



UK Preparations for Earth Summit 2002: The National and Global Dimensions

20 March 2001 • The London School of Economics

From the editors

You will notice a difference in the Summer 2001 issue of *Connections*. It is in fact a **Special Issue** reporting on UNED Forum's national conference, **UK Preparations for Earth Summit 2002: The National & Global Dimensions**, held on 20 March 2001 at the London School of Economics. Well attended and highly informative, the event continued the multi-stakeholder process of identifying UK priorities for Earth Summit 2002. This report takes you through the entire day of challenging debates sparked by wide-ranging speakers and a diverse audience.

The centre pages are full transcripts of the morning and afternoon keynote speeches by UK Environment Minister Michael Meacher, MP (presented by Sheila McCabe of DETR) and Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, both of whom address the issue of sustainable development and what they would like to see as outcomes of Earth Summit 2002. The text of both speeches and that of UK Prime Minister Tony Blair's Chatham House speech, from 6 March 2001, can also be found on UNED's website at www.unedforum.org.

If you attended the conference, perhaps this report will re-inspire you. If you were unable to join us, we hope the report gives you a flavour of the day, and we encourage you to send us your thoughts and ideas about it.

Warmest thanks must also be given to UNED's fantastic team of volunteers and interns, including Arantxa Bosch, Rhian David, Ben Dixon, Angelita Gouldson, and Kiran Sihra. Special thanks to Paulina Jelen for her help in editing the report.

Finally, should you find yourself missing the usual helpful information found in **Connections**, please be assured that it will be back and reported in full in the Autumn Issue.

We do hope you will enjoy this special issue of **Connections**.

Georgina Broke & Jasmin Enayati

Introduction – Charles Nouhan

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Earth Summit 2002) will, among other things, be a critical review of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the Rio Conventions. The UN has decided that the preparatory phase of the Summit should include an assessment of Agenda 21, with an eye towards its achievements, the barriers that remain, and its further implementation. To this end, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has suggested that UN member countries take steps to assess progress since Rio, including 'National Progressions' to highlight achievements and, through a bottom-up process, identify 3 to 5 issues on which to focus so as to advance sustainable development in that country over the next 5 to 10 years.

In its role as the National Committee for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the UK, and its support of the work of the CSD, UNED has taken a UK lead in facilitating multi-stakeholder input to this process.

Background

UNED's first step was to host an informal dinner in September 2000, where a dozen directors and other senior officers from some of the UK's largest environment and development NGOs explored the potential themes and outcomes of what was then known as Rio+10. The outcome of that dinner was a consensus, in principle, for UNED to take the process forward. At that time, participants agreed to define ways in which to work together.

Following that, UNED held a 24-hour seminar in November, in Kent, with the UK Sustainable Development Commission, chaired by Jonathon Porritt. Sixty-five senior representatives from Government and civil society were asked: 'In terms of promoting sustainable development in the UK, what 5 key issues should be on the agenda of Earth Summit 2002?' In one evening, 5 suggestions from 65 people evolved into:

1. Sustainable Production & Consumption
2. Climate Change
3. Poverty, North & South
4. Participation & Empowerment
5. Human & Environmental Rights/Justice
6. Sustainable Cities & Communities

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Connections

Editors: Georgina Broke & Jasmin Enayati

UNED Forum

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

Established in 1993 as an outgrowth of the Sustainable Development Unit of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UNA-UK), UNED 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, UNED's newest project – 'Towards Earth Summit 2002' – is guided by an international advisory board reflecting the stakeholder groups outlined in Agenda 21.

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

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One outcome of the Kent seminar was further endorsement of UNED's overall strategy to engage a wider range of UK stakeholders in a bottom up process, with a particular emphasis on development NGOs. It was further suggested that UNED continue in its role as a provider of information, especially as that work relates to the United Nations and other intergovernmental agencies engaged in the sustainable development debate.

Phase One of UK Preparations for Earth Summit 2002

During the 4-month period following the Kent seminar UNED has, with a grant from the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions' Environmental Protection International division, kick-started a wider UK multi-stakeholder review of UNCED. Confirmation of our early work suggesting that there was widespread desire in many sectors of society – including the business community – to become actively engaged in the 2002 process, has come in the form of broad stakeholder participation and a way forward for engaging not just a wider audience, but also the right audience.

A key event during Phase One was UNED's national conference, 'UK Preparations for Earth Summit 2002: The National and Global Dimensions,' preparations for which included intensive work to draw in representatives from all UK Agenda 21 groups, the media, and the education community. Those meetings laid the foundation for a comprehensive event attended by over 280 people, including representatives of NGOs and government from the devolved countries. Members of the UNED Forum Executive Committee, a democratically elected body of UK Agenda 21 stakeholders that includes major UK environment and development NGOs, guided this preparatory work. Six of its members, Andrew Blaza, the Rt Hon Tony Colman MP, Herbert Girardet, John Gordon, Fiona McConnell, and Prof. Jon Wonham were actively engaged in conference preparations and chaired the afternoon breakout group sessions; the fruit of their labours are found later in this report.

Acknowledgments

In addition to the precious time and energy that the 5 chairs and other key UNED people put into the event, the day's success was due in no small part to the efforts of UNED's able administrator, Gregoire Le Divillec. Greg and his team of interns and volunteers spent long hours orchestrating the event in a professional manner, despite limited resources and the pressures of their other UNED responsibilities; a heartfelt thanks to them all.

Thanks also to the speakers and panellists – many whom travelled from afar – for joining us; the day would not have been complete without their contributions. The conference sponsor, DETR – especially Sheila McCabe and Stephen Lowe – cannot go without mention; we are grateful for their support, and for their personal commitment to the sustainable development debate. And, last but not least, my gratitude to Margaret Brusasco-Mackenzie and Sir Richard Jolly for their contributions, and to Derek Osborn for his steady hand at the helm.



Grégoire Le Divillec; grace under pressure

Opening Remarks –

Derek Osborn, Chair, UNED Forum

Derek Osborn opened UNED Forum's spring conference by thanking delegates and speakers for attending, despite adverse weather conditions and transport delays. Attributing the impressive turnout to the importance of the subject, the occasion, and the keenness of people to get involved in the 2002 process, Mr. Osborn announced that UK Environment Minister Michael Meacher would be unable to attend, due to his key role in addressing the Foot and Mouth disease crisis. Derek then introduced and welcomed Sheila McCabe of the UK Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, to speak on behalf of Minister Meacher. A full transcript of her remarks, delivered immediately following Mr. Osborn's introduction, can be found in the centre pages of this report and on the UNED website, www.unedforum.org.

Mr. Osborn's remarks:

"First, a word about Rio, and for those old enough to remember it, the Stockholm Conference 30 years ago. I think we can all recall the enormous energy and effort that was put into those occasions around the world to grasp the challenges facing us in trying to move to a more sustainable development and to create strategies and actions to cope with them. Inevitably, there was some disappointment after the event that not all that had been aspired to came off, and if you talk to the old hands in this world today you will find quite a lot of people who are a little bit weary with conferences, and must we really gear ourselves up to climb this hill all over again.

I think it is clear to me at least, that we do get a great deal out of these big international processes, not perhaps so much from the conferences themselves, the occasions when people are gathered, but by the very effort of trying to take stock to spend a year, two years reviewing where we have got nationally, internationally and locally in all the different sectors and regenerating our energies for further steps ahead. At Rio, we had the achievements that people always mentioned, the two conventions signed, the climate change convention, the biodiversity convention, Agenda 21, and the Rio principles. We had the establishment in many parts of the world of ongoing activities by people other than governments; by businesses trying to transform themselves into a more sustainable way of operating, by local government creating Local Agenda 21 in many different forms in many different guises but making real progress throughout the world; by the scientific community undertaking all sorts of new linkages and enquiries stimulated by the sustainable development idea; by NGO's themselves creating new activities on the ground and in their policy activities. So, I think the significance is at least as much in the energy, the political will, the creativity that is unleashed by these processes. That is how a Summit can create momentum, which is what we want to use in the one coming up next year to create again. We are still at an early stage of the formal process, the United Nations itself have set out a broad timetable for national and regional preparations.

The issues are still to be firmly identified. There is a widespread wish to have action oriented programs rather than just policy ideas and talk. We have heard that before, but let us make another effort to firm up on that idea. It is a very good stage today for UK input and for stakeholders to get their ideas in and to help to shape what this process can be used for over the next 18 months and beyond. Sheila will be tell you about

the state of government and European thinking, but there is still plenty of room for input on themes and ideas and action points that people here want to create. UNED itself is a multi-stakeholder grouping devoted to sustainable development at international level and we have two main arms. The first one is UNED International, guided by an international advisory board, focusing directly on the international process and trying to make input and engagement in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, wherever the international community gathers together on sustainable development issues. We try to create in those contexts some multi-stakeholder process, bringing voices from industry, local government, and NGO's to bear directly on those international processes.

The Summit shouldn't be seen just as a coming together of governments in Johannesburg next year, but also an occasion for the business community, the local government community of the world, the scientific community, to come together perhaps in their own chambers to interact with the governmental world but to take their own view of how their communities have developed on sustainable development and what they are going to commit to do next, in the periods ahead. So that we could see the results of the Johannesburg Summit not just as an intergovernmental declaration, important as it will be, but as an intergovernmental declaration plus a business resolve and platform and program, plus a local government one, plus NGO ideas for what they are actually going to do in the world.

UNED-UK our other and second arm, is focused on what UK is doing on sustainable development and on the lines the UK is trying to build and take to the international meetings. We need a significant UK internal review progress during the year ahead to take stock of where we have to and what we need to do next. We cannot conceive sustainable development as just something we take, we export, we preach to the rest of the world, unless we do it very vigorously ourselves, and though we have made progress in some areas there are others where there is still much to be done. We also need to focus on the themes that the UK could champion internationally.

This meeting today is primarily one organised and conceived of as belonging to our UK arm. We want to take stock of where we are in the UK on sustainable development issues and how we can make sure that our own preparatory processes are searching and thorough, exposing our own problems so that we can take the next steps to overcome them. Some of you will have been involved in a day that was organised last Autumn jointly by the UNED and the new UK Sustainable Development Commission to identify some themes for the 2002 process, and I am very grateful to all those who engaged in that process from many different sectors. The themes that have been chosen for this afternoon's discussion derive essentially from that away-day in which many different groups and organisations participated. We have tried to pick up on the ideas that they generated, but the topics identified for discussion this afternoon by no means exhaust the subject and we fully expect that others may emerge during the day as important ones for the Summit process.

At the end of the day we want to digest the material that you will have generated, and try to put it in a form that can be offered to the government and other players as an important contribution to shaping the process, and we hope also and this is perhaps the most important part which I will sign off on, that you will all feel so involved by the end of the day, that this is not just a conference but that this is the start of a process in which you want to be involved, and that you will join with us and other groups to engage in the process right up to and beyond the summit."

Morning Keynote Address

Sheila McCabe is the Divisional Manager of Environmental Protection International, in the UK Department of Environment, Transport, & the Regions. The full text of her comments can be found in the pull-out centre section of this report, and on the UNED Forum website, www.unedforum.org, as is the text of the Q&A session with the delegates, which followed her remarks.

REVIEWING THE ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE RIO

From Rio to Johannesburg

– Felix Dodds



Shafqat Kakakhel (left) and Felix Dodds (right)

“Sustainability is a political choice, not a technical one. It’s not a question of whether we can be sustainable but whether we choose to be.” – Gary Lawrence

Perhaps it should be from Stockholm to Johannesburg, as the first UN Conference occurred there in 1972 and put environment on the map in a big way for the world. Before Stockholm, there was only one government with an Environment Ministry, the UK, no environmental press core, no international intergovernmental body (UNEP was set up as a result of Stockholm), no international regulatory agreements, (UNEP playing a great part in creating them after Stockholm) and very small membership of environmental organizations.

The 1987 Brundtland Report set the scene for the UN Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio Conference) in 1992. It identified key challenges the world was facing and called for a World Summit to address it. In 1990 the General Assembly agreed to such a Summit, and its outcomes were far more than first envisaged:

- Agenda 21
- Rio Declaration
- Climate Change Convention
- Bio-diversity Convention
- Forestry Principles

These are the agreements signed in Rio in 1992 but the Summit also set in motion a further set of regulatory frameworks in three other areas:

- Desertification Convention (*ratified in 1994*)

- Straddling Fish Stocks Convention (*still 3 short of coming into force*)
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (*opened for signature*)
- Prior Informed Consent (*not yet in force*)

It would be fair to say that Rio, during a period of right of centre governments in developed countries, birthed the greatest set of regulatory frameworks covering climate, biodiversity, fish stocks, desertification and chemicals that any single meeting had ever previously accomplished.

This wasn't the only success out of the summit; in addition, we had:

- The creation of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD);
- Local Agenda 21 (over 3,000 at the last count);
- An increased role for stakeholders in intergovernmental meetings on sustainable development; and
- The setting up of national councils for sustainable development in over 70 countries

The five-year review of Rio, known as Earth Summit 2 or Rio+5 by many commentators, was a failure by comparison. Governments started preparing only a few months before, yet even this poorly planned event had an impact. It:

- Gave Heads of State and key government officials space to discuss climate discussions in Kyoto and probably had a very important effect on that outcome;
- Reminded governments at the highest level about the need to fulfil the obligations on aid flows which started to go back in the right direction towards the target of 0.7% GNP 18 months later;
- Developed a work programme for the UN CSD for the following 5 years which for the first time brought in stakeholder groups into the decision making process in a more structured way;
- Played a key role in killing-off the multi-lateral agreement on investment being negotiated within the OECD;
- Stopped the negotiations for a Forest Convention;
- Introduced three new areas not covered in Agenda 21, tourism, energy and transport;
- Secured the replenishment for the Global Environmental Facility; and
- Was a wake up call for the world that the agenda from Rio was slipping and needed better focus to succeed.

Although we are better off since Rio, many challenges remain:

Freshwater: Two thirds of the world's population will live in water stressed areas by 2025. Some 3 billion people will not have enough water to drink, to satisfy hygienic needs, or to produce food. Not to speak of the wider impact that water scarcity is having on key ecosystems, such as forests and wetlands.

