

Connections

SPECIAL WSSD - EARTH SUMMIT 2002 REPORT



SPRING 2002 ISSUE

From Doha to Johannesburg by way of Monterrey

How Development can be Achieved and Sustained in the 21st Century

From the editor

In our continued efforts to bring you the most up-to-date information on Earth Summit 2002, we have come up with this special WSSD Report issue of **Connections**. The entire issue has a special emphasis on WSSD, just in time for Summit PrepCom III, and deservedly so!

We begin with Kofi Annan's recent lecture at the London School of Economics, followed by an interview with Nitin Desai, thereby bringing views from the people right at the top who have seen and been there through the developments following the Rio Earth Summit. In addition, this special report summarises two weeks of hard work by Governments and Stakeholders alike at PrepCom II earlier this year.

Moving on from the international to UK domestic activities, we have a pull-out report on the UNED-UK Committee 'A Vision for Our Common Future' conference held in London on 22 January. That event brought together a broad range of UK stakeholder groups, and showcased the activities, preparations, and developments in the UK in the run-up to the Johannesburg Summit.

The UK Government's efforts in building partnerships through the Prime Minister's initiatives, and the DEFRA-WSSD team are also featured.

As the business sector has a key role to play in the sustainable development debate, we bring you lots of information on just that – articles on the role of Business Action for Sustainable Development at WSSD, the importance of the 'Tobin Tax' and the UN Award for environmental entrepreneurship.

NGOs too have been gearing up for the Summit. Check out the information on Peace Child, Women's Groups, and the efforts of IISD. Also look out for the latest on the Your Wake Up Call and the WWF's 'Our World' programme, which we have already talked about at length in earlier issues of **Connections**.

Our usual bits on diary dates, websites, publications, etc., are still there!

So there's a lot to go around. Enjoy reading!

Prabha Choubina

Kofi Annan calls for "Coalition for Responsible Prosperity"



Photo: Nigel Stead, LSE

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged a "coalition for responsible prosperity" in a lecture given to LSE staff, students and invited guests on Monday 25 February 2002.

In a speech entitled *From Doha to Johannesburg by way of Monterrey: how development can be achieved and sustained in the 21st century*, the United Nations Secretary-General declared that the World Summit, to be held in South Africa

later this year, "must mark a break with business as usual".

Mr. Annan told an audience of Britain's political, academic and business elite at the London School of Economics that their way of life, and that of people in developed countries generally, must change if the planet was to be inhabitable by the number of people likely to live on it in the decades to come. But, he said, they should view this as an opportunity, not a disaster. "Far from being a burden, sustainable development is an exceptional opportunity – economically, to build markets and create jobs; socially, to bring people in from the margins; and politically, to give every man and woman a voice, and a choice, in deciding their own future."

The Summit, which will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August to 4 September, will offer heads of State, business leaders and civil society pressure groups a chance to agree on practicable ways to reduce poverty, expand access to freshwater and sanitation, and adopt cleaner and more efficient use of energy.

Johannesburg will take place ten years after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, where countries adopted Agenda 21, the blueprint for sustainable development. Although there have been significant efforts to implement Agenda 21, particularly at the local level, the Secretary-General said there was a feeling of loss of momentum. "As our attention has been focused on conflict, on globalisation, or most recently on terrorism, we have often failed to

(continued overleaf)

SPECIAL PULLOUT BOOKLET:
A Vision for Our Common Future Conference Report

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Connections

Editor: Prabha Choubina

Stakeholder Forum

Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future (formerly UNED Forum) is an international multi-stakeholder forum building partnerships and working towards stakeholder participation in international sustainable development processes, especially towards Earth Summit 2002. Based in London, England, the Stakeholder Forum'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 (UNA-UK), Stakeholder Forum has grown from a UK organization to an international multi-stakeholder forum. Directed by and accountable to a democratically elected Executive Committee of UK Stakeholders, the Stakeholder Forum's newest project- 'Towards Earth Summit 2002'- is guided by an international advisory board reflecting the stakeholder groups outlined in Agenda 21.

The UNA-UK provides the secretariat for the Stakeholder Forum.

Acknowledgement

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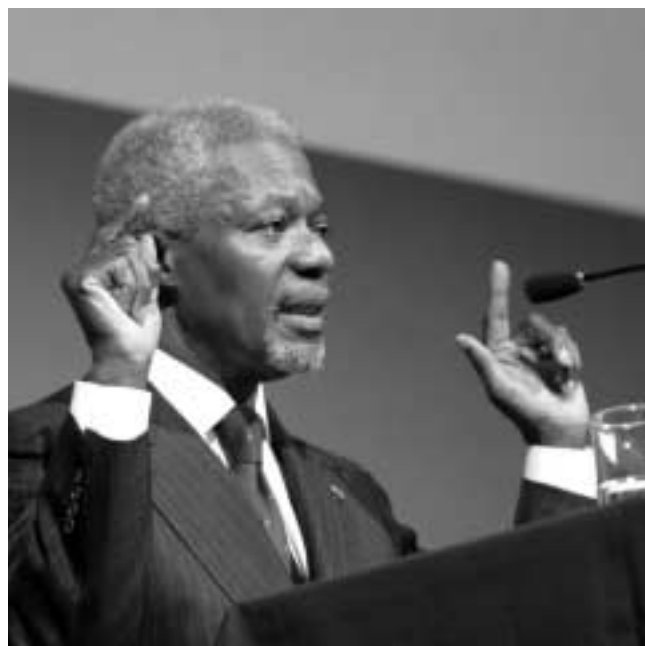


Photo: Nigel Stead, LSE

(continued from front page)

see how these are connected to the issue of sustainability. That word has become a pious invocation, rather than the urgent call to concrete action that it should be."

Preparations for Johannesburg are well underway. Representatives of governments, along with non-governmental organizations, business and other major groups recently concluded a second preparatory meeting in New York, where they agreed that the Summit must result in not only an agreed action plan, but also a substantial list of initiatives that will be undertaken by various partnerships.

A new round of preparatory talks is scheduled for 25 March to 5 April in New York, and a ministerial round of talks will take place in Jakarta from 27 May to 7 June.

There are hopeful signs that the opportunity will not be missed. The Secretary-General said that the recent agreement at the World Trade Organization meeting in Doha to put development at the heart of the new round of trade talks could go a long way toward helping people to compete more fairly in a globalised world. And he noted that next month's Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, could have a major impact on efforts to unlock the financial resources necessary for development and for fighting poverty.

The Secretary-General concluded with a hopeful vision of what history books may say about these three conferences – Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg – and urged his audience to make it come true:

"Challenged by the goals its political leaders had set at the Millennium Summit, and shocked into a stronger sense of common destiny by the horror of 11 September 2001, during the following twelve months the human race at last summoned the will to tackle the really tough issues facing it. In passionate debates, held in the meeting-rooms and corridors of three great world assemblies, it painstakingly assembled the tools, thrashed out the strategies, and formed the creative partnerships that were needed to do the job."

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From New York to Jo'burg

Can the debate be focussed, and real action plans created?

Earth Summit 2002's 2nd Global PrepCom had much to consider, and not much time in which to do it. Impossible to see the wood for the trees? Or did everything fall beautifully into place? Stakeholder Forum's Derek Osborn reports –

Two weeks of hard work in New York at the beginning of February have got the Johannesburg Summit on the road. Wide-ranging discussions between countries and with representatives of all the major groups have produced a vast array of ideas and proposals for advancing sustainable development. The chairman's text produced at the end of the PrepCom has made a heroic effort to organise all this material into a cogent and structured summary which can now form the basis for the more detailed negotiations.

In this article I will endeavour to look at the main themes which Stakeholder Forum has been trying to articulate during the PrepCom and elsewhere, drawing on the contributions of all the individual stakeholder groups. This article sets out the steps which we have identified as being crucial in carrying the work forward to the next stage.

The first and essential step is to ensure that stakeholder voices get heard, and carry as much weight as they ought to do. This lies partly with the stakeholder groups themselves to do their homework, and to build support around the world for the causes they are advocating. But it also crucially depends on having a clear process in the international meetings, which enables stakeholder voices to be assembled and articulated clearly and effectively at the right time.

Considerable efforts have been made by the secretariat to involve stakeholders, but the general feeling during the second PrepCom was that the arrangements still fell some way short of the ideal.

One weakness was that the different stakeholder groups did not have the opportunity to meet together before the dialogues with governments to consult about their respective positions and agree on the key issues to be highlighted. This meant that when it came to the dialogues the different positions were put forward rather formally in a series of prepared statements with the result that no clear view of priorities or focus emerged. This in turn led to rather formal responses from government representatives present, with little or no opportunity for free-flowing discussion to get deeper into the key issues and priorities.

Many people contrasted the dialogue sessions unfavorably with those at the recent International Conference on Freshwater in Bonn where the stakeholders had identified a few key issues between themselves in advance, and where a facilitator/Chair helped to maintain a lively and creative debate on the central themes. It is hoped that some of these defects of process can be put right for the further stakeholder dialogues planned for the final PrepCom and, and at Johannesburg itself.

Turning to content, Stakeholder Forum identified ten key themes which emerged strongly from the stakeholder contributions and put these forward to try to help focus the debate.

1. Principles, Vision and Strategy

The principles contained in Agenda 21, including the precautionary, subsidiarity and polluter pays principles need to be further operationalised.

2. Poverty Eradication, Human Security and Human Development

Concrete programmes for action and partnership to tackle poverty need to be established, focusing on key target areas including water and sanitation, health, employment creation, food security and energy.

3. Globalisation: Setting Trade and Investment to Sustainability

The Johannesburg Summit should send a clear message to the trade and investment community to ensure that the trade round delivers on the legitimate aspirations of developing countries for better market access to the developed world.

4. Sustainable Production and Consumption

Johannesburg should establish a programme of measures for promoting this.

5. Natural Resources: Integrated Management and Regulation

The Summit should be the occasion for the ratification and entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, the Biosafety Protocol, and further steps on implementing the Conventions on Hazardous Wastes and Chemicals, Desertification, and Straddling fish stocks. Implementation resources and enforcement machinery for MEAs also need to be strengthened.

6. Health and Environment

Further national and international commitments should be made to address critical issues related to health and environment.

7. Finance for Sustainable Development

There should be specific discussions about how the decline in Official Development Assistance can be reversed. There needs to be debate on how debt relief and debt cancellation can be extended. There needs to be a specific negotiation seeking a substantial replenishment of the Global Environment Facility.

8. Technology Transfer, Capacity Building and Education

Johannesburg should establish strategies and programmes for enhancing exchange of technologies and capacity building.

9. Governance and Participation

UNEP and the CSD should be strengthened, and sustainable development built more securely into the mandates of other international agencies.



*WSSD PrepCom II
begins on a sunny
New York day*

*Nitin Desai, Emil Salim and Joanne DiSano
during Mr. Desai's address to the plenary in
the General Assembly*



10. Global Deal

At Johannesburg heads of state and high-level ministers will need to set out a strong statement of global commitment, endorsing the key steps to make the shift towards Sustainable Development. The decisions of the Summit should be encapsulated in a new Global Deal, based on key elements, including:

- **Equity** – eradicating poverty through equitable and sustainable access to resources;
- **Rights** – securing environmental and social rights;
- **Limits** – reducing resource use to within sustainable limits;
- **Justice** – recognition of ecological and social debts and cancellation of financial debts;
- **Democracy** – ensuring access to information and public participation; and
- **Ethics** – rethinking the values and principles that guide human behaviour.

Many of these themes did appear in the Chairman's text, but in muted form. No clear sense of their central importance and priority has yet appeared in the text. Others do not yet feature in the text at all. Stakeholders have a big task ahead to lobby governments effectively to agree to stronger commitment on these points by Johannesburg. Many governments called for poverty to be addressed as the vital issue of the Summit. The Chair's text addresses some elements such as food, water and energy, but does not address other vital components such as employment and human settlements.

