



Earth Summit 2002: A Vision for Our Common Future

UNED Forum International Advisory Board Co-chairs

The Challenges that face the world at the beginning of the twenty first century are immense. How we build and retain our community within an increasingly globalised world could be one of the defining questions in our attempt to create a sustainable planet. If globalisation is increasing the number of people who do not have access to fulfilling their basic needs, then it must be changed. If its impact on the sustainability of the planet is negative, then it must be changed.

As we approach the January preparatory meeting for the Summit it is becoming clearer that the issues that need addressing in a globalising world are both sectoral and cross sectoral. UNED has suggested these might be best grouped as a set of sectoral issues such as health/HIV-AIDS, food security, energy, fresh-water, oceans and seas with the cross sectoral issues such as social inclusion and poverty eradication, consumption and production, finance, technical cooperation, capacity building, gender and governance addressed in each.

If we are to address poverty then we not only need to address the component parts but also offer people work. The creation of a fairer trading system is the only way that ultimately most people can move out of poverty.

The past 10 years have given us a series of international targets on environment and development, such as:

- **Education** – by 2015 all children complete a full course of primary education;
- **Environment** – to reverse the loss of environmental resources by 2015;



Hesphina Rukato (left) and Derek Osborn (right)

- **Health** – to reduce infant mortality by 66% and maternal mortality by 75% by 2015;
- **HIV/AIDS** – to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015;
- **Poverty** – to halve, by 2015 the proportion of people globally whose income is less than 1 US\$ per day;
- **Sustainable Development** – NSSD's completed by 2002, implemented by 2005;
- **Water** – to halve, by 2015 the proportion of people who do not have access to safe drinking water.

The Summit should help to set in motion the work programmes to enable the targets to be realised. In many cases this should include setting incremental targets for 2005 and 2010.

The international systems of governance that we have in the area of sustainable development are completely inadequate to the challenge facing us. UNEP have initiated an

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**UNED Forum will
soon have a new name**

Watch out for the **Stakeholder
Forum for Our Common Future.**

*Details forthcoming in
January 2002.*

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Connections

Editors: Prabha Choubina & 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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From the editors

With Earth Summit 2002 drawing ever closer, this issue of **Connections** concentrates on bringing you up-to-date information on UK and international preparations. You will find reporting on UNED's many domestic and international activities, and on recent and soon to come initiatives by many other stakeholders gearing up for the Summit.

With less than a year to go, what has been achieved to date? What needs to be done to ensure that the Summit is a success? What are the possibilities for international action on the multiple economic, environmental, and social challenges that we face? And are we getting any closer to creating a common vision? In this context, we felt it appropriate to lead with **Earth Summit 2002 – A Vision for Our Common Future**.

Despite the tragedy of 11 September, the international community has put on a brave face and continued with preparations for the Johannesburg Summit. Yet, there is still uncertainty about what impact the changed international climate will have on the process. One response to this uncertainty was a one-week on-line forum to discuss the implications of 11 September on the Johannesburg process, facilitated by the Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBF) with UNED Forum. Publication deadlines did not allow us to include a summary of those outcomes, but you can view contributions to the forum at www.worldsummit2002.org, the HBF summit website.

You also will find a report of the United Nations Economic Council for Europe's Regional Summit Preparatory Committee meeting, held in Geneva in September, and a roundup of several international events, such as the UN General Assembly's Special Session on HIV/AIDS.

With on-line debates proving to be an important tool for gathering public opinion on matters that affect society at large, the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs conducted an on-line consultation in September (see p.7). During the same period, UNED Forum – in cooperation with Television Trust for the Environment, Panos Institute and OneWorld – asked the international community 'What should Earth Summit 2002 be trying to achieve' (see p.9).

Articles about **Our World** and **YOUR WAKE-UP CALL** on young people speaking on behalf of the planet remind us that '...we have merely borrowed the earth from our younger generations...' When we discuss sustainable development, it becomes ever clearer that young people's views and dreams of a sustainable planet matter. See the centre-pages, and get your kids or grandkids involved!

Plus you'll find our usual sections on NGOs, national and local governments, women's groups, publications, etc. Lastly, many thanks to all contributors for their efforts! Enjoy this issue of *Connections*, and don't forget to let us know what you think of it. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Prabha Choubina & Jasmin Enayati

Prabha Choubina & Jasmin Enayati



www.unedforum.org

Paving the Way to Earth Summit 2002: UK Preparations Winter 2001/2002 Update

As activities for Earth Summit 2002 accelerate, UNED UK – the domestic arm of UNED Forum – continues to provide a framework by which UK stakeholders can participate in the Summit process. In the Spring 2001 issue of *Connections*, we outlined key UK domestic themes that might be linked to the Summit process, as identified at the November 2000 seminar held by UNED UK with the UK Sustainable Development Commission. That event for opinion formers, NGOs, representatives from local government and the devolved administrations, business leaders, and others outlined how a UK national multi-stakeholder dialogue might develop.

Key thematic areas defined at that consultation formed the basis for further discussion at two national conferences and in ongoing working-groups. Summary reports of this process, as requested by the United Nations, have been fed into both initial UN global preparations and the European and North American regional consultations, which culminated in a Ministerial level regional Summit preparatory meeting in Geneva on 24–25 September. This input from UK stakeholders is one of the few civil society processes anywhere in the world that has met the deadlines laid down by the UN system (see <http://www.unedforum.org/2002/uk2002.htm>).

The aim of the work is two-fold. First, to inform the international debate, and help the UK Government (and through it the EU) participate constructively and imaginatively in the Summit process. Second, to inform UK domestic policy-makers in key areas of sustainable development, so that the UK will be seen to lead by example. In the longer term we believe that a dynamic and comprehensive domestic dialogue focusing on the Summit can help the UK make genuine progress towards a future of social justice, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity in the UK.

Begun in September 2000, this work now has 'Phase Two' funding from the UK Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), enabling it to continue for at least another 6 months. In addition, grants to expand the work of the Biodiversity & Natural Resources Conservation group were recently confirmed by Northumbrian Water Ltd and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, with the Royal Society for Science generously providing additional funding or in-kind support. Combined, the three grants give UNED UK 60% of the funds it needs to fully implement the programme through the Summit in 2002, and the momentum to give UK stakeholders a major role in defining the course of sustainable development in the UK for the next 5–10 years.

AN ONGOING PROCESS

With the further clarification of European and North American objectives for Earth Summit 2002 agreed at the regional Summit preparatory meeting in Geneva (www.unece.org/env/documents/2001/ece/ac22/ece.ac.22.2001.4.e.pdf), it is now becoming possible to see more clearly how the work of the groups could fit into the emerging international agenda. It seems probable that all our subject areas – with the possible

exception of population – will on present trends be covered by the Summit. As multiple working-group meetings are planned through March 2001, and with the increasing numbers of stakeholders participating, the work will evolve as we draw closer to the January and March Summit Preparatory Committee Meetings.