HIV AIDS: 34.3 million people were infected with HIV by the end of 1999, 5 million are newly infected each year and 6 thousand lives are lost every day due to AIDS related infections. 18 million lives have already been lost and 13 million children have been orphaned as a result. Countries in Sub Sahara Africa account for some 70% of total number of people infected globally. In countries like Botswana 36% of adults – more than one third – are infected with HIV. This is taking a devastating toll

on individual lives, communities, workforces, and economies.

Energy and climate change: 2 billion people or (one third of the world's population) lack access to electricity and rely on biomass fuel for energy. The fossil fuel industry is worth US\$1 trillion per year. Per capita energy use in the USA is 5 times the global average, as compared to Sub Saharan Africa where per capita energy use is one tenth of the average. The warmest 23 years since record keeping began in 1866 all occurred after 1975. In addition, 4 out of 5 of the warmest years on record occurred in 1990's.

Fisheries: Over 50% of our fisheries are either being exploited beyond their sustainable replenishment or at the edge of it.

Poverty: More than 1.3 billion people live on less than US\$1 a day. A tenfold reduction in resource consumption in the industrialised countries is a necessary long-term target if adequate resources are to be released for the needs of developing countries.

Transport: Since World War 2, the number of vehicles on the road has risen from 40 million to 680 million. At current rates of expansion, there will be 1 billion vehicles by 2025. Transport is one of the major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and urban pollution.

Financing sustainable development: Rio estimated that there needed to be a transfer of \$125 billion a year from north to south to enable developing countries to develop sustainably – aid flows at present amount for less than half of this and for the first time since 1991 they on the up again. However, new money will need to be found for 2002 to be judged a success.

For Johannesburg, these and other key issues will need to be addressed, and Heads of State should go to South Africa saying they have ratified the Rio Conventions:

- Ratification of Kyoto;
- Ratification of Bio-safety;
- Ratification of Straddling Fish Stocks;
- Ratification of Persistent Organic Pollutants;
- Ratification of Prior Informed Consent; and
- Funds for Desertification Convention

Another issue the summit will have to address is international architecture for sustainable development. This would include the relationship between WTO and the Environmental Conventions, the role of the CSD, the Conventions to each other, and the CSD.

There is very little time left before the Summit in September 2002 and so much work needs to be done to make the summit a success. It may seem too much, but it may be the only chance for this generation to address these crucial issues as UK Prime Minister Tony Blair recently said:

"This Earth is the only planet in the Solar System with an environment that can sustain life. Our solemn duty as leaders of the world is to treasure that precious heritage and to hand on to our children and grandchildren an environment that will enable them to enjoy the same full life that we took for granted."

Major Groups Panel: Reviewing the Achievements Since Rio

Since its conception in 1992, the Rio Declaration has proven to be a valuable tool. The Precautionary Principle, for example, is increasingly making its way into European Union law. Agenda 21 has achieved considerable success; there are now thousands of local Agenda 21's globally. A distinctive characteristic of the post-Rio process is the increasing interaction between government, civil society, and business with multiple activities underway. The UN Commission on Sustainable Development is beginning to review nine years of work, and is now fully engaged in preparations for Earth Summit 2002. Multi-stakeholder processes have reinforced the position of sustainable development and brought government, business, and NGO's together in the process.

Despite progress, it is still not clear how effective the outcomes of Rio have been. Global environmental degradation and the human poverty all too often associated with it remain the most challenging problems of our time. What is the situation now, 18 months before the World Summit on Sustainable Development?

The panel, chaired by Margaret Brusasco-Mackenzie, UNED Forum Vice Chair, included Chris Newton of the UK Environment Agency; Andrew Simms of the New Economics Foundation, John Speirs, Managing Director of Norsk Hydro (UK) Ltd, and Felix Dodds of UNED Forum.

Touching on some of the successes since Rio, Chris Newton also highlighted some of the remaining challenges. Looking at the positive environmental achievements in the UK, he focused on big improvements, such as industrial emissions, including trans-boundary pollutants, which have been hugely reduced. Since Rio, the UK has implemented a Biodiversity Action Plan and a Climate Change Strategy. Since 1992, it has become easier to integrate environmental issues into the overall agenda, departments have been integrated and bodies like the DETR have been set up. Mr. Newton went on to acknowledge the work of the UK Roundtable, the British Government Panel, and the Sustainable Development Commission.

The fact that headline indicators are not dominated by economic growth shows signs of a balanced score card, where environmental and social issues are present. "We have seen the first signs of a long term view beginning to permeate thinking, that is driven by the recognition of challenges like climate change with enormous time delays and feed back loops between action and consequence. We have to start thinking in longer term."

This long term view does throw up various trends which need addressing, such as climate change: "We need to go beyond Kyoto; even if it was possible to ratify Kyoto it is not enough." Energy is a critical challenge; there will be a gap in the UK energy portfolio when existing nuclear facilities retire. Whilst addressing agriculture and land use, Newton exposed another major challenge, degradation of habitats and biodiversity and the need to reform the UK's current agrarian system into one that protects and enhances the environment and not one that is subsidised to destroy it.

As a possible way forward, Newton offered a controversial view, "...today's Agenda 21, with some exceptions, hasn't really engaged the public ... there is scope to do more in engaging communities...". He stressed the need to become a more 'joined-up' society, by the provision of more community strategies to revitalise participation in the process. "Rio and

Rio+10 are processes about joining up societies to take action globally.”

John Speirs brought the topic of world population and poverty to the table. A seminar on this subject, in Cambridge 1994, made it clear that governments were failing to get to grips with sustainable development and it was therefore up to business to take the lead. His reaction, “...We were all horrified and opposed.” Dr. Speirs emphatically stated that business are not democratically elected, it is up to governments to take the lead to provide the necessary structures and support. Accusing governments of being short-termist, he believes pressure must be kept up on government to take the lead so that business can work within whatever parameters are agreed.

So, what are the achievements and failures of business? Speirs acknowledges that there is a wide acceptance of responsibility by business for the environment that is extending into a responsibility for sustainable development; bringing together environmental, economic, and social dimensions. Sustainable consumption must now also be taken into account. Speirs questioned how many people are actually doing something personally. Are they committed? He urges governments to increase their influence over this, to have an impact on consumption because that in turn would have an impact on business. Speirs is clear that businesses have a significant role to play, but also that they can't do it alone.

Looking at product stewardship, Speirs notes “Companies ... are now looking at everything from cradle to grave and that is an important development that should be continued”. Similarly, the growing importance of partnerships between business and NGO's working together is proving a very effective way to undertake major improvements. Trying to be hopeful, Speirs ended with “We are on a unending journey and normally I am optimistic, but I have to say what worries me is whether we are going to need some kind of cataclysm before the world wakes up and realises how serious the situation is”.

Andy Simms painted a bleak picture of developments over the last five years. Since 1992, aid trends have delivered a short fall in both quality and quantity. As a result of tightening of intellectual property regimes around the world, the amount that developing countries have to pay for licence technology has increased ten fold in the last couple of decades. Investment per capita to the least developed countries has fallen by 39% since 1990. Unemployment levels are rocketing.

Simms pointed out that “...even if investment gets to less developed countries it tends to concentrate on natural resource exploitation...” On debt, the UK has had one of the most successful civil society campaigns, the Jubilee 2000 campaign, knocking off about one-third of developing countries debt. There are, however, complications with the terms and conditions that are being given to even to qualify for these small amounts of debt relief “...the missing element in 1992 was the trade agenda...”

Technological improvements in automobile engine manufacturing have not tried to decrease emissions but rather increase performance. Globally, we are becoming more addicted to fossil fuels because of the way the world does business. Simms sees serious problems with the trade liberalisation agenda if it is to be used as a vehicle for delivering development. Most importantly, he stressed that climate change is a non-negotiable issue and would like to see carbon dioxide emissions cut by at least 60%. The question is what kind of plan would we need for Britain to achieve this cut? Simms answers this by stating that we need to be more honest with people and we have to work out what needs doing, especially in the industrialised countries. He is not totally

damning of the present situation and does acknowledge that we are currently accelerating, but that sustainability adjustment programs need to be developed for rich countries. “There is a whole load of ideological baggage about economics that we have to chuck away if we are going to get on a sustainability agenda.”

Questions and Answers Following the Panellists’ Comments:

Question:

- *What would happen if an economy like the American, which is very largely fuel based, goes into world recession? All the countries would follow and how much would be left for investment and sustainability agenda? Do not sound so arrogant about climate change. I have spent five years of my life, listening to the scientific debate. Global warming is man-made and dangerous. The research agenda has already moved to adaptation. If we push the American's we will not get anywhere and there are other more important shorter-term environmental issues around. Just imagine what would happen to our sustainability agenda if the world goes into recession because the Americans can no longer consume.*

Reply:

- We definitely have a problem whether it is manmade or a combination of that and natural processes, the precautionary principle comes in, to guide us on climate change. It is important to achieve things, the situation is serious but we have to take a broader view, we cannot take one line.

Reply:

- The suggestion to go easy on the US because we worry about their economy is an absurd position to take of the way in which the US economy is so unsustainable globally. To suggest that there is a 50/50 in the scientific community on whether or not climate change is taking place is deeply misleading. There is an overwhelming consensus on the IPCC that there is an observed human fingerprint in climate change happening at the moment. The stakes about losing our climate that sustains life are so high that the precautionary principle should hold sway. It is easy to foresee a carbon linked economy and a massive depression if you moved without proper investment and intelligence in the right area. What was the economy like during the Second World War? There was a massive contraction in consumption and a huge boost in human health. Many argue you had an improvement in the social and capital communities when you had an economy based on drastic reduction in consumption. It should not be suggested that one of the most unsustainable economies in the world should be given a rope; it will not only hang itself but everybody.

Questions:

- *From a number of South African countries perspective, development, sustainable or otherwise has not happened since 1992. It has actually reversed because of the AIDS epidemic. Serious recommendations of how we should deal with it and some outrage to the kind of case that is running through the courts Pretoria, where big pharmaceutical companies are trying to prevent medicines must be brought forward.*

- *Education for sustainable development has not taken root in the UK. What should we do to rise the profile of what was always called the forgotten priority of Rio, which was education for sustainable development?*

Reply:

- In terms of education for sustainable development in the UK, there have been some interesting tries at it. Our current initiative is what we call a pathfinder project. We are trying to engage various sectors in thinking about sustainable development, including further and higher education and continuing professional development. In the finance sector we are attempting to manipulate the environmental information that we hold, that will make it possible for investors and banking institutions to look at the various risks that arise to businesses involved in that. We are trying to make a stab at it, but other bodies can try and help.

Reply:

- Questions relating to Aids and HIV are important. The defining feature is the way this disease impacts in different countries and the extent to which Aids is a disease of poverty.
- Trends in the regulation of the global economy and the increasingly restricted intellectual property regime, can act against the interest of the majority and sometimes there is not even a need to campaign against these multi nationals because they are shooting themselves in the foot. The other problem, health and education systems in the developing world have been crippled. We can do a lot to loosen this up at our end.

Questions:

- *Can you think of ways in which we can use people's current experience here in the UK to channel some action towards 2002 Summit? People do not connect because they do not see the point of sustainable development in their own lives, it is only when they experience this and feel it that they actually do something about it.*
- *Since the MacPherson Report, what are you doing in the preparatory process towards the summit challenging institutional racism and the involvement of ethnic minority community at every level? So far no one has represented ethnic minorities.*
- *Why cannot business take the lead? Governments are democratically elected businesses are not, but businesses are causing most of the pollution in this world not individuals. Economics and profit drive businesses; therefore they should have more responsibility to do more and to take lead.*
- *How do we engage with the WTO initiative, particularly the general agreement for trade and services, which aims to liberalise the markets across the world in water and environment if we recognise that economic growth and development is one of the main enemies to environmental sustainability?*

Reply:

- The Bonn freshwater conference in December this year will involve multi stakeholders and where issues such as these need to be raised. At the highest level we hope that there will be ministerial involvement. One of the problems when speaking of businesses is that we have seen a reduction in the role of governments. We should argue for a stronger position of governments for 2002 and onwards because we need governments to regulate and implement frameworks. They have lost their political will and we have to help to recreate that.

Reply:

- On the ethnic responsibility issues, we are doing a workshop on the April 2nd. We are bringing over one of our international board members, Don Edwards who is one of the leaders of the environmental justice movement in the US to engage with groups.
- In the context of UK local groups, our Co-ordinator is outreaching to all local groups and through the local Agenda 21 process we can start to collect human stories to import to the summit. It is not only the collection for distribution in the UK that is important but actually being able to create a website so that those stories can be shared. Also where people think they already have projects that they think are a projects that they think are a success they want share, to link with colleagues in South Africa. Our experience is both ways.

Reply:

- Of course business has to take responsibility for what it does. The suggestion that we in business should ignore the government because they were not delivering and that we should set the agenda, that is a terrible mistake, governments should be the ones that set a major part of the agenda. We then will and must take responsibility. We cause many problems, but we also come up with many solutions. All this has to be done within a democratic framework.

Questions:

- *Does the panel feel there is a need to reassess the role that nuclear energy might play in attacking the global climate change issue?*
- *There are many education development centres in Britain; the surprising thing is how little communication there is between the development education movement and the environmental education movement. The two national movements do not get together very often. I find that odd because one of the big achievements of Rio was to bring together the environmental NGO and the development NGO's. Why has not this happened in the field of education?*
- *Proposal for an alternative name for sustainable development: Connected Development. We need to look at the connections between actions and results. A nuclear power station: the connection between building one and decommissioning it and the cost. The connections between business, community and governments not missing out the regional level, minorities' education.*

Reply:

- *Nuclear:* Whether we like it or not, nuclear energy is back on the agenda. In the negotiations for the climate convention countries that are pro nuclear are raising their heads again. South Africa has plans to increase its own nuclear power facilities; it should therefore be a crucial issue in the Summit. The challenge how we are going to reach the targets that we require would be without nuclear so we have to look at what the implications are. Development education association and the Council for environmental education do meet reasonably regularly and we try to work with both organisations.
- *Connected Development:* On April 9th we have a joined conference on education for sustainable development. I don't know whether we should change the name to connected development. We all have a problem with joined up thinking and it is very well asking the government or the UN to do it. As NGO's we seldom do it ourselves. There is a requirement to try and create the mechanisms to make that happen. At the international level, we have suggested to join meetings

between Bretton Woods institutions, the IMF, the World Bank, the WTO and the Commission on Sustainable Development, so we can have joined up thinking on sustainable development and finance.

