.co.uk)  
[www.tuc.org.uk](http://www.tuc.org.uk)  
[www.environment.detr.gov.uk/tusdac/index.htm](http://www.environment.detr.gov.uk/tusdac/index.htm)

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**Maggie Dwyer, Trade Union Congress (TUC)**

## WOMEN'S GROUPS

### Not Just Jam and Jerusalem

The Women's Institute is the largest women's organisation in the UK with a quarter of a million members and 8000 local Institutes who meet in communities throughout England and Wales. Thanks to the ladies of Rylstone and District WI, naked calendars have been added to the list of things that people first think of when asked about the WI but jam, Jerusalem and a good line in Victoria Sponges are also things which have traditionally tended to be associated with the WI.

These are rather historical associations. In World War II members of the WI worked to preserve fruits as part of their contribution to the war effort and our links with the women's suffrage movement led us to adopt Jerusalem as our anthem. What fewer people know is that as well as our traditional association with jam, the WI has always played a huge part in making a difference in their communities or, in the words of our current National Chairman Helen Carey, been doing sustainable development before the term had even been invented.

Today our members are just as likely to be lobbying their local MPS about the closure of rural Post Offices or getting involved in a community sustainable development project, as making jam or cakes. Since 1998 the WI has been working on a project called Celebrating our Communities funded by a grant from the DETR's Environmental Action Fund. This project was designed to breathe life into our commitment to sustainable

development and our Agenda 21 mandate, signed in 1997. To date more than 2500 projects have been registered in England and Wales, ranging from refurbishing a local railway station to clearing ponds and streams, putting up bat boxes with a local school and mapping landscape changes. What distinguishes the Celebrating our Communities project is that it has been about practical action and finding ways to make an actual difference to our communities.

This is nothing new for the WI. The WI has always been at the heart of many villages and communities and has a long tradition of working on environmental issues. In 1927 our members joined together to lobby the government about pollution of the seas. We were campaigning for renewable energy in 1970s and against CFCs the 1980s. Debt relief, British agriculture, women's human rights and support for a five year moratorium on GM foods are some of the issues currently on the WI's campaigning agenda. But underpinning all of our campaigning work is a commitment to Agenda 21 and sustainable development and we are looking forward to working with UNED and other NGOS as we all gear up for Earth Summit III next year.

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*For more information contact Angela Style, Research and Campaigns Officer, National Federation of Women's Institutes, 104 New Kings Road, London SW6 4LY, Tel: 020 7371 9300*

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**Angela Style, National Federation of Women's Institutes**

# Death of a Friend

*When he shall die*

*Take him and cut him out in  
little stars,*

*And he will make the face of  
the heaven so fine*

*That all the world shall be in love  
with night.*

Dear Friends,

Today I learnt that I had lost a close friend. Chip Lindner passed away last Wednesday in his sleep. There will be a memorial service at the John Knox Centre in Geneva on Monday the 4th December at 7.30pm. Another will happen in Washington on the 18th of December.

Chip has been an inspiration to so many of us.

The work he did as Secretary of the Brundtland Commission paved the way for the success of the Global Forum at the Rio Conference in 1992. Chip had many great strengths, for me the one I cherished most was his strong belief in giving to the global community because he believed so deeply in trying to make this a better world for all of its inhabitants.

Chip had known he was HIV positive from 1988 and his doctor was unsure if he would survive organising the Global Forum in 1992. Survive it he did and it set the standard by which future 'Global Forums' would be viewed.

Chip created the Centre for Our Common Future in 1988 which he set up to promote the Brundtland Report. It was the most effective information outreach organization we have yet seen. Network the Centre's monthly newsletter went to over 100,000 NGOs, stakeholders and key individuals around the world. It helped connect all of us as we prepared for the Rio Summit in 1992. The Global Forum at Rio helped us become a family to which so many more have joined since. To all of us we owe a lot to Chip and his dedication. In 1991 he promoted the idea of the Independent Sector –

something we now call the Major Groups or stakeholders. UNED named its monthly online newsletter Network 2002 in honour of the work of Chip and the Centre.

His analysis of the Rio Conference was that the Conference had failed to deliver the funds to enable developing countries to implement Agenda 21. He said often that we should have said that loud and clear in 1992 and the failure to make the Heads of State to realise what their obligations to humanity was the legacy of Rio for millions of people who suffered even more as Aid flows fell.

In 1999 he was presented with the Order of the Southern Cross by the President of Brazil, the highest civilian award granted by the Government of Brazil.

After the Rio Summit Chip became senior advisor on North-South issues to the Chairman of the 1998 Twelfth World AIDS Conference, his doctor. He considerably contributed to the refocusing of the AIDS debate to developing countries and it was his suggestion that the title of the 1998 Conference should be 'Bridging the Gap'. He also ensured that the Conference in 2000 would be in a developing country – South Africa.

When we set up UNED Forum he was the first person we thought to invite on to the International Advisory Board.

I met Chip for the first time in 1992 at the Rio Conference, he has been an inspiration to me ever since. He was someone who read so much and who had so much to offer in intellectual understanding of what we needed to do. We worked together on two books that UNED brought out, the last one on Earth Summit 2002. At the end of the chapter he wrote Chip said:

"I feel very strongly, as I did during both the Brundtland and Rio processes, that priorities need to be established by the international community when facing an agenda as wide and diverse as sustainable

development. ... Earth Summit 2002 must provide the motivation; and in the area of health it must make securing access for all (whether through concessional funding, compulsory licensing or parallel importing), and finding a vaccine for HIV/AIDS, central priorities for the first decade of the 21st century. Without such a renewed commitment, the judgement of history will fall heavily upon shoulders of today's government and business leaders."

In June we were meant to attend the World Aids Conference in Durban to jointly promote Earth Summit 2002. Chip was not well enough to travel, but he was looking forward to helping the South African Government and stakeholders learn from the experience that he had in 1992.

I last saw Chip in Geneva in September with my children Robin and Merri; we were meant to come for the weekend to his chalet – when we arrived Scott, one of Chips sons took us to the hospital. Chip hadn't told us he was unwell because he thought we wouldn't come as we were looking forward to a relaxing break. Chip always did things for other people, part of his enjoyment was making other people happy.

It seems so very unreal to think that we will not have Chip to help us as we prepare for 2002. For those who knew him and worked with him we each carry a piece of him with us in the way we act and the way we think and the values we try to live by. To those who we meet perhaps we can share that and through that Chip lives with us.

To paraphrase Bobby Kennedy:

*"Some people see things as they are and ask why? Chip saw things that never were and said why not!"*

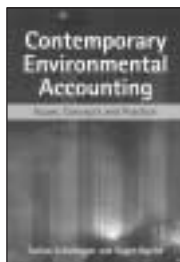
Chip, we will miss you.

Love

Felix

# Publications

## **Contemporary Environmental Accounting: Issues, Concepts and Practice**



Stefan Schaltegger and Roger Burritt

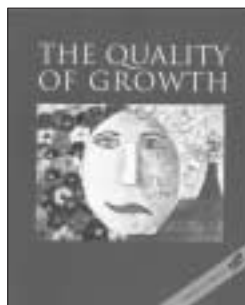
This is a new and welcome edition to the growing material on environmental

accounting. It's aimed at academics, professional accountants and the corporate sector. It is probably most relevant to a European or US audience but there is also some discussion on international accounting standards. Whilst hardly the lightest of topics the writers manage to break down the concepts into a fairly user-friendly form, drawing out principle ways for incorporating environmental elements into accounting systems. They outline the most relevant stages where environmental accounting can be applied in the business cycle, from initial development of corporate strategies and life cycle assessment to project auditing/review. The book considers how to use environmental accounting internally for risk assessment, management and financial accounting and planning. It also looks at how to communicate such information externally, through both environmental reporting and accounting. Whilst focusing primarily on environmental issues from an "environment-economy" perspective the book also highlights the importance of corporations to move toward adopting a triple bottom-line approach to accounting "in the context of social, economic and ecological 'bottom lines'". This book indicates there remains a lot of work to fully operationalise an integrated accounting approach for sustainability in its broadest sense.