With full details on the UNED Forum website at www.unedforum.org/2002/uk2002.htm, herein are summaries of the group's work to date:

Biodiversity & Natural Resources Conservation

The group is examining progress the UK has made towards fulfilling relevant **Rio** commitments, barriers to progress in these key areas, and solutions to overcoming them. It is considering how relevant UK good practice could be highlighted and made more widely available to developing countries (e.g., in setting clear targets, consensus building and good government-NGO cooperation) and also what international biodiversity initiatives could be strengthened, or launched, in Johannesburg.

Participants have been wrestling with the issue of whether bio-diversity is best addressed in its own right on the international agenda or, alternatively, factored into discussions on meeting needs in specific areas e.g., fresh water and forestry. We are working with the IUCN to consider this in greater detail, and whether the establishment, monitoring and enforcement of key indicators of bio-diversity could be made part of a wider package.

Energy & Climate Change

The group seeks "...to inspire the Government with a compelling vision for a sustainable energy future, created in full consultation with UK civil society." Currently it is addressing four areas:

1. What does Government (and others) need to do to put global warming and the energy policy response centre stage in terms of national awareness rising?
2. Building sustainable energy policies and capacities at local level.
3. The nurturing and rapid growth of a UK sustainable energy industry.
4. UK global policies and appropriate technology initiatives in developing countries.

Population, Carrying Capacity & Sustainability

This is the newest of our working groups, and is just beginning. It aims to address the vital but often neglected, sometimes controversial, issue of global population growth within the context of existing international aid and poverty reduction commitments, and within the broader balance of developed countries cutting down their unsustainable use of global resources.

Sustainable Cities & Communities

The group are considering four areas – public awareness, engagement and participation; creative new approaches to planning (with "sustainable development" replacing "development" as the leitmotif); the linkages between liveability and sustainability; and strengthening local economies. Questions of scale and the limitations on local action imposed by

globalisation have been more serious issues for this group than for the others. It has been suggested that one of the key outcomes of the Summit might be the creation of a global framework within which local economies and communities – particularly those which have so far “lost out” – might more effectively take control of their own futures.

Sustainable Production & Consumption

This series of working groups, convened in May 2001 in collaboration with Imperial College – and funded separately from the other groups by the RMC Environment Fund and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Foundation – is looking at what needs to be done to achieve sustainable domestic production and consumption of food, non-food goods, water and energy, sustainable transport systems and sustainable tourism. It has established a number of “preliminary principles” which might guide Government policy and individual choice on food, and has undertaken parallel work in other areas.

Reports from the groups have been widely distributed for feedback and revision by the project coordinators, and the results will be distributed nationally to increase public awareness and encourage wider buy-in, and will be given further publicity at a national conference on 20 February 2002 (see www.ad.ic.ac.uk/cpd/uned.htm).

The UK in the Wider World

This group is concerned with poverty (domestic and global), problems of globalisation and strengthening democratic global governance, and with the linkages between sustainable development and peace and security in the 21st century. It has so far had one meeting, and identified the need to mainstream the three pillars of sustainable development in international decision-making rather than, as at present, marginalizing and separating them. It considered the need for similar policies to put tackling global poverty centre-stage, and highlighted the growing importance of environmental security issues and the need for security establishments to integrate these more fully into policymaking and conflict prevention initiatives.

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Charles Nouhan

Population & Sustainability Working Group

Following a June 2001 meeting, in London, of stakeholders concerned about population and its relation to poverty and environmental degradation – including the ‘ecological footprint’ issues of excessive per capita consumption in the minority world – it was decided to form a sixth thematic group to contribute to UK preparations for Earth Summit 2002.

Wherein the 1992 Rio conference significantly failed to address the issue of population growth, Chapter 5 of the Earth Summit report concerns ‘Demographic dynamics and sustainability.’ Nevertheless, action on this theme following 1992 is difficult to ascertain. With 80 million births each year, in excess of replacement for all the deaths worldwide, this is clearly not an issue to be sidelined.

The issue of ‘population’ carries with it a certain amount of controversial opinion, but there is general agreement that this is

a really global issue: those of us who live in the minority world are responsible for much of the environmental degradation that is damaging the global environment; in many parts of the developed world, the number of children born is well above the ‘replacement rate’ of 2.1 children per family. Since 1930 the world’s population has increased from two billion to, in 1999, six billion.

With support from the Margaret Pyke Memorial Trust, and in co-operation with UNED UK, a co-ordinator was recruited in August 2001 to lead this newest thematic working group, *Population and Sustainability*. Catherine Budgett-Meakin is following some of the processes established by other UNED thematic groups, to ensure that the output of the group represents current thinking, within the spirit of the multi-stakeholder processes established by UNED UK.

Initially, Catherine is consulting an expert circle of ten organisations straddling environmental and development NGOs, and DFID. This work will result in a summary paper for discussion at a seminar with a broad range of stakeholders, likely to be held on 7th January 2002, in London.

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Catherine Budgett-Meakin

Education for Sustainable Development Workshop

Date: 12th December 2001

Venue: Main Building, South Bank University

UNED Forum and South Bank University are engaged in activities promoting Education for Sustainable Development at the forthcoming Earth Summit 2002 and beyond. We are engaged in a UK consultation exercise of Chapter 36 (Promoting education, public awareness and training of sustainable development) of Agenda 21 to form a review of developments and activities so far. This review will be taken to the Prep-Com of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in January to aid lobbying for the recognition of the education community as major group in Earth Summit process.

On the 12th of December the UNED Forum and the South Bank University are jointly holding a workshop to continue consultation of the review, to include peoples ideas and inputs. This will also include looking at a proposal for future directions; compiled from Conferences, the workshop, review and other relevant documents. This will be used as a lobbying document for Education and Sustainable Development policy for Earth Summit 2002. These proposals are to be tabled at the Prep-Com and sent round to wide range of organisations for endorsement. The finalised proposals will be presented at appropriate Earth Summit 2002 sessions.

UNED forum is also preparing an international Education for Sustainable Development Conference at Johannesburg to follow after Earth Summit 2002.

The steering group welcomes any offers of help or support and news of other initiatives.

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Anna Birney



International Conference on Freshwater, Bonn 2001

Water is a strategic resource for the integration of economic, social and environmental concerns and is a key to sustainable development. It sustains human productivity and livelihoods and is elementary for the integrity of the world's ecosystems. Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation are essential for human health and dignity, yet 1.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and close to 2.5 billion are not provided with adequate sanitation. Water is under increasing and competing demands from agricultural, industrial and domestic users. Pollution is on the increase, threatening tomorrow's livelihoods. Extreme and unprecedented floods and droughts cause tremendous suffering. As usual it is poor communities who are the hardest hit.