Reply:

- Some figures based upon projections on the economic cost of natural disasters. If current trends continue we will be in the absurd position where the economic costs of climate related natural disasters would exceed Gross World Product.
- *GATS*: One of the main problems with GATS at the moment is that it is badly drafted, even though it has said it will not affect government provision of services, the bad drafting means that it is a borderless agreement. I think it is a tremendous threat about being able to solve problems at the local level, and the ability to take decisions locally.
- *Nuclear Power*: One of the main problems with nuclear power is that it can only survive if it is enormously subsidised and protected by the markets. If you are going to manage something that is unmanageable and where you have not solved the waste problems. It is a model of providing energy that is usually centralised and one of the biggest problems in developing countries is actually getting access to power. If you have a choice where you are going to be best than why not invest in something sensible like renewables instead. Connected development is a great idea. We have to treat the public with respect and tell them what is happening, you have to prepare public opinion to policy changes.

Reply:

- *Commitment*: I believe we can harness a lot of energy for this Summit and this public energy will be needed for a successful Summit. Do look on the Commissions website, not only for the sustainable development strategy but also for its paper for preparing Rio+10 and put these two together and send your contributions in by the 30th of April. It is the first time the Commission has opened up, so let us have a record number of hits for the Summit. If you are working with partners in South or Southern Africa and you have projects that could come forward to show people what the reality of sustainable development is, it could be one of the biggest contributions we could make.



Moving Towards Sustainability: The Role of Processes – Assessing the various processes in place within the UK

Since the Rio Summit, a wide range of sustainable development processes, and action plans, have been tried all over the world. The purpose of the second morning session was to look at the processes developed in the UK since 1992. Discussion focussed on achievements, remaining barriers to progress and where the processes are headed now.

Chaired by Derek Osborn, the five panellists, Celia Cameron of the UK Local Sustainability Group, Damien Killeen of The Poverty Alliance, Ann Link of the Women's Environmental Network, Sally Nicholson of WWF-UK, and Charles Secrett of Friends of the Earth discussed the issues involved.

Celia Cameron prompted an interesting debate around Local Agenda 21 policies, including how to keep the flame alight and reinvigorate local authority commitment to the process. By acknowledging LA 21's huge influence in terms of best practice and encouraging local authorities to take up and progress with the ideas that came out of Rio, it is possible to see that one of the key innovations of the process was the development of the participatory process with communities. Also, encouraging local authorities to work more closely in partnership with business, NGOs and trade unions. However, Cameron pointed out "...one of the key difficulties and challenges for all local authorities when they engage in the consultation process is accessing the vast number of people who have more pressing needs than global issues, such as health, employment and poverty." Thanks to government targets, local authorities do now have Local Agenda 21 strategies in place, but "...there are still huge disparities in the quality of these." In Mrs. Cameron's view, social equity and poverty are still the weakest areas for many people. Continuing debates around sustainable development are key to local authorities and their partners. In conclusion, she suggested that the future emphasis will be on local strategic partnerships. Local authorities must act in strategic partnerships and not on their own, properly engaging with their communities, thereby mainstreaming sustainable development into every area of policy development.

With a focus on communities, and showing how local people act as citizens in their own communities, and their participation in the lead-up dialogue, Damien Killeen set out to demonstrate how the work of the Poverty Alliance builds links between the activities of local anti-poverty organisations, their networks in the UK and the developing process of contribution to Rio+10. Using examples from traditional communities, e.g. steel making, coalmining etc., Mr. Killeen highlighted the plight of communities living in deprivation, where the economy that had originally supported the community has gone. Thus, the reasons for their being a community have also disappeared.

Other, more vibrant communities are rich in terms of the contribution that members of the community make to the life of the community. They have strong histories of building social capacity and capital by initiating practical responses to the needs that they and their communities have. In regard to sustainable consumption, Mr. Killeen went on to say that although it is often suggested that poorer people use more

resources and are greedy in terms of consumption, and though this may often be the case, it is rarely out of choice; most are looking for the most economic way of meeting their needs for housing, warmth, food, and transport. He points out that, very often, the solutions impoverished people come up with are the ones that are now described in sustainable development documentation as future models, "...few such communities have actually initiated these activities to meet an objective of sustainable development; they have done it meet their needs."

Killeen concluded his comments with the hope that "...things are changing". It's true, there are commitments to sustainable development, development within social justice, within both UK and national parliamentary levels. The rhetoric is all there; now the joining up needs to be done. He would like to see humility in the UK approach, an acknowledgement that inequity, disadvantage and environmental injustice exist within our lives. Mr. Killeen believes that such an approach would greatly improve UK participation in these events such as the conference. A move towards holistic recognition of the issue of sustainable development in our own country will open up possibilities to bring some of the poor and excluded into the process, who in turn may well bring many more people with them.

Looking at sustainable development through a different set of lenses, Ann Link provided examples of how women bring a different perspective to mainstream issues. She suggested that ignoring the vital contributions brought by gender diversity hampers decision-making, therefore limiting the sustainable development debate. "...[W]omen's groups are an example of diversity. Society constantly builds up and tears down divisions. The mainstream adopts a particular set of ideas and it's difficult then to even talk about others. They don't enter public debate. Excluded groups then often try to do practical things that bring about the changes they want. Eventually the mainstream alters to include the outside groups and ideas. In the meantime society misses useful contributions." Chapter 24 of Agenda 21 focuses on women. It is not primarily because they are victims or special cases, but because the world will head for environmental disaster if it does include contributions from women.

In WEN's advice on women in Local Agenda 21 in 1994, they indicated that it is important to look outside the usual structures. Where is the meeting that is mainly poor people, or mainly black people, or mainly women? The GLA set a good precedent when it staged a day conference for women; it will also consult women on waste policy.

In WEN's experience, female contribution often focuses on prevention of hazards, a holistic view that integrates concern about health and well-being into environmental issues. For example, current WEN campaigns aim to prevent breast cancer by phasing out chemicals that disrupt oestrogen and other hormones, and to prevent waste at source by using fewer materials. These are aims everyone agrees with. What are needed are new spaces and new structures to make them happen. WEN are working towards a Primary Prevention Forum for breast cancer, as part of prevention for all cancers, because without this there is no-one looking for links with chemicals and hence no useful information about possible preventative measures.

WEN also calls for waste prevention to be a distinct area of work for local authorities. A major part of this is to have people employed promoting new services and products, which avoid rubbish in the dustbin. This kind of work throws up exciting and innovative ideas. A council scheme has just won a top prize for a Public Private Partnership. It was praised for involving parents, the council, a small business and the health service. It was the West Sussex Real Nappy Initiative, in which cash incentives are given to parents to use real nappies.

Lastly, Link provided an insightful reply to all those who ask "Why women?" "We point to all the ideas and insights we know of, and say: "Why not?"

Sally Nicholson stressed that the most important issue the UK needs to address is the impact of the developed world beyond its own boundaries. She suggested that the UK's sustainable development strategy does not address that particular issue as well as it should. Ms. Nicholson pointed out that it is still not clear how the issues of sustainable production and consumption will be addressed in the future; resource efficiency being the current buzzword. However, she pointed out that "...even if we are more efficient in our use of resources by Factor 4 or by Factor 10, we still have to ask the developed world to commit to substantial reductions in consumption, it is not enough to keep on consuming more and hoping it will be fixed by technology. In the developed world, we have to consume less if those in lesser-developed countries are to lift themselves out of poverty, and to have greater access to energy and water, which we take for granted. This is the key, an issue which governments, the business industry and NGO's are avoiding."

WWF-UK does run a government funded sustainable development education programme, but do not feel it is reaching the average person. They believe that the best way to attain the biggest impact should be looking how to change people's lifestyles and choices.

"I am not going to apologise for the NGO movement and the mistakes we make since it comes from politicians, the people that are supposed to be coming with solutions," began Charles Secrett. "When they find themselves in the middle of crisis, they then try to lash out at organisations and people that are actually coming forward with solutions." Trying to get some perspective on what Earth Summit 2002 means to our planet, in terms of the way forward, and what 'progress' will actually mean and look like, Secrett sees Rio+10 as a fantastic opportunity to make progress. Pointing out though, that "...final solutions will still be lacking at the end of it."

Friends of the Earth has taken the stance that, at whatever level, sustainable development has to encompass three non-negotiable elements: 1) that the total sum of human activity, in terms of the consequence for the natural world, has to stay within the limits of environmental systems, whether it is the climate system or the ecosystem; 2) people, by simply being born, have an equal right to a fair and equitable share of the earth's natural resources and raw materials; 3) once we have looked after nature and ourselves we need to make sure there is a birth right worth inheriting for future generations. This needs to be accomplished over time and within countries, in terms of economic, political and cultural relationships between countries. It is now beginning to be recognised that when we talk about an environmental agenda, we are including the social and economic benefits.

Both of Mr Blair's recent speeches have opened up a political space for an environmental and sustainability agenda to take root. Mr. Secrett believes that "...the challenge now is how to drag that agenda into the mainstream of political and public debate and decision-making". Firstly, one of the most boring but vital parts of the agenda is to get international institutions right; they are, at present, inadequate at the global level. Secrett, lambasted UNEP as a feeble organisation making little difference at the global level. He believes that it should be replaced with an institutional structure that reflects the right type of political sovereignty, one that translates into a real world economic circumstance and a potential solution. In his view, "...the best contribution the UK can make at this point

in time is to practice what we preach through the policy process, so that we can build and draw out the larger sustainability lessons and agendas, motivating people to get involved in making those choices, and making sure the politicians are aware of those choices". The sustainability agenda must find ways to captivate and motivate people to help governments and industry make the right choice for a sustainable future, doing so in such a way that will make a difference between now and the Summit. Can we rise to this challenge?

Questions and Answers Following the Panellist's Comments:

Questions:

- *It seems to many NGO's that those institutions on the environmental side are flawed and weakened by the absence of strong international law supporting their work. Many of the agreements that we have are soft law such as agenda 21 not being mandatory. Concern for the environment and human rights are two of the biggest achievements of the 20th century. Doesn't the panel think that we now need to agree the fundamental right to a safe and healthy environment ought to be one of the major outcomes of the Summit?*
- *My concern is when we think about globalisation we largely think about trans-national corporations. It seems that business representation is not really present and yet they think it is instrumental in going above national legislation, moving between different nations to avoid being fully participant. Does the panel have any comments on how they can actually be truly involved in this debate?*

Replies:

- In relation to what we want out of the debate, it is important that we are able to identify some of the basic necessities and requirements, which underpin a view about the quality of life for everybody. We should have advanced our discussion on how to address some fundamentals rather than try to look at absolutely everything. If we have a progressive discussion on some key issues and we have something new and different to say at the end then we will have achieved something, rather than just having idealised global visions.
- To have big global visions does not mean anything, resources and time has to be put into structures. When an overarching aim of resource efficiency, using fewer materials is stated, partnered with it should be some practical examples that are happening at the local level. Therefore we are promoting the kind of partnership where businesses and local authorities ally to reduce waste, they have a common objective and vested interest. It can be applied widely. You have your overarching aim and your practical example more closely allied.
- We, in this room, do not represent the rest of the British population. People do want less waste and a better quality of life, but you only have to look at people's behaviour in the fuel crisis to see that people in this country are schizophrenic about what they want. They want a quality of life providing they do not have to give up their car. That is an unfair generalisation. Our best hope is to work with governments around issues that are meaningful to people here and in Southern countries. Issues such as poverty, equity, clean water and pollutants seem to be basic issues that could last. The problem about trans-national corporations is that they go

around the world using up resources. Their shareholders and profits come first, not the community that they serve. The other issue is the lack of investment. The whole of this is suffering from a chronic lack of investment over the last twenty years. We ought to have a lot in common with Southern countries in terms of our public transport at the moment and we cannot afford to be arrogant about Indian trains not running on time. We wish the government would address it faster and in a braver fashion. We have people who do not want to pay their taxes but have the trains running on time. We have to make choices on what we want.

- It is difficult to make the green choice in your life style if the norm of your everyday life makes it difficult, impossible or very expensive to do. This lack of choice comes about because the government decides in terms of law, tax policies and spending priorities. There is a framework that sets out the rules by which the market and the rest of us play the game. If we want something different we need a new framework. On infrastructure, product and service side there are already green alternatives to all the conventional conveniences and necessities of every day life. The problem is that they are in such a short supply despite the huge and growing demand. You have to change the rules of the game, so you can change the balance. It won't be done overnight but in 15–20 years to set out the vision and then start delivering on it.
- The question about hardening of soft law through environmental rights, is an absolute essential part for 2002 and beyond, because if one is to help this conversion towards sustainability people have to get involved. We cannot expect 20 million car drivers to change their ways if we do not provide them with alternatives. In terms of the social contract between the citizens and the state, we have to rewrite it, to give rights and guarantee them. This applies in sovereign nations as well as at the intergovernmental level. When we have hard law, it provides the best framework at the global level, at which to monitor, regulate and decide what is appropriate about the activities of trans-national corporations. Institutional mechanisms are needed to be able to enforce. Governments have already said they have done so much by acting together to put the right tax and codes into place about what we want industrial sectors to do or not to do. In the market place it is not the corporation that is the king, it is the consumer that is the queen. Companies do not make things they cannot sell, even large companies fall into coordinated global opposition to what they are doing. It is not that you ever win completely but we can keep on winning the battles and make sure that we move in the right direction. It is our duty to build the constituencies that help encourage companies and others to do the right thing.



Charles Secrett, Friends of the Earth

As the morning session ran late, there was limited time for questions for the floor. The delegates stopped for lunch, during which there was ample time to network, and attend optional lunchtime briefings by UNED's UK team, and its 'Project Towards Earth Summit 2002' international team. Those sessions outlined UNED Forum's domestic and international work programmes, details of which can be found at www.unedforum.org.