- Greenleaf Publishing 462 pp £19.95/\$37.00. ISBN 1874719357

## **The Quality of Growth**

Thomas, V. et al  
The World Bank



"Growth can reduce poverty. But the strength of its influence depends crucially on the quality of the growth process, in

terms of the participation of the poor, and of its sustainability and stability. This book provides a lucid and structured synthesis of our current understanding of some of the key issues of development." (Professor Nick Stern, London School Economics)

Perhaps this book doesn't present anything new to those who have been working on sustainable development a long time. However the emphasis on "quality" is a crucial one and comes as a welcome reflection of the changing economic view of what growth and development are seeking to achieve. This publication clearly advocates liberalisation as a core element of "effective" growth but it adds a strong caveat to this argument by recognising that liberalisation of economies hasn't always guaranteed a better quality of development. Indeed it gives a number of examples where such growth has impacted the societies and environment of different countries, not least the most rapidly growing economies of South East Asia, such as Indonesia and Korea.

The book makes some key recommendations toward enhancing quality. It points to the importance of increasing democracy and enabling equitable participation, beyond simply measuring Gross Domestic Product. It also considers the delicate balancing act of maintaining economic openness, social protection and environmental security, using examples from Chile, India and Korea. However, one crucial area that is barely touched on by this publication, is the significant role that international institutions and

organisations play in the process of national growth. Nor does it deal with what "decentralised decision-making" should actually look like. However, it does raise an important question about how political reform could enable a better quality of growth, and suggests that better co-operation between countries will have a significant role to play in this process.

- Oxford University Press ISBN 0195215931

## **Environmental risk management and corporate lending – a global perspective**

Phil Case



This book sets out to answer how industrial pollution affects corporate lending and what lenders do to manage environmental risk. It presents a wide-ranging overview

of the main principles of environmental legislation worldwide and can be used as a practical guide to help assess risks. It seeks to fill the gap between important environmental issues and a lack of information on risk management from a lending perspective. The author presents numerous real-life case studies illustrating issues of concern, and various tools are provided to assist with risk appraisal and mitigation. The book includes chapters on developing an effective strategy for environmental risk management; the legal position; direct and indirect risk appraisal; land as security and project finance.

The author Phil Case has held a number of senior positions at Barclays Bank and is currently Environmental Director. In 1992 he helped to establish Barclays' Environmental Risk Management Unit.

- Available from Woodhead Publishing Ltd. for £95.00 (Hardback 1999), [www.woodhead-publishing.com](http://www.woodhead-publishing.com) ISBN 1 85573 436 2



## International Diary Dates

### ● 5–9 February 2001

CEDAW Pre-Session Working Group,  
25th Session

**UNHQ, New York, NY, USA**

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),  
Web-site: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committ>

### ● 5–9 February 2001

21st Session of the UNEP Governing  
Council

**Nairobi, Kenya**

Email: [millerb@unep.org](mailto:millerb@unep.org)

### ● 12–23 February 2001

2nd PrepCom of Financing for  
Development

**New York**

### ● 13–23 February 2001

39th Session of the UN Commission for  
Social Development

**New York, USA**

[www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2001.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2001.htm)

### ● 19–23 February 2001

2nd Session of the PrepCom for  
Istanbul +5

**Nairobi, Kenya**

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),  
Web-site: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>

### ● 5–16 March 2001

Intersessional meeting for CSD-9

**UN HQ, New York**

(more information below)

### ● March 13–16 2001

TerraTec – International Trade Fair for  
Environmental Technologies and  
Services and Enertec – International  
Trade Fair for Energy  
Industrial Trade Fairs in **Leipzig /  
Germany** – Focus on Energy and  
Environment

<http://www.terratec-leipzig.de> and  
<http://www.enertec-leipzig.de>  
Leipziger Messe GmbH, Project Team  
TerraTec/enertec, Messe-Allee 1, D-04356  
Leipzig / Germany; Phone 0049-(0)341-  
678 8298, Fax: 0049-(0)341-678 8292;  
e-mail: [terratec@leipziger-messe.de](mailto:terratec@leipziger-messe.de),  
[enertec@leipziger-messe.de](mailto:enertec@leipziger-messe.de)

### ● April 2001

CSD-9 – The 9th Session of the  
Commission on Sustainable Development  
**United Nations HQ, New York**

The issues under discussion are  
atmosphere, energy, transport,  
information for decision-making and  
participation; and international  
cooperation for an enabling environment

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)

### ● 30 April–11 May 2001

3rd PrepCom of Financing for Development  
**New York**

### ● 15–16 May 2001

From Eco-Efficiency to Overall  
Sustainability in Enterprises

**Duesseldorf, Germany**

The programme offers a comprehensive  
overview on the political, economic and  
technological perspectives of eco-  
efficiency and sustainable development.

Contact: Wuppertal Institute for Climate,  
Environment and Energy, Dvppersberg  
19, 42103 Wuppertal, GERMANY;  
Tel.: +49-(0)202-2492-102; -269;  
Fax: +49-(0)202-2492-108;  
E-mail: [Jan-Dirk.Seiler@wupperinst.org](mailto:Jan-Dirk.Seiler@wupperinst.org);  
<http://www.eco-efficiency.de>

### ● 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, United Nations  
Centre for Human Settlements, Nairobi,  
Kenya; tel: +254-2-623831; e-mail:  
[Axumite.Gebre-Egziabher@unchs.org](mailto:Axumite.Gebre-Egziabher@unchs.org);  
Consult UNCHS's web-site at  
<http://www.unchs.org> or  
<http://www.istanbul5.org/>

### ● 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);  
Internet: <http://www.unchr.ch/html/racism/index.htm>

## UK Diary Dates

### ● 20 March 2001

UNED Forum National Conference  
'UK Preparations for Earth Summit 2002:  
What Should the UK Advance at the World  
Summit on Sustainable Development?'

Contact: Gregoire Le Divellec, UNED  
Forum, Phone: +44 (0) 20 7839 1784;  
e-mail: [info@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:info@earthsummit2002.org);  
Web-site: [www.unedforum.org](http://www.unedforum.org)

### ● 2/3 April 2001

The UK Sustainable Cities and Aviation  
Network (SCAN-UK) International  
Conference

Environmental Capacity at Airports –  
**Manchester Metropolitan University**

Focus on environmental capacity of  
airports and how this affects the future  
growth and development strategies.

Web-site <http://www.scan-uk.mmu.ac.uk/>  
Further information can be sent; please  
fax requests to Jane Walkington-Ellis  
+44(0) 161 247 3654

### ● 5–6 April 2001

International Sustainable Development  
Research Conference 2001

**University of Manchester**

This conference brings together an  
international interdisciplinary audience in  
order to discuss a range of issues  
covering development, policy perspectives,  
environmental and social aspects of  
sustainable development, instruments,  
country/regional profiles, Agenda 21  
initiatives, NGOs and local action.

Contact:

Tel: +44-1-274-530408

Fax: +44-1-274-530409

Email: [elaine@erpenvironment.co.uk](mailto:elaine@erpenvironment.co.uk)

Web-site: <http://www.erpenvironment.org>

### ● 17–23 July 2001

Summer School 2001: Consumption,  
Everyday life and Sustainability

**Lancaster University**

Funded by the The European Science  
Foundation, on themes of dynamics of  
consumption, cross cultural meanings  
and practices, manufacturing of demand,  
routines and habits of everyday life and  
systems of provision and consumption.