Against this background the German Government offered to host the International Conference on Freshwater in Bonn in order to build on the freshwater-related objectives identified in Chapter 18 of Agenda 21 and to focus on the urgent need for action in the area of freshwater as emphasised in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the United Nations Millennium Assembly in September 2000.

"We resolve (...) to halve, by the year 2015, (...) the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water".

The Conference Outcome is also intended to prepare the water-related decisions of the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg and it has the full support of UN DESA.

The Cross-cutting Issues

Crosscutting issues will include governance, integrated management and new partnerships, mobilising financial resources, capacity development and technology transfer, and gender.

The Sectoral Thematic Areas

Key sectoral thematic areas will be covered, such as innovative strategies for water and sanitation for the poor (including access and affordability), protecting ecosystems and water resources (including pollution prevention), balancing water uses (including water for food and water for nature), trans-boundary waters (including sharing benefits/lessons learned), and floods and droughts (including coping with climate change and variability).

Conference participants are representatives of National Governments, UN Organisations, other International Organisations and Major Groups. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has invited all United Nations Member States as well as non-member States with a permanent observer status to participate at the highest possible level and to include government experts on water and development issues in their delegation.

Participation of Major Groups

UNED Forum are working with an Advisory Board, consisting of representatives of Major Groups, to prepare two Multi-Stakeholder

Dialogue plenary sessions at the Conference. The aim of the process is to promote better decisions by means of wider input on particular issues and to integrate diverse viewpoints by bringing together representatives of principal actors needed for successful implementation of the Millennium Declaration water targets. The Dialogue sessions are the principal means of civil society participation at the Conference and offer a space for an interactive exchange between the Major Groups and Government and the output will be to be presented in the plenary, attended by high-level government representatives.

Two consecutive dialogue sessions will be held at the beginning of the meeting, Equitable Access and Sustainable Supply of Water for the Poor, and Developing Strategies for Sustainable and Equitable Management of Water Resources, respectively.

The process identified five Major Groups most concerned with implementation. These five groups will each have a delegation participating in the Dialogues at Bonn, and they are Business, NGOs, Local Authorities, Trade Unions and Farmers. Papers prepared by these Major Groups addressing Ethics, Institutions, Finance, Technology Choices and Possible Partnerships for session have been published on the website www.water-2001.de and a virtual discussion forum has been created for your comments. The Dialogue sessions will touch on some of the 'big issues' for implementation such as public-private partnerships, liberalisation of water services, cost-recovery, subsidies, land ownership, access to information, allocation of water, technology choices.

For further information please refer to www.water-2001.de/msd or email dmorley@earthsummit2002.org

Danielle Morley

Ukraine Update

Following the Ukrainian government's adoption of the National Environmental Health Action Plan in 2000, UNED's partner NGOs in three regions viz. Sebastopol, Kiev and Nijin have initiated multi-stakeholder processes to develop local action plans. The plans have been developed through a process of steering groups and public hearings to create opportunities for participation from all sectors. Local governments of the regions have shown a high level of commitment to the process, and the project has created an innovative model for local policy-making initiated and facilitated by NGOs, endorsed by local government and involving multi-stakeholder dialogue. The Local Environmental Health Action Plans are due to be completed by the end of the year 2001, and will be the first of its kind in Ukraine. UNED is the international partner in this project, which is funded by the Small Environmental Projects Scheme for Ukraine, managed by the British Council.

Preparations for the Kiev 2003 Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conference are also underway, in the new partnership project managed by UNED and MAMA-86. The project works with Alter-Eco, a coalition of NGOs in Ukraine. Alter-Eco's whose aim is to facilitate input to the EfE policy process from Ukrainian NGOs, community groups and other sectors. The project aims to create links between local organisations and national and international policy-making processes, to increase participation in decision-making for the many groups who are unaware of how national or international policy can affect them, or how they can use it. The project aims to do this through newsletters, websites, regional seminars and networking. UNED's Earth Summit 2002 team is offering expertise, and will participate in a training and planning workshop in

November 2001 to discuss multi-stakeholder processes, designing websites and newsletters on policy processes, links to 2002 etc. The project is funded by the Community Fund.

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Clare Flenley

Europe Prepares for the Summit

The first regional Preparatory Committee for the Johannesburg Summit was held in Geneva between 24th and 25th of September. It took place under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Europe whose area includes the whole of Western, Central and Eastern Europe, together with the USA and Canada. UNED chair, Derek Osborn, reports.

The meeting was preceded by an intensive weekend of negotiation between officials, and in parallel a significant NGO conference organised by ANPED with a final afternoon of multi-stakeholder dialogue organised by UNED.

The Stakeholder dialogue identified seven key areas for action, which were presented to the ministerial conference on September 24:

1. The need for an over-arching vision for a new deal that could inspire the peoples of the world and bring about a dynamic for effective action by countries and stakeholders;
2. Agenda 21. The Summit ought to be an occasion for showcasing sustainability in big and effective action at all levels and amongst governments and other stakeholders alike;
3. Development goals and the eradication of poverty. The goals needed to be firmed up with intermediate targets for progress before 2015;
4. The summit should be the occasion for the ratification and coming into force of the Kyoto protocol, the bio-safety Protocol and further steps on implementing the Conventions on POPs and PICs, Desertification, and Straddling Fish stocks;
5. Trade. Further steps to integrate sustainable development into the trade agenda need to be built into the new trade round at Doha and beyond;
6. Governance. Attention should be focused on strengthening UNEP and giving it a stronger financial base;
7. Stakeholder participation. The summit should be the occasion for strengthening and consolidating the process for engaging stakeholders in the international sustainable development debate and action.

The Ministerial meeting discussed many themes and gave particular attention to: Poverty eradication; Sustainable management and conservation of the natural resource base; Making globalisation work for sustainable development; Improving governance and democratic process at all levels; Financing sustainable development; Education, science and technology for decision-making.

In addition the meeting gave intensive attention directly involving the Ministers present to the precautionary principle, to the volume of official development assistance and the long standing commitment to raise the level to 0.7% of GNP and to the possible launching of a New Global Deal for sustainable development.

The meeting established a number of the key themes that will no doubt persist through to the Summit. But it also revealed quite a wide gap between those countries and stakeholders who wished to push for more ambitious agenda with tighter and earlier targets for delivery and stronger financial commitments, and those in other parts of the region who were noticeably more cautious about what was achievable or should be opened up for debate. These differences of approach may arise also in other regions and underline the size of the challenge in making a big step forward at Johannesburg.