Afternoon Keynote Address

Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, based in Nairobi, Kenya presented a well received insider's view of UNEP's commitment to sustainability, and its vision of a path towards Earth Summit 2002. The full text of his comments is found in the centre section of this report, and on the UNED Forum website, www.unedforum.org.

Afternoon Issue-based Breakout Group Reports

Hopeful that the morning sessions would spark lively debate and ideas about additional ways forward for sustainable development in the UK and globally, the afternoon the delegates separated into 5 issue-based breakout groups. The sessions, based on the key issues raised at the UNED Forum/Sustainable Development Commission seminar in November, became five creative, informed, and at times heated debates in lecture halls at the London School of Economics.

The outcomes of these discussions are the five reports reproduced below. But much more than words reduced to paper, the mix of people and ideas from the sessions has created the momentum to take the process forward towards the Summit in 2002.

Working Group on Biodiversity and Natural Resources Conservation

Chair: Fiona McConnell

Panel: Dr Mark Collins, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre;
Dr. Robert Barrington, EarthWatch Institute;
Alistair Gammell, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Background

Any objective analysis of the state of biodiversity over the last ten years shows continuing loss. Despite this, there is a feeling that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources has drawn relatively little interest in preparations for Rio+10. The main emergent theme from this working group was the great potential for synergies between this issue and issues of freshwater resources, climate change, tourism and corporate responsibility.

Key points made

- Biodiversity suffers in relation to issues such as climate change and poverty because of a lack of clear targets and indicators, and because of fragmentation of the pertaining conventions and protocols.

- If this issue remains peripheral to the Rio+10 process, an alternative focus could be the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in April/May 2002. The DETR is currently preparing the second UK report to the CBD and would welcome input.
- Corporate involvement in biodiversity conservation has emerged as a major issue. The World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD) have undertaken activities in biodiversity conservation since 1997, and the importance of the issue has grown in relation to a growth in ethical investment. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) provides an excellent framework for domestic company action, although companies that act globally do not have such a framework, particularly in developing countries.
- The UK BAP is a global exemplar, but other national and European policies are lacking in terms of biodiversity conservation. These include MAFF Fisheries policy, the Common Fisheries Policy and the Common Agriculture Policy.
- The importance of the public image of this issue was noted, in particular the need to emphasise biodiversity as a resource and provider of ecosystem services (its 'life support' role). The polarisation of the issue into an 'eco-centric' agenda and an 'anthro-centric' agenda is false and damaging. Positive messages coming from the role of biodiversity in mitigating other environmental problems (climate change, freshwater issues) should be highlighted.
- US recalcitrance on this issue is a stumbling block (they are yet to ratify the CBD). It was suggested that the best way to overcome this was to work with their national NGO movement to stimulate pressure within the US.
- Major impact of population pressures on habitat, wildlife and natural resources, and the need to take full account of this factor.

Issues to pursue

- Enlarging and improving the role of business and the private sector in biodiversity conservation. This requires better definition of targets and indicators, and explicit statements about the need for business to play an active role in biodiversity conservation.
- Strengthening of the CBD's current role and its relationship to other conventions. There was considerable interest in the possibility of new annexes or protocols to the CBD to address species and habitats. The weakness of institutions such as the UNESCO 'Man and Biosphere' and World Heritage in offering robust protection to habitats was noted.
- There was recognition that the concerns of developing countries are not always appreciated. The traditional dictatorial stance from the north on this issue was seen to be counter-productive, and it was pointed out that the UK has an important role to play in the area of capacity-building
- Priority was given to an exploration of new partnerships in areas such as freshwater, climate change and tourism.

Policy options for government

- Much more financial support is required, particularly for developing countries. The funds need to be more

effectively focused, and an example of an excellent but under-funded model is the Darwin Initiative. It was proposed that this issue was one where moderate increases in the available funds could have a major impact.

- The role of tax incentives in facilitating the role of business in biodiversity conservation was noted.
- The failures of the Common Agriculture Policy and Common Fisheries Policy have been well documented, and the need for reform was further emphasised at the meeting.

Individual actions

No individual actions were decided at the meeting.

Future events

The first independent meeting of the Biodiversity & Natural Resource Conservation working group took place on 17 May 2001.

Comments

This report was compiled by Joy Hyvarinen of RSPB (who generously donated her time to record the event), Fiona McConnell, Chair, and Ben Dixon of UNED Forum. Comments can be sent to info@earthsummit2002.org.

Working Group on Sustainable Cities & Communities

Chair: *Herbert Girardet, Schumacher Society*

Panel: *Chris Church, Community Development Foundation;
Michael Ashley, Local Government Association;
Professor Kerry Hamilton, University of East London*

Background

The 1992 Rio Summit stressed the importance of local action in advancing the sustainability agenda. However there has been a low level of national support for the role of action at the level of communities and cities in taking forward the Rio agenda or delivering on the Government's headline indicators for sustainable development. This working group covers at least two major areas: focusing on planning and action at the city/sub-regional scale, and working to create sustainable communities at a wide range of levels.

Key points made

- Cities have an important global environmental impact. On 2 per cent of the world's land surface they use 75 per cent of its resources and discharge similar amounts of waste. The challenge, as already defined by Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda, is to initiate sustainable urban development, benefiting the local and global environment as well as city people. (*Herbie Girardet*)
- There is a need to get issues from the local level taken seriously at the 2002 Summit. There has been little discussion on how to overcome the problems encountered by those trying to implement local plans for sustainable development, and how political and institutional barriers might be overcome. (*Chris Church*)
- There is a challenge to local authorities to identify their key issues for 2002, and for the need to link policy discussions to support for effective implementation, and to focus on this rather than issues such as debt or globalisation. (*Mike Ashley*)

- There are key issues related to Women and Transport: women are key users of public transport and would like to use it more, but the systems and structures are not designed to meet the needs of women. (*Kerry Hamilton*)
- Work needs to be done to meet the existing needs of our communities whilst not neglecting the longer-term perspectives in connection with Earth Summit 2002.
- Better links need to be made between the 'big issues' such as sustainable production and consumption and local concerns such as waste and incineration.
- There may well be 'initiative fatigue' – creative ways to develop public involvement are needed and new partnerships need to be developed.
- Cities face many problems relating to poverty and urban squalor, and their wider impacts on regional and global environments. These issues now need to be tackled in the context of work on sustainable development.

Issues to pursue

- How does concern for local sustainability in the UK and world-wide link to the current local government agenda which includes issues such as Best Value and Community Strategies, as well as LA21?
- The cross-issue linkages between socio-economic and environmental issues are working operationally in some places but are not evident at higher levels.
- Creation of networks of cities with similar concerns could help to take work forward. ICLEI is already playing a major international role in doing this. UNCHS is also doing interesting work, particularly under the umbrella of the Sustainable Cities Programme. It is not clear how far the 2002 Summit will reflect work being done through these and other channels.
- While there are many ways in which local experiences can be taken to the 2002 Summit, there is a need to ensure that the international dimension is properly covered in the UK. There is a need to show positive action on this from the UK to make it clear that we are acting as well as talking.
- Workshop participants were unclear about how to get issues on to the 'broad 2002 agenda'. There seems to be a major gap between those working on international processes and those working on the ground. UNED Forum should recognise this gap and find ways to build links between the two groupings.

Policy options for government

The participants wanted to see:

- More popular involvement in the governance of their cities through innovative enabling mechanisms, including electronic voting booths, etc.
- Local sustainable development enabled by national policies and international agreements on waste, energy, transport, local food production, etc.
- Global and national 'best practice' initiatives turned into 'common practice' – through information transfer, appropriate policy initiatives and participatory learning processes
- Substantial progress on implementing existing international agreements such as Rio's Agenda 21 and Istanbul's Habitat Agenda

- New initiatives on sustainable building design and civil engineering, drawing on best practice examples from around the world
- Better standards of construction industry use of materials, based on sustainability criteria and state-of-the-art life cycle analysis
- The use aid budgets to fund urban sustainability initiatives worldwide
- Initiatives on environmental human rights – to get safe and healthy urban environments
- Measures to close the gap between local experiences and national and international policy, i.e., making local experiences relevant to the UN process.

Future events

The first independent meeting of the working group on 'Sustainable Cities & Communities' took place on 31 May 2001.

Comments

This report was compiled by Herbie Girardet and Chris Church from notes by Jake Elster, and edited by Ben Dixon of UNED Forum. Comments or enquiries can be sent to info@earthsummit2002.org.

Working Group on Climate Change and Energy Use

Chair: Professor Jon Wonham, Cardiff University

Panel: Gordon Senior, Gordon Senior Associates;
Walter French, Scottish Power;
Roger Higman, Friends of the Earth

Background

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol commits signatories to 5% cuts in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 1990 levels by 2010. Since then emissions have risen by 1.3% a year. According to the latest IPCC Committee 1 Report this could lead to a global average surface temperature increase of 6.1°C in the course of the century. In a speech on 6 March 2001, Tony Blair committed the government to a significant expansion of renewable energy and sustainable energy policies. This contrasts with government failures to address an integrated transport policy to deal with ever-expanding car use.

Key points made

- Unilateral action by the UK to curb emissions is globally insignificant (since we only produce 2% of global CO₂), but identifies us as leaders in the field. Statistical projections for the UK forecast a 15% reduction of GHG emissions below 1990 levels by 2010. Action to combat GHG emissions has to encompass the global community.
- Currently, renewable energy makes up 1.3% of UK energy production. Substantial gains are needed in this sector if we are to meet a target of 10% renewable by 2010 (particularly since nuclear energy is expected to decline).
- Energy companies (represented by Scottish Power) are obligated by legislation to make energy savings (SP spend £4m/year). This included investment in public energy efficiency campaigns, which are very poorly supported despite substantial subsidies (Walter French). Large corporations such as Ford are investing in low emission vehicles and fuel cell technology.

- Forest 'sinks' for CO₂ were challenged on the grounds that they were likely to be temporary and required large tracts of land (Roger Higman).
- Nuclear energy was challenged due to the protracted discounted costs, e.g. waste disposal (Roger Higman). It was also considered that hydro-electric power was not a feasible option in the UK, biogas production from landfill and sewage sludge could not meet the shortfall in renewable energy requirements.
- The group noted the failure to engage business in the debate on issues of sustainability and climate change. More effort is required to convince industry of the financial and environmental benefits of embracing better environmental practice.
- Significant improvements could be made in the transport sector. It is the third largest source of GHG emissions in the UK and the fastest growing sector.
- Research is needed into the cultural values underpinning British society to understand patterns of consumption and to improve education on sustainability issues.

Issues to pursue

- **Wave energy.** It was considered that the most viable renewable energies lay offshore, with an ideal offshore wind, wave and current environment.¹ However, efforts on the Welsh coast have met bureaucratic obstacles and agencies with uncoordinated responsibilities. The question of the development of Marine Environmental Impact Assessments was raised.
- **Solar power.** The group would like to see the quantification of solar power's potential energy contribution in the UK. Solar energy schemes in Germany were proposed as a possible method.
- **Wind energy.** The practical difficulties of finding sites for wind generators were noted, as well as the intermittent nature of the supply. A review of best practice from countries such as Denmark was suggested.
- **Education and communication.** There was consensus over the need for improved education and communication to industry and the public. The problem of fragmentation and duplication between organisations and government departments was noted.
- It was proposed that UNED-UK should more actively engage business, as was achieved at a recent conference in Aberdeen.²
- The need for clearer identification of organisations operating in sustainable development and strategies that have been proposed to address climate change. Philip Dale (Sustainable Development Commission) suggested that his organisation could act as independent reviewers of UK sustainability strategies.

Policy options for government

- Create an alternative to normal planning procedures for deciding the location of wind generators. One option may be to use or adapt Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) techniques. This process was used for wind farms in the Soest district of Germany.³
- Improvements need to be made to the energy efficiency of the UK's housing stock. It was suggested that the Citizen's Advice Bureau could carry information on entitlements to energy saving schemes.

Annex – Energy Production and Consumption in the UK during 1999 (Gordon Senior)

Production source	Energy produced (Mtoe)*	% of total energy produced	Primary consumers	Energy consumed (Mtoe)*	% of total energy produced
Nuclear	21.5	9.5	Conversion losses	51.3	22.5
Coal	38.3	16.8	Distribution losses	19.7	8.6
Gas	91.6	40.3	Industry	35.5	15.6
Oil	73.4	32.2	Domestic sector	46.1	20.2
Renewables	2.9	1.3	Transport	53.8	23.6
			Services	21.4	9.4
Total	227.7	100.0%		227.7	100.0%

*Mtoe – Million tonnes of oil equivalent

Source – National Statistics

Active solar heating	0.01
Onshore wind	0.08
Hydro electricity	0.46
Landfill gas	0.57
Sewage sludge digestion	0.19
Wood	0.71
Straw	0.07
Municipal solid waste	0.58
Other bio fuels	0.24
	2.91 Mtoe

NB – In 1991 renewables provided only 1.3% of the UK's total energy generated. Of this (and excluding hydro), only 3% made a contribution to reducing GHGs.

- Improvements could be made in the energy efficiency requirements of building regulations.
- There is a need for an integrated transport plan including –
 - Improved fuel efficiency for cars via the EU CO₂ from cars strategy.
 - The use of economic instruments such as the duty fuel escalator, changes to vehicle excise duty and company car taxation.
 - Developing and promoting cleaner technologies including alternative fuels.
 - Working with local authorities and the freight industry to improve operational efficiency.
- The public sector to take a leading role in energy conservation by improving energy management of public buildings, setting efficiency targets and developing green travel plans.

Suggested further reading

“Climate Change, The UK Programme” (DETR publication)
 “Energy – The Changing Climate” (The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution)

Future events

The first independent meeting on Energy and Climate Change took place on 15 May 2001.

Comments

This report was compiled by Lyndon Evans of Cardiff University and edited by Ben Dixon of UNED Forum. Comments or enquiries can be sent to info@earthsummit2002.org.