Please contact: Joann Bowker, Dept of  
Sociology, Cartmel College, University  
of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YL,  
Email: [j.bowker@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:j.bowker@lancaster.ac.uk)



# Useful Web-sites

## UNED FORUM

UNED FORUM  
[www.unedforum.org](http://www.unedforum.org)

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

[www.earthsummit2002.org/  
wssd/default.htm](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/wssd/default.htm)

NGOS & FRESHWATER

[www.earthsummit2002.org/freshwater](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/freshwater)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

ANPED  
THE NORTHERN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

[www.antenna.nl/anped](http://www.antenna.nl/anped)

BAHA'I COMMUNITY UK

[www.bahai.org.uk](http://www.bahai.org.uk)

BIONET (BIODIVERSITY ACTION NETWORK):

[www.igc.org/bionet](http://www.igc.org/bionet)

BRITISH OVERSEAS NGOS FOR DEVELOPMENT (BOND)

[www.bond.org.uk](http://www.bond.org.uk)

CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL

[www.consumersinternational.org](http://www.consumersinternational.org)

CSD SECRETARIAT

[www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd.htm)

CSD NGO STEERING COMMITTEE

[www.csdngo.org/csdngo](http://www.csdngo.org/csdngo)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT  
AND THE REGIONS (DETR)

[www.detr.gov.uk](http://www.detr.gov.uk)

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT (DFID)

[www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[www.doh.gov.uk/dhhome.htm](http://www.doh.gov.uk/dhhome.htm)

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

[www.dti.gov.uk](http://www.dti.gov.uk)

EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN (ENB) & LINKAGES

[www.iisd.ca/linkages](http://www.iisd.ca/linkages)

ECONET

[www.igc.org/igc/gateway/enindex.html](http://www.igc.org/igc/gateway/enindex.html)

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

[www.un.org/esa/ffd/index.html](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/index.html)

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH UK

[www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

GLOBAL COMPACT

[www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)

GOVERNMENTS ON THE WEB

[www.gksoft.com/govt/en](http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en)

GREENNET

NETWORKING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, PEACE,  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

[www.gn.apc.org](http://www.gn.apc.org)

GREENPEACE

[www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)

IDEA  
IMPROVEMENT & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

[www.idea.gov.uk/](http://www.idea.gov.uk/)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

[www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON FORESTS

[www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm)

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC)

[www.iccwbo.org](http://www.iccwbo.org)

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LOCAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

[www.iclei.org/](http://www.iclei.org/)

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

<http://iisd1.iisd.ca/>

INTERNATIONAL NGO NETWORK ON DESERTIFICATION

<http://riod.utando.com>

LIAISON COMMITTEE OF DEVELOPMENT NGOS  
TO THE EU

[www.oneworld.org/liaison](http://www.oneworld.org/liaison)

LOCAL AGENDA 21 UK

[www.la21-uk.org.uk](http://www.la21-uk.org.uk)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

[www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

NOVARTIS INTERNATIONAL AG

[www.pharma.novartis.com](http://www.pharma.novartis.com)

PEACE CHILD INTERNATIONAL

[www.peacechild.org/en/index.html](http://www.peacechild.org/en/index.html)

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

SECRETARIAT FOR THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

[www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org)

SECRETARIAT FOR THE UNFCCC (UNITED NATIONS  
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE)

[www.unfccc.de](http://www.unfccc.de)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL

[www.sustdev.org](http://www.sustdev.org)

TEARFUND

[www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)

TELEVISION TRUST FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

<http://info.tve.org/index.cfm>

TRADE UNION CONGRESS (TUC)

[www.tuc.org.uk](http://www.tuc.org.uk)

UNA-UK

[www.una-uk.org/](http://www.una-uk.org/)

UNDP

[www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

UNEP GENEVA

[www.unep.ch/](http://www.unep.ch/)

UNEP NAIROBI

[www.unep.org/](http://www.unep.org/)

UN HOME PAGE

[www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

[www.wbcsd.org/](http://www.wbcsd.org/)

WORLD CONSERVATION MONITORING CENTRE

[www.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.unep-wcmc.org)

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

[www.who.org](http://www.who.org)

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

[www.wri.org](http://www.wri.org)

WORLDWIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF-UK)

[www.wwf-uk.org](http://www.wwf-uk.org)

# Addresses

**ActionAid**, Hamlyn House  
Macdonald Road, Archway  
London N19 5PG  
Tel: 01460 238000.  
Tel: 020 7 281 4101  
Fax: 020 7 272 0899

**Baha'i**  
National Spiritual Assembly of the  
Baha'is of the UK  
27 Rutland Gate, London, SW7 1PD  
Tel: 020 7584 2566  
Fax: 020 7584 9402

**BOND**  
British Overseas NGOs for  
Development  
Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street  
London N1 9RL  
Tel: 020 7837 8344  
Fax: 020 7837 4220  
E-mail: bond@bond.org.uk  
www.bond.org.uk

**Charter 99**  
The One World Trust,  
18 Northumberland Avenue,  
London, WC2N 5BJ  
Email: info@charter.99

**Christian Aid**  
PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT  
Tel: 020 7 620 4444  
Fax: 020 7 620 0719

**Climate Action Network UK**  
89 Albert Embankment,  
London SE1 7TP  
Tel: 020 7793 9296  
Fax: 020 7820 8620  
E-mail: can-uk@wcl.org.uk  
www.canuk.org.uk

**Commission on Sustainable  
Consumption**  
Laurie Michaelis  
Oxford Centre for the Environment,  
Ethics and Society Mansfield College  
Oxford OX1 3TF  
Tel: +44 1865 282 903  
Fax: +44 1865 270 886  
E-mail:  
laurie.michaelis@mansf.ox.ac.uk

**Community Development Foundation**  
Vasalli House, 20 Central Road  
Leeds LS1 6DE  
Tel: 0113 246 0909  
Fax: 0113 246 7138

**Consumers International**  
24 Highbury Crescent,  
London N5 1RX  
Tel: 020 7 226 6663

**Department for International  
Development**,  
94 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JL  
Tel: 020 7 917 7000  
Fax: 020 7 917 0679  
E-mail: epd@dfid.gtnet.gov.uk

**Department of the Environment  
Transport & the Regions**  
EPID, Eland House, Bressenden  
Place, London SW1E 5DU  
Tel: 020 7 890 3000  
Fax: 020 7 890 6259

**Earth Negotiations Bulletin**  
c/o IISD, 161 Portage Ave East  
6th Floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba,  
R3B 0Y4 Canada  
Tel: 00 1 204 958 7710  
Fax: 00 1 204 958 7710  
E-mail: enb@econet.apc.org

**Earthscan Publications Limited**  
120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN  
Tel: 020 7 278 0433  
Fax: 020 7 278 1142

**Edinburgh University Press**  
22, George Square, Edinburgh  
Web-site: www.eup.ed.ac.uk

**Environmental Transport Association**  
29 Somerset Avenue  
London SW20 0BJ  
Tel & Fax: 0208 946 0912  
Email: richard@eta.co.uk  
Web-site: www.22september.org

**Environment Council**  
212 High Holborn, London WC1V 7BF  
Tel: 020 7836 2626  
Fax: 020 7242 1180  
E-mail: info@envcouncil.org.uk

**Forum for the Future**  
9 Imperial Square, Cheltenham  
GL50 1QB  
Tel: 01242 262737  
Fax: 01242 262757

**Forum International Montréal (FIM)**  
Mario Lavoie  
380 rue St-Antoine Ouest,  
Bureau 3200, Montréal (Québec)  
CANADA H2Y 3X7  
Tel: +514-499-9468  
Fax: +514-987-1567

**Friends of the Earth**  
26-28 Underwood Street  
London N1 7JQ  
Tel: 020 7 490 1555  
Fax: 020 7 490 0881

**Going for Green**, Elizabeth House,  
The Pier, Wigan WN3 4EX  
Hotline: 0870 909 0800

**Green Alliance**,  
49 Wellington Street, London WC2  
7BN  
Tel: 020 7 836 0341  
Fax: 020 7 240 9205

**Greenleaf Publishing**  
Aizlewood Business Centre  
Aizlewood's Mill  
Sheffield S3 8GG, UK  
Tel: +44 (0)114 282 3475  
Fax: +44 (0)114 282 3476  
E-mail:  
greenleaf@worldscope.co.uk  
http://www.greenleaf-publishing.com

**Health for All Network (UK)**  
PO Box 101, Liverpool L69 5BE  
Tel: 0151 231 4283  
Fax: 0151 231 4209  
Email: ukhfan@livim.ac.uk

**ICC UK**, 14/15 Belgrave Square  
London SW1X 8PS  
Tel: 020 7823 2811  
Fax: 020 7235 5447  
E-mail:  
katharinehedger@iccorg.co.uk.