They also underline the importance of a substantial input from stakeholders in building awareness and pressure for significant action. It is clear that many different stakeholder groups are themselves planning substantial action on sustainable development, and are hoping that the Johannesburg Summit will recognise and reinforce their efforts. The meeting and those which will follow give all concerned with the summit a good sighting shot on where they will need to concentrate their efforts.

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For ministerial statement see:

www.unece.org/env/documents/2001/ece/ac22/ece.ac.22.2001.4.e.pdf

International Events in the Lead Up to WSSD

The international community has been sitting under the shadow of uncertainty since September 11th. Several meetings have been cancelled, such as the World Children's Summit, or postponed like the World Food Summit – now moved to June next year. Similarly the IMF/World Bank annual meetings have been put off indefinitely. However, many meetings continued as normal and prior to September several key events took place.

In June, the newly formed UN Forum on Forest met for the first time in June to set out its multi-year programme. Next year's meeting will tackle deforestation and degradation, looking at strategies for rehabilitation and conservation. A Programme of Action was initiated for presentation at next year's World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

The UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS particularly focused on Africa. The final agreement also had a strong gender orientation, with commitments to develop national strategies for empowering women, enhancing women's enjoyment of all human rights and reducing women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. Kofi Annan's Global HIV/AIDS Fund was emphatically endorsed in the declaration, although the level of financial support remained undefined.

The Committee Against Discrimination Against Women met for its 25th Session in July. It highlighted huge challenges for women in the face of chronic poverty and discrimination. More positive was the fact that all Latin American and Caribbean countries have now ratified the CEDAW convention.

The climate change Kyoto Protocol COP 6 negotiations in Bonn were able to reach some form of agreement. However unresolved issues will be debated at COP 7 (meeting at the time of writing, in Marakesh, 29 October–9th November), including how much credit industrialised countries will receive for “carbon sinks” in relation to their Kyoto targets. The protocol will enter into force once it has been ratified by 55 of the parties to the convention, currently at 40 parties.

The national and sub-regional meetings running up to the WSSD are near completion. And the African, Latin American, and European/North American regional meetings have all taken place, leaving only West Asia and Asia and Pacific meetings. Whilst there have been criticisms about “major group” involvement in the preparations, there is growing consensus in certain areas, including a call for a new “Global Deal” on Sustainable Development.

In terms of forthcoming events, the WTO's 4th Ministerial Round, (Doha 9–13th November) has faced considerable global scrutiny and division between various country blocks. The EU, keen to discuss mainstreaming of environment and social issues within trade decisions, want to examine the relationship between Multi-lateral Environment Agreements,

e.g. Biosafety Protocol, and trade e.g. the agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights. However, the G77 want a stronger emphasis on institutional reform before any new trade-round kicks off, most especially to address the need for improved modes of participation in negotiations.

Other key meetings to keep an eye out for include: the International Conference on Freshwater (in Bonn, Germany, December); the fourth UN Financing for Development Prep Comm (in New York, 14th–25th January); and the second Prep Comm for WSSD (New York, 28th Jan–8th Feb).

One wonders at the impact of recent and current events on WSSD. As the UK environment minister Michael Meacher pointed out earlier this month – the final day of the Summit will fall on September 11th 2002. Johannesburg may come represent, even more than before, a crucial opportunity for the international community to gather for a short period and look to new ways of working together toward long term security and welfare of all.

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GOVERNMENT

WSSD: DEFRA Online Discussion Forum

During August and September 2001, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs held an on-line Discussion Forum on the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD). The forum aimed at providing an opportunity for members of civil society, business and NGOs to contribute to the preparations leading up to the Summit.

Participants were asked to consider three main topics:

- Do you agree with the Government's agenda for the Summit? What do you think should be on the agenda?
- How should civil society be involved in the Summit and what can it contribute to the process?
- What contribution might civil society and the private sector make towards a Global Compact/Partnership?

Over 170 people, representing a wide range of stakeholder groups, registered for the discussion forum. It was disappointing therefore that only 11 of those contributed to the debate. Whilst their contribution was valuable and worthwhile, DEFRA had hoped to stimulate discussion on a wider range of issues. On the aims and agenda for WSSD most contributors focussed on key areas like investment in renewable energy, better management of resources by individuals as well as governments, fair trade, debt cancellation, overseas development aid and poverty eradication. An interesting view was that the civil society has a crucial role to play but this is threatened by the low level of public awareness of environmental issues. Many of the points raised at the forum were addressed at the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Regional Ministerial Meeting for WSSD which took place in Geneva on 24 to 25 September.

With reference to the review of progress since Rio and the identification of priority actions for the future within our own region, DEFRA is considering holding other Fora closer to the

event. It hopes that an increasing awareness of WSSD will stimulate more participation, particularly by civil society. This is just one way in which it is hoping to engage civil society more effectively in the domestic preparations for the Summit.

*For more detailed information on the Discussion Forum and what DEFRA is doing more generally on WSSD please visit
<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk>*

Betty Yabrifa

Local Government

Accelerating Local Sustainability: Evaluating European Local Agenda 21 Processes

European Conference to present findings of the EU Local Authorities Self Assessment of Local Agenda 21 (LASALA) project under the EU Fifth Framework Programme, was held during 20th–21st September 2001 at Imperial College, London. A report.

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' (ICLEI) Conference at the Imperial College came at an opportune time to contribute to the review of sustainable development processes. The findings of the ICLEI project *Local Authority Self-Assessment of Local Agenda 21* (LASALA) were made public at the conference.

The LASALA Process

The objectives of LASALA were to evaluate the progress and process of local sustainability, thus providing a common frame-

work for the evaluation of Local Agenda 21 (LA21) and within Europe, look at the implementation of the Aalborg Charter commitments. LASALA also aims to identify and disseminate 'good practice' across Europe.

The LASALA project had five partners based in the UK, Finland, Portugal, Italy and Hungary and coordinated by the sixth partner – the European Secretariat of the ICLEI, based in Germany. The two interlinking themes of eco-efficient urban management and new models of urban governance provided the framework for the project. Nearly 250 local authorities across Europe participated in the self-assessment of their LA21 processes.

Project Findings

The outcomes of the project were presented outlining experiences of stakeholder involvement in LA21, eco-efficient urban management, new models of urban governance, and examples of 'good practice'. It evaluates the European LA21 Initiative on the lines of the five principal characteristics.