There was a very strong call by NGOs, and others, for a convention for TNC's. Governments will have to address this at the next PrepCom as momentum for the initiative grows.

Apart from content, the Chairman's text at present lacks a clear structure for shaping the debate on each of the issues that is dealt with. Agenda 21 itself had a very clear analytical framework for dealing with each topic addressed. This proved a very useful means of identifying objectives and responsibilities for the kind of actions needed by different actors to secure results in each topic area addressed.

On this occasion there is general agreement that implementation is even more critically important than it was at the time of Rio. Therefore a similar framework for analysis and debate about the steps to be taken to secure action would be

all the more important. Stakeholder Forum is canvassing the possibility of organising each section of the negotiation and outcome documents under the following headings:

- Introduction to the issue
- Programme area
- Basis for Action
- Objectives
- Activities at all levels
- Means of implementation – including capacity building, technology sharing, education and training
- Roles of stakeholders
- Financial resources
- Timetable and targets
- Indicators and review

It could be useful for there to be some task forces established on some of the specific key issues such as water or energy or health to elaborate detailed programmes on these lines.

This approach could link strongly with the suggestion put forward by the Secretary General that the output of the Johannesburg Summit could include a new type of outcome (Type 2) which should consist of a series of non-negotiated initiatives and partnerships brought forward by a variety of actors to contribute to the general programme of sustainable development implementation agreed by the Summit. While welcoming this recognition of the potential importance and significance of stakeholder partnerships to promoting sustainable development Stakeholder Forum has urged that there will need to be a framework of key programmes within which such partnership initiatives can be brought forward, and some criteria which they will need to satisfy to be generally accepted as being worthy components of a Johannesburg sustainability programme.

Nitin Desai – the Man in Charge

An icy, windswept day in New York. The UN headquarters building stands imposingly by the East River. At the beginning of February representatives of the world's governments and Civil Society had flown in to prepare for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Some 60,000 people will congregate in Johannesburg in August to try and thrash out what can be done to ... well to save the world.

The man in charge of this grand project is Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. As Secretary-General of the Summit he carries an astonishing amount of responsibility, but he carries it with dignity. It is obvious that he has years of experience on how to deal with all comers in the halls and debating rooms at the UN.

In a meeting with Charles Nouhan and myself he was blunt in pointing out that humanity has to be ready to pay a price for long-term sustainability, particularly when it comes to dealing with endemic poverty. Making a commitment to implement sustainable development will require substantial resources. But it is crucial to increase the long-term potential of the poor.

Nitin Desai has done this before: he was Deputy Secretary-General of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, and his job then was to oversee the hugely complicated negotiations that led to the completion of Agenda 21, its main product. "Rio sketched out the road map, but now we need to give precise destinations and departure and arrival times, and to identify the resources that will get us there. A critical issue is to take the many good projects that have emerged since Rio and to scale them up, particularly in poverty eradication. Many things are linked to this: water, sanitation, healthy living environments, sustainable livelihoods."

For Nitin Desai it is clear that poverty alleviation will be the main theme for the WSSD. This means, above all else, assuring *sustainable livelihoods* for the quarter of humanity who are virtually destitute. That is about the same number of people that were actually alive at the beginning of the 20th century. There is destitution in villages and cities alike. Overcoming this is probably the greatest task for the world community at the start of the new millennium.

"In Rio the primary concern was environmental and biodiversity protection. Now the main issue is to identify and



Nitin Desai

implement the right sort of development. In the last ten years there has been a substantial process of convergence. Countries in the South know that sustainable development is necessary, but they need enabling processes. This means important initiatives such as transfer of clean energy technology and practical methods for implementing resource efficiency. But currently we don't have international agencies that can deal with these important matters."

In the spacious 23rd floor office at 2 UN Plaza, Nitin Desai sketches out his vision of a very busy 2002. A crucial issue will be to keep up the pressure on governments to perform. He points out that he is particularly impressed with the commitment shown by the non-governmental organisations. The people who work for them are always underpaid, always working late into the night, but their determination to change – or save – the world has become immensely influential.

Says Nitin Desai: "After Johannesburg the world will be reformed, but will it be better? The critical issue will be to assure that governments will deliver. At present their commitments beyond the WSSD are uncertain. We need to strengthen the mechanisms of accountability. That would be a major achievement of the Summit."

Herbert Girardet

Herbert Girardet, Chairman of the Schumacher Society, is a journalist, author and documentary film maker.

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

What's in a Name?

When members and friends ask me about our work, more often than not they challenge me about our successive name changes. These have clearly left some people a bit bemused. So in our annual report and in this article I am trying to set out clearly what has led the Executive Committee to adopt a series of name changes corresponding to the different phases of our growth and development.

We started life in 1987 as UNEP-UK, the UK National Committee for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), originally housed within IIED. In 1992 the Rio Earth Summit brought the environment and development agendas closer together, and it became natural to expand our activities to include this joint program. We accordingly became UNED-UK, the United Nations Environment and Development-UK Committee. We remained the UK focal point for UNEP, and in 1993 we became the first northern focal point for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Subsequently,

UNED-UK Committee became the natural UK focal point for stakeholder engagement with the work of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, commonly known as the CSD.

After the Rio Earth Summit, the secretariat was generously given houseroom by the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UNA-UK), and in legal terms we remain to this day a subsidiary of UNA and have benefited greatly from their network of support and financial oversight.

In the last three years we have found ourselves increasingly drawn into a wider international role. We have been asked to facilitate the engagement and participation of stakeholders around the world in a series of national and international meetings concerned with sustainable development. This has led to an increased demand for our briefing material, analyses of issues, and presence at key events. Increasingly, it became clear that this international activity could not be guided exclusively by an Executive Committee of UK stakeholders, whose primary concern was with UK interactions with the international process. The name United Nations Environment and Development-UK Committee was also something of a stumbling block to the development of our international work, since it conveyed the impression that we might approach international work with a UK perspective or bias.

To address the substance of this concern we established an International Advisory Board to guide the international work. This well-balanced and representative group has played an invaluable part during the year in helping to ensure that we secured input and engagement from a broad range of stakeholder groups from around the world, and that our contribution to the various international debates and meetings has been well-rounded and highly regarded. At the same time we adopted the name UNED Forum for our international work, in order to make clear that we were aiming to take an international, rather than a UK, perspective in that arm of our work, while retaining the name UNED-UK Committee for our UK work.

Out of the frying pan into the fire. During the last year it became clear that the name UNED Forum was itself causing confusion in some quarters, by implying that our work had been officially recognized by the United Nations as the main

channel of communication with stakeholders around the world on sustainable development issues. This of course was not the case, but we were sensitive to the concerns that had been expressed. Therefore after an extensive consultation with our International Advisory Board, the UN, and other interested parties around the world, we identified a different name for our international activity – “*Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future*.”

The Brundtland Report of 1987, “*Our Common Future*,” was the first to articulate the concept of sustainable development in a powerful and eloquent way, and the Centre for Our Common Future – under the energetic direction of the late Chip Lindner – was the most effective international body uniting stakeholders for sustainable development at the time of the Rio Summit, and during the 1990s. So the new name links us to some distinguished predecessors. Mrs. Brundtland herself was delighted that we should adopt this new name, as was Ashok Khosla, former Chairman of the Centre for Our Common Future. With this support and encouragement it was decided that from the beginning of 2002 “*Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future*” would replace the name UNED Forum for our international activities.

I am sorry that it has all been so complicated, and that we have had to confuse our friends with so many changes. If it was not such an obvious hostage to fortune I would conclude this article by promising on behalf of the Executive Committee and the International Advisory Board that we will have no more name changes for a good many years to come. But it is certainly our intention to put these changes behind us, and to concentrate all our efforts on promoting effective stakeholder engagement in the process of building more sustainable development in the UK and around the world. We rely on the support and partnership of all our friends and members to help make this a reality both in the run up to Johannesburg, and in the implementation stage thereafter.

Derek Osborn
Chair, Stakeholder Forum

GOVERNMENT

Partnerships for Delivery: The Prime Minister's Sectoral Initiatives for WSSD

In March 2001, the Prime Minister challenged “CEOs from key sectors such as water, energy, tourism, finance and forestry, together with the leaders of NGOs, to work to develop innovative strategies in these areas to promote sustainability” as part of UK's preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), since, the Governments alone cannot deliver sustainable development. The meaningful engagement of business and other elements of civil society is therefore very essential.

Following the Prime Minister's challenge, partnerships for delivery have been established within each of the five sectors viz water, energy, tourism, finance and forestry. These partnerships vary with regard to the range of stakeholders involved

and the scope of their activities, but together provide a range of examples of how partnerships can help deliver sustainable development.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is working with the financial services sector in two areas: with the Corporation of London to develop the London Principles of Sustainable Finance which aim to significantly increase consideration of the sustainability impact of investment, lending and risk management activities among mainstream financial service organisations; and with the FORGE group of banks and insurance companies to develop management and reporting guidelines on Corporate Social Responsibility for the financial sector.

UK Government's sustainable energy initiative is being developed jointly with the recently launched UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy (UKBCSE). They will be hosting a major conference in April to take this agenda forward in partnership with Government and civil society groups.

The Partnering for Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation

initiative is a project involving Government, civil society and the private sector in the UK and Africa. These partners are working together with the aim of developing and implementing innovative approaches to capacity building and identifying innovative financing arrangements for water supply and sanitation services directed at the poor in small towns and peri-urban areas of African cities. Preliminary discussions have begun between the UK partners and South Africa, Nigeria and Uganda.

The Sustainable Tourism Initiative involves over forty organisations: tour operators, NGOs and government. The tour operators involved represent the majority of UK outbound tourism. All stakeholders are committed to creating a step-change in sustainable tourism practices and to achieve a measurable improvement in the social and environmental performance of the UK outbound tourism industry. The partners in the initiative have developed an Action Plan that includes work in destination countries, consumer engagement in the UK and the creation of practical tools for implementing sustainable tourism practice. Discussions are currently under way regarding the creation of a new organisation to lead the implementation of this Action Plan.

The forestry sector initiative includes the development of a sectoral sustainability strategy, a government statement on sustainable forestry that will form part of the UK's national forest programme together with the UK Forestry Standard and the Forestry Strategies for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Working with small woodland owners, it will implement measures to: increase the uptake of UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) certification, prevent the importation of illegally logged timber and fulfil the Government's commitment to seek to purchase timber products from sustainably managed sources.

In addition to the five initiatives, the UK government is actively engaging with the wider business community, both in the UK and elsewhere, to ensure that they are able to participate in a meaningful way in the Summit and its outcomes.

Stakeholder involvement

As already indicated, the five sectoral initiatives vary with regard to stakeholder involvement. Government and the private sector are involved in each case. Wider civil society involvement ranges from active consultation to true multistakeholder partnership. All are "coalitions of the willing" with the different partners present by mutual agreement amongst all involved.

Role of the initiatives in the international preparations for the Summit

The first substantive international intergovernmental discussions on the Summit (PrepCom 2) were held in New York at the end of January. The first week comprised a multi-stakeholder dialogue that then fed into the intergovernmental segment in the second week. These discussions broadly endorsed the view that there will be three formal outcomes from WSSD at Johannesburg: a political statement agreed by all member countries of the United Nations; a high level implementation plan also agreed by all members and a series of so-called "Type 2" outcomes, partnerships between governments and with civil society for the delivery of sustainable development that require the assent of all partners but not all members of the UN. The UK sectoral initiatives will be registered as "Type 2" outcomes and therefore form part of the official record of and output from Johannesburg.

What's next?

The initiatives are at varying stages of development but will continue to be actively pursued between now and the Summit. The Prime Minister is taking a continued and active interest in their development, demonstrated by his hosting a meeting of participants in November 2001. Together with our domestic and intergovernmental preparations, these sectoral initiatives are an important part of UK preparations for the Summit and a way of showing our commitment to the process and its outcomes.