**IFOAM (International Federation of  
Organic Agriculture Movements)** 2000  
Research Institute of Organic  
Agriculture  
Ackerstrasse, CH-5070 Frick  
Switzerland  
Tel: 00 41 62 865 7297

**IIED**, 3 Endsleigh Street  
London, WC1H 0DD  
Tel: 020 7 388 2117  
Fax: 020 7 388 2826

**Improvement & Development  
Agency**  
(IDeA), Layden House,  
76-86 Turnmill Street,  
London EC1M 5QU  
Tel: 020 7296 6600  
Fax: 020 7296 6666  
E-mail:  
local.agenda.21@idea.gov.uk

**International Council for Local  
Environmental Initiatives**  
Training Centre, Eschholzstrasse 86  
D-79 115 Freiburg, Germany  
Tel: 00 49 761 368 9220  
Fax: 00 49 761 368 9229

**Jubilee 2000 Coalition**  
1 Rivington Street, London EC2A  
Tel 020 7739 1000  
Fax 020 7739 2300  
Email:  
jdummond@jubilee2000uk.org  
Web-site: www.jubilee2000uk.org

**LGIB**, Local Government House  
Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ  
Tel: 020 7664 3118  
Fax: 020 7664 3128  
E-mail:  
james.beadle@lgib.gov.uk

**Local Government Association**  
26 Chapter Street, London SW1P  
Tel: 020 7 834 2222

**NAFTA Commission for  
Environmental Cooperation (CEC)**  
393 St.-Jacques W., Room 200  
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1N9, Canada  
Tel: 00 1 514 350 4302  
Fax: 00 1 514 350 4314  
Email: svaughn@ccemtl.org

**National Federation of Women's  
Institutes**  
104 New Kings Road  
London SW6 4LY  
Tel: 020 7371 9300

**New Economics Foundation**  
Cinnamon House 6-8 Cole Street  
London SE1 4YH  
Tel: 020 7407 7447  
Fax: 020 7407 6473  
E-mail: info@neweconomics.org

**OECD**, 2 rue André Pascal  
75775 Paris Cedex 16, France  
Tel: 00 33 1 45 248200  
Fax: 00 33 1 49 104276  
E-mail: sales@oecd.org

**Oxfam**, Policy Department  
274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX1 7DZ  
Tel: 01865 312 389  
Fax: 01865 312 417  
Oxfam Publications  
Tel: 01865 313922

**Royal Commission on  
Environmental Pollution**  
Steel House, 11 Tothill Street  
London SW1H 9RE  
Tel: 020 7273 6635  
Email: enquiries@rcep.org.uk

**Stationery Office**  
PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN

**Sustain**  
94 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF  
Tel: 020 7823 5660  
Fax: 020 7823 5673

**Sustainable Development  
International (SDI Ltd)**  
14 Greville Street, London EC1 8SB  
Tel: 020 7871 0123  
Fax: 020 7871 0111

**Tear Fund**  
100 Church Road, Teddington  
TW11 8QE  
Tel: 0845 3558355  
Fax: 020 8943 3594  
Email: enquiry@tearfund.org  
Web-site: www.tearfund.org

**Trade Union Congress (TUC)**  
Congress House  
22-28 Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3LS  
Tel: 020 7636 4030  
Fax: 020 7636 0632

**UK-Sustainable Development  
Commission (Secretariat)**  
5th Floor, Romney House,  
Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RA,  
Tel: 020 7944 4964,  
Fax: 020 7944 4959,  
E-mail: sd\_commission@detr.gov.uk

**United Nations Information Centre  
(UNIC)**  
Millbank Tower (21st Floor)  
21-24 Millbank  
London SW1P 4QH  
Tel: 020 7630 2703  
Fax: 020 7976 6478

**WEDO (Women's Environment &  
Development Organization)**  
355 Lexington Avenue, 3rd Floor  
New York, New York 10017, USA  
Tel: 212-973-0325  
Fax: 212-973-0335  
E-mail: wedo@igc.org  
www.wedo.org

Wilton Park  
Wilton House, Steyning BN44 3DZ  
Tel: 01903 817 714  
Fax: 01903 815 931  
Email:  
kelley.donnely@wiltonpark.org.uk  
Web-site: www.wiltonpark.co.uk

Women's Environmental Network  
87 Worship St, London EC2A 2BE  
Tel: ++ 44 207 247 3327/9924  
Fax: ++ 44 207 247 4740  
E-mail: artemis@gn.apc.org  
www.gn.apc.org/wen

World Conservation Monitoring  
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Cambridge CB3 0DL  
Tel: 01223 277 314  
Fax: 01223 277 136  
E-mail: info@wcmc.org.uk

World Development Movement  
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London SW9 7QR.  
Tel: 020 7 737 6215

WorldWide Fund for Nature  
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Godalming GU7 1XR  
Tel: 01483 426 444  
Fax: 01483 426 409

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DC 20433 USA  
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Fax: 00 1 202 522 3240

**HABITAT**  
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Fax: 00 254 2 621 234  
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D-53175 Bonn, Germany  
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Fax: 00 49 228 815 2898 /99  
Email: secretariat@unccd.de

### UNCHS

Mrs. Axumite Gebre-Egziabher  
(Coordinator), Istanbul+ 5  
Centre for Human Settlements,  
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254-2-623831  
Axumite.Gebre-Egziabher@unchs.org

UN Division for Sustainable  
Development (UNSD)  
New York NY 10017 USA  
Secretariat Tel: 00 1 212 963 3170  
E-mail: aydin@un.org

### CSD NGO/MAJOR GROUPS STEERING COMMITTEE:

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00 1 212 927 3953 (message unit)  
Fax: 00 1 212 6825354

Northern Clearinghouse:  
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Tel: (212) 963 4544  
Fax: (212) 832 9059  
e-mail: northclear@csdngo.org  
Web-site: www.csdngo.org/csdngo  
Northern Co-Chair:  
Felix Dodds, UNED Forum  
E-mail:  
fdodds@earthsummit2002.org

### UNDP

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Switzerland  
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### UNEP

Information and Public Affairs,  
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Tel: 00 254 2 621 234  
Fax: 00 254 2 226 886  
E-mail: ipaunep@gn.apc.org  
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Tel: 00 254 2 623292  
Fax: 00 254 2 623927.