- **Integration of issues:** Linkage of environmental objectives with economic and social issues.
- **Integration of interests:** ensuring all groups in society are involved, in a culture of dialogue and participation.
- **Long-term perspective:** policy and projects based on long-term objectives, keyed to the precautionary principle.
- **The global dimension:** impacts of local action on global development are quantified, ways of counteracting the global impacts, e.g. on consumption and wealth, are identified.
- **Sustainable management of resources:** utilisation of natural resources based on the rate at which new resources are formed; and inputs into the natural environment are based on the capacity to degrade them.

Relating to "integration of issues", respondents indicated there should be a "balance" between the three aspects of sustainability, but a large number recognised the inevitable tensions, in particular where economic pressures might compromise environmental objectives. The "mainstreaming" of sustainable development appears to be in its very early stages at the local level. Virtually all respondents called for further citizen participation as a key aim. However, the project warned that there was a danger of participation becoming the principal objective of LA21 process, rather than being a component part of it. It is heartening to note that municipalities are beginning to plan and work within much longer time frames. 55% are working within an 8-year time frame, the rest were in excess of this.

LASALA workshop responses revealed that the level of information disseminated to stakeholders was not particularly high – over 50% of participants said the level of information given to stakeholders was insufficient.

In terms of local contribution to global sustainability, with the exception of initiatives to reduce CO₂ emissions, there is little evidence that the LASALA municipalities perceive their LA21 actions and aspirations to have global consequences. Besides, there is no evidence that any respondent focused on 'ways of counteracting the global distribution of consumption and wealth'.

Local authorities have been most active in the area of sustainable management of resources. Though constraints exist in terms of decision-making power and access to finance. In Finland, Germany, Italy, Romania, Sweden and the UK, between 50% and 100% of local authorities felt there was political commitment, however for a number of respondents, progress on LA21 was proving difficult.

The LASALA project has indicated, that despite resource constraints and a certain lack of leadership, the European LA21 initiative has been remarkably successful and is certainly worthy of greater support and investment from local and national governments and by the European Union.

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Geeta Kulshrestha, Rosalie Gardiner

Forum Directory of Sustainability in Practice

Forum for the Future has launched a new website which is designed to fulfil the role of a 'first-stop-shop' information resource on sustainability projects. It consists of a collection of projects, activities, processes and technologies across various sectors that have been shown to be indicative examples of the most successful, innovative or forward thinking practice in their particular field. To gain a place in the directory, initiatives have had to demonstrate that in one way or another, they contribute positively to a number of common sustainability features'. The directory will be updated regularly and act as a central 'pool of knowledge' and will be used to disseminate, in various formats, positive 'solutions-oriented' practice to a wide range of audiences.

www.forumdirectory.org.uk

Towards More Sustainable Decisions

The UK Foresight programme brings together business, government, the science base and others to look at what might happen in the future and what needs to be done now to achieve long-term competitive advantage and enhanced quality of life for all. Work is carried forward through a number of panels. The Foresight Task Force on Environmental Appraisal issued a consultation document in August 2000, and following responses has produced a final report. The report contains general and specific recommendations for all the groups involved in environmental or sustainability appraisal: government, professionals, business, NGOs, researchers and trainers. The general conclusions are that:

- the environmental, social and economic strands of appraisal must be brought together to inform decisions;
- social appraisal techniques need further development and should take better account of the distribution of impacts on different sections of the community;
- appraisal has to move up the decision-making ladder to the strategic levels of policies, plans and programmes; and
- evidence-based policy making means there will need to be more emphasis on monitoring and evaluation throughout and after the life of a project or programme professional

www.foresight.gov.uk

UNED Forum's WSSD Online Debate

During September UNED Forum hosted an online debate on four of the key issues that Earth Summit 2002 could address. The debate was part of www.lifeonline.org – a multimedia initiative exploring the impact of globalisation on the poverty and social development agenda of the Istanbul+5 meeting in June 2001, as Earth Summit. More than 800 participants from 103 countries participated in the debate. A summary:

The opening week of the debate which was between 29th August – 7th September, 2001, posed the following questions:

- How can cities be made part of a sustainable future?
- What are the key barriers, good models, roles and responsibilities involved in improving 21st century urban life?
- How should Earth Summit 2002 address this issue?

Cities accommodate half the global population and have an enormous potential to be engines of economic growth and social development. By 2025, two-thirds of humanity will live in cities, and 90% of those will be in cities in developing countries. These are just some of the facts that served as a background for an intense debate on sustainable development in cities.

Urban sustainability is not just about the environment, but also about political, social, economic and cultural sustainability. Several contributions to the debate called attention to the political role of cities in promoting sustainability. There is a need for democracy, good governance and a value-based discussion in order to further sustainable urban development and to create a sense of people's ownership of the process. A lot of emphasis was given to the need for a strengthened participatory approach in decision-making. Greater responsiveness to the voices of common people will strengthen the sense of community. Also, environmental and economic requirements of development need to be better integrated. Key problems are related to resource management; lack of public transport networks inside major cities; and short-sighted development and planning processes. There was general agreement that our current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption are incompatible with a sustainable future.

Key barriers to achieving sustainable urban development were identified, such as inequity, infra-structural constraints, economic and political pressure, and a threat of ignoring lessons that have already been learnt during the last 10 years working with Agenda 21 programmes all over the world. Many contributors felt that there is a lack of national competence and political will to address the needs of cities.

Building upon the existing advantages of cities to make them more sustainable will require changes to the processes of government at all levels and of the industrial/commercial sector, as well as changes in the roles of community groups and organisations and the family unit. Ideas on how to overcome barriers were suggested, ranging from advancing lifelong environmental education, developing participative democratic decision-making processes that include all relevant stakeholders; increasing more strategic planning processes; heavily promoting public transport; stimulating innovation in recycling/resource recovery industries; focusing on the interdependence between the urban and rural area, seeking to develop regional entities



that counteract the tendency for urban growth to overwhelm rural areas; developing an international benchmark system for sustainable cities, incl. environmental, educational and economic indicators to achieve measurable results and finally, initiating a more profound system of sharing knowledge and solutions between urban communities on a global scale.

Many examples of good practice were given. Roles and responsibilities of key actors in improving 21st century urban life were discussed, in particular the need to share responsibilities between all stakeholders in a spirit of cooperation. Contributors stressed the importance of environmental education as a way to involve and empower citizens and to achieve a sense of environmental stewardship and civic responsibility. Many contributors stressed the need for practical coalitions of cities.

Several constructive recommendations were made as to how the Earth Summit 2002 could ensure a balanced debate on the issue. Earth Summit 2002 must take the lead in democratizing governance structures and develop federated democratic institutions at all levels involving all stakeholders and taking account of their conflicting views. It is hoped that such institutions will decide the rights and responsibilities of stakeholders. The political conflict between national interests and urban needs should be addressed. Partnerships should be fostered involving the corporate world, for example by setting up cooperatives between the public and private sector. It is time to implement policies that integrate economical and environmental concerns.