For more details contact : Ed.Mitchell@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Ed Mitchell, Business Adviser, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

DEFRA the Lead Government Department for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Created in June 2001, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, and the Environment Protection and Wildlife Divisions of the former Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has responsibility for environment, agriculture, food, fisheries, animal health, wildlife and other related issues in the UK.

This new department has placed sustainable development as the overarching theme for its own activities, and promotes sustainable development across Whitehall through its Sustainable Development Unit. DEFRA is the lead department for the UK's domestic and international preparations for WSSD, and a dedicated WSSD team has been set up in the Environment Protection Strategy Division, to promote the Summit in the UK. It works with groups from all sectors of civil society, business, local authorities, other Government departments and the Devolved Administrations to raise awareness of the Summit. Internationally the department is taking part in the official UN WSSD preparatory processes.

In the UK, DEFRA is working with NGO's to promote the Summit, including WWF, and the RSPB, and with Stakeholder Forum for our Common Future's UNED-UK Committee, a focal point for multi-stakeholder preparations for WSSD. In addition, a dedicated website at www.sustainable-development.gov.uk gives details of UK preparations, including how to get involved with events leading up to the Summit and information on future online debates.

For more information on the UK Government's preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, visit www.sustainable-development.gov.uk, or visit DEFRA online at www.defra.gov.uk.

Elaine Connolly

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'From Rio to Johannesburg' – Local Government's Input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Delegates from local authorities met with representatives of central government, NGOs, and the national and international bodies who will be speaking for local government in Johannesburg, at Local Government House in London on 24 January. The conference was organised by the Local Government Association and the Local Government International Bureau to brief local authorities in England and Wales on the importance of the Summit and to give them an opportunity to express their views.

The speakers at the conference were:

Michelle Cameron from the team in DEFRA (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), preparing for the Summit

Mike Ashley, Director of the Local Government International Bureau

Derek Osborn, Chair, Stakeholder Forum

Dr Bob Evans, South Bank University (Reporting on the LASALA project evaluating Local Agenda 21 in Europe)

Kaarin Taipale, Chair, ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives)

Cllr Ken Thornber CBE, Leader Hampshire County Council

Cllr Ross Willmott, Leader Leicester City Council

There was a general recognition that Local Agenda 21 (LA 21) had been one of the more successful outputs of the Rio Summit, and that considerable progress had been made since 1992. Bob Evans reported that the LASALA (Local Authority Self-Assessment of Local Agenda 21) research project had shown LA 21 to be "excellent value for money"! However there was frustration that more progress need to be made in integrating sustainable development into the mainstream of local authority work.

Key issues which came up during the day included:

- The importance of moving on from plans to actions
- Highlighting and sharing good practice
- The need for national government to be clearer about the expectation that community strategies, under the Local Government Act 2000, should be focused on sustainable development
- The value of links between local authorities in England and Wales and local authorities in countries in the South
- The tension between the regulation of international trade and the need for sustainable procurement policies.

Future work on linking English and Welsh local government into the Summit is being lead by the Local Government International Bureau.

For more details contact Alison Miller on alison.miller@lga.gov.uk or log on to www.lga.gov.uk

The Business Voice on Sustainable Development

Promoting economic growth to provide for a growing world population, while minimizing the impact of human activities on a delicate planet is one of the greatest challenges of our time. A challenge which will be tackled at this year's World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

Recognizing the importance of this summit, and determined to help in the hunt for solutions, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development has established Business Action for Sustainable Development (BASD) – an initiative that seeks to ensure business is afforded its rightful place in the summit process.

BASD is supported by business organizations representing small, medium and large companies from industrial sectors throughout the world. It will be demonstrating the concrete results that come from an openness to partnership with other players in a wide variety of sustainable development initiatives; and a commitment to openness and accountability all round.

The initiative has three main goals. It aims to ensure that the voice of business is fully taken into account in the preparations for the conference; it plans to identify concrete areas for action

where business can play a constructive role; and it wants to demonstrate that business is already actively engaged in a host of initiatives or partnerships to promote sustainable development.

From adversarial 'positioning' to co-operation

Put simply, our message going into the World Summit is that business is not the problem, but rather, part of the solution. And I believe we have a positive story to tell.

In what has been coined the 'Rio decade', the ten years since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, there has been a paradigm shift in the way in which business does business. Companies have moved away from perceiving the environment and sustainable development as risk factors to seeing opportunities and sources of competitive advantage.

Another key development is that, 10 years ago, neat lines could be drawn between the various sectors of society. Business was business, government was government, and NGOs were NGOs. Now roles overlap and concerns and objectives are often shared. Further, as the magnitude and complexity of social and environmental problems grow, they exceed the institutional and economic capabilities of any single sector to deal with. These trends have prompted a shift from

adversarial 'positioning' to, in many cases, cooperation to create a lasting difference.

This is the essence of BASD, recognizing that sustainable development requires commitment, shared responsibility and actions from all. We can manage cooperatively what we cannot manage individually.

The business contribution

In the last few months, BASD has rightly asked itself what a successful outcome of Johannesburg would be. This is difficult to define, but perhaps the main objective should be to demonstrate that business, in partnership with other stakeholders, has a full part to play in the achievement of sustainable development.

Success, therefore, from a business point of view, would be that non-business stakeholders attending, whether from national governments, local governments, communities, labor organizations, NGOs leave Johannesburg saying "We have seen

examples of how business is contributing and we see the constructive role that it plays. We would like to work with business to see how we can spread the good examples and make them even more effective and relevant." For us in business, we will see, after open discussion and even criticism, how what we think are our best examples could be made better and multiplied, and how we can contribute even more to making the world a more stable, sustainable and prosperous place for all its citizens.

All in all, business is well positioned not just to go to Johannesburg, but also to present a united front, give valuable input and truly help create a lasting positive impact.

More information can be found on the BASD website:

www.basd-action.net

**Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, Chairman
Business Action for Sustainable Development (BASD)**

NGO NEWS

Be the Change!

A paper-recycling plant in India, a biogas plant in Pakistan, an inoculation campaign in rural Turkey etc, are some of the ambitious projects conceived and carried out by young people, as part of 'Be the Change!' program. **Be the Change!** is *Peace Child International's* youth-led sustainable development Action Programme which aims to empower young people around the world to 'be the change they want to see in the world.' (Mahatma Gandhi). Under this initiative, youth are encouraged to identify the change they would like to see in their community and then do something to help meet it. *Peace Child International* provides financial support and advice.

Be the Change! was born out of the Millennium Young People's Congress, a massive gathering of over 600 youth (held at Hawaii in October 1999), during which they identified their priorities for the future.

The response to this programme has been incredible. In just over two years, it has received more than 170 project proposals from youth in over 60 countries. The projects cover a wide variety of issues – from the environment and education to HIV/AIDS and poverty reduction. For instance, one of Africa's biggest problems is being tackled with a little innovation and lots of sunshine. In recent years, deforestation has become a major issue in Africa as people cut down trees for fuel. In Gambia, this problem is partly addressed by tackling the fuel issue. Rescue Mission Gambia is a youth group that focuses on development issues. Under a project called *Promotion of Solar Cookers*, they're encouraging people to use sunshine instead of trees to cook their food.

Young people under 25 are encouraged to propose projects under this programme, with a stipulation of budget less than \$5,000 US. The program operates an adopt-a-project scheme. Under this initiative, schools, clubs, organisations and corporations can link with projects happening elsewhere in the world. When a project is adopted, the adopter and the project proposer are put in contact with each other. This can be through e-mail, post, phone or any other appropriate method. Once that link is made, there are lots of ways adopters can help make Be the Change! projects happen. Overall, it is an in-

credible learning opportunity and gives people in very different parts of the world, who would otherwise never meet, the chance to work together to accomplish something positive.

For more details contact Janet Iltott,

*Coordinator, Be the Change! on Tel: + 44 1763 274 459
or log on to www.peacechild.org*

Momentum Builds in UK and UN for Tobin Tax

The campaign to introduce the 'Tobin tax', has been visibly growing in momentum in the last few months, and is now firmly attached to the UN agenda for the Earth Summit 2002. The Tobin tax is a small tax on international currency transactions. The name 'Tobin tax' and the original concept derives from James Tobin, Nobel-laureate economist at Yale University. British charity 'War on Want' believes that if it is introduced by Governments around the world it will calm financial markets and generate billions of dollars for international development.



Photo: Morris Carpenter

Telling Gordon Brown about 'a tax to shout about'



Photo: Ben Blackall

Tobin tax campaigners at Glastonbury

In retrospect, around \$2 trillion dollars a day is exchanged on world financial markets and 95% is speculative. A Tobin tax of 0.25% would make most transactions unprofitable and thus calm markets. It is believed, that if the tax can be enacted by national legislatures, followed by multilateral cooperation for effective enforcement, the revenue can be used for global priorities: basic environmental and human needs. It is believed to help tame currency market volatility and restore national economic sovereignty and avert markets crash like the one in East Asia in 1998 when ten million people were thrown into poverty.

The initiative now enjoys the backing of a number of governments across the world, including France, whose parliament recently passed a law authorising its implementation. A shift is taking place in the UK, too. A new openness to look at innovative sources of funding development. UK Chancellor, Gordon Brown, recently said: "it is right that we examine the practicalities of these [Tobin tax and Arms tax] proposals".

The Tobin Tax Network, founded at the end of last year, is bringing together a wide spectrum of charities, campaign agencies, trade unions and faith groups to show how broad support is in the UK for an immediate implementation of this 'Robin Hood' tax. A broad declaration aimed at pushing the UK government position at major UN events like WSSD on the CTT is available for groups to sign.

For more information contact David Hillman at the Tobin Tax Network on 020 7620 1111 or email dhillman@waronwant.org or visit www.tobintax.org.uk

Strategic Attentions: Managing Knowledge Networks for Sustainable Development

www.iisd.org/pdf/2001/networks_strategic_intentions.pdf

The International Institute for Sustainable Development has published a book, based on five years of experience with knowledge networks. This book has been written for practitioners who are working with different modules of the individual and institutional collaboration, and tries to capture the details of network operations and management and what is required to help knowledge networks achieve their potential. The authors claim that in the course of their work they have come to value the potential of networks to foster changes in policy and practice, supportive of sustainable development, beyond what single institution would be able to accomplish. The book focuses on one model – the formal knowledge network – as particularly effective in moving the sustainable development agenda forward. The authors see in this model a more structured and outcome oriented approach than some other models for collaboration.

Source: eg/volume 8/number 2/February 2002

Search is on to Find Sustainable Development Leaders

As the World Summit in Johannesburg looms large on the international calendar, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has launched a search for the best examples worldwide of corporate sustainable development for the 'World Summit Business Awards for Sustainable Development Partnerships'. The award which is joint initiative of ICC and UNEP, aims to bring recognition to effective multi-stakeholder partnerships, designed to pursue and achieve sustainable development. The objective of the Awards is to demonstrate how multi-stakeholder partnerships can contribute effectively to sustainable development in support of the key dimensions: economic, social and environmental. The Awards will highlight concrete actions taken by business in partnership with other stakeholders, and raise awareness of these achievements.

A similar initiative by ICC/UNEP in 2000, 'the Millennium

awards', attracted nominations from companies all over the world, from breweries in Peru to cement factories in Israel and the winners included a major Japanese electric power utility, an aluminium producer in Bahrain and a printing firm in England. (A complete profile of each of the winners can be found on the ICC website – www.icc-environment.org)

This year's award is not just looking for company initiatives on their own but for those which have entered into partnerships, for instance, the Lafarge cement company which has entered agreement with WWF to reduce emissions.

The selection criteria have been agreed between ICC and UNEP. The International Selection Panel will be chaired by Lord Holme of Cheltenham, and will comprise representatives of ICC, UNEP and other leading non-governmental organisations and international agencies. No type, size or category of company, institution or partnership will be excluded from the Award process.