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Regional Office for Europe  
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E-mail: pch@unep.ch

Industry Office, Tour Mirabeau  
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75739 Paris Cedex 15 France  
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Germany  
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Email: cms@unep.de

UNEP-WCMC  
World Conservation Monitoring Centre  
219, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge  
CB3 0DL  
Tel: +44-1223-277314  
Fax: +44-1223-277136  
E-mail: info@unep-wcmc.org,  
Web-site: www.unep-wcmc.org

UN ECOSOC NGO Unit  
Hanifa Mezoui, Room DC-2 2340  
United Nations New York  
NY 10017 USA  
Tel: 00 1 212 963 4843

UNESCO, 7, Place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris, France  
Tel: 00 33 1 4568 1746  
Fax: 00 33 1 4568 5652

UNFCCC Secretariat  
PO Box 260, 124 Haus Carstanjen  
Martin-Luther-King-Strasse 8  
D-53175 Bonn, Germany  
Tel: 00 49 228 815 1000  
Fax: 00 49 228 815 1999  
E-mail: secretariat@unfccc.de  
Web-site: www.unfccc.de

UN Framework Convention on  
Climate Change Secretariat  
PO Box 260124 D-53153  
Bonn Germany  
Tel: 00 49 228 815 1000  
Fax: 00 49 228 8151999  
E-mail: unfccc@unep.de

UNICEF  
3 UN Plaza, New York NY 10017  
United States  
Web-site: www.unicef.org

UNIFEM  
304 East 45th Street, 6th Floor  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: 00 1 212 906 6400  
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Tel: 00 1 202 477 1234

World Health Organisation  
20 Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
Tel: 00 4122 791 2111  
Fax: 00 4122 791 0746

UNED Forum

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# Public Transport, Health and the Environment

## *Achieving Sustainable Mobility*

**G**ood mobility is essential for a healthy and prosperous society. As economies grow and the standard of living improves, so people travel more, but an increasing proportion of journeys are being made by car – even very short journeys – and this growth in personal transport is not sustainable. For sustainable mobility, we need a transport system which meets everybody's needs for access to goods, jobs, education, leisure and information, but which does so without endangering public health, and while keeping emissions and the use of renewable and non-renewable resources within their rate of regeneration or replacement.

We are not achieving sustainable mobility because present transport arrangements do not give mobility to all, and because increasing traffic has many damaging effects on health, the environment and the efficiency of our cities. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has shown that around 80,000 adult deaths a year in Europe are related to long-term exposure to traffic-related air pollution. There is evidence that children living near roads with heavy traffic have about a 50% higher risk of suffering from respiratory symptoms than children living in areas with low traffic. Road accidents now cause about half a million deaths and 15 million injuries a year across the world – the fifth largest cause of death. Transport, and in particular road traffic, is the main cause of noise pollution. In addition, there is the social deprivation caused to those excluded from activities because they do not have access to private transport, the break-up of communities by heavy traffic, and increasing numbers of people suffering from a lack of exercise.

The growth in traffic is also contributing to climate change, causes congestion, disrupts public transport and pedestrians, and leads to the dispersal of new developments and urban sprawl. More space is taken up in cities for roads and parking, and there is

increasing pressure to spend ever more on expanding the road capacity, whilst traffic intrudes ever more on our cities and towns. Excessive traffic is affecting the health and the efficiency of our communities and both the global and local environments.

### **How public transport helps**

Good public transport is a major requirement for a healthy and prosperous society, and has a strong role to play in achieving sustainable mobility. It gives every citizen access to the facilities they need,

and so increases economic efficiency whilst reducing social deprivation. It helps to reduce motor traffic, congestion, pollution and accidents. It encourages walking and cycling which will promote health by providing physical activity, whilst further reducing noise and air pollution. It assists in controlling traffic

speeds, which reduces accidents and creates a safer environment for walking and cycling. Public transport takes less space than private cars, and so helps reduce urban sprawl. It uses less energy than private transport. Electrically powered public transport is less noisy and causes no emissions in the city, and can easily adapt to alternative sources of energy. If use of public transport increases, the service offered can be

enhanced, so increasing all these benefits. Public transport can also be cheaper overall to the community in terms of total annual expenditure on travel.

However, public transport is not achieving its full potential as it is hampered by increasing traffic congestion and lack of investment.

### **Government action**

To help achieve sustainable mobility, UITP calls on governments to:

- encourage integrated planning of land use and transport in order to reduce overall travel demand,



whilst encouraging walking, cycling and public transport, and reducing the need to travel by car.

- promote traffic management and parking policies that will encourage public transport use and provide road conditions in which buses and trams can operate efficiently.
- promote balanced decision-making at all levels of government, taking full account of greenhouse gas emissions and all other impacts on the environment, including noise and accidents, as well as effects on the economy such as land costs and access to employment.
- ensure that the full costs of users' transport choices are reflected in the charges to them for different modes of travel, with charges and taxes linked to the costs of use rather than the costs of ownership of the vehicle, in order to encourage an appropriate choice for each journey.
- allocation revenues raised to the benefit of public transport.
- facilitate investment in high quality, energy-efficient public transport, and
- agree funding measures to assist developing countries in public transport improvements.

There are good examples of successful public transport initiatives around the world which show what can be achieved. For example, there is high use of public transport in Stuttgart despite high car ownership. Zurich has shown consistent commitment to public transport and controlled car use. Austria has a high share of public transport in overall personal travel, whilst the Netherlands, and Denmark both have a high share of cycling. Switzerland and the Netherlands have also developed strong inter-modal public transport. Strasbourg has achieved a major transfer to public transport

through investment in a new high quality tramway. And Singapore demonstrates optimal use of existing roads and investment in public transport whilst restraining the growth in the number of cars.

## Conclusions

To achieve sustainable mobility, we need to transfer journeys from the car to public transport, walking and cycling; to reinvent safe, attractive streets in which it is normal for children to walk or cycle to school; to use land-use planning to reduce the length of journeys; and to look for ways of participating in social activities that generate less traffic.

This requires action which must include enhancements to public transport. The benefits would accrue to the whole community, even those who remain in their cars and find their journeys easier to make, and so will help public opinion to accept a reduction in car use. Encouraging examples of good practice exist throughout the world and we can move decisively towards sustainable mobility by adopting these practices more widely. However, this requires strong action at international, national and local levels of government.

Our long-term vision is to achieve transport which is sustainable for health and the environment, which meets the needs of the present without endangering the ability of future generations to meet theirs – this will give us sustainable mobility.

**Roger Torode**

*UITP, International Association of Public Transport*

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*UITP, International Association of Public Transport,  
Avenue, Hermann-Debroux 17, B-1160 BRUXELLES,  
Belgium, Tel +32 2 663 6632 Fax +32 2 663 6623*

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*Transport for London, European Affairs Manager,  
Windsor House (10th Floor), 42-50 Victoria Street,  
London SW1H 0NW, UK, Tel +44 20 7941 4248;  
Fax +44 20 7941 4318; Email: roger.torode@uitp.com*

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## Sustainable aviation

**A** viation plays a vital role in the world's communication network, bringing people together to facilitate political, business, cultural and personal exchanges all of which make positive economic and social contributions to the triple bottom line. World wide more than 15,000 aircraft operate out of 10,000 airports to carry well over 1 billion passengers each year. The contribution to the global economy is over a million million US dollars. This supports directly over 24 million jobs world wide. Moreover, it is an essential part of the global tourism industry which provides around 1 in 8 to 1 in of all jobs world wide.

These jobs feed into the social systems that support education, health, and welfare across the entire globe. Political agreements are facilitated through face to face contact which can only be realistically achieved in many cases through air travel. Cultural exchange and understanding are promoted by direct contact and

experience. Individuals are able to visit friends and relatives in a way that was impossible before the modern era of air travel.

While there are aspects of the social impact that some question, such as some of the impacts of tourism, it is perhaps in the area of the environment that there may appear to be most weakness in the long term sustainability of aviation. In many of its environmental impacts including, noise, waste and energy efficiency aviation can be compared favourably with other modes of transport, particularly those such as high speed rail where the competition is more direct. Any future vision of transport should include integration of rail air and road transport with effective intermodal transfer, which should be located at airports. Already this is beginning to happen but the rate of change must be accelerated, through provision of appropriate infrastructure which will allow transport systems to develop with net environ-

mental social and economic benefits.