1. See website www.tidalelectric.com
2. Gordon Senior cited the success of a recent conference in Aberdeen, where the intention was to expose the offshore oil and gas industry to the potential for offshore renewables (e.g. by turning decommissioned platforms into wind or sea energy generators). The conference attracted over 260 delegates, eight of which came from Shell alone. Over 50 exhibitors were also present at the conference.
3. Kleinschmidt, V & Wagner, D (1996). SEA of Wind Farms in the Soest District (and other German SEA's. *The Practice of Strategic Environmental Assessments*. Editors: Therivel, R & Partidario, M.R. Earthscan, London pp 47–61.

Working Group on Sustainable Production & Consumption

(in association with the Sustainable Business Management Programme of Imperial College Centre for Environmental Technology (ICCET))

Chair: Dr Andrew Blaza, Special Advisor to UNED Forum and ICCET

Panel: Jiggy Lloyd, Severn Trent plc;
 Chris Newton, The Environment Agency;
 Dr Laurie Michaelis, Oxford Commission on Sustainable Development

Background

‘Sustainable production and consumption’ was identified as one of the major themes for consideration in the preparations for Earth Summit 2002, at the Kent seminar organised by UNED UK in November 2000. Following an initial scoping meeting at Imperial College in early March, the issues were discussed more widely at one of the ‘breakout groups’ at the

UNED UK conference on 20 March, and the following is a summary of those discussions.

Key points made

- **The consumer 'supermarket' mentality:** The majority of the population have been encouraged to adopt the 'supermarket' mentality – i.e. 'we can have what we want, when we want it, as long as we can afford to pay for it'. Without improved information, many consumers are led to believe that there is little they can do personally to contribute to sustainable development.
- **Industry environmental performance:** More radical action is required, involving especially the retail sector. Certainly the link must be made between the production and consumption cycles if we are to achieve true sustainability.
- **Food production and consumption:** Food production and consumption is placing enormous burdens on the global environment and generating inequities at all levels. The recent increase in demand in the UK for 'organic' produce means that large quantities of produce are being shipped from the other side of the world. In addition, 'conventional' methods of farming are not delivering the kind of food, which UK consumers are demanding.
- **International tourism and personal travel within the UK:** International tourism by UK citizens continues to increase rapidly, based mainly on 'cheap' air travel, causing environmental and social impacts at home, at the 'host' destination, as well as contributing to global changes. Personal travel within UK contains equal dilemmas.
- **Domestic energy use:** Programmes for reducing UK domestic energy consumption have not been entirely successful.
- **Domestic water consumption:** Domestic water purification, supply and consumption are also areas of much debate.
- **Language:** Language is key, we should avoid use of such terms as 'sacrifice', employing instead the notion of 'responsible choice' and a concept of what the truly 'sustainable lifestyle' (the 'good life') would mean and the benefits it would bring to everyone. 'Responsible production and consumption' may be a more appropriate term.

Issues to pursue

Food

- How should the future strategy for UK fresh food production be developed, and on what basis?
- How should the UK consumer be made aware of the real benefits and environmental burdens of particular types of food and their production?
- Is the UK general public ready to accept higher prices for food products if the true environmental costs are included?

Transport

- How do we reduce the impact of private car use without first providing acceptable and viable alternatives?
- Should these alternatives be based solely on creating a modal switch to an 'integrated' public transport system or should there be a mix of solutions, involving introduction of new technology into car design?
- Who should lead the transition? Is it in the interests of car manufacturers to 'lead' or 'follow' the market?

Tourism

- Is severely restricting the 'right' to unlimited air travel by individual citizens the answer? Should the quality of the 'tourism experience' be enhanced, which, coupled with increased prices reflecting the true 'environmental cost' and an improvement of the 'home environment' might lead to reduced demand?
- What effect would any reduction in international tourism have on host communities in 'developing countries' who often have no other way of obtaining external revenues to support their own desire for increase standards of living?
- Are sufficient flows of revenue generated by the tourist trade reaching the local host community in any case?

Energy conservation

- Are the right signals and information being given to the consumers about reducing energy use, installing home insulation, switching to alternative energy sources, including renewables?

Water

- Does it make sense to produce very high quality water for domestic consumption though a large proportion is used for washing, flushing toilets, even irrigating gardens, with people purchasing additional filtration/purifying equipment, and/or purchasing their drinking water in bottles from the supermarket?

Encouraging wider participation

- It was felt the following should be specifically targeted: Business (manufactures and retailers) – Finance – Trade Unions – NGOs – Government – Consumer groups – Ethnic and faith communities – Schools, Universities and Colleges – Media
- It was agreed that as a start, we should identify those areas where it would be relatively easy to reach consensus and where there would be least resistance/greatest potential for a culture shift.

Policy options for government

- **Media and advertising:** An examination of whether the 'power' of media and advertising could be used to influence more 'responsible' (sustainable) purchasing practices, and deliver goods and services which are more in tune with peoples 'needs' rather than their 'wants'?
- Changes in infrastructure, technology, regulation and market mechanisms, needed to encourage such shifts.
- Undoubtedly, innovation and radicalism, not incrementalism, are the keys to success.

Future events

- i) Workshops – first half of May (starting on 11 May)
- ii) Position Paper preparation – mid May to mid June
- iii) Collation of papers centrally – mid June to early July
- iv) Circulation of aggregated papers – mid July
- v) Conference – 17 October
- vi) Final document to UK Government (also available for wide circulation) – end November.

Comments

This report was compiled by Hilary Hurt, ICCET and edited by Ben Dixon, UNED Forum. Comments and requests for further information on the dialogue process should be addressed to Hilary at H.Hurt@ic.ac.uk; Tel.: 0207 594 9338.

Working Group on the UK in the Wider World

Chair: Rt Hon Tony Colman, MP

Panel: John Gordon, Special Advisor to UNED Forum;
Antonio Hill, Oxfam;
Andrew Simms, New Economics Foundation

Background

Unilateral action towards a sustainable future in the UK is clearly welcome, but it will not have a significant global impact without engaging the wider world. The need to make the right linkages between domestic and international policy-making and the right decisions on the sort of world order we now need is to many people the greatest challenge of the 21st century. For Britain, this raises complex questions of policy integration ('joined up government'), most immediately for the FCO, DFID, DETR, DTI and MOD, and these clearly require support from Ministers and the Treasury to deliver.

The scope of this group is vast, and it was recommended in the briefing paper that the group concentrate on three areas: Poverty/global equity, International governance/shaping globalisation and peace and security.

Key points made

Poverty

- Key issues were identified as: Migration; Food Production; Government Localisation vs. Centralisation; Sustainability; The Interrelationship between Population and Poverty.
- Sustainability encompasses equity, social justice and poverty issues – not just the environment.
- There is a need for wider consultation on poverty issues, supported by public education and debate.
- Divisions and communication within issues and organisations was discussed, for example Oxfam UK/Oxfam International, UK poverty debt/Global poverty debt.
- Jubilee 2000 is a positive model, and shows effective action can achieve genuine results.

Globalisation

- How might the debate on the linkages between sustainability and globalisation be framed and conducted?
- There is a need to further engage multinational corporations, and to increase accountability of international institutions (e.g. WTO).
- Problems of scale and subsidiarity are crucial.
- Can globalisation effectively "handle" problems of increased inequity between and within countries, and of depletion of scarce resources? How?
- Does it matter if countries and regions become dependent on production elsewhere of essential commodities?
- Which alternative approaches might offer as great or greater possibilities for individual and community benefit?
- What limits, if any, should be placed on globalisation, and how? Implications for international governance?

Peace and Security (Introduced, but no separate discussion)

- How serious are the environmental "threats" facing us? If nothing much changes what are the likely timescales and patterns of disruption?
- Up until now the implicit tensions between traditional national security problems based on identifying other states as potential enemies and security policies based on the concept that humanity faces much more deep-seated common threats from global warming, resources depletion, overpopulation etc have been contained. Perhaps though we are now entering a new period when resolving these tensions becomes crucial to making progress at Earth Summit 2002.

PROCESS

How can debate on these issues best be framed and conducted? Suggestions included:

Bottom-up processes. There is a need to strengthen the local level via local, regional and central government. Strengthening of communities will allow them to effectively feed into bottom-up processes.

Increasing awareness. Increasing awareness was seen as a priority, with the Internet as a tool for increasing widespread understanding.

Indicators. The importance of indicators was emphasised – they allow people to see tangible results from their actions.

Media relations. Sustainable development news needs to be presented to the media in a palatable, story-based format. Issues-based approach (Climate change) works better than policy-based (LA21). It may be worth pointing out Rio+10 = Seattle+3, especially as this is likely to generate more attention from the US.

Participation. Creation of schemes for volunteers/community service in sustainable development activities. Encouraging global citizenship by designating days off for activity supporting sustainable development.

Policy options for government

- Wider consultation with civil society
- Public education/generating public debate
- Application of Poverty Analysis to UK /developed nation poverty (e.g. DFID Livelihoods). We would then have a common framework for north and south.

Actions

There was a suggestion that a UK Media Summit on Earth Summit 2002 and sustainable development needs to be organised.

Future events

The first independent meeting of the 'UK in the Wider World' took place on 9 May 2001.

Comments

This report was compiled by John Gordon and Ben Dixon at UNED Forum, from notes taken by Beth Hiblin of UNED Forum. Comments or enquiries can be sent to info@earthsummit2002.org.



Closing Remarks

– *Derek Osborn*

I thank all delegates once again for the range and depth of the contributions that were made on 20 March. In considering how to adequately wrap-up so full a day, I also find the need to emphasise once again the size of the task ahead in making a success of the Johannesburg process.

Disillusionment in the South and disunity in the North will require a compelling new vision and strong political leadership to overcome. For the UK the Prime Minister has given a lead in his recent speeches. Now we need to follow through, and to build alliances in all parts of the world, and with all sectors of society.

There is a strong sense that the UK can only claim to take a leading and constructive role in the international debate if we are visibly and actively taking steps to move towards more sustainable development at home. This year's review of sustainable development in the UK ought to be a very thorough one. It ought to have very much of an eye to how we appear to others in the world.

There are some things to be proud of in our recent performance as a society on these matters. We have cleaner air and water. We have climate change and biodiversity strategies in place. There has been widespread adoption of Local Agenda 21 or similar sustainability programmes by local government. Regional agencies and devolved administrations are making some progress on sustainability.

Nevertheless the Government's own indicators show that we are still falling short in other areas. We have growing volumes of waste, and poor recycling performance. Sustainable consumption or resource efficiency is still more of a concept than a reality. We have perennial transport problems. Much more action is needed on sustainable energy. The recent Foot and Mouth Disease crisis only underlines how far we are from sustainability in farming practices and the rural economy. Urban regeneration still has a long way to go. Pockets of poverty persist. Sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency are still slogans more than practical programmes.

Our conference shows vividly that a thorough review of sustainable development this year would benefit from active engagement with stakeholder groups in the UK, both as commentators and as active participants in shaping solutions. Many will have useful contributions to make on key elements of the strategy. Could we even envisage that this year's review might not simply consist of a review by Government of pro-

gress, but could include chapters contributed by business, trade unions, local government and other groups about their own progress on sustainable development so as to show a joint effort of society on these issues?

Looking beyond the UK, the strong sense of the conference is that the engagement with the international debate ought to be a very practically oriented one. There is a strong desire to unblock the deadlock on the climate change debate and to make progress on the biodiversity, fish-stocks and desertification conventions. Governance should be strengthened and principles reinforced. But above all it is widely felt that the development theme ought to be the strongest dimension, and we should be looking to create or expand programmes that go directly to the sustainable development issues that are of the most direct concern to the developing countries and the poorest communities in them. There is particular interest in creating practical partnerships for action on the ground in South Africa or Africa generally involving business, local government and other players.

Resources are crucial here. The South feels betrayed by the failure of developed countries to deliver on their Rio promises to provide more assistance to the South to help them in the transition to sustainable development. The UK Government has begun to turn the tide on this. Could we envisage creating a broad donor partnership to craft a New Deal for Sustainable Development in the South with significant extra resources that could be presented at Johannesburg?

UNED – along with many other groups in the UK – is gearing up to work intensively on these issues and themes in the months ahead. Immediate priorities in UNED's UK work are the organisation of another conference with international speakers from South Africa and the UN in June, and a series of ongoing working groups on some of the key themes that have emerged in our conference. Internationally, UNED recently held a high-level seminar on Multistakeholder Processes, in New York, between CSD 9 and Summit PrepCom 1, to help provide input to the New York discussions on the way in which stakeholder engagement will be built into the Earth Summit 2002 process. We are also establishing links with key partners in South Africa and other countries. I invite all UNED members and friends to play an active part in these and other activities that will be planned for the months ahead.

Derek Osborn

Facilitating the UK National Review of UNCED

Working with others, UNED UK seeks to:

- Inform organisations and individuals of the possibilities of *Earth Summit 2002*.
- Continue to build and strengthen a framework within which stakeholders can constructively interact with each other during the run-up to the Summit.
- Identify key social, economic, and environmental issues where real progress is vital in the UK and globally.
- Develop a UK-wide consensus of actions that government, major groups, the business community, and individuals can take in these areas, which will both promote sustainability in the UK and enable the UK to lead by example at *Earth Summit 2002*.
- Continue to provide a stream of information to Government and Civil Society to help it prepare for a UK presence at *Earth Summit 2002* (including a UK-focused website).

Key components of this strategy:

- To facilitate review processes within local government, professional bodies, trade unions, the youth and women's movements, and other key sectors of civil society;
- To work with civil society and the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales in promoting separate but parallel dialogues on sustainable development;

- To persuade opinion formers and the media to buy into the national review process promoted by Government and the United Nations;
- To focus the debate on five areas of genuine importance to the UK:
 1. Bio-diversity & Natural Resources Conservation
 2. Climate Change & Energy Use
 3. Sustainable Cities & Communities
 4. Sustainable Production & Consumption
 5. UK in the Wider World

How to get involved

UNED UK welcomes the opportunity to talk to representatives of public and private bodies with an interest in the subject, or a desire to become actively involved. In addition, UNED UK can provide:

- Information on the possibilities and challenges of *Earth Summit 2002*;
- Monthly and quarterly newsletters with up-to-date information and linkages to UK and international progress towards *Earth Summit 2002*;
- Speakers for like-minded events; and
- Copies of informational material for your organisation or for further distribution.