More details on http://www.iccwbo.org/sdcharter/news_archives/2002/award.asp

WOMEN'S GROUPS

From Rio to Johannesburg, The Women's Caucus Pushes Gender and Rights for Sustainable Development

On the road to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg in September 2002, women from around the world have called for "the full range of human rights, with specific attention to women" to be promoted and protected.

In a statement at the Second Preparatory Committee meeting (PrepCom II) at United Nations Headquarters last January, the Women's Caucus demanded that the outcome of the Summit ensure women's full participation in all decisions, policies, and programs related to sustainable development. The statement, signed by more than 30 women's organizations and networks, also called for the implementation of gender mainstreaming in all institutions – governmental and non-governmental – that work in the field of sustainable development.

The Women's Caucus is a forum for monitoring the official discussions, sharing experiences and strategizing to impact the policy documents being negotiated. During PrepCom II, up to 40 women met each day, organizing in small groups around specific issues including peace; food production and land; HIV/AIDS; energy, water and other global public goods; and tactical planning for future WSSD meetings. Other small groups worked to redefine and create a new vision of sustainable development using a human rights framework, and to build an understanding of how unsustainable production and consumption cause the impoverishment of people and the environment.

The Caucus demanded concrete actions to address education and training; public awareness-raising; demilitarization and the redistribution of military funds; equal land rights; access to micro-finance; implementation of CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women); and gender budgeting.

Born at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Women's Caucus proved to be an important space for women's organizations to participate in the UN's proceedings. A watershed in civil society participation, the Women's Caucus developed a lobbying document, *Women's Action Agenda 21*, which advocates used to successfully impact the final text of Agenda 21, the summit's official plan of action. The final text of Agenda 21 included 172 references to women and, for the first time, identified women as a 'Major Group' to be included in the implementation process.

However, since Rio, the global system of economic imbalances that sustain impoverishment and environmental degradation around the world has not changed, and new pressures have emerged in widening globalization and new technologies such as the internet that increase global interconnectedness. Women are asking why the commitments made at Rio were not implemented, and how we can make sure that the next ten years see concrete progress for the environmental, social and economic aims of sustainable development.

With 65,000 planned participants, the Johannesburg Summit will be the largest conference ever held on the African continent – and women will continue to organize to ensure that their voices are heard during and after the event. Plans are being developed for a Women's Tent in the spirit of Rio's *Planeta Femea*, as a space for sharing experiences, and concrete

proposals on sustainable development; and for a Peace Train carrying activists from Uganda to Johannesburg. And beyond the Summit, women worldwide will be armed with an updated version of *Women's Action Agenda 21 – Women's Action Agenda For a Peaceful and Healthy Planet 2015*, to be launched in Johannesburg.

For regular updates on women's caucus activities around WSSD, send a blank email message to:
WEDOSustDev2002-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Irene Dankleman and Rebecca Pearl, Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)

CONFERENCES



Mike Barry, Environmental Systems Manager, Marks & Spencer

It's Your Choice! Helping to Make Sustainability a Reality: A High-Level Workshop at Imperial College, London

On 20 February, 170 delegates gathered at Imperial College to discuss, debate and come away with concrete actions on making sustainability in the UK a reality.

The event, part of UK preparations for Earth Summit 2002, was part of the UNED-UK Committee/Imperial College Sustainable Production and Consumption Programme. It was a true representation of how multi-stakeholder processes can bring together people with their own agendas and priorities to take the first step in moving forward collectively. Stakeholder groups were well represented by all levels of society within the workshop issues of Food, Domestic Goods, Energy, Water and Transport.

Holding a multi-issue, multi-stakeholder process and high level workshop was always going to be a challenge, yet the high number of quality delegates that engaged in excellent discussions showed that it is most definitely very achievable. The day was a clear indicator that many are striving to move in the right direction.

The Chair, Andrew Blaza, opened the event with an inspiring brief to the proceedings, followed by presentations representing the producer, Christine Druly of Unilever, the retailer, Mike Barry of Marks & Spencer, and the consumer, Julia Hailes of ACCPE. They were followed by Tom Fox of IIED, speaking about the Race to The Top project.

Delegates then entered into the first of the workshop sessions to discuss, debate, and reach consensus on issues from the position papers that had been developed from initial round tables held in 2001 and posted on the UNED-UK Committee website. The workshop chairs' assignment was demanding to say the least, with thirty stakeholders in each group having their say on subjects very close to their heart. The task to decipher where consensus was reached fell upon group rapporteurs and chairs, with assistance from Imperial College MSc students, who were taking notes.

'Challenge Statement' presentations in the afternoon from Sir Brian Heap of the Royal Society and Tom Burke of Peace Child International (one of many young delegates) motivated the delegates to resume their dialogue. Two more hours of hard slogging in individual workshops was heavily rewarded when all delegates were finally brought back to the Great Hall where rapporteurs provided brief feedback on the days outcomes and the established actions.

Work is currently being completed on the feedback from each group, via the rapporteurs' notes on outcomes from each workshop. A summary will be available on the UNED-UK Committee website, and will be presented and discussed with the UK Government. The full report will be produced and taken to Earth Summit 2002 PrepCom III in New York.

We expect the report to illustrate the degree to which the UK is moving the sustainable production and consumption agenda forward, particularly in building partnerships between stakeholder groups. Following that, it is hoped that the workshop results will inform the thinking of Government as it plans UK contributions to Type I and Type II Summit outcomes.

A day when passionate NGOs agreed with multinationals over issues of the environment, society and the economy – surely not!

If you would like feedback from this event

or a copy of the overview please contact:

*Stephen Horrax, Sustainable Production Consumption
Programme Coordinator, Environmental Policy and
Management Group, Imperial College, Department of
Environmental Science and Technology, Fourth Floor RSM
Building, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2BP
Tel: 0207 594 9302 Stephen.horrax@ic.ac.uk*

It's Your Choice: Helping to Make Sustainability a Reality

*was funded in part by grants from Biffa, Marks and Spencer, RICS
Foundation, RMC Environment Fund, and Severn Trent plc.*

NEWS IN BRIEF

your wake up call

Young People Speaking On Behalf Of The Planet

Young People's Conference in Birmingham

April 7 to 12, 2002

The newly-opened 180 seat Young People's Parliament in Birmingham is the setting for a Conference which Stakeholder Forum's *Your Wake Up Call* is organising this April. The venue is part of Millennium Point, the millennium landmark building in the city centre, and is equipped for vote casting, video conferencing, video and audio webcasting, and much more besides. The delegates are aged between 13 and 18, and come from many different sectors of society and from many geographical areas throughout the UK and South Africa. They have been selected by a wide range of charities and NGOs (non-government organisations) from both countries. The charities are not only the well-known names from the environmental and development world, but also include many who look after, care for, and campaign on behalf of the rights of young people (examples being ChildLine and Fairbridge), and who hitherto have not linked up with those in the sustainable development network. There is therefore great excitement amongst all the groups that such a diverse collection of organisations and their young delegates are collectively putting forward a plan of action for their six-day visit to the World Summit On Sustainable Development. During their stay in

Birmingham, the young delegates will prepare their programme of events and activities which they will carry out in Johannesburg, when they are all there together for six days. There is huge enthusiasm amongst the young delegates in anticipation of their visits to Birmingham and Johannesburg, as there is within the organisations they represent. The delegates fully understand that they are expected to be involved in follow-up activities within their organisations after the Summit, which could include media interviews, projects, events, travel, presentations, exchange programmes, website activities, etc. to enthuse young people of a similar age about sustainable development issues and other outcomes from the Summit. We owe a considerable debt of gratitude to all these young delegates, whose efforts will encourage other young people and adults alike to think more clearly about the future. They will also provide a very exciting and positive demonstration of their practical commitment to the future they would like for the planet, for themselves, and for generations to follow. A full report of the Birmingham Conference will appear in the next edition of *Connections*.

*Winter 2001/2 Issue of **Connections** brought out an attractive 4-page pull-out on the Your Wake Up Call Programme.*

For further details and all queries, please contact Victoria or Sarah on:

0207 484 7928 or 0207 839 1784 • vccliffhodes@earthsummit2002.org • swilliams@earthsummit2002.org

Our World Web Challenges Pupils to Help Planet

WWF, the global environment network, has launched the *Our World* web site, offering a rare opportunity for pupils to have their say in one of the world's biggest and most important events this year – the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Our World's web site www.wwflearning.co.uk will lead teachers and pupils up to and through the Summit in August/September. They include exciting, interactive online activities for pupils, including a news magazine, quizzes, jigsaws, a chance to exhibit work and the opportunity to post messages for the Prime Minister to share with other world leaders. The main feature, however, will be the online debates, for which prizes include a top of the range digital camera, WWF prizes for pupils and vouchers towards education resources.

The Primary Trading Places Internet Debate will take place from **4 to 15 March**, 2002. A second debate, Taking Action, will take place from 23 September to 4 October 2002. The first debate looks at fair trade and how actions taken locally have global impacts. The follow-on debate will take place after the summit and discuss and reflect some of the issues discussed by world leaders and what actions need to be taken to ensure a more sustainable future.

The Secondary *Our World or Theirs* debate will take place from **29 April to 31 May**, 2002. This will focus on how we can all move towards a world where the quality of life is better for everyone. A second follow-on debate will run from the end of August to the end of September.

*For further information,
please contact:*

*Simon Forrester, tel: 020 7921 5443
email: simon@fcom.demon.co.uk*

**We will bring
the details of the winners of the contest
in the next issue of *Connections***



State of World 2002

Worldwatch Institute, a Washington D.C. based research organization, released in January, '*State of the World 2002*'. This special edition of *State of the World* which has the Foreword by Kofi Annan, U.N. Secretary-General, what has been achieved since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio. This nineteenth edition of the *State of the World* series, researched and written by Worldwatch Institute's interdisciplinary team, spells out priorities for the Johannesburg Summit in seven key areas: agriculture, energy policy and climate change, chemicals, international tourism, population growth, resource-based conflicts and global governance.



*For further information contact: Leanne Mitchell
Worldwatch Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington DC 20036*

*Tel: (202) 452-1992 ext.527 Email: lmitchell@worldwatch.org
Web: www.worldwatch.org*

Cutting Edge Construction: UK Best Practice Exposed for the Earth Summit

The construction Industry and the RICS Foundation are holding a one day conference at the RICS, 12 Great George Street, London SW1 on Tuesday, 14 May 2002. The conference – 'Cutting Edge Construction: UK best Practice Exposed for the Earth Summit' – aims to be used as a spring board to the UK construction industry's contribution to the Earth Summit.

The September 2002 Earth Summit provides a unique opportunity for the UK construction Industry to demonstrate how inspired development can help cool down some of the physical and political hot spots fuelling global warming and political unrest.

Many exciting ideas have been developed to meet the challenge of global warming and globalisation. The CIC have organised this conference to enable leading practitioners and thinkers to publicise their new work and contribute to the Earth Summit in Johannesburg.

CIC are inviting expressions of interest from people who wish to submit projects for the Earth Summit, the London conference and a virtual publication of UK Case studies.

To submit a project (application form on request) or reserve tickets for the May 14 conference please contact Mick Kippel-Arden at mkippeel-arden@cic.org.uk or on 02076378692. Special discounted tickets will be made available for young construction professional, courtesy of a number of key industry sponsors.



Beacon Projects honoured at a Barbican Centre exhibition

Drive for Sustainability is Beacon of Success

The UNED-UK Committee/Imperial College *It's Your Choice! Making Sustainability a Reality* high-level workshop on 20 February 2002 was the culmination of a process which is one of eighteen projects funded by the RMC Environment Fund to be designated as a 'Beacon' project.

UNED-UK's work is part of the UK's preparations for the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (Earth Summit 2002), and has been awarded beacon status under the category of 'Sustainability Through Education'. Such projects include the provision of information and activities that result in a learning outcome, which in turn lead to changes in behaviour, ultimately contributing to sustainability. Through disseminating information and highlighting best practice, they enable others to learn from their successes.