In the context of Rio in 1992, Kyoto in 1997, and the 1999 IPCC report on "Aviation and the Global Atmosphere", the clock has really only just started. Obviously climate change and control of greenhouse gas emissions from aviation are major issues for the industry. It is appropriate the International Civil Aviation Organisation is specifically addressing this area in 2001. Aviation is probably at the end of the breathing space and the path ahead is beginning to become less misty. In the short, medium and long term, technology will play a vital role initially in driving further improvements to build on the doubling of fuel efficiency over the last 25 years. Of the market options, taxes are unlikely to deliver significant environmental benefit; and charges, or recycled levies, are too complex to address the climate issues at this stage. A recent study by the Institute of Public Policy Research in the UK concludes that emissions trading is the best way forward; similar conclusions have been reached by the relevant ICAO working group. This should develop as the best medium term means to place aviation properly within the global programme to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Alongside this, research is needed to identify the effects of emissions of NOx and water vapour at cruise altitudes. Only when these effects are better characterised will it be possible to determine the longer term changes in technology and infrastructure that will be necessary to support the continuing contribution of aviation to the social and economic parts of the sustainability equation.

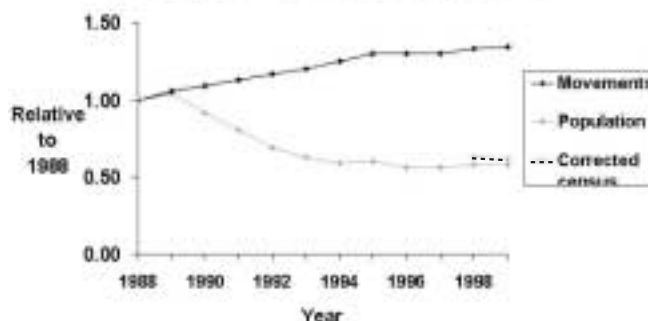
British Airways has recognised the importance of environmental factors for many years and has been a pioneer of open reporting. Many other airlines are now reporting on environmental issues and last year BA became the first to widen reporting to include social issues ([www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com)). Airlines such as BA are increasingly involved in research programmes and in looking ahead at ways in which to manage sustainability issues, such as the UK industry-wide "Greener by Design" initiative. Most emphasis is still on the environment, possibly because some non industry environ-

mental pessimists foresee a dim future for aviation. However the industry is well up to the challenge – its past record is outstanding and there is no reason why that should not continue.

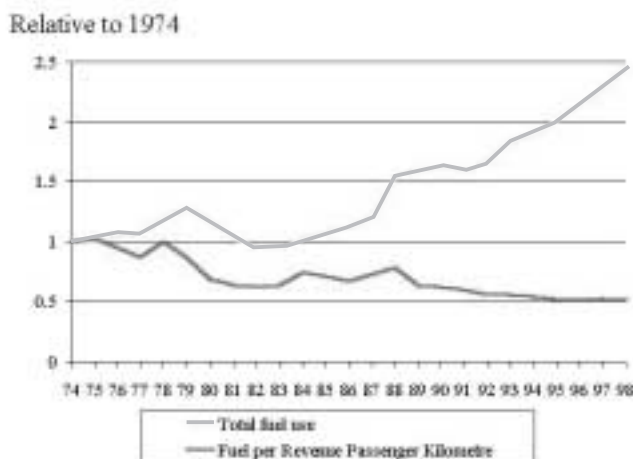
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## Transport in Harmony with Sustainable Development

There is increasing recognition that one of the principle obstacles to securing a sustainable society is the damage transport wreaks on our environment and health. In climate change for example, transport is the only sector in European States in Annex 1 of the Kyoto Protocol seeing continued strong emissions growth – growth that is set to increase still further during the first commitment period of the protocol. Indeed knowledge of the problem is so widespread that those recognising the problem include the very politicians in charge of transport policy.

This is no surprise given that over the years European Transport Ministers have had a long period of education on the problems transport pose to sustainable development. There have been a plethora of international processes and meetings teaching them

the words of the sustainability vocabulary.

There have been three pan European Transport Conferences at which the issue has been discussed in detail. There has been a *UN-ECE Regional Conference on Transport and Environment* that agreed both the *Vienna Declaration* and a "Joint Programme of Action". There has been agreement on principles for sustainable mobility under the auspices of the OECD and subsequently agreement on defining "Environmentally Sustainable Transport" and related sector targets. At an EU level there has been a strategy agreed by Transport Ministers seeking to integrate environmental considerations into EU transport policy. Meanwhile the WHO has facilitated agreement of a *Charter on Transport Environment and Health* as part of the third *Pan European Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Health*.

In brief there is no shortage of words from Transport Ministers recognising the need for a shift in transport policy in favour of sustainable development. There is also no lack of understanding of what this would entail. What is lacking to date is any binding commitment to action. This, however, may be set to change.

The last two processes, those stimulated by the EU and the WHO, offer the best hope of progress at a European level to establish binding commitments to action from Transport Ministers. Firstly the EU process on integrating environmental considerations into all EU policies is being driven not by Environment or Transport Ministers, but by Heads of State and Government. The EU Treaty now requires this integration, and the EU leaders are monitoring the performance of their sectoral Ministers, including transport, to ensure compliance. Whilst this only applies presently to fifteen of Europe's nations, this is set to increase following the accession of the applicant states to cover most of the continents people and area.

Secondly, the WHO charter on Transport Environment and Health agreed in June 1999 in London included a commitment to review the existing legal instruments and evaluate whether a further step might be necessary

to fill any "gaps" that might be identified. This review has progressed to the stage when a political decision is imminent on whether to convene negotiations on a legally binding instrument on Transport Environment and Health.

This would be the breakthrough we all need. Finally after the all their fine words, a binding commitment to action. But the job of environmental NGOs is not over. Even if we secure the political commitment necessary to embark on negotiations – and some countries want to prevent this (notably the UK and Italy) – we need to ensure that the fine words agreed to so far are retained within the binding commitments.

The ministers have been taught the words to the song we must make them sing rather than let them lead us in another merry dance.

**Frazer Goodwin**

*Policy Officer, European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E)*

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*For further information please contact: European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E), Bd de Waterloo 34, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium, Web-site: [www.t-e.nu](http://www.t-e.nu), e-mail: [frazer.goodwin@t-e.nu](mailto:frazer.goodwin@t-e.nu)*

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## Transport and the Great Gender Divide

**T**ransport is an essential part of women's lives: it determines access to a wide range of resources including employment, childcare, education, health and the political process. As consumers of transport, women have too often been assumed to have identical needs to men's. However, it is clear that women have travel needs which are as significant as those of men and in many respects distinct from them.

The dramatic increase in women in paid employment, especially women with young children, has been one of the most important changes in the labour market in the post-war era. However, despite the movement of women into the paid employment market, the sexual division of labour within the household persists. The result has been an expansion of women's roles rather than the achievement of gender role equality. Women continue to be primarily responsible for domestic work, including shopping and child rearing. In 1995 in the UK, a comparison of all those aged 16 or over showed that males spent on average 0.42 hours per day on domestic work compared with the average of 2.24 hours spent by women. As a result, women have less free time than men, especially at weekends.

Women's primary responsibility for childcare and the lack of adequate day care facilities substantially limits women's employment opportunities. When day-care is available it is often not for sufficient hours to enable a woman to work full-time, should she want to. This situation particularly impacts on women bringing up children alone.