Please join us as we pave the way to *Earth Summit 2002*. Your ideas are welcome, as are suggestions about how you and your organisation can help UNED UK to take this process forward.

For more information contact:

UNED Forum Administrator • 3 Whitehall Court • London SW1A 2EL • UK
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7839 1784 • Fax: +44 (0) 20 7930 5893 • e-mail: info@earthsummit2002.org
Website: www.unedforum.org

Governance, Business & Sustainable Development

The London Schumacher Lectures

Thursday 14 June 2001, 2.30–7.30pm • The Banqueting House, Whitehall

The lectures and discussions with the audience that follow will explore ways in which improved information flow between government, business, and civil society can enhance the implementation of sustainable development in the UK, and globally.

Key issues will include:

- What are government and business doing, or what can they do, to further implement sustainable development.
- How can information flows be enhanced to assure the adoption of new perspectives.
- What government and business leaders can do to assure the success of the September 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- How individuals and organisations can be involved.

Further information and registration materials can be easily found on-line at: www.unedforum.org
or please contact: UNED UK • 3 Whitehall Court • London SW1A 2EL
Tel: 020 7839 1784 • Fax: 020 7930 5893 • e-mail: info@earthsummit2002.org

Diary

UK Diary Dates

● 14 June 2001

Governance, Business & Sustainable Development – The London Schumacher Lectures

The Banqueting House, Whitehall, London, 2.30–7.30pm

See page 18 for more details.

Contact: UNED UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL

Tel: 020 7839 1784, Fax: 020 7930 5893

E-mail: info@earthsummit2002.org

● 18 June 2001

Seminar on Education & Sustainable Development, In Preparation for Earth Summit 2002

Abbey Conference Centre, South Bank University, London, 11am–5pm

The seminar will build on the UNED UK/ South Bank University Education for Sustainability conference held in June 2000.

Contact: info@earthsummit2002.org

Tel: 020 7930 8750

● 28–30 June 2001

11th Annual Conference of the European Association for Environmental and Resource Economists

Southampton

Keynote topics covering issues of growth and the environment, valuation and incentives.

Contact: www.eaere.org

E-mail: eaere.icms@dia1.pipex.com

● 17–23 July 2001

Summer School 2001: Consumption, Everyday life and Sustainability

Lancaster University

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

Contact: Joann Bowker, Department of

Sociology, Cartmel College, University of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YL

E-mail: j.bowker@lancaster.ac.uk

● 17 October 2001

"It's your Choice – changing patterns of production and consumption in the UK."

Imperial College, London University

A one day conference, held jointly by UNED UK and Imperial, follows a series of multi-stakeholder preparatory workshops on a range of issues, (including food, non-food domestic consumption, tourism, personal transport, domestic water and energy consumption) with sustainable waste management as a core theme. The conference will debate these issues and agree practical actions for changing production and consumption patterns at various levels of UK society, together with the recommendations for necessary support from the UK Government to help facilitate rapid and widespread uptake.

For more information, please contact Hersha Mistry, Centre for Continuing Education, Imperial College, Exhibition Rd, London, SW7 2AZ. Tel: +44 (0) 207 594 6884, E-mail cpd@ic.ac.uk

● 12–13 November 2001

Equity for a Small Planet

Canada House (12 November) and

Congress House (13 November)

IIEDs 30th Anniversary Conference. An international forum on the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002.

Contact: Lilian Chatterjee

Tel: 020 7388 2117

International Diary Dates

● 6–8 June 2001

Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Habitat

Agenda, Istanbul +5

Contact: Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Coordinator, Istanbul+ 5, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, Nairobi, Kenya; tel: +254-2-623831, E-mail: Axumite.Gebre-Egziabher@unhcr.org Consult UNHCR's website at <http://www.unhcr.org> or <http://www.istanbul5.org/>

● June 2001

First Unep/Gef Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) General Assembly

Kalmar, Sweden

This General Assembly of the GIWA project will be preceded by meetings of the GIWA Methods Peer Review Board on 2 March, and the GIWA Steering Group, from 3–5 March.

Contact: GIWA Coordination Office, Kalmar

Tel: +46-480-447350

Fax: +46-480-447355

Internet: <http://www.giwa.net>

● 25–27 June 2001

UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS

New York, USA

Contact:

www.unaids.org/whatsnew/others/un_special/index.html

● 28–30 June 2001

International conference on Sustainable Tourism: Environmental Challenges in the Mediterranean Area

Rimini, Italy

Contact: Assessorato Ambiente,

Fax: +39 0541 7162 41

E-mail: ambiente@provincia.rimini.it

Website: www.provincia.rimini.it

● 16–27 July 2001

Resumed COP6/14th Session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies

Bonn, Germany

Contact: www.unfccc.int

Preparations for Earth Summit 2002 Diary

National

2000 – Summer 2001

National multi-stakeholder committees for sustainable development will coordinate national preparations. They will begin to define national agendas and undertake a review of progress. Public consultations and meetings, previous National

Reports to the CSD and National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs) will all help to inform this process. The UN CSD has suggested four national activities, in particular countries are asked to define 4–5 national targets 'National Progressions' to take domestic sustainable development forward.

Regional Roundtables, Sub-regional PrepComs, & Regional PrepComs

Summer 2001 – Winter 2001

Regional Roundtables

A Regional roundtable will precede each Regional Preparatory meeting. They will bring together regional experts from a

diversity of backgrounds to conduct a non-political and unfettered discussion of regional progress and future directions. Reports from the Regional roundtables will be available to the Regional PrepComs.

Sub-regional & Regional PrepComs

Regional meetings of governments and other major groups will seek to build consensus over critical issues for progressing regional sustainable development. They will identify areas of priority action and highlight examples of best practice. The processes will be informed by the roundtables, which will seek to highlight problems, solutions and priorities, as well as to set targets. Sub-regional processes may also contribute to this process, where they are being arranged in advance of the regional meeting. These meetings will take place as follows:

REGION:

Africa

ROUNDTABLE:

Egypt, 25–27 June

SUB REGIONAL PREPCOMS:

- *West Africa*: Abuja, Nigeria, 24–26 September 2001
- *South Africa*: Gaborone, Botswana, 3–5 September 2001
- *Central Africa*: Libreville, Gabon, 17–19 September 2001
- *Northern Africa*: Tunis, Tunisia, 5–7 September 2001
- *East Africa*: Djibouti, Djibouti, 10–12 September 2001

REGIONAL PREPCOM:

Nairobi, Kenya, UNON [UN Office in Nairobi] 15–18 October

REGION:

Asia and the Pacific

ROUNDTABLES:

- *Central & South Asia*: Krygyzstan, 30 July–1 August
- *East Asia & the Pacific*: Malaysia, 9–11 July

SUB REGIONAL PREPCOMS:

- *Northeast Asian PrepCom* will be held in conjunction with the Senior Environment Official Meeting (ASPEC): Beijing, China, 25–27 July 2001.
- *Southeast Asian PrepCom*: hosted by the Asian Development Bank: Manila, Philippines, 1st week of August 2001; dates TBA.
- *Central Asian PrepCom*: Almaty, Kazakhstan, 1st week of September 2001; dates TBA.

- *South Asian PrepCom* is being considered for either in Bhutan or Kathmandu, Nepal, in August 2001.
- *Pacific PrepCom*, Apia, Samoa, in conjunction with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Ministerial Governing Council Meeting (10–14 September 2001).

REGIONAL PREPCOM:

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 27–29 November

REGION:

Europe & North America

The ECE Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development will be convened as a Special Session of the Economic Commission for Europe. This Meeting will serve as the full-fledged European Regional PrepCom, and will include a ministerial roundtable and a Multistakeholder dialogue with the participation of NGOs and civil society. The European PrepCom will be preceded by a meeting of senior officials of the full ECE member countries, in Geneva, 12–13 July 2001.

ROUNDTABLE:

Vail, Colorado, USA, 6–8 June

SUB REGIONAL PREPCOM:

Central and Eastern European (CEE): “Regional Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+10,” Bucharest, Romania, 29–30 June

REGIONAL PREPCOM:

Geneva, Switzerland, 24–25 September

REGION:

Latin America & Caribbean

ROUNDTABLE:

Barbados, 12–14 June

SUB REGIONAL PREPCOMS:

- *Meso-America (Central America + Mexico)*: San Salvador, El Salvador, 17–18 July
- *Caribbean*: Havana, Cuba, 28–29 June
- *Andean Zone*: Quito, Ecuador, 2–3 July

REGIONAL PREPCOM:

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 23–24 October (following the 13th meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment, 23–24 October)

REGION:

West Asia

ROUNDTABLE:

Was held in Lebanon, 9–11 April (outcomes forthcoming)

SUB REGIONAL PREPCOM:

No meetings are planned at this time.

REGIONAL PREPCOM:

Cairo, Egypt, 23–25 October (A Special Session of the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR) will be held in Cairo, Egypt, on 28 October. A Special Session of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), Arab Ministers of Planning and Arab Ministers of Economics will be held in Cairo, Egypt, on 30 October.)

Global PrepComs

2001 – Summer 2002

- *PrepCom 1*, the first Global Preparatory Committee, was held in New York from 30 April – 2 May 2001, and focussed on Summit and PrepCom related procedures.
- *PrepCom 2*, 28 January 2002 – 8 February 2002, in New York, will be the first substantive session. The UN Secretary General will produce a global report on progress and reports on the outcomes of the regional and national review processes.
- *PrepCom 3*, 25 March 2002 – 5 April 2002, in New York, will finalise reviews and define lessons learnt and remaining constraints to implementation. It will set a provisional agenda for the Summit.
- *PrepCom 4*, 27 May 2002 – 7 June 2002, in Indonesia, will be a high level ministerial event to identify the priority issues for the Summit. It includes two days of multi-stakeholder dialogues.
- *World Summit on Sustainable Development*, 2–11 September 2002, Johnsonburg, South Africa. The plenary is proposed to be in two halves. From 2–6 September, delegates and civil society participants will address organisational issues and undertake partnership events. From 9–11 September, Heads of State will debate and a multi-stakeholder event will be convened. The Main Committee will meet in parallel to negotiate outstanding elements of a draft text for a Johannesburg Declaration.

Useful Websites

UNED FORUM

www.unedforum.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

COPENHAGEN+5: A SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS

www.earthsummit2002.org/wssd/default.htm

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PROCESSES (MSPs)

www.earthsummit2002.org/msp

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

www.amnesty.org

ANPED
THE NORTHERN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

www.antenna.nl/anped

BAHA'I COMMUNITY UK

www.bahai.org.uk

BIONET (BIODIVERSITY ACTION NETWORK):

www.igc.org/bionet

BRITISH OVERSEAS NGOS FOR DEVELOPMENT (BOND)

www.bond.org.uk

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 OF ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT
AND THE REGIONS (DETR)

www.detr.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

INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON FORESTS

www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC)

www.iccwbo.org

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LOCAL
ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

www.iclei.org/

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT (IIED)

www.iied.org

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

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

INTERNATIONAL NGO NETWORK ON
DESERTIFICATION

<http://riod.utando.com>

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Consumption
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Oxford Centre for the Environment,
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Oxford OX1 3TF
Tel: +44 1865 282 903
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E-mail:
laurie.michaelis@mansf.ox.ac.uk

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Network**
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West Midlands LA21 Network
East Staffordshire Borough Council,
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UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES INCLUDING WORLD BANK AND IMF

Economic Commission for Europe,
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CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
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Fax: 00 41 22 917 05 05

FAO, Vialle delle Terme di Caracalla
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GEF Secretariat
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HABITAT

UN Centre for Human Settlements
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E-mail: anpraag@worldbank.org

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

UN Division for Sustainable
Development (UNSD)
New York NY 10017 USA
Secretariat Tel: 00 1 212 963 3170
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CSD NGO/MAJOR GROUPS STEERING COMMITTEE:

Sustainable Development Liaison
Network
Contact: Pieter Van der Gagg
ANPED, The Northern Alliance for
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UK Preparations for Earth Summit 2002: The National and Global Dimensions

Tuesday 20 March 2001

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Earth Summit 2002) will, among other things, be a critical review of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the Rio Conventions. To this end, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has suggested that UN member countries take steps to assess progress since Rio, including 'National Progressions' to highlight achievements and, through a bottom-up process, identify 3 to 5 issues on which to focus so as to advance sustainable development in that country over the next 5 to 10 years.

In its role as the National Committee for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the UK, and its support of the work of the CSD, UNED has taken a UK lead in facilitating multi-stakeholder input to this process. The following keynote addresses were part of a one-day, comprehensive event attended by over 280 people, including representatives of NGOs and Government from the devolved countries. The full conference report can be found on the UNED Forum website at: www.unedforum.org.

Morning Keynote Address

*Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP
Environment Minister*

*Presented by Sheila McCabe,
Divisional Manager, Environmental Protection
International, UK Department of Environment,
Transport, & the Regions*

Introduction

Michael Meacher has asked me to say how sorry he is that he will not be able to speak today. He has also asked me to wish the conference every success and to hear in due course its outputs. He congratulates UNED Forum on their tireless and enthusiastic work to prepare for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. UNED have raised the profile of this event both here and abroad.

I will use this opportunity to explain what the UK Government is doing here in the UK to prepare for 2002. Then I will say a few words about the UK's input into multilateral processes – in the European Union, in the OECD, and in the UN.

Overview of 2002

Rio put the words sustainable development on the global agenda. I am pleased that the UN has decided to call Rio plus 10 "The World Summit on Sustainable Development". We know that the term "sustainable development" has often been more honoured in the breach than in the observance, but it remains the most important goal for us and for developing countries.

Since Rio globalisation has accelerated. The main challenge we have to face in Johannesburg is making sure globalisation works to our benefit, not to our cost. We have to counter the problems of globalisation – in particular the increasing gap between rich and poor, the accelerating loss of natural resources – with the remedies of globalisation – better access to technology, and rapid sharing of information. The DFID White paper on

globalisation published in December set out in detail our proposals to make globalisation a force for the good.