Launching the Beacon initiative, Sacha Grigg, Grants Team

Coordinator at the RMC Environment Fund stated, "The Fund is delighted to be able to assign Beacon status to those projects which have really stood out and offered excellence in terms of environmental and public benefit. These Beacon projects truly demonstrate the value of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme and complement the strategic aims of the RMC Environment Fund."

Sacha Grigg commented on the UNED-UK work, "This project is part of a bigger programme to promote sustainability in production and consumption, the outcomes of which will have a major global impact. Through a participatory approach and widespread dissemination, the project will make a contribution to awareness of and commitment to issues of sustainability and the environment."

Beacon projects were officially announced at the Fund's three-year celebration event held on Tuesday 26 February, 2001, at the Barbican Centre, London, and are featured in the Fund's Beacon Projects brochure, which is intended to provide guidance and inspiration to applicants.

RMC Environment Fund

Established in November 1998, the RMC Environment Fund is a grant giving fund which passes over £2 million of funding per annum to environmental and community based projects through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. The Fund is managed by The Environment Council and supported by RMC Group p.l.c.

For everything you need to know about the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (Earth Summit 2002), whether you want to attend, express your opinion or just keep yourself informed, log on to:

**www.johannesburgearthsummit.org • www.earthsummit2002.org
www.stakeholderforum.org**

Diary

UK Diary Dates

● 8–9 April 2002

'International Sustainable Development Conference'

Manchester, UK

Organized by: ERP Environment
The meeting will address issues such as corporate social responsibility, natural resource management, public participation, and globalization.

Contact: Elaine White;
tel: +44-1274-530-408; fax: 530-409;
e-mail: elaine@erpenvironment.co.uk;
Internet: <http://www.erpenvironment.org>

● 7–12 April

'Your Wake Up Call conference'

Millennium Point, Birmingham

A residential programme involving 180 young people from UK & South Africa
Contact: wakeup@earthsummit2002.org;
tel: 0207484 7928
Internet: www.your-wake-up-call.org

● 2 May 2002

'Sustainable Development UK 2002 Conference'

QEII Conference Centre, London

The conference will explore sustainable development practice, policy and delivery, focusing on the UK's own sustainable development strategy, in the build up to the WSSD.

For more information visit:
<http://www.sduk.org/>

● 5 June 2002 (World Environment Day)

'Earth Summit 2002 Rally'

Birmingham

This UNED-UK Committee Conference is a joint event with Birmingham City Council (twinned with Johannesburg), to celebrate sustainability in the UK and the August 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Contact: info@earthsummit2002.org

International Diary Dates

● 22–31 March 2002

'UNEP Global Youth Forum – GYF2002'

Copenhagen, Denmark

Hosted by Danish organization Nature and Youth. The forum will be a youth event leading up to the WSSD. It will build on the Youth Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development that was held in Borgholm, Sweden in May 2001.

For more information contact:
e-mail: theodore.oben@unep.org or
landskontoret@natur-og-ungdom.dk

● 25 March – 5 April 2002

'Third preparatory session for the 2002 WSSD'

UN HQ, New York

It is expected to produce the first draft of a "review" document and elements of the future work programme of the CSD.

Contact: Andrey Vasilyev, DESA; tel: +1-212-963-5949; fax: +1-212-963-4260;
e-mail: vasilyev@un.org; Major groups contact: Zehra Aydin-Sipos, DESA;
tel: +1-212-963-8811; fax: +1-212-963-1267; e-mail: aydin@un.org. Internet: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>

● 2–5 April 2002

'EURO-SUSTAIN conference/brokerage event'

Rhodos, Greece

The EURO-SUSTAIN initiative focuses on technologies and actions that lead toward sustainability. It is part of the EUREKA network, which involves industry and research institutes across Europe.

Contact: Nicolas Moussiopoulos, Professor and Laboratory Director Laboratory of Heat Transfer and Environmental Engineering, Box 483, Aristotle University GR-54006 Thessaloniki, Greece; tel: +30-31-996011; fax: +30-31-996012;
e-mail: moussio@aix.meng.auth.gr; internet: <http://aix.meng.auth.gr/lhtee/>

● 6–10 May 2002

'High Summit 2002 – International Conference around the continents' Highest Mountains'

Experts, policy makers and stakeholders from the mountainous areas of the different continents will meet from different sites to discuss most significant topics regarding today's mountain realities: water, culture, economy, risk, and policy.

Contact:
e-mail: evk2cnr.2002@montagna.org;
internet: <http://www.montagna.org/>

● 14–17 May 2002

'GEF NGO Consultations, Council Meetings and GEF Assembly'
Washington, DC

For more information contact:
GEF Secretariat; tel: 1-202-473-0508;
fax: +1-202-522-3240/3245; e-mail: secretariatofgef@worldbank.org ;
Internet: <http://www.gefweb.org>

● 19–22 May 2002

'World Ecotourism Summit'

Québec, Canada

The World Ecotourism Summit is expected to be the largest ever gathering of stakeholders involved in or affected by ecotourism.

For more information contact: Ecotourism

2002 Secretariat, tel: +1-418-692-1699;
fax: +1-418-692-5587; e-mail: ecotourism2002@jpd.com; internet: <http://www.bonjourquebec.com/ecotourisme/>

● 22–24 May 2002

'International Children's Conference on the Environment'

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

The conference is expected to bring together 800 children from 10 to 12 years of age from over 115 countries and produce a statement from children to the world leaders who will meet for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Contact: Theodore Oben, Children, Youth and Sport Programmes, UNEP, Nairobi; tel: +254-2-623262; e-mail: theodore.oben@unep.org; Internet: http://www.unep.org/children_youth/

● 27 May–7 June 2002

Fourth Preparatory Session for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development
Indonesia

It will include Ministerial and Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Segments, and is expected to result in elements for a concise political document to be submitted to the 2002 Summit.

Contact: Andrey Vasilyev, DESA, New York; tel: +1-212-963-5949;
e-mail: vasilyev@un.org; Major groups contact: Zehra Aydin-Sipos, DESA;
tel: +1-212-963-8811;
e-mail: aydin@un.org; Internet: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>

● 5–7 June 2002

'International meeting on Mountain Ecosystems'

Huaraz, Peru

Contact: Maria Cecilia Rozas;
e-mail: mrozas@rree.gob.pe;
Internet: <http://www.mtnforum.org/calendar/events/0206imma.htm>

● 17–22 June 2002

'6th Session of POPs-INC'

Geneva, Switzerland

This is the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Contact: tel: +41-22-917-8193; fax: +41-22-797-3460; e-mail: pops@unep.ch

● 22–26 June

'G-8 Summit'

Kananaskis, Canada

Contact: John Klassen, Summit Management Team; tel: +1-613-957-5555; fax: +1-613-941-6900;
e-mail: pm@pm.gc.ca

Useful Websites

STAKEHOLDER FORUM **www.stakeholderforum.org**

FOR EARTH SUMMIT 2002, NETWORK 2002,
ROADMAP TO 2002, BRIEFING PAPERS, ETC.
www.earthsummit2002.org

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)**

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PROCESSES (MSPs)
www.earthsummit2002.org/msp

ANPED
THE NORTHERN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY
www.anped.org

BIONET (BIODIVERSITY ACTION NETWORK):
www.igc.org/bionet

BRITISH OVERSEAS NGOS FOR DEVELOPMENT (BOND)
www.bond.org.uk

BUSINESS ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(BASD)
www.basd-action.net

CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL
www.consumersinternational.org

UN CSD SECRETARIAT
www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd.htm

UN CSD NGO STEERING COMMITTEE
www.csdngo.org/csdngo

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD
& RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA)
www.defra.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT (DFID)
www.dfid.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
www.doh.gov.uk/dhhome.htm

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
www.dti.gov.uk

EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN (ENB) & LINKAGES
www.iisd.ca/linkages

ECONET
www.igc.org/igc/gateway/enindex.html

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT
www.un.org/esa/ffd/index.html

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH UK
www.foe.co.uk

GLOBAL COMPACT
www.unglobalcompact.org

GOVERNMENTS ON THE WEB
www.gksoft.com/govt/en

GREENNET
NETWORKING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, PEACE,
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT
www.gn.apc.org

GREENPEACE
www.greenpeace.org

IDEA
IMPROVEMENT & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
www.idea.gov.uk/

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE
www.ipcc.ch

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A Vision for Our Common Future: The UK's Contribution to Earth Summit 2002

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As the pace quickened towards the August 2002 Johannesburg Summit, this high-profile stock-taking event was a part of UNED-UK Committee's multi-stakeholder UK Preparations for the *World Summit on Sustainable Development* – Earth Summit 2002. The event followed on from UNED-UK's March 2001 national conference, where ongoing multi-stakeholder working-groups were launched to prepare the UK for the Johannesburg Summit.

Ten months later, on the eve of the United Nations Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the *World Summit on Sustainable Development* – PrepCom II – in New York (January 28 to February 8, 2002 – where the key issues for the Summit began to crystallise), it was agreed to report back on national preparatory work to a broad audience of UK stakeholders. The day also provided an opportunity to make stakeholder views known, before teams of Civil Society stakeholders and Government officials departed for NY.

Keynote speakers, panellists, and delegates were challenged to address the questions:

- **What should Earth Summit 2002 be trying to achieve?**
- **How can Civil Society influence and ensure a progressive outcome for sustainable development in the UK and internationally?**
- **Can we have a UK multi-stakeholder position at Johannesburg?**
- **What is the UK Government's position as it leaves for PrepCom II?**
- **Can stakeholders have an effective joint-approach and propose a consensus on Sustainable Development in the UK?**
- **What is the future of the UK process beyond Earth Summit 2002?**

Attended by 300 delegates from a broad range of Civil Society stakeholder groups, keynote speakers included Derek Osborn, Chair of Stakeholder for Our Common Future, the Rt. Hon. John Gummer, MP, and Michael Meacher MP, Minister for the Environment. Jonathon Porritt, Chair of the UK Sustainable Development Commission, chaired an afternoon session where representatives from key stakeholder groups presented their visions and expectations in for the Summit.

Opening Remarks

Derek Osborn opened the conference by heralding the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development as an opportunity to push towards sustainable development, and to embrace the challenge to make sustainable development a reality with practical effect. He closed by offering the conference as '...a day for exchanging views, hearing from key players, and forming effective linkages, groupings and partnerships.'

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John Gummer and Derek Osborn open the day on an upbeat note

Morning Keynote Address

Rt. Hon. John Gummer, MP

'Sustainable development is two words which need to be carried together. We cannot ask people who are impoverished to embrace sustainability without the promise of development. We need to be practical and to do these things ourselves.'

The spirit of the day was set early-on by an inspiring keynote speech by **John Gummer**. Emphasising the need for a bottom-up approach to provide the foundation of any initiative arising from the WSSD, he endorsed the need to put practicality at the heart of what we ought to be doing. Confidence and energy must be placed in a process, which produces practical activities involving Government, business and all other stakeholder working together to achieve real change. Government appear, for the first time, to be united in its commitment to issues pertaining to sustainable development. However, there is still a need for this Government to acknowledge that sustainable development is something that the UK needs to do well in. It is the responsibility of stakeholders to ensure that Government holds true to such commitments. Between January and August 2002, the UK government must clearly identify what it is going to offer, deliver, and seek to achieve at Johannesburg.



Mr. Gummer addresses a sold-out house

Briefing on the UK Multi-Stakeholder Process

John Gordon, (UNED-UK Executive Committee Special Advisor for UK Preparations for Earth Summit 2002), gave a brief introduction to the multi-stakeholder process that UNED-UK Committee has been engaged in since September 2000. Opening with 'the legacy of Rio,' it was suggested that the UK

now needs to select a limited number of commitments made in Agenda 21, and take these forward to Johannesburg. Mr. Gordon emphasised that this take is too large to charge to Governments alone. To ensure that the Summit succeeds in progressing sustainable development at the national and international levels, responsibility falls to each sector of civil society to make a contribution to the preparations.