On all measures of socio-economic status including income, housing tenure, and working status, lone mothers are disadvantaged compared with mothers in

couples: in the UK, 70 per cent of lone mothers had incomes which were less than 50 per cent of the median. In the US, 44% of families headed by a single mother were living below the poverty line. These families constituted a substantial portion of poor families in the US, almost 60% in 1994.

Part-time work opportunities are important to women, particularly local opportunities. Women tend to be concentrated into lower-level jobs where there is a high proportion of part-time staff; and they are more likely to be precluded from higher-level jobs e.g. managerial and professional work which are predominantly full-time.

Even after many years of equal pay legislation, women's pay lags behind that of men. Throughout their working lives women generally earn less than men, regardless of whether they are managers or in lower-level jobs. Women's earnings as part-time workers tend to be low, not only because of the pro-rata reduction, but also because part-time workers generally are in a vulnerable position in the labour market.

In addition, the jobs that men do tend to be the more highly paid ones and men are more often employed at higher grades. In the UK, two thirds of managers and administrators and three out of five professionals are men. Women are concentrated in the service sector of the economy where wages have traditionally been lower.

This is not to deny that there are indications of an increasing polarisation among women's incomes, which needs to be seen in the context of widening social and economic inequalities over the past two decades. Despite this, however, the differences between men and



women remain more marked.

The economic inferiority of women has much to do with women's labour being less highly valued than men's. Additionally, women have fewer employment options than men: domestic and childcare responsibilities impose heavy restrictions, and the availability (or not) of good quality surrogate childcare is a key factor in enabling women to take up employment. Transport options can further impact on the ability to take up a job. Where women live is often determined by the workplace of the male partner. It is not uncommon for a woman returning to work after childcare to take a less skilled and more poorly paid job than she originally had. Homeworking, mainly done by women and the lowest paid of all types of employment, is perhaps the clearest and most extreme example of the way in which women's bargaining position in the labour market is reduced by childcare and transport constraints.

Available information indicates a fairly even split between men and women in respect of total number of journeys made but men's journeys tend to be longer. In the UK for instance, men travelled on average 9,000 miles per year and for women the average was fewer than six thousand miles, while in Sweden men travelled 71 billion kilometres in 1994 and women travelled 45 billion kilometres.

Journey length varies markedly by journey purpose, and here gender is an important explanation. For example, shopping trips and escort education trips tend to be shorter than journeys to the place of paid employment. Journeys to work tend to account for a higher proportion of men's journeys, while shopping and escort education trips account for a higher proportion of women's. In Sweden, the data demonstrates sharp gender differences in travel purpose. Women do almost twice as much travel as men in the "household errands" category and "visiting friends and relatives"

Another important area of gender difference is in the times when men and women travel: peak and off-peak travel, and day- and night-time travel. Because women are far more likely to be in part-time employment, and to be making social visits to families and friends, they travel more often off-peak than men. Because of women's fear of violence and aggression they are far less willing than men to travel after dark. In the US 78 rapes occur each hour making 683,280 each year. In the UK over the 11 years from 1985 to 1996, the number of rapes recorded by the police increased threefold, from 1842 in 1985 to 5759 in 1996. Much of the increase is thought to be attributable to an increase in reporting and improvements in police procedures however the perception that we live in a climate of increasing crimes against the person, to which women are especially vulnerable is a salient factor impacting on women's behaviour.

## Car availability

There has been particularly strong growth in licence-holding among women in the last ten years; In the UK, the 1995/97 statistics indicate that 57 per cent of women compared with 81 per cent of men hold a full driving licence. However, only about two-thirds of female licence holders are the main driver of a household car

compared with four-fifths of male licence holders. Statistics based on 'the household' as a unit of analysis have done a lot to hide the full extent of gender inequality in car access. The availability of a car for personal use has major effects on travel patterns, and it is clear that where there is only one car and there is a male driver in the household it is overwhelmingly the male driver who has first call on it.

But statistics tell only part of the story; our research showed that women travelling with young children were the group experiencing most difficulty. For example, problems of boarding and alighting, tendering a fare while standing and getting to a seat on a moving vehicle were highlighted. Travel is very difficult for women with children using buses where there are no conductors to assist them.

Another major area of deficiency is routing, there are numerous examples of journeys that women find either impossible or impracticable to make by public transport. A large proportion of these are non-radial journeys (i.e. not from a suburb to the centre).

Public transport provision suffers from a variety of major deficiencies from the point of view of meeting women's needs. It has been seen repeatedly that building public transport systems around the needs of men has not tended to produce a system which adequately meets the needs of women. This failure is a matter not only of exacerbating social exclusion and environmental pollution, it is a commercial disaster. Women are far and away the prime users of public transport, especially of buses. It has to be in the interests of operators to cater for the specific needs of this group. It is not clear why women's views have been neglected, but it certainly is the case, to the extent that women are deserting public transport in droves. Virtually all the recent increase in car- use is attributable to women. They are less and less a captive audience. A reduction in cars on our roads has to be achieved. Fewer cars mean fewer casualties, cleaner pedestrian environments, less congestion and freer running buses. The negative health effects of transport inevitably impact on women. As bronchitis and childhood asthma rates rise, the demands on women's time as carers increases. Car crashes on the roads can have terrible consequences for the injured and the bereaved, and the emotional damage done to victims families and the ensuing caring and repair work falls heavily on women. And finally, it is most important that adequate research and consultation is undertaken to find out how women live their lives and what kind of transport provision would meet their desires and needs.

**Professor Kerry Hamilton**

*Head of Transport Studies  
at the University of East London  
Email: k.hamilton@uel.ac.uk*

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*For a fuller discussion of this subject, please see  
[www.uel.ac.uk/womenandtransport.net](http://www.uel.ac.uk/womenandtransport.net) and go to  
[www.earthsummit2002.org/WORKSHOP/  
bptransport%20n.htm](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/WORKSHOP/bptransport%20n.htm) for a background paper on  
"Gender and Transport in Developed Countries"  
for the Expert Workshop "Gender Perspectives  
for Earth Summit 2002: Energy, Transport,  
Information for Decision-Making"*

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## **EARTH SUMMIT 2002 : A NEW DEAL**

*edited by Felix Dodds*



This is not a casual holiday read nor a reference book for people who would like to know how they can contribute personally or collectively to the goal of sustainable development. But it is a must for individuals and groups who want to understand the international processes that will shape Earth Summit 2002.

Congratulations are due to Felix Dodds who has imposed editorial order (and I would guess textual coherence) in grouping an anthology of

disparate chapters into some kind of logical progression, from "road blocks" through emerging issues to his own thought provoking essay on UN institutional reform.

In this short review it is not possible to do justice to the strengths and occasional weaknesses of all the contributions. Each one reflects deeply felt views: some are descriptive, others more analytical; most of them offer prescriptive recommendations or demands for action by others, notably governments, big business, the UN; very few highlight the responsibilities of their own sector; some are passionate, even visionary.

Readers need to be familiar with Agenda 21, the action plan that emerged from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, as well as the complex and often baffling workings of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies. The book's summary of acronyms is a useful tool not only for newcomers but for seasoned campaigners.

The scene is set by Klaus Topfer, Executive Director of UNEP (see summary of acronyms), in his supportive and succinct foreword. He points out that in addition to Agenda 21 the outcomes of the first Earth Summit included conventions on climate change and biodiversity and the Rio Declaration of Principles. He could have taken greater credit for UNEP's post Rio leadership role in, for example, developing conventions on desertification and persistent organic pollutants, the protocol on biosafety and the Global Environment Outlook 2000.

In his introduction Derek Osborn rightly draws attention to patchy progress since 1992, but one undoubted achievement is the increasing influence of non-governmental organisations and other major groups. He will remember that when he was a

member of the British government delegation at Rio (as I was) pressure by the UK and others for greater involvement of NGOs was strongly opposed by traditionalists. References to the role of NGOs in implementing Agenda 21 remained in textual square brackets until almost the last minute. Now, NGOs are an integral part of the UN sustainable development process, although traditionalists in other areas remain resistant and suspicious.