Against this backdrop there is an emerging consensus, particularly in the EU, about the likely agenda for 2002. These include:

- combating the links between poverty and environmental degradation;
- striving to implement the international development targets,
- especially the International development target of sustainable development strategies in place by 2002 and reversing the decline in environmental resources by 2015;
- maximising resource efficiency
- making a step change in policies on sustainable energy, freshwater, forests and oceans.
- Ratifying and implementing the Kyoto protocol
- Strengthening international environmental governance

Timetable to 2002

It might be helpful if I quickly sketch out the timetable for preparations to 2002. Although it has yet to be confirmed, we expect that the summit itself will take place in early September in 2002 in Johannesburg.

The Summit will be prepared on a "bottom up" basis that is from national and regional events. Global discussions will not begin formally until next year. The reason for this is the perceived failure of imposing a top down agenda at Rio plus 5 in 1997. Also many hope that it will reinvigorate regional action.

Each country has been challenged to do its own national preparations. I will say more about that in a moment. The "European" region of the UN will hold its regional preparations in Geneva in September. Our region includes the US and Canada as well as Eastern Europe. At the same time the UN secretariat in New York will be organising a number of roundtables in 2001. Some of these will be on particular themes; others will

aim to draw together "eminent people" to seek their guidance. In this way the preparatory process will go much wider than the normal government preparations.

Drawing on these ideas and recommendations, preparations will start at a global level in January 2002. There will be a review of the progress – and the omissions – since 1992. Of course this has been far slower than we should have wished. We hope however, the Summit itself will concentrate on future action, not past failings. There will be a ministerial preparatory meeting in the summer of 2002 in Indonesia, followed by the Summit itself in September.

This does not leave us much time, but if we grasp all the opportunities I believe we can deliver a substantial agenda for 2002.

UK Preparations

As you know the UK has been in the forefront of international preparations. In November Tony Blair was the first Head of Government to commit to attend the Summit. This has raised the stakes for everyone involved. Last week Tony Blair made further commitments for the UK. He announced that he will personally lead a strategy to involve UK business and NGOs in preparations for the summit, and that the UK would:

- Be launching a joint initiative with WWF for a competition and programme to involve young people from across the UK in the summit, which will include sending the winners to participate; and
- Provide 1.5 million pounds to support the preparatory process for the WSSD internationally and to assist with the cost of preparations.

UK Sustainable Development Strategy

The Rio plus Five meeting in 1997 agreed a new international development target: that all countries should have a sustainable development strategy by 2002. The UK has met that target.

Our Sustainable Development Strategy was published in 1999. We will use this strategy as the basis for our UK report to 2002. We promised to report every year on our progress. We published our first such annual review – covering the year 2000 – in January. That report shows a wide range of examples – by government, but also by all the other actors – of action we have already taken. In particular it reports on progress against the 15 headline indicators making up a 'quality of life barometer', measuring people's everyday social, environmental and economic concerns.

The headline indicators help to raise awareness and focus public attention on what sustainable development means. They provide a broad overview of whether we are achieving a better quality of life for everyone now and for future generations. Where a trend is not moving in the right direction the Government is committed to adjust its policies accordingly and will look to others to join in taking action.

We are now thinking about how to shape our special UK report for 2002. We would like to hear your ideas on what contribution civil society might make and how best to involve you in its production.

At the same time we launched a new website to ensure that monitoring and reporting of progress is continuous. There is a leaflet at the back of the hall

which gives details of this website. This will enable you to see up to date information on all the action in hand.

We hope that this website will also provide a channel for consulting you and others on issues. We will set up a discussion forum on the preparations for the 2002 Summit as part of our consultation process. This will enable us to reach more people that would be possible through traditional consultation processes.

We have also funded UNED to orchestrate consultations across civil society, and this conference is part of their work. We look forward particularly to the outcome of your conference today and the ideas you have on taking work forward.

We have to be realistic about what 2002 can achieve through UN consultations, which depend on consensus. This puts a much greater emphasis on regional and national preparations, and the need to use the momentum of 2002 to make progress here. One of the ideas which has been floated by a number of people in the UK is the idea of multi-stakeholder initiatives. That is agreements between different parts of civil society and governments. Ministers would be very interested to look at practical ideas for action. We hope UNED will be able to play a significant role in developing these. So please do give these ideas some thought this afternoon and let us know what you think.

There has been an understandably slow start to civil society interest in 2002. Lack of a decision on the venue or agenda in the UN inevitably deterred people. I am delighted therefore to see so many people here today. This shows there has been a real change of gear and that people are now interested and anxious to take action.

We have asked UNED UK to facilitate some consultations with civil society in the UK to help us prepare for 2002. This conference is part of that outreach. We look forward to hearing your ideas and conclusions.

The Prime Minister has said he is interested in working on strong pioneering actions to mark the UK's contribution. Do respond to that challenge. The proposed UNED roundtables on offer an excellent opportunity to agree action.

Other UK Consultations

Officials have already had informal consultations with business and NGOs and we will build on these in the meetings the Prime Minister announced. He identified five areas with the potential for action: freshwater; sustainable energy; tourism, finance and forestry. As some of you may know, the UK was instrumental in setting up the G8 Renewable Energy Taskforce, which is co-chaired by Sir Mark Moody Stuart of Shell. This will report to G8 Heads of Government at the Genoa Summit in July. We hope that it will generate ideas for implementation by G8 and others at the Summit.

Of course UK NGOs, not least UNED, have been active both at home and abroad. In November the UK Sustainable Development Commission and UNED organised a conference to consult UK NGOs and others on ideas, which was reflected in the Prime Minister's speech. We are keen to continue this dialogue throughout our preparations for 2002.

An excellent range of conferences on 2002 will be held during the year in the UK. I am sure these will generate further ideas. I know that UNED Forum is planning another event in June to prepare for 2002. And

of course WWF recently hosted an international conference at Chatham House. In November I look forward to the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) 40th anniversary conference, which will focus on 2002.

In addition the devolved administrations are carrying out their own preparations:

- The National Assembly for Wales is committed to consulting stakeholders directly. This will be in collaboration with UNED, but in the basis of Wales' distinctive experience in pursuing sustainable development.
- In Scotland the Scottish Executive has commissioned the Scottish Civic Forum to organise the consultation. This will involve a steering committee representing the key stakeholders, three consultation events across Scotland, and an electronic consultation through the BT Teledemocracy Centre.
- The Northern Ireland Executive, in its Programme for Government published recently, is committed to consulting on a Sustainable Development Strategy by June 2001. It is expected that preparation for the Summit will be one of the issues addressed during the consultation.

All of these processes will contribute to the formulation of the UK position.

We are working closely with our EU partners to prepare our position for 2002. At the Environment Council on 8th March we agreed Council conclusions that set out strategic objectives to guide EU preparations for the Summit. Priority areas for the Summit would include the need to increase global equity and effective partnership for sustainable development, encourage ratification and effective implementation of conventions and the protocols adopted since Rio, to achieve endorsement and adoption of environment and development targets and the more effective action and follow-up at national, regional and international level.

EU Sustainable Development Strategy

I mentioned earlier the International Development Target that sustainable development strategies should be in place by 2002. The UK believes that this target should apply as much to the EU itself as to the individual member states. It has been difficult for the Commission to take this forward because its institutions are not best suited to cross cutting work. After a slow start, however, I am encouraged by the latest developments. Last Thursday the UK Government sponsored a major conference on the Strategy in London in which both I, and Commissioner Wallstrom, participated.

Our aim is that the strategy should provide a long-term vision for a better quality of life in Europe. An important part of this will be a EU economy based on much higher resource efficiency. Second, the strategy should set objectives and targets especially on its implementation of the international development targets. This means the strategy must look at the EU's impact on the rest of the world, through trade and aid and other policies, as well as its internal goals.

It should identify the unsustainable trends in the EU, especially the inability, so far, to de-couple economic

growth from adverse environmental effects. And it should set remedies in hand. It should also involve the wider community – I am pleased that public consultation has now got under way. Last, but not least, we must find a way of regularly reviewing progress and updating our targets.

OECD Sustainable Development Strategy

The next step up the ladder from UK national preparations to the UN is the OECD. Ministers agreed in 1998 that the OECD should produce its own sustainable development strategy. This is due to be discussed and agreed by BOTH environment and finance Ministers in May. As an analytical, rather than a policy-implementing organisation, the OECD approach has inevitably been different. The OECD has produced a tour de force of analysis on sustainable development amounting to 400 pages. This will be a rich seam for individual member states to mine in future years.

I applaud the OECD for ensuring that finance Ministers are closely involved in the process. Too often sustainable development is falsely regarded as the province of only environment ministers. I hope that the OECD May Ministerial will agree policy recommendations on market mechanisms:

- making the global economy a force for sustainable development;
- responding to climate change challenges;
- harnessing the potential of science and technology; and
- ensuring that we use natural resources much more efficiently.

OECD and National Strategies for Sustainable Development

I said earlier that DFID are actively assisting developing countries establish effective sustainable development strategies. Internationally, they are doing this in part through the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. The UK co-leads a task-force, which is producing guidance for donors on sustainable development strategies. DFID are working in a number of developing countries to help them realise this target. DFID are also supporting a roundtable event, as part of the UN preparations, on sustainable development strategies.

UN Preparations

This brings me to the global preparations which are being led in the UN. This is a significant extra burden on the UN secretariat. As part of the UK support for 2002 we have seconded a DETR official to the Secretariat to help in the preparation of the roundtables.

Like many others I was impressed with the vision and charisma of the South African environment Minister Valli Moosa at the recent UNEP Governing Council. He will be leading the South African preparations for the Summit with verve and commitment. Through DFID the UK will support the South African preparations for the summit. We have agreed an initial package of support pending preparation of a larger funding proposal and have seconded a DFID official into the South African Department of Environment and Tourism. DFID is also providing money for UNED Forum's work in en-

couraging southern groups involvement in the WSSD process.

At the governing council Valli Moosa emphasised his wish for a forward looking Summit. He recognised the need to ensure that South Africa itself benefited from the event, and that we leave a positive legacy not more pollution in Johannesburg. He identified some personal goals for the agenda: poverty and the environment, health issues, water, energy, international environmental governance and biodiversity.

International Environmental Governance

One of the agenda items for 2002 I mentioned at the beginning is international environmental governance. There has been a lot of discussion about this, especially in developed countries. The UK has sought to ensure that this debate is grounded in practical ideas, which will ensure better action on the ground. In my view, changes in institutions will only bring benefits if there is:

- political will to implement agreements; and
- adequate and stable funding.

It must also find ways, as Valli Moosa has said, to empower developing countries to participate in the ever growing number of international environmental negotiations. And, not least, enable them to implement those agreements effectively.

Last year, we commissioned Chatham House to do a survey of the problems and identify criteria against which to judge proposals¹. There was extensive discussion of governance in the EU under the French presidency. Ministers concluded that UNEP, based in Nairobi, should be strengthened to meet the challenges. We also agreed that more work was required in the EU to help to resolve the chronic funding problems of UNEP.

As you may know, the UNEP Governing council agreed to set up a Working Group at Ministerial and senior official level, to assess the problem and propose options. This working group will report to the UNEP Global Environment Forum of Ministers in early 2002, and thence to the Summit preparations. I am pleased to announce today that the UK Government will be providing 100,000 pounds extra funding to UNEP to help finance this work.

In addition we shall also be funding UNEP to organise a workshop for experts on governance. This meeting will provide ideas for the Working Group to consider, and will be held at UNEP's WCMC site in Cambridge in the summer. I am pleased that the UK has been able to play a constructive role in this important and sensitive area.

Conclusion

I have set out the range of activities in hand to prepare for this important summit. To my mind it has demonstrated that the UK, as government and as civil society, is as the forefront of the preparations. We must continue to work together to ensure that the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development really and truly makes life better for the poor of the world. And that, working with our partners, we halt and reverse the precipitous loss of those natural resources on which all human life depends.

1. <http://www.rii.org/Research/eep/publications.html>

This address, including the Q&A session with the delegates, can also be found on the UNED Forum website at: www.unedforum.org.

Afternoon Keynote Address

*Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel
Deputy Executive Director,
United Nations Environment
Programme, Nairobi, Kenya*



Mr. Chairman
Rt. Honourable Michael Meacher, MP
Honourable Ministers
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates,

Let me begin by thanking the Government and people of the United Kingdom for their gracious hospitality. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the United Nations Environment and Development UK Committee for inviting the United Nations Environment Programme to take part in the reflections on our common future which, no doubt, will be central to the discussions at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

It is fitting that we have gathered here, in the UK, 29 years after the historic 1972 UN Conference and the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to assess the progress achieved and most importantly, to shape the path of our journey into the 21st Century.

We are also meeting at a time of increasing global preparations for the ten-year review of the pioneering global agenda for change – so often referred to as Agenda 21, a major and formidable achievement for the international community which adopted it in 1992. It was meant to represent a new global road map. Through it, we had agreed on the destination we envisaged for the global community – sustainable development within and among all our countries was our chosen destination.

But as we stand on the threshold of the new millennium, we are still at crossroads both in the South and in the North. The economic, the social, the ecological and even the political costs of unsustainable development are far too high today to maintain the

dangerous fallacy that the choice is between environment or development, or between our generation or the next.

Reflections on the Lingering Issues on the Road From Stockholm and Rio

Over the past three decades the governments of the world have gradually come to recognize the importance of taking the environment into account in their development plans. Environmental considerations, instead of being regarded as an impediment to progress, are now increasingly seen as an essential ingredient of sustainable development.

The reasons for this realization are many and complex. The obvious damage the human race is wreaking on the environment, and the negative impacts of that damage on human societies, has helped focus minds. So too, has the growth of environmental awareness and activism throughout civil society. Much of the credit must go to the world's governments themselves, as well as NGOs and civil society for bringing the environment firmly onto the global agenda.

When the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment established the United Nations Environment Programme in 1972, it set the world on a road that would bring the environment into the mainstream of policy making. That advance was consolidated at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro when the needs of environment and development were explicitly linked and the governments of the world called for a stronger role for UNEP.

The implementation of Agenda 21 has enabled us to ask some searching questions. How do we implement the numerous plans and programmes of action for recovery and development knowing the ever-expanding social and economic crises confronting most parts of the world, and particularly those in the South?