The questions for the 2nd week which was between 10th and 14th of September 2001 were:

- How can marginalized people participate effectively in today's globalised world?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of key actors?
- What obstacles and processes should be addressed at Earth Summit 2002 to tackle this issue?

There is a widespread political unwillingness to let the poor and marginalized communities participate in decision-making processes, on any level. Even on the most local level, elites usually dominate the process. Most examples of marginalisation are the result of a long-term lack of participation of communities in their local communities and globalisation further adds to this deficit. Participation cannot be a substitute for democracy but it is the best vehicle to further enhance democracy. The will to further expand the concepts of good governance and decentralization, as set up at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 and to develop an enabling environment for informed participation is largely missing.

This perceived lack encouraged many, from North and South, to engage in an intense debate on some of the key problems with regard to this issue: there is a need for good governance, transparency and systematic processes of participation and the rehabilitation of the regulatory role of governments. Many contributors agreed that the dominant economic system cannot be sustained in the long-term. The causal

economic links between abundant, wasteful consumerism and exploitation/marginalisation of the poorest, is still very little understood and/or ignored by consumers in the countries that consume the most. Current patterns of exploitation need to be replaced by patterns of co-operation. A system of good governance must offer poor people a place to rise to. Therefore, a main strategy in de-marginalization is the creation of a broad middle class that is accessible through education and work.

Some of the key barriers to achieving more inclusive strategies were discussed, like the effects of globalisation and our dominant economic structures on marginalized communities: the many dimensions of globalisation in terms of its impact on the lives of the poor need to be fully understood. A discussion of participation needs to look at decreasing state control, the issue of hegemony and market domination by multinationals. Many contributors pointed out that elitism and the technicality of discourses that dominate the decision-making processes, on both the global and the most local level also contribute to exclusion.

Several examples of good models for overcoming these barriers were suggested, such as the further development of multi-stakeholder processes: different sections of society are related to resources in different ways; such relationships often are in conflict with one another. Relevant conflict resolution mechanisms that will put self-imposed constraints on the resource users and ensure sustainable use of the resources need to be devised. To achieve such objective, it is imperative to ensure a democratic negotiation process including all relevant stakeholders to reduce and gradually wipe out the areas of conflict. Other models included the "Culture of Peace" program in which educational materials and activities could assist in the development of change required to empower the disenfranchised.

Roles and responsibilities of key actors were discussed: to balance the weight of responsibilities, democratic structures have to be strengthened and the means needed to undertake such responsibilities need to be provided; democratic structures at local and international level need to be established and strengthened; partnerships between the North and South have to be consolidated. A better education system will enable people to participate more effectively in decision-making processes: education will enable marginalised communities to become aware of their role and can help to transform them into agents of change. Education of civil society will enable people to understand their role in positively influencing the lives and livelihoods of marginalized communities. Also, the media have the responsibility to provide democratic public information.

Recommendations were made as to how Earth Summit 2002 should address the issue: the conflict between environment and development priorities that takes place in sustainable development needs to be taken into account; examples of good practice should be highlighted and technological capacities should be strengthened. International environmental governance coming out of Earth Summit 2002 should reflect mechanisms of public access to information and of participation, making the process more accessible and meaningful to the public.

The debate for the 3rd week between 17th and 21st September were as follows:

- HIV/AIDS is a great threat to sustainable development; how can multi-sectoral responses be developed to influence government policies and pharmaceutical companies on this issue?
- How can Earth Summit 2002 tackle the wider question of equitable health care?

In the last twenty years, over twenty million people have died from HIV/AIDS. Another thirty-six million are living with the virus and every year at least another five million become infected. While many aspects of HIV are shared with other diseases – such as the fact it is sexually transmitted and if untreated is inevitably fatal – AIDS presents a unique challenge to sustainable development in the twenty-first century.

Two points characterised this week's debate. First of all, we have to think about the HIV/AIDS epidemic not merely in terms of a disease but in terms of a behavioural issue. And, we need to consider the interdependence between the HIV pandemic and development dynamics: migration, the impact on skilled labour, health costs, economic impacts, food security, etc.

The two areas of prevention and wide accessibility of treatment are of particular concern. Contributors agreed that successful prevention of HIV infection is a highly complex issue, relating social, cultural, economic, psychological and behavioural factors, with poverty and gender as the main issues. To tackle this interplay, a comprehensive approach is required, involving an integrated public and private sector response and including religious institutions and NGOs. This implies to disseminate information about the transmission of the virus and to instigate a widespread and inclusive debate, analysing the diverse factors underlying sexual behaviour. Such debate should involve policymakers, the media, those working in HIV/AIDS care and prevention and, above all, affected individuals and communities.

"People with HIV/AIDS require comprehensive support, not just medicines" (UNAIDS). The issue of treatment opened the question on global guidelines on intellectual property rights, as outlined in WTO's TRIPS agreement, which regulates the export of drugs: patent protection must be given by all WTO countries to pharmaceutical products. Patents accord a market monopoly to the patent holder by preventing anyone except the patent holder to market the patented invention. Consequently, prices can be set according to what the market will bear. A package of measures to keep prices for essential medicines affordable was suggested, including cooperation with patent holder which could lead to voluntary licensing to allow for local production of essential medicines; employ legal safeguards which allow for import of drugs through compulsory licensing; support public health measures in the TRIPS agreement; develop distinctive provisions and guidelines for developing and developed countries.

Following on from that some of the key barriers to achieving a multi-sectoral approach to the AIDS epidemic were identified; including specific barriers, like the provision of particular goods (e.g. condoms, clean needles) to more general requirements, such as empowerment of women; provision of adequate food, water and shelter; and the protection of both those who are HIV positive and those vulnerable to infection from discrimination and stigma. Organised religions, whose opposition to the promotion of condoms and to the rights of those whose behavior they disapprove of was also identified as a major barrier to effective HIV prevention. Equitable access to health care depends on a large-scale reallocation of global resources – the basis for which is a value system that is based on just and equitable principles.

Several examples of good models and ideas on how to overcome barriers were suggested, ranging from setting up of a "Season of AIDS awareness" (regionally based worldwide annual review); examining the role of culture; and reflecting on the positive role religion could play in giving people motives for behavioural change.

Recommendations for Earth Summit 2002 include:

- strengthen the link with the existing international process on HIV/AIDS; look at the recent United Nations Declaration on HIV/AIDS and what it omits to say;
- encourage governments to take decisions that favour young people who are particularly troubled due to abuse of drugs and alcohol, unemployment, sex work, etc.
- further establish a multi-sectoral approach, including multi-stakeholder partnerships in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic, for developing policies but in particular for the implementation of agreements.