UNED-UK provides a neutral forum in which civil society – particularly but not limited to Agenda 21 stakeholders – can discuss sustainable development. Participants at these meetings are asked to focus on those issues where they can build consensus, leaving to one side those areas where they cannot agree. Priority issues and recommendations from these discussions, through UNED-UK Committee, are channelled into the UN preparatory process.

We have achieved a great deal to date. Seven dialogue groups are now fully functional, with in excess of three hundred interested parties contributing to the discussions. Talks so far have focused on priority issues, and have not, as yet, moved into the sphere of solutions, recommendations, or implementations. It is hoped that the coming together of so many different stakeholders will help encourage progress towards this new level of discussions.

Thanks were given to the UK Government, and in particular to the Environmental Protection International team at DEFRA for their continued support of the UNED-UK process.



John Gordon outlines the multi-stakeholder process that UNED-UK Committee has been engaged in since September 2000

Report on a Multi-Stakeholder Process

Chaired by **John Gordon**, the morning session was used to report back on the work of UNED-UK's seven multi-stakeholder dialogue groups. The aim of the session was to review the content of discussions so far, by outlining key priorities and recommendations from each group. After brief presentations by representatives from each working group, discussion was then opened up to the floor. This session was important in allowing delegates to identify priority issues, which they felt were absent from the discussion and should be included within the Agenda of the WSSD.



Report-back from the 7 dialogue groups

SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES

Herbert Girardet (The Schumacher Society) gave a clear representation of how discussions within this group have unfolded. Whilst acknowledging the



Herbert Girardet

importance of rural affairs, he determined that the groups' attention has been focused on urban sustainability within the UK. Sub-dialogues have been taking place within the group centred around; Awareness Raising and Public Engagement, Innovative Approaches to Planning, Liveability vs. Sustainability, and Strengthening Local Economies.

Responses from the floor focussed on the need for a more inclusive, people centred, bottom-up approaches to be taken towards sustainability initiatives at the local level. A clear concern exists that economic regeneration is being given priority at the expense of the rural and development aspects of sustainable development. Local authorities were challenge to ensure continued recognition and involvement of the environment at the local level, and to create spaces in which the inclusion of sustainability can take place. Experience sharing and the dissemination of information from the local to national and international levels were outlined as being essential.



Chris Church

Chris Church of the Community Development Foundation focussed on poverty and development. He talked about the enabling of neighbourhood renewable and local action worldwide as key mechanisms to reduce poverty and strengthening civil society. As the agenda for

WSSD unfolds, development and poverty issues are featuring with increasing frequency. Considerable support was offered by delegates for the formal inclusion of these issues into the Sustainable Cities & Communities dialogue group.

ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Garry Foster (Southampton Environment Centre) presented the core work of the Energy & Climate Change group. The aim of discussions is *"to inspire the government with a compelling vision for a sustainable energy future created in full consultation with UK civil society."* Dialogues have so far focused on four key sub-topics:

1. National awareness raising in terms of global warming and energy policy response
2. Building sustainable energy policies and capacities at local level
3. The nurturing and rapid growth of a UK sustainable energy industry

4. UK global policies and intermediate technology initiatives in developing countries

A priority issue arising from the floor was a reduction in green house gas emissions. Debate entered into whether or not the 60% reduction target determined by the Royal Society on Environmental Pollution was a realistic and achievable figure. It was suggested that a framework to achieve any reduction would need to include the setting of goals and targets, national emission limits, and issues of contraction and convergence. The General Agreements on Trade and Services (GATS) were discussed in the context of restricting national regulations at all levels.

Jonathon Isherwood

(DULAS Ltd) gave a brief overview of the priorities and recommendations from the group relating to renewable energy in the UK. Market demand is essential to drive renewable energy technologies forward; clearly supporting economic and fiscal policies have a critical role in creating this demand.



Jonathon Isherwood

Civil Society must be shown why they should make the shift away from non-renewable resources, and the urgency of this transition must be stressed. The setting of binding local and national targets will help. A number of concrete points of action are required from the UK Government prior to the WSSD, including a reform of National Energy Transfer Agreements, measures to support the spread of and implementation of good practice, and an intention to address training and skills deficits.

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION & CONSUMPTION

Andrew Blaza (Imperial College/UNED-UK Committee) outlined the key issues and priorities arising from the round table discussions, which were held in 2001, as the basis for the high-level workshop, *"It's Your Choice! Helping to Make Sustainability a Reality,"* which subsequently took place on 20 February 2002. The objective of this process is to *"...provide Government and UK major groups with an agreed framework of practical actions for changing production and consumption patterns, at National levels of UK society, which would be carried forward to Preparatory Committee Meetings (PrepComs), the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and beyond."* The groups so far have focused their discussions on food,



Andrew Blaza

domestic goods, tourism, transport, water, and energy. Within each of these areas a number of crosscutting themes have been considered, especially solid waste management, education, consumer awareness, and the need to draw direct links between production, consumption and disposal.

Comments received from delegates centred around education, awareness raising and 'green' consumer information, the role of young people, the role of advertising agencies, mode of production, and the need to place greater emphasis on reducing levels of consumption. It was agreed that these would all be given full consideration at the 20 February workshop.

POPULATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Catherine Budgett-Meakin (UNED-UK Committee coordinator of the Population & Sustainability group) described how population issues have not been profiled thus far in the WSSD preparatory process, as many see any quantitative concern about human numbers as intrinsically coercive, or as invariably leading to less emphasis on other important measures to relieve poverty and the promotion of social justice. Discussions within this working group have focused on human and reproductive rights for women, awareness raising, increased access to family planning resources, and reproductive health care.

This well-rounded presentation induced a range of responses from the floor. Delegates vigorously pursued the theme of international finance, conveying beliefs that current policies work against the health education structure. A call came to address economic migration. The group was urged to not to focus purely on numbers, rather, human rights and demographics should be central part of the debate.

UK IN THE WIDER WORLD

Georgina Ayre (UNED-UK Committee UK Preparations for Earth Summit 2002 Coordinator), reflected on the work of the dialogue group, whilst also addressing concerns raised from the floor during the day's earlier presentations, which centred around the compatibility between globalisation and sustainable development.

As Discussions within the UK in the Wider World group straddle some of the most controversial and contemporary possible issues for the WSSD agenda,

these issues are being dealt with under three broad headings:

1. Poverty & Development
2. Peace & National Security
3. Globalisation & Sustainable Development



Georgina Ayre

Priority issues and recommendations arising from this group evoked an energetic response from the floor. At the centre of many concerns was the connection to be drawn between environmental/social problems and nation/international conflict. Equally so, a number of delegates felt passionately that trade agreements (arms, food, etc) and the role of the World Trade Organisation need to be addressed at the WSSD. The call for radical reforms in these areas was clearly audible, in order to enable global progress towards

sustainability. The continuing debate over whether or not globalisation can be reconciled with sustainable development continued. Recommendations for a global framework to manage globalisation in a way that works for sustainable development was met with fierce opposition from some who are strongly opposed to globalisation. This debate remains without consensus.

BIODIVERSITY & NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

Speaking on behalf of the Biodiversity & Natural Resources Conservation group, **Dr. Chris Spray** (Northumbrian Water), expressed concern that biodiversity is not being included within UK Government Summit preparations as a stand-alone subject. Equally so, it does not appear that it will be given its own space on the WSSD agenda. Despite this, UK Civil Society has identified biodiversity as a priority issue that should be addressed in Johannesburg.

Dr. Spray's presentation focused on five key issues, which have arisen from discussions:

1. Biodiversity and natural resources conservation must be one of the priorities for the UK Government and others at the Summit
2. Need to emphasis integration of biodiversity and natural resources conservation into political decision making
3. Need to engage business and industry within this debate
4. Need to address innovative sources of funding
5. Need to identify and report on examples of best practice within the UK, including the Darwin Initiative



Dr. Chris Spray

A wide range of opinions and priority issues were raised from the floor, offering clear indication that Biodiversity and Natural Resources Conservation is an issue that UK stakeholders strongly endorse. At the heart the discussions was the desire to engage business more effectively, and clarify the business role within the debate. With a number of delegates identifying that the onus is placed on local communities to develop, implement, and support biodiversity initiatives, it became clear that the provisions of funds and matched funding is a significant preoccupation for UK Civil Society, and one that needs to be addressed at both the national and European levels. An opportunity to address this lies with the Darwin Initiative. The Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) is central to the debate. Delegates highlighted the absolute need to use the CBD as a platform from which to launch other biodiversity initiatives. The Johannesburg Summit provides an opportunity to capitalise on the forthcoming meeting in the Netherlands on the CBD, and to develop a strategic plan to place pressure on those countries that have not yet signed the CBD to do so.



The morning panel is questioned by a standing room only audience

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Anna Birney (UNED-UK Committee Education Task Force Coordinator) outlined priority issues and recommendations for further action on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The group has adopted these points from a wider consultation process. ESD was identified as a means to the end of implementing sustainable development, rather than a policy option in its own right. Through the evaluation process it has been identified that despite there being a number of examples of good practice within the UK, fundamental problems remain. The subject lacks the kind of 'plain language' required to spark broader understanding, and too little practical action. The absence of comprehensive forums for experience sharing and dissemination of information further hamper the progress of sustainable development in the UK. Inadequate funding for UK ESD initiatives compounds these barriers.

The consultation process has identified a number of practical steps and priority issues, including the establishment of networks and stakeholder forums to allow information sharing, the promotion of accreditation of learning gained in society, and the establishment of an overall work plan including timeframes and clear targets for education within the UK.

Responses from the floor reinforced the belief that education and awareness raising are high priority issues for UK Civil Society. Comments from delegates identified the need for an accelerator mechanism for policy engagement. It was proposed that this would not only enable the development of a formal structure for ESD, but would also open up opportunities, currently absent, to allow individuals receiving sustainable development education to put such learning into practice. Working professionals were identified as a critical area for focus. Appropriateness of scale and sector specific strategies must be given consideration to ensure the effective delivery of ESD. Critically, the perception of ESD as a white, middle class, agenda also needs to be addressed. Education for all, not just the privileged, was the call of the day.

The morning session then broke for lunch, during which the Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future (formerly UNED Forum) Annual General Meeting was held for Stakeholder Forum members.

Key Priorities from a Multi-Stakeholder Panel

After the lunch break, a multi-stakeholder panel was invited to outline the priority issues and recommendations of their respective groups for Earth Summit 2002. Jonathon Porritt (Chair, UK Sustainable Development Commission) maintained an energetic debate between the panel and delegates. The session provided an effective platform for stakeholders to inform the audience with up-to-date accounts of the preparations currently underway for the WSSD, and to use the delegates as a sounding board to gain wider feedback on their priority issues.

Jonathon Porritt chairs the multi-stakeholder afternoon panel



INDUSTRY

Lord Richard Holme (Business Action for Sustainable Development – BASD), struck the right note by highlighting the need to inspire individuals to give greater thought to the role of businesses as both a cause and a solution to many of the problems associated with sustainable development. The transition in the political role of business was highlighted, indicating that businesses have a substantial part to play in international politics. It was suggested that this function should be extended to include international decision-making processes. It was especially interesting to hear about the work of BASD, and the key target of business and industry to bring a greater focus on practical action to the WSSD. Key points raised about governance, justice, and the exclusion of developing countries elicited an animated response from the audience.

Delegates spoke with a unanimous voice on issues of Corporate and Financial Social Responsibility, identifying these as being critical to the success of the Summit. In response, Lord Holme identified micro-finance and micro-credits as being key considerations to addressing issues of



Lord Holme

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A Vision for Our Common Future: The UK's Contribution to the Earth Summit 2002

Mr. Michael Meacher, MP, Minister for the Environment

DRAFT SPEECH

Introduction

The timing of this event is particularly important coming as it does just before the Second Preparatory meeting in New York. UNED UK and Stakeholder Forum will be participating actively at that event and are keen to ensure that the views expressed here today are fed into the process.