In other words, how do we continue to take decisions on the present and futures in the face of ever-increasing uncertainty – when and where will the next civil war begin? How do we implement the development programmes and policies in circumstances of debt burdens, unfair international trading systems, displacement of societies and communities, of conflict over food, water and land or over other environmental resources, of equity, of famine, of lack of access to basic human needs.

The crux of the matter is that we need to secure durable solutions to the constraints which have hitherto limited progress. This will also require clarifying and redefining our priorities, changing our approaches and perhaps even the instruments we have, up to now, used to address some of the major environmental challenges so comprehensively outlined in the recent Global Environment Outlook reports of the United Nations Environment Programme. Most importantly, we must ask ourselves whether our decisions bring about economic, social and ecological sustainability. In this context, we must forge a global alliance between North and South and enter into strategic partnerships with the civil society, NGOs and the private sector. Together, we must all be part of the solution.

As we look back and ponder over progress made – or needed – since the 1972 Stockholm Conference and the 1992 Rio Summit, we must recognize that for

almost half of humanity, the concepts of democracy, economic growth, peace and security are now seen in the context of sustainable development. Development which is not based on these key factors can no longer be described as sustainable in the same way that economic development which leads to the degradation of the environment and natural resource base can not be said to be sustainable.

These lingering challenges, 30 years after the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment and almost 10 years after the Rio Earth Summit, must be central to our agenda of work as we move from Stockholm (1972), Rio (1992) and to Johannesburg (2002). We must also integrate these concerns in the 10-year review of Agenda 21.

The Way Ahead

I believe the year 2000 marked another milestone. The world crossed a bridge at Malmö. The First Global Ministerial Environment Forum saw an unprecedented gathering of environment ministers from around the world, reflecting the high priority that governments now give to environmental issues. The gathering was unprecedented, not only in the number of delegates that it attracted – 500 delegates from over 130 countries, including 73 ministers – but in the frankness of the discussions and the substantive inclusion of civil society and the private sector in the process of trying to promote policy coherence in the environmental field.

The outcome of the Forum – the Malmö Declaration – sent a strong signal to the United Nations Millennium Summit. The message is that there is an environmental crisis and it will not go away until governments, the private sector and civil society forge partnerships and act together to alleviate poverty and remedy the threats to human health and the environment caused by our ignorance and negligence. This Declaration, in my opinion, represents a watershed in international commitment to saving our environment.

In the Malmö Declaration the governments of the world have taken a further step on the road to sustainable development. They have frankly addressed the environmental issues facing human kind at the beginning of the twenty-first century and have laid down a blueprint for action for the United Nations family to follow as it prepares to review and expand upon the commitments of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

The delegates at Malmö, in May 2000, made a commitment to tackle these issues. That is the message they sent the world through the United Nations Millennium Summit. In their own words: "At the dawn of this new century, we have at our disposal the human and material resources to achieve sustainable development, not as an abstract concept but as a concrete reality.

The unprecedented developments – in production and information technologies, the emergence of a younger generation with a clear sense of optimism, solidarity and values, women increasingly aware and with an enhanced and active role in society – all point to the emergence of a new consciousness. We can decrease poverty by half by 2015 without degrading the environment; we can ensure environmental security through early warning, we can better integrate environmental considerations into economic policies, we can

better coordinate legal instruments; and we can realise the vision of a world without slums. We commit ourselves to realising this common vision."

Another historic milestone, in our journey from Stockholm and Rio to Johannesburg, was the twenty-first session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which took place at an important juncture for humanity with new challenges and opportunities, but also with new risks confronting us.

The session comes in the wake of the historic United Nations Millennium Summit and the adoption of the Millennium Declaration by heads of State and Government, as well as the General Assembly's decision to convene the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002 to review progress made in implementing the goals adopted in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable development. It also followed the earlier referred to sixth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, at which environment ministers, in adopting the Malmö Declaration, set the course for a revolutionary, implementation-centred approach to tackling the environmental challenges of sustainable development facing us in the twenty-first century.

One of the key paragraphs in the Malmö Declaration criticises the international community for the "discrepancy between commitments and action." This view is shared by many people. Two-thirds of the 57,000 adults who responded to the United Nations Millennium Survey said their governments have not done enough to protect the environment. The achievements are dwarfed by the scale of the environmental calamity the Earth is currently facing. The UNEP *Global Environment Outlook* series – the second of which was published in 1999 – spells out, region by region, issue by issue, how the world's natural resources are being depleted by the twin evils of unsustainable consumption and poverty. Put bluntly, the challenges of sustainability are overwhelming the adequacy of our responses.

As we prepare for Johannesburg, we must resolve to do more and we must do it better. There are renewed efforts in a number of areas:

- (i) We have the tools to address our problems. One tool, perhaps the most important, is the United Nations itself. Through the United Nations, the governments of the world can unite to improve the environment by agreeing on principles, priorities and actions that will improve the environment and the lives of all.
- (ii) Governments are increasingly expressing concern that the current global environmental governance structure does not meet the needs of the environmental agenda. These concerns range from the proliferation of complex meetings that impose onerous demands on negotiators, particularly from developing countries, to the fragmentation of the agenda that prevents environmental issues from being dealt in a comprehensive manner and does not allow the emergence of an approach that could underpin and support the implementation and monitoring of legally binding commitments under international law.

- (iii) In any model of reform where the central importance of environmental compliance, enforcement and liability, as well as the observance of the Rio Principles, including the precautionary approach, are stressed, the particular circumstances of developing countries must be taken into account. Faced with declining terms of trade, tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, debt, population growth and economic instability, developing countries require enhanced support to meet their social and economic demands, even as they attempt to meet their own environmental obligations. The interrelation between poverty, health and the environment must be taken into account for the more enhanced implementation of the Rio Agenda.

- (iv) Any new model of governance must be based on the need for sustainable development that meets social, economic and environmental requirements. The environmental problems of today can no longer be dealt with in isolation. As the *Global Environment Outlook 2000* made clear, the environmental problems of today are linked to social demands, demographic pressures and poverty in developing countries, counterpoised against excessive and wasteful consumption in developed countries. In addition, any approach to strengthen international environmental governance must take into account that general recipes will no longer work and differentiated approaches, tailor-made solutions and specific answers corresponding to the unique situations we face today are needed. Such an approach would require universal commitment, as it entails enormous demands on policy design and implementation capacities, at all levels.

- (v) Matters related to the governance and reform of UNEP, as well as international environmental governance, were discussed in many fora since the Malmö meeting. In particular, the Informal Ministerial Session, Bergen, Norway, September 2001, discussed a number of proposals to strengthen the current fragmented institutional landscape, which has been called an undemocratic system. The present proliferation of structures, agreements and conferences has resulted in a heavy burden on particularly developing countries, many of who simply do not have the necessary resources either to participate in an adequate and meaningful manner, nor to comply with the complex and myriad reporting requirements associated therewith.

- (vi) In the months preceding the 21st UNEP Governing Council a number of countries, regional groups and academic institutions proposed various elements, options and possible future scenarios related to the international environmental governance. All of these were aimed at addressing, in an effective and coordinated manner, the wide-ranging environmental threats that the world of today is facing.

- (vii) Yet, while government's commitment and action is necessary to safeguard the environment, it is also clear that governments need to form effective partnerships with civil society and the private sector to achieve sustainable development. Civil society

has played a major role in putting the environment on the political agenda, nationally and internationally, and it will continue to do so. And increasingly, the private sector, from traditional industries to the financial sector, is helping find solutions to environmental problems instead of being a contributor to those problems. This is why it was so important that these two sectors played such a significant role at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

- (viii) The causes of environmental degradation are found largely in the way we live and run our societies. Civil society has a proven track record, based on the principle of voluntary action, of influencing how we lead our lives. By actions such as organising local clean-up campaigns, gathering and disseminating information and lobbying legislatures, civil society groups are able to motivate the citizenry of the world to address environmental issues at all levels. By creating partnerships with civil society, governments can promote a sense of common purpose. By listening to civil society and allowing it into the policy making process, governments will pave the way for gaining acceptance for the difficult lifestyle choices we all will need to make as we pursue the goal for a sustainable future.
- (ix) The other essential partner that governments must engage is the private sector. Private sector is the driving force behind globalisation, it is the source of most technology innovation, and increasingly it is the provider of many public services as governments around the world follow the path of privatisation. Partly as a result of civil society pressure, the way the private sector approaches environmental issues has changed over the past thirty years. From the reactive end-of-pipe approach of the 1970s, to a more public-relations approach during the 1980s, the private sector is now orientating itself more and more towards a preventative, cleaner, eco-efficient approach. The role of governments and international organisations now is to work with the private sector to reward ecologically beneficial technological advances and practices, to encourage a life-cycle approach to production and insist that polluters pay the true price of their actions. In these seeds lie the fruits of sustainable development.

The road to Johannesburg is not going to be easy. Many questions remain to be answered. How can we alleviate the poverty of the majority without increasing the consumption that is depleting our natural resources? How can we persuade the richer sections of society, especially in the developed world, to cut down their consumption? Can we turn commitment to environmental goals into action? Can we ensure compliance with international environmental agreements? Can we bring the environment to the top of the international trade and development agenda?

Working Together and Joining Hands in the Preparations for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development

The Commission on Sustainable Development stressed the importance of early and effective preparations for

the 2002 review and assessment of progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and of other outcomes of UNCED, to be carried out at the local, national, regional and international levels by governments and the United Nations system, so as to ensure high-quality inputs to the review process. The Commission encouraged effective contributions from, and involvement of, all major groups.

The Commission invited the UN Secretariat, working in close cooperation with UNEP, the UN Regional Commissions, secretariats of UNCED-related conventions, as well as other relevant organizations, agencies and programmes within and outside the UN system, including international and regional financial institutions, to support preparatory activities, in particular at the national and regional levels, in a co-ordinated and mutually reinforcing way.

The overall goal of the Summit is to reinvigorate, at the highest political level, the global commitment to sustainable development and to a North/South partnership and a higher level of international solidarity to the accelerated implementation of Agenda 21 and the promotion of sustainable development.

The General Assembly in the Resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000 underscored that the Summit and its preparatory processes should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development. It also stressed that the preparatory process and the Summit itself should provide for an active involvement of all stakeholders.

National Level Preparations

Among the important objectives of the preparatory process leading to the 2002 Summit are the following: a) Mobilizing awareness, interest and involvement at the national level with active and participatory involvement of national governments, major groups and the media, and; b) Ensuring an organic link between and effective contribution from national preparatory activities and assessments to regional preparatory processes and, subsequently, into the global preparatory process, including intergovernmental preparatory meetings.

UNEP is supporting some of the specific national preparatory activities undertaken in the UN system. For example in the case of Africa, UNEP is closely collaborating with the UNDP Capacity 21 Initiative.

Regional and Sub-regional Levels

The Commission on Sustainable Development, while allowing for the originality of regional contributions, has agreed that a certain uniformity is needed in regional preparatory processes. The Commission also underscored the importance of using the high-level inter-governmental processes that exist at the regional level. Some specific activities have been undertaken by the UN system in support of regional and sub-regional level preparations.

In response to an invitation from CSD8, DESA (9–10 June 2000) organised a consultative meeting with senior representatives of UNEP Regional Offices and UN Regional Commissions. As In follow-up to that meeting, the UNEP Regional Offices took part in a number of

planning meetings, which have culminated in work plans for sub-regional and regional preparatory processes.

Intergovernmental regional preparatory meetings will take place in the period from September–November 2001. Such timing would allow the regional preparatory meetings to fully benefit from various inputs from national assessments and relevant activities taking place or foreseen at the sub-regional and regional levels; and make their own timely contribution to the “global” intergovernmental preparatory process (CSD10 acting as the first substantive session of the PrepCom, 28 January–8 February 2002).

It would be essential to secure that regional preparatory meetings undertake two main tasks: (a) Regional assessments of progress, including, as appropriate, the results of national assessments, as well as (b) Contributions from the stakeholders from the regions.

In preparation for regional preparatory meetings, the following activities are underway:

- a) Regional Commissions and UNEP, in consultation with DESA, are elaborating specific modalities of regional preparatory meetings taking into account ongoing and planned regional processes and meetings. Consideration is given to organising sub-regional preparatory meetings in collaboration with relevant sub-regional organisations and institutions. DESA will also assist in funding of participation of representatives of developing countries in some of the sub-regional and regional preparatory meetings.
- b) DESA will undertake steps to ensure that the results of national assessments, as well as the results of country-level “101 ways” and “Sustainable Development Visions” initiatives are available to regional preparatory meetings.
- c) UNEP and Regional Commissions will collaborate to ensure that the results of various international and regional studies and assessments (GEO3; GIWA, economic and development reports and surveys, etc.) are brought to the attention of regional preparatory meetings. Regional preparatory meetings would be also be provided with comprehensive background reports with an assessment of progress achieved.
- d) UNEP and Regional Commissions will also undertake steps to bring the 2002 review to the attention of various planned regional and sub-regional meetings that are relevant to sustainable development. They will also undertake steps to raise awareness regarding the 2002 process within respective regions.

In order to take full advantage of the significant additional experience that is available with eminent persons, independent experts and representatives of major groups who have political and practical experience in the field of sustainable development and have actively been involved in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the local, national and regional levels, DESA, in consultation with UN Regional Commissions, UNEP and other organisations, is organising regional Agenda 21 roundtables.

Such roundtables will involve prominent experts from the region and representatives of all key sectors of the society. The main objective of the roundtables would be

to elaborate practical proposals and suggest innovative approaches aimed at expediting progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and, in this context, formulate recommendations for consideration by regional preparatory meetings. Reports of the roundtables will be made broadly available. The roundtables are planned for the May–July 2001 period, prior to the regional preparatory meetings.

This address can also be found on the UNED Forum website at: www.unedforum.org.

(Note: There was no opportunity for a Q&A session at the conclusion of Mr. Kakakhel's address)

For more information on this event and other

UNED Forum activities, please contact:

*UNED Forum, 3 Whitehall Court,
London SW1A 2EL, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 20 7839 1784*

E-mail: info@earthsummit2002.org

*Websites: www.earthsummit2002.org &
www.unedforum.org*