The concluding week of the debate between 24th and 28th September 2001 had the following discussions:

- How can multi-national companies be influenced to adopt corporate citizenship and accountability for sustainable development?
- Who are the key actors and what are the main barriers?
- What strategies could Earth Summit 2002 develop to address this issue?

Many promises were made by business at the Earth Summit in 1992. Since then, we saw the continuation of processes of privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation. Progress in terms of corporate accountability and reporting for sustainable development has been made but against the benchmarks explicit or implicit in the Rio agreements, overall progress has been slow. To soften negative impacts of market rule domination, governments will have to put more regulation in place. However, regulations alone cannot be relied on to solve the issues.

At the global level, serious efforts are emerging to encourage positive corporate policies. Contributions focused on a number of existing regulations for corporate accountability, such as the UN Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises – a non-binding set of standards and principles with an extensive global implementation mechanism that cover various aspects of corporate behaviour. Processes of dialogue can help produce commitments and agreements that are more binding than unilateral declarations but the implementation part of the Global Compact in particular needs improvement.

Key issues that were discussed included corporate voluntary initiatives that have a crucial role to play in achieving corporate social responsibility. However, with a crumbling faith in market instruments and deregulation, voluntary initiatives alone won't suffice to change corporate behaviour – neither on the national nor the global level. Other issues under discussion were international regulatory frameworks with respect to social and environmental issues, which have to be the basis from which voluntary initiatives can emerge. In addition to voluntary codes of conduct and regulatory frameworks, a shared

commitment to building effective partnerships should be strengthened for which a continuous dialogue between the various actors needs to be established. Other contributors mentioned a new "Global Deal", ie sustainable development legislation, in which leading corporate actors, civil society organisations and governments would negotiate a binding international convention on some of the key issues. The concept of environmental brand labelling was also discussed.

Following on from that, the roles and responsibilities of key actors were identified. To achieve sustainable change, all stakeholders have to play their part and act in concert: multi-national corporations should respect international conventions and invest more resources to ensure implementation of environmental and social impact assessments. A fundamental conscience change needs to happen at senior managerial level. Values need to be related to economic mechanisms. Shareholder value needs to be understood in a more systemic way.

The main barriers to achieving corporate accountability were discussed as well as good models of how to overcome them. The question of globalisation was looked at from different angles. Barriers include issues such as the dominant business paradigm of profit as the ultimate aim of all business and the stockholder model of raising capital. To target this aim the media, consumer associations, trade unions, consumers and regulators need to get involved. Another barrier discussed is the current legislation about the tax deductibility of costs of living.

Several examples of good models for furthering corporate responsibility were suggested, ranging from a symbiosis between profit and not-for-profit corporations and governments to the concept of a sustainability ranking list of multi-national corporations for investors. However, other contributors emphasized that corporations should rather be influenced by invitations to trade ethically.

Recommendations for Earth Summit 2002 included:

- strengthen existing legal frameworks for TNCs and trade unions;
- develop a new global framework;
- determine modalities within the UN system for obligations on corporate investors;
- governments should focus on corporate disclosure to achieve accountability;
- aim at globally accepted and enforced standards that will break the stranglehold of the private sector over individual governments.

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NGO NEWS

We Know What You Did...

Northern Ireland has a lot to tell the world – was one of the messages from the conference Towards Earth Summit 2002, held by the Sustainable Northern Ireland Programme (SNIP), at Belfast City Hall on 19 September 2001.

This was just one of the themes from roundtable discussions throughout the day. After the events of the previous

week in New York and Washington, many delegates felt that Northern Ireland had a message about peace and greater understanding worth sharing with the world. There were seventy delegates from education, the environment, business, voluntary and community sectors, as well as central and local government. A number of speakers in the morning focused the discussions on where Northern Ireland was in relation to Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development. Later, participative workshops highlighted where Northern Ireland had come from

and where we now had to focus our energies.

Jim Kitchen, WWF-NI, chaired the day with a welcome from the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Cllr Jim Rodgers. Brian Hanna – Chief Executive of Belfast City Council – who sits on the UK Sustainable Development Commission outlined the Northern Ireland perspective on sustainable development. This initiated thoughts on what areas still need to be tackled both in Northern Ireland and the UK. Charles Nouhan, Deputy Director of UNED Forum, outlined the process of the 'national progressions' wherein Governments and stakeholders feed their responses into UN Summit process. This will ensure that the agenda for Johannesburg can be influenced with what people feel are the real issues. Charles also encouraged Northern Ireland to share with our elected representatives the outcomes from the workshops, so they are more informed when influencing policy and decisions.

The first session looked at how the past had set the scene for Local Agenda 21 (LA21) and Sustainable Development from a personal, global and Northern Ireland perspective. It was clear from the participants' reports for each timeline that, although there had been advances, there were still gaps in our history for helping solve some major issues, such as planning, climate change, education and poverty. What we have achieved is the ability to work as communities and to utilise available resources.

After lunch Francis Sullivan, from WWF-UK, highlighted the main global challenges and asked us to consider their importance to us in Northern Ireland. This led delegates into a brainstorm session to identify the main issues for Northern Ireland. They then considered these as the questions to be brought to Johannesburg as part of the UK's response.

So what were these issues? It was apparent from the working groups how global issues such as climate change, poverty, consumerism and globalisation have a strong influence at a very local level. Global issues have a significant local impact, and conversely local solutions. Discussions in the working groups highlighted solutions, such as local government response to LA21, guidance from central government on sustainable development and imaginative approaches to transport and education. There were a number of statements that came to the fore during the day's proceedings but one seemed to truly encapsulate our views on sustainable development. "We tend to look at sustainable development as an issue rather than a context out of which we live our lives". It is about individual choices and ensuring that we choose services, products, etc, while considering all their social, environmental and economic impacts.

The conference closed with the promise that the contributions from the day would be forwarded to UNED-UK, political parties, conference delegates, local and central government. SNIP Director Heather Moorhead explained that the conference was a forerunner to the consultations on the Department of Energy's sustainable development strategy. The consultations will be initiated in late autumn, political circumstances permitting, and are likely to run until September 2002. Who knows, Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy may even be launched on the world platform at Earth Summit 2002 in Johannesburg?

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Paula Flanagan

Is the UK Prepared to Make the Commitment?

Meacher lays down the gauntlet to the financial sector at the UK Social Investment Forum's annual lecture, a report:

On Tuesday, 23rd October, Minister for the Environment, Rt. Hon Michael Meacher, gave his view on the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, next year. In a typically candid speech, Mr. Meacher challenged the financial sector to get more actively engaged in sustainable development. He called for a mainstreaming of sustainable development principles, to put it right at the core of investment and finance.