Stakeholder involvement is crucial if we are to achieve the aims and objectives of WSSD. I know that some of you have expressed concerns that stakeholders have not been fully engaged in the preparatory process. That is why I welcome today's event, which complements the workshop held by BOND last week, at which environmental and developmental NGOs discussed what role they might play.

Today is about what you can do.

I would like to talk briefly about how we see preparations for the Summit progressing; the work we have been doing with stakeholders and where we see opportunities for further co-operation.

"Brainstorming" meeting

Last week the UN held a brainstorming meeting in preparation for the 2nd PrepCom. From that informal meeting, I am encouraged to hear that some key points of agreement are emerging. I would like to focus on four of those:

- Whilst we all recognise that there is more to do this should not undermine the progress that has been made over the past 10 years and on which we need to build.
- There are clear signs that the "bottom-up" process for formulating the WSSD agenda, to ensure that all countries have a voice, is generally achieving its aims. We recognise however, that the lack of a clear agenda has hampered preparations for the event and has discouraged some key players – including civil society – from committing real resources to the process.
- WSSD needs to have a real focus on delivery. An important outcome will be agreement on innovative, more effective, means of implementing commitments.
- Finally, all parties agree on the importance of the involvement of stakeholders and the multistakeholder approach. This will be key to that implementation.

Involving stakeholder groups

One of our key objectives is to help raise awareness of WSSD and to use the Summit as a focus to encourage individuals and organisations to commit to sustainable development and its potential for improving the quality of life of this and future generations. This is a challenging goal. And certainly one about which we need to be realistic.

There will be a substantial group of people (including some in the media) who will have no interest in WSSD or in what it hopes to achieve no matter what we, collectively, do.

But we know that there are individuals and groups who, with more information, might play more of an active role in the Summit and recognise the importance and the relevance to them of what we hope to achieve. It is in this area where we feel there are opportunities to work together more effectively with other stakeholders.

We are already making progress in this area working with other departments, the devolved administrations, local and regional government, business and other key stakeholder groups – including young people, the Trade Unions and the faith communities. UNED-UK, with whom we are working closely, has an important role to play, and are carrying out work in this area on our behalf. Today's Conference has I hope highlighted what progress they have made as well as identifying some of the barriers to effective civil society participation.

We are also working with other partners on specific projects. For example, in September last year, I launched the WWF "Our World" project designed to engage young people in WSSD. This brought together WWF, DEFRA, the Department for Education and Skills and the devolved administrations and is a good example of the kind of multi-stakeholder approach that we want to encourage.

Working with organisations like UNED, local authorities and NGOs can be a much more effective way of getting the message across for two other reasons. Firstly, as professionally run organisations you will often already have structures in place to reach a wide audience that we could not possibly hope to reach on our own. Secondly, we recognise that people who might "switch off" in response to a government message or campaign, no matter how worthy, might well be less cynical when that message comes from you.

We believe it is particularly important to make the wider, global aims of the Summit more meaningful at a local level. It will be difficult. The language we use, the formal UN and EU processes we have to navigate, the number of "Summits" and international meetings that are held, the concept of sustainable development itself – all this can have a negative impact. It helps to reinforce the feeling that "this is nothing to do with me"! But if we can help people to understand the relevance of these issues to their everyday lives then I believe we can make a difference.

We have now agreed a communications strategy the purpose of which is not simply to raise awareness of WSSD but also to identify ways in which we can work more effectively with all the key stakeholders. We are currently in the process of setting up a wider stakeholder group to discuss the strategy and consider practical ways in which we can take it forward. The exact composition of the group has not yet been decided but we would very much welcome UNED-UK's participation, especially in its role as a representative body where it can act as an effective means of consulting and informing a wide group of organisations or individuals.

Other ways in which we can offer some practical support is via the Sustainable Development website, which is currently being made more user-friendly and informative. For example,

it will include a more detailed diary of UK events and projects. We would be happy to include any proposals you might have. We are also considering ways in which we might be able to showcase UK activity and progress for the Summit. It is on issues like these that we would welcome your views and participation.

Whilst I hesitate to raise the next issue for fear of the bulging postbag which may follow, both myself and my Ministerial colleagues have been surprised that we have not had more representations about the Summit. It might be that you are waiting for the Agenda to be confirmed but I would urge you, if you do have concerns or proposals that you want to feed into the preparatory process, to do so now. And it is not just DEFRA or DFID Ministers with whom you should raise these issues but also relevant Ministers in other Departments.

WSSD is relevant across the whole of Whitehall and has high level commitment from the Prime Minister down. A Cabinet Committee has been established under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister to develop, co-ordinate and – importantly – **deliver** the Government's strategy for WSSD. Clearly that strategy is closely linked with the Government's support for reform of the terms of trade with developing countries. And with the Chancellor's progressive proposals on measures to tackle global poverty, including the creation of a \$50 bn International Development Trust Fund.

The private sector

A key stakeholder group that I have not specifically mentioned is the private sector. There is a steadily growing recognition that the private sector has a vital role to play in the delivery of sustainable development and therefore needs to make a meaningful contribution to the Summit. That is not to say that the private sector should bankroll the Summit or its outcomes. Rather, we need a genuine partnership between government, business and civil society which can deliver benefits that neither party can achieve alone. Forging this partnership could be one of the most significant outcomes of the Summit.

This is why we are working on the five sectoral initiatives for sustainable development in the areas of, – water supply and sanitation, financial services, tourism, energy and forestry. Each of these has a different degree of government, private sector and civil society involvement which, taken together, offer examples of the sorts of partnerships for delivery that can be developed. We are also engaging with individual companies and business organisations to ensure that UK business other than in these five sectors have the opportunity to play a meaningful role in the Summit.

UK priorities for WSSD

At this stage the Summit agenda has still to be formally agreed. But the UN Secretary General's recent report shows a welcome degree of convergence between the concerns of different regional groups.

Within the UK Ministers have considered what our priorities and objectives should be for the Summit. We aim to encapsulate all three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – and to address the need for action both in the North and in the South. We also want to emphasise practical implementation, including the engagement of civil society, especially business and NGOs, in partnerships to follow up WSSD. Above all, our priorities are focussed on policy areas where we think the UK can add value.

The UK's overarching strategic objective is to **eradicate poverty by making globalisation work for sustainable development**. Here the prime responsibility is on governments to agree – and implement – the right framework conditions for global sustainable development. The poverty emphasis is essential, though we also need to address the wider issue of making globalisation work for all. We will be pursuing this in close co-operation with other Departments including DFID and HMT, given the close links with the post Doha new trade Round and the Financing for Development process, which culminates in Monterrey in March.

Against the background of our strategic objective of making globalisation work for sustainable development, the UK will pursue a limited number of more specific objectives. These will include the development of tripartite initiatives with business and civil society – and capacity building will be an important cross-cutting element. They are:

- Freshwater and oceans
- Access to sustainable energy
- Sustainable development initiatives for Africa
- Resource productivity/efficiency worldwide (including the use of scientific and technological knowledge)

These combine a focus on the South with a clear recognition that the North needs to put its own house in order. They can be pursued through a number of channels, including the preparation of EU position papers, input to the development of the “external dimension” of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, activity in the G8 and the all important work of developing sectoral and regional deliverables with other partners. Of course, putting our house in order will also be addressed through other action, for example, to ratify Kyoto and the Stockholm Convention (on Persistent Organic Pollutants – POPs) in good time for Johannesburg.

Clearly, there are overlaps between some of our objectives and synergies can be developed between them. They link up with the five tripartite ‘business’ initiatives being developed in response to the Prime Minister's challenge last April, particularly those on water, energy and financial services. There is also scope to consider cross-cutting issues such as the possibility of commitments from business on reporting and corruption, or the further development of measures to overcome barriers to private investment in developing countries.

Conclusion

WSSD provides us all with an excellent opportunity and a very real challenge. Our main goal must be to ensure that the results of the Summit are both practical and deliverable. And that they are aimed at the implementation of sustainable development in both the “North” and the “South”. In developing these “deliverable” initiatives we place a strong emphasis on the importance of the involvement of civil society, including the Private Sector, NGOs and Local Authorities.

This is a much more complicated task than merely negotiating text. And we don't have much time. But I hope that we will all take something **positive** away from today's event and will continue to build on what has already been achieved. ●

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equity and redistribution of wealth, as well as achieving progress towards sustainable development at a global level. In keeping with this there was a call to involve business at all levels within the Summit process, and not limit input to multinational corporations.

Lord Holme concluded by stating that one achievement of the WSSD should be the formation of a 'Global Deal,' wherein the developing world would take environmental matters seriously when the developed world begins to take development seriously.

TRADE UNIONS

Sharon James (Trades Union Congress) focused on the social priorities for the WSSD, expressing concern that environmental issues are moving higher up the agenda, while the social agenda is falling behind. A priority for the preparations must therefore be to push forward on social issues. The promotion of social justice as a core set of principles in the WSSD agenda was encouraged. Poverty eradication was flagged up as a potential driver of the social agenda. It was



Sharon James

suggested that the creation of jobs and the enforcement of fundamental rights of workers, both in the UK and abroad, could help achieve poverty eradication. To this end, the key consultation bodies for the UK Government on environmental policies need to actively involve

workers in the discussions on sustainable development. Workers need to be informed of, and understand what activities are taking place for the policies to be effective.

In response to questions over distribution of wealth and financing for sustainable development, opposition was expressed to the type of top-down approach of globalisation where only a small group of people benefit. A more preferential focus would be fundamental democracy with increased attention on human rights of workers and communities, and freedom from slavery and discrimination. Employees of all organisations should be provided with the opportunity to unite to halt exploitation. The absence of a representative body for workers within the developing world was highlighted as a major problem, determining that local businesses are being lost as indigenous peoples are forced out of traditional work. Such trends imply that sustainable development is not working for all. This problem was recognised by the Trade Unions, and it was determined that workers in the developing world are in an unprotected sector. The International Trade Union Movement is looking into the issues surrounding small producers in an attempt to secure their future.

WOMEN

Helen Carey (Director, National Federation of Women's Institutes – WI) spoke on the merits and achievements of Local Agenda 21 with great enthusiasm, describing it as 'the operating manual for



Helen Carey

looking after the biosphere.' Ms. Carey stressed that Agenda 21 did not need to be re-invented at the WSSD, but should be used as the basis for future sustainable development initiatives. There are approximately 15,000 social projects currently

underway involving the Women's Institute. A good lesson to be taken from these is the success of starting small and allowing projects to grow naturally over time. There is need for commitment to action from all world leaders to make more projects such as these a reality.

Women were identified as the nurturers of the community and therefore as having a significant role to play in the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, there needs to be an increase in the presence of women in Parliament in order to allow them to become more active and influential within the debate.

Delegates challenged the power of the voice of women as a singular stakeholder group, questioning whether or not they were listened to. Ms. Carey responded by stating that the WI as a protest group could never achieve all it hoped to, but with such members, and with such a large outreach base, they have a strong voice, which cannot be ignored.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Sally Nicholson (WWF-UK) was extremely effective at highlighting the importance of NGO's from all sectors, working together to secure practical and constructive recommendations for the WSSD. She called for UK Civil Society to start drawing the right linkages between the poverty, environmental, and development agendas. The divergence that still exists between NGO and Government opinion on policies of trade liberalisation and foreign and direct investment must be bridged to secure progress towards a sustainable future.

Delegates responded by highlighting that at a domestic level, resource efficiency was outlined as a focus issue – this would involve reducing the ecological footprint of the UK, and bring issues of sustainability into the lives of individuals. It was concluded that the overarching theme



Sally Nicholson

here is social and environmental justice – equity for today and equity for future generations.