I strongly recommend a careful reading of Simon Upton's government perspective chapter. Note particularly his comment that "officials [in national governments] often seem to argue inconsistently in the WTO and environmental fora". This suggests that institutional reform is every bit as necessary in governmental institutions as in the UN system.

I confess to some disappointment that the chapter on local government says very little about the partnership role of community groups and NGOs in identifying special needs and shaping local strategies for sustainable development. It would be helpful to know more about patchy degrees of commitment to the Local Agenda 21 process. For example the UK may be able to demonstrate nearly 100% coverage by the end of 2000 – although quality is acknowledged to be variable – and (according to OECD figures) Iceland is approaching 70% but why have only 10% of local authorities in Germany followed up the Rio recommendations. Will these achievements and/or shortcomings be examined at Earth Summit 2002?

It is the role of NGOs to apply pressure for change and there are solid recommendations in the chapter on Women and Sustainable Development. Encouragingly however there is also an acceptance that while governments etc. must do much, much more women will have to take on a big share of the burden themselves. A major task will be to persuade women's groups (in the UK at least) that sustainable development is not merely about the environment but embraces health, education, personal safety, poverty and all the other Agenda 21 issues.

Among the emerging issues security is perceptively identified as a major theme for 2002, with most of its constituent parts outlined – especially the potential for serious conflict over scarce or disputed water resources. The chapters on production/consumption and "Fish Forever" are contrasting in style and urgency: the first is somewhat analytical and a useful tour d'horizon, although it might have widened its scope to look at, say, agriculture and biotechnology. The second is by John Gummer, a consummate politician and communicator. He leaves us in no doubt that mankind and his greed have decimated the planet's fisheries and that mankind must now, immediately begin to make amends.

No-one can speak with more experience or authority on health and sustainable development than Gro Harlem Brundtland. She adds to the long list of Agenda 21 health issues others that are beginning to be taken more seriously: food borne diseases, work related injuries and illnesses, and the hazards of indoor pollution. But the most striking and affecting chapter in this book is on HIV/AIDS, one of the last writings by Chip Lindner, himself a victim of the virus and deeply

mourned by those who knew him. He presents the most chilling 1998 statistics for sub-Saharan Africa: 22.5 million people infected, half of them women, and the figures are still rising. An estimated \$310 billion pa would be needed to treat the world's 33 million sufferers with expensive palliative drugs, and perhaps a staggering \$2 trillion to discover an effective vaccine. Compare this with the original Agenda 21 estimate of \$4 million a year to control all communicable diseases, eg tuberculosis and malaria as well as AIDS. South Africa has apparently come to terms with the causes of its own spreading epidemic, and with Johannesburg the venue for Earth Summit 2002, surely AIDS must be high on the agenda.

Finally, Felix Dodds' overview of the need for institutional reform of the UN. The options he outlines are complicated and sometimes – except to UN devotees – arcane, and while they deserve serious consideration the fate of previous attempts should be borne in mind. The 1989 call by France, Norway and the Netherlands for a World Environment Authority was dismissed by President Reagan as “globalony” and deftly handbagged by Prime Minister Thatcher: even campaigning NGOs who wanted more rigour in implementing environmental law accepted that the idea was too dictatorial for its time. Now that the World Trading Organisation is seen as dictatorial the time may have come for devising a stronger, more authoritative structure to place sustainable development and free trade on level playing fields. There are many tripwires however: there will be resistance from existing UN and other international bodies which were not seriously affected by the softly softly implementation of post Rio changes, notably the CSD; the biodiversity convention was originally intended to bring together all conservation instruments and secretariats but in fact created an additional secretariat; and care should be taken not to resurrect the idea of biodiversity as “the common heritage of mankind” or part of the global commons. It can be argued that during the Rio process protracted arguments for and against the need for the CSD enabled donor countries to avoid seriously addressing the need for “new and additional resources”: it is imperative that this should not happen again. So, perhaps reform – as I think Felix hints – is a matter for post 2002.

One of the major groups of Agenda 21 is “Children and Youth”. Their potential role is not a feature of this otherwise excellent book. How at this comparatively late stage can young people be brought in? Can they mobilise themselves to challenge the jargon and inwardness of many of the preparations? Can they become a powerful reminder to us that sustainable development is not only about the present but also future generations?

**Fiona McConnell**

*Special Adviser to UNED, and Vice Chair of the UK's National Local Agenda 21 Steering Group  
December 2000*

● ISBN 1 85383 712 1, 352 pages, paperback £18.95

## **POVERTY IN PLENTY**

### **A Human Development Report for the UK**

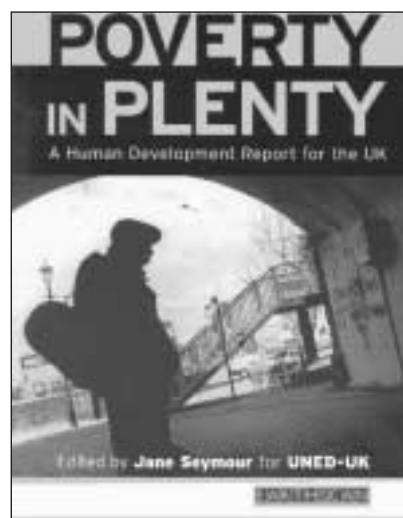
*Edited by Jane Seymour & Tom Bigg*

*Published in association with UNED-UK*

- The UK's performance on poverty and deprivation ranks 16th out of 18 industrialised countries
- People living in Glasgow Shettleston are 3.8 times more likely to die before they are 65 years old than those living in Wokingham

In industrialised counties, wealth and affluence are widely perceived to be growing, although not at the same rate for everyone. But economic growth is not the same as genuine human development. **Poverty in Plenty** applies accepted measures of human poverty – education, health, and employment – to the UK, and assesses how our food and housing policies contribute to a sustainable way of life. It draws on the work of leading research institutes and campaigning groups to determine the real state of society in the UK. Using a range of indicators to measure livelihoods and well-being, the report shows how widespread poverty is and highlights the vast geographical disparities in levels of poverty that exist within the UK. It goes on to set out what urgently needs to be done to address the sobering trends revealed and describes effective policies that will allow us to improve the current situation. The findings are of vital importance to those working on social issues in the public and voluntary sectors, and to students and general readers wanting the truth behind the public statistics.

**'Poverty in Plenty** breaks new ground in two ways. It is the first national Human Development Report to focus on an industrialised country and it is the first to be produced by a non-governmental organisation ... While problems of poverty and deprivation are less extreme in countries such as the UK than in some other parts of the world, the human development message is still highly relevant. There are many people who suffer through inadequate housing, insufficient means to guarantee a nutritious diet and the absence of secure, rewarding and remunerative employment' (From the Foreword by **Sakiko Fukada-Parr**, Human Development Report Office, United Nations Development Programme)



*(continued overleaf)*

The recent *Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey of Britain (PSE)* attempted to measure the amount of absolute poverty in Britain using both subjective and objective methods (Gordon et al., 2000). Most “experts” on poverty thought that overall poverty occurred in industrialised countries, but that absolute poverty was mainly confined to developing countries. One of the key ideas in the PSE survey was to get the views of the British population about these issues and not just to rely on the views of “experts”.

The challenge to enable people to work across sectors can only be a long-term one. At the core of success appears to be the same lesson that professionals focused on the developing world have learnt – it is the professionals themselves who must change their outlook and their ways of working to establish genuinely honest and effective working relationships with the people they are seeking to help.

UNED FORUM 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL, Tel: 020 7839 1784, Fax: 020 7930 5893, E-mail: [connections@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:connections@earthsummit2002.org)