Barry Coates (Director, World Development Movement) described the raft of broken promises since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. He placed emphasis on the danger of forgetting the development aspect of the WSSD – with wide spread perception that this is to be a Summit on the Environment, more needs to be done to flag up the poverty and development



Barry Coates

agendas. Mr. Coates argued for reform in the World Trade Organisation agreements, to ensure that globalisation works for poorer nations. A current concern is that sweeping liberalisation has caused profound changes in societies around the world, and that Governments have withdrawn from regulation. In order to counteract this course, it was suggested that boundaries around market economies would effectively regulate companies in the public concern. International environmental and social standards, which progress beyond voluntary agreements would help strengthen this regulation. These priority issues for the summit were received with support by the floor.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mike Ashley (Local Government International Bureau) described how 93% of all local authorities within the UK were – to some degree – involved with Agenda 21 by 1999. However, there is extreme irregularity in both



Mike Ashley

quality of initiatives and commitment to implementation at the local level. To address this, the Local Authority Self-assessment Scheme has been designed to accelerate the progress of local sustainability. Additionally a think-tank approach has been

taken on to kick-start local government authorities into embracing sustainable development. Priority issues arising from this think-tank were:

1. Governance and poverty
2. Social/cultural issues of globalisation
3. Urban planning and environmental degradation
4. Full-blown economic globalisation

At the local government level, the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) has been designated to co-ordinate input for the WSSD. A central aim for this initiative is the mainstreaming of sustainable development. However, it is well recog-

nised that although such mainstreaming can be effective for achieving sustainability at the local level, it can also become too generalised, with detail being stripped away to leave the dry and non-innovative aspects of any initiative behind.

Unanimity came from delegates on the apparent demise of LA21 in the UK Government's future planning. Grave concerns and anxieties were expressed about the loss in momentum of, and decreased support for LA21. In 2000 LA21 reached a milestone where all Local Authorities were required to have implemented a strategy for local sustainable development. Two years on, Community Strategies/Local Strategic Partnerships/Structural and Local Plans are replacing this strategy. Skills, resources and local authority employees are being taken away from LA21 projects and put into aforementioned programmes. This approach to sustainability initiatives is inherently unsustainable, the WSSD must address this, and any new policies at the local level must look to ensure continuity of existing initiatives and integration of these into future strategies. Delegates stressed that LA21 should not be forgotten, but should become a core component of, and provide a strong base from which, future programmes can be developed.

YOUTH



David Woollcombe

David Woollcombe

(Director, Peace Child International) offered a thought-provoking presentation on the importance of involving young people and youth advocacy groups in preparations for, decisions taken at, and implementation of initiatives from the WSSD.

It is essential to gain the youth perspective on issues which are to be tackled at the WSSD. Today's young people are to be the implementers of our recommendations, and will carry the responsibility of sustainable development into the next era. It would therefore be entirely wrong to exclude them from this debate.

Looking forward into the future, the effectiveness of Youth Forums was questioned. It was strongly advocated that young people excel at practical and local action, far more than they do with words alone. Engagement through action rather than discussion or consultation was outlined as a key mechanism for encouraging youth to become more active in the domestic and international sustainability arena.

Miss Yoshi Fenaki (Peace Child International), as a young person herself endorsed and emphasised the importance of generating interest in young people concerning issues of environment and development. During a heart-felt presentation, Ms. Fenaki criticised the media for an apparent lack of interest in sustainable development. The media has an enormous role to play in creating awareness of, and encouraging participation within, sustainability initiatives; yet this

role is neglected. Education was highlighted as a critical mechanism for promoting the concept of, and achieving the behavioural and cultural change that it requires to secure a sustainable future for all. The need for reinforcement of sustainable behaviour within the home and community was also emphasised, as Western consumer culture does not gel with sustainable development, and the support framework



Yoshi Fenaki

within the home does not provide adequate opportunity for children to express their knowledge or desire to live sustainably. The stark reality, therefore, is that unless action is taken at the local level, any environmental education adopted by children will be rapidly lost.

During discussion on the floor, child-to-child and child-to-parent teaching was offered as central to achieving cultural change. Concern was expressed over commercial sponsorship of schools, with delegates expressing that the right to free education should be separated from commercial influence.

Afternoon Keynote Address

*Mr. Michael Meacher, MP,
Minister for the Environment*

Michael Meacher concluded the day with a compelling call for practical action within each sector of UK Civil Society, to ensure the success of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In a refreshing speech he spoke of delivery, awareness raising and communication, placing poverty eradication and the compatibility between globalisation and sustainable development high on the list of UK Government priorities. Delegates were left feeling encouraged that the UK Government is exploring initiatives that will deliver sustainable development within the UK and abroad. A promise was made that the WSSD would not be about rhetoric, but about innovative and effective means of achieving the goal of a sustainable future.

Minister Meacher raised the following key issues ...

- Stakeholder involvement is essential, and the Government is open to ideas. There is still potential to influence the agenda for the WSSD
- The delivery of innovative and effective means of achieving goals
- Practical action not rhetoric
- Raising awareness of the WSSD; effective media engagement will assist with this

- Private sector have a vital role to play in delivering sustainable development
- Need for tri-partite government initiatives between government, business, and Civil Society

... and these priorities

- Practical implementation of recommendations and policies with the UK
- Policy development where the UK can add value
- The UK's overarching aim is to eradicate poverty by making globalisation work for sustainable development
- Tri-partite Government initiatives for:
 1. Fresh water
 2. Sustainable energy
 3. Sustainable development initiative for Africa
 4. Resource efficiency
 5. For the UK to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and Stockholm Agreement

Recognition was given to the essential need for the UK Government to put its house in order, to ensure that the UK is in a position to positively and effectively contribute to the WSSD. This would involve the full ratification of the Kyoto and Stockholm agreements.

As a clear act of support for the UK preparations for the WSSD, Mr. Meacher remained to take all comments and questions from the floor. Predictably, a broad range of comments were made, ranging from trade and the WTO to population, HIV, poverty and war, climate change, and concerns over the preservation of biodiversity.

As a result of the success of this multi-stakeholder process, Minister Meacher made a pledge to attend a further three stakeholder meetings in the run up to the Summit, to hone the UK's suggestions for practical delivery methods. Attending these meetings will allow him and the UK Government to listen to and learn from the priorities of UK Civil Society. This willingness illustrates the very real promise that the multi-stakeholder dialogue process, as facilitated by UNED-UK Committee, offers for achieving practical action at the national and international levels.

The full text of Minister Meacher's speech can be found on pages vi & vii of this report.



Minister Meacher prepares to answer one of many questions, with Margaret Brusasco-Mackenzie as Chair of the session



Mr. Osborn, Minister Meacher and Ms. Brusasco-Mackenzie compare notes at the conclusion of the conference

Thoughts for Johannesburg

The resounding outcome from the day was a call for practical actions for sustainable development. Michael Meacher and John Gummer shared the view that practicality is at the heart of what needs to be done to stem the tide of criticism commonly heard during the ten years since Rio. Essentially, the UK must be prepared to use every available method to advance and achievement sustainable development, and not just those processes which are politically advantageous. Responsibility does not just fall to governments, but to citizens, key stakeholders, and corporations alike. UNED-UK Committee, through the multi-stakeholder process provides a space in which this can be achieved during preparations for the Johannesburg Summit, and well into the future.

'We have to believe in a just world, as a just world, is the only world that will survive.... at Johannesburg, we hope that a practical expression of that ideal will begin to be shown to a world that desperately needs it.'

Rt. Hon John Gummer, MP

The Future Course of the UNED-UK Dialogue Groups

In response to the outcomes of WSSD PrepCom II, UNED-UK has correspondingly adapted its approach. Strategy meetings are being held to focus each group on the emerging Summit agenda, so as to better define UK Government and Civil Society priorities for WSSD PrepCom III. Modelled in part on the UN Commission on Sustainable Development Secretariat's role to produce a Chairman's Paper, we are endeavouring to prioritise UK stakeholder input into a coherent and focused contribution to the Johannesburg Summit.

What emerged from PrepCom II was a possible framework for the outcomes of the WSSD. This is expected to be:

Type Ia: A multi-laterally agreed high-level political declaration, so-called commitments for implementing sustainable development

Type Ib: A multi-lateral negotiated programme of action for achieving the commitments set out in Type Ia.

Type II: Non-negotiated coalitions of the willing – partnership initiatives between stakeholder groups at all levels contributing to the programme of action and the achievement of commitments made under Type Ia.

Based on these outcomes, future dialogue group meetings are to be structured in such a way that priority issues, recommendations, and points for action are sorted and channeled into the appropriate level of outcome. It is envisaged that this approach will provide greater focus and direction for the groups, and encourage participants to move forward from issue-based towards practical-solution discussions.

Participants are being encouraged to reach consensus on common issues, and put to one side those issues on which they can not agree. Once consensus has been agreed, these points will be given a priority ranking, with no more than five leading issues taken to the WSSD.

During WSSD PrepCom III, (25 March to 5 April, in New York) UNED-UK Committee dialogue group coordinators will be actively participating to ensure that priority issues for UK Civil Society are reflected in the WSSD Agenda. PrepCom III is unlikely to provide an opportunity for placing new issues on the table. Rather, focus and energy will be placed on expanding the current statements contained within the 'Chairman's Paper' to include the priorities for the UK. It is clear that the emphasis will be on practical and workable solutions. Mr. Emil Salim, Chairman of the CSD Secretariat, was both positive about the outcome and realistic about the next steps to take at the press conference where he presented the official document on PrepCom II results: *"Anything that cannot be implemented, even if it's good, we'll throw out of the window."* Prior to this, Charles Nouhan, Stakeholder Forum Deputy Director and UNED-UK Committee Coordinator, attended a meeting Nitin Desai, UN Under Secretary-General and Secretary-General of the Summit, stated that the UN is looking for "...a handful of small achievable initiatives to make up the action plans that a) work and b) can be "brought to scale."

In the short-term, UNED-UK Committee remains focused on its role as a focal point and conduit for many UK stakeholders. Enormous energy is being put into purposeful discussions to ensure that UK stakeholders are in a strong position to contribute meaningfully to the priority issues for the Summit. In the long-term, we will continue to work toward the production of UK Civil Society Report that will be presented to Government, Civil Society, and taken to Johannesburg. The report aims to reflect the high-level priorities for UK Civil Society, and concrete recommendations for implementing sustainable development in the UK into the next decade.

We eagerly embrace the challenge posed by the next six months, and as we move forward thoughts are beginning to turn towards implementation. UNED-UK Committee's commitment extends far beyond Johannesburg, and the multi-stakeholder process will continue to provide a framework by which discussions and actions on implementation can be realised. ●

How You Can Get Involved

- Register for one or more of our dialogue areas by contacting us (below)
- Ask for and distribute additional copies of UNED-UK Committee material
- Visit our websites at **www.stakeholderforum.org** & **www.earthsummit2002.org**
- Arrange a meeting for your local community or professional group

UNED-UK Committee

UNED-UK Committee (the United Nations Environment & Development-UK Committee) is a multi-stakeholder forum, originally founded after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The main output of the Earth Summit, Agenda 21, aims at strengthening the participation of all sectors of civil society in national and international meetings on environmental issues and the larger sustainable development debate.

UNED-UK Committee is a UK focal point for this work, and for the run-up to the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development (also known as Earth Summit 2002), to be held in Johannesburg South Africa, 26 August – 4 September 2002. UNED-UK is the UK National Committee for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and a UK focal-point for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Internationally, the Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future (formerly UNED Forum) organizes multi-stakeholder events, roundtables and seminars on key issues of sustainable development. It has facilitated stakeholder involvement in the Rio Earth Summit, the Beijing, Copenhagen, and Istanbul processes, related follow up +5 conferences, and at The Hague and Bonn Freshwater conferences.



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are you doing **your bit?**

The United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland provides the secretariat for UNED-UK Committee.