Referring to the Prime ministers' speech in the wake of September 11th, about the need for greater justice and prosperity for all, Meacher pointed to the massive inequalities that continue to prevail across the globe. "In the face of the 1.3 billion people who live on less than a \$1 a day, the 24,000 people who die each day from lack of food, fine words are no longer enough. What is required is coordinated action to tackle poverty, environmental degradation, and injustice. We must begin to see coordinated action in order to change the lives of millions".

He recognised that the UK government is falling well short of its current aid commitments to developing countries, and also highlighted the lack of response from the private sector on sustainable development – whilst 60% of the FTSE 100 companies are now producing environmental reports, less than 10% of the next 300 largest companies are doing so. He pointed out, "we urgently need to create genuine partnerships and action, not just from government but also from the private sector". More than 3 times the level of government aid reaches developing countries from the foreign private investment. He asked participants "how can we start to spread and enhance the flows of investment so that it is not focused on the 12 most favoured developing countries?".

Part of the answer, he said, will lie with UK's contribution to Earth Summit 2002. Meacher then outlined a new initiative, currently underway, which he hoped would change the financial landscape. The "London Principles for Sustainable Finance", to be presented at the Summit would seek to define principles and guidelines for finance based on experiences of best practice in risk management, pricing of assets and provision of finance. A workshop to develop these principles, with representation from different stakeholder groups, would be held in late November as the first step of this process and he encouraged a wide range of organisations to get involved.

For further info on the UK Social Investment Forum
email: info@uksif.org

Rosalie Gardiner

Schools Challenged to Take On Johannesburg Summit

Pupils across the UK are being offered an opportunity to speak out on poverty and environment at the Johannesburg Summit in the unique *Our World* Programme. *Our World*, which is a joint project between WWF-UK and the UK Government, encourages young people across the UK to take part in debates on environment and poverty, in the lead up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The Schools Challenge, launched on September 20th 2001, is the first in a series of *Our World* activities. It gives the participants a chance to win £15000 for their school by showing how sustainability can be brought to life in their own school, for example in transport. Besides, four *Earth Champions*, one from each of the winning schools, will be selected to fly to Johannesburg to play an active role at the Summit as part of the WWF delegation. Schools are encouraged to take part in the challenge. The deadline for submission of completed project proposals is 14th December 2001.

Our World incorporates other opportunities as well. In January 2002 schools can register for on-line debates and other activities such as quizzes, which will take place over the months leading up to the summit. The internet debates for both primary and secondary schools offer pupils access to experts plus the chance to post final messages for the Prime Minister to take to the Summit.

A news magazine for pupils with contributions from pupils as well as experts is in the pipeline.

For further details and/or registration, contact:
ldyer@wwf.org.uk or login at: www.wwflearning.co.uk

Back to the Future: IIED and WSSD 2002

Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), an independent non-profit research institute working in the field of sustainable development, is reverting back to its roots in policymaking and advocacy at UN conferences.

In 1972, Barbara Ward (an early President of IIED) wrote *Only One Earth: Care and Maintenance of a Small Planet*, the unofficial report for Stockholm's UN Conference on the Human Environment – the forerunner of subsequent Earth Summits.

In 1985, IIED staff began drafting sections of *Our Common Future* for the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). IIED played a major role in preparing for the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 by providing input to biodiversity and forestry agreements, papers for the UNCED Secretariat, publishing a book entitled *Policies for a Small Planet* and organising a major NGO Forum entitled *What on Earth is to be Done?*

It should come as no surprise, therefore, that IIED has been heavily involved in preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable

Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in September 2002. Below are highlights of recent and forthcoming IIED activities related to the WSSD:

- launched a WSSD Programme with Tom Bigg as its Coordinator (www.iied.org/wssd) (January 2001)
- published *The Future is Now* series (two volumes already in print) to give an overview of what was accomplished at Rio and outline the challenges that remain to be tackled at Johannesburg. These booklets are distributed free of charge at WSSD PrepComs and are freely downloadable from our website; copies can also be ordered from www.earthprint.com (April 2001; November 2001; May 2002; September 2002)
- organised a meeting for the first WSSD PrepCom entitled *Towards a Common Vision: Exploring Links between the WSSD and FfD Conferences* (April 2001). IIED will be organising other meetings at future WSSD PrepComs.
- published a briefing paper series, *WSSD Opinion*, in collaboration with the Regional and International Networking Group (RING), a global network of policy institutes on sustainable development (May 2001 and ongoing)
- provided substantive input, in collaboration with the RING, on priorities for WSSD for an EU governmental Informal Seminar in Sweden (May 2001)
- organised an International Workshop and International Conference entitled *Equity for a Small Planet: An International Forum on the World Summit on Sustainable Development* (November 2001)
- will publish a booklet on the WSSD links to the UN Financing for Development conference in March 2002 (December 2001)
- will organise an international meeting of research institutes working in sustainable development (May 2002)
- will publish (via Earthscan) a global report on mining and sustainable development; to be launched in London (April 2002) and in Johannesburg (September 2002)

For further details contact Lilian Chatterjee,
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Lilian Chatterjee

WOMEN'S GROUPS

The WEDO Women's Agenda for Earth Summit 2002

Women have an important understanding of environmental issues and sustainable development, as a result of their multiple responsibilities at home, workplace and community. Yet, for various reasons, women remain underrepresented in policy-making processes. Inflexible meeting hours, inadequate public transport and childcare shortages often prevent women's participation in local governing processes. Traditional and biased attitudes towards women discourage them from participating in all levels of government decision-making. Without structural measures, such as quota systems ensuring

adequate levels for women's representation, women, who form the majority of the world's poor and illiterate, often lack the resources necessary for their full and equal participation in politics and government. As a result of these factors, though women make up 52 per cent of the world's population, they make only 13 per cent of the world's governments.

Women's exclusion from governing processes means that they are excluded from environmental and economic decisions that impact directly upon them. Indeed, as a result of their multiple responsibilities, women often bear the heaviest burden of policies that ignore principles of sustainability. When water is contaminated, large tracts of forests destroyed, or workers displaced by new technologies, it falls mainly on women to cope with the increased difficulties of the day-to-day survival of their families.

WEDO, with Women of the World, in the Official Preparatory Process

The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), an international advocacy organization, seeks to increase the power of women worldwide as decision-makers in governments, institutions and forums to achieve economic and social justice, a healthy and peaceful planet, and human rights for all. In the lead up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), to be held in Johannesburg in September 2002, WEDO is convening the women's caucuses at the global UN meetings and facilitating women as a major group in the UN multi-stakeholder dialogues leading up to the Summit. With partner organizations from each region, WEDO is preparing the official Dialogue Paper in this process, which is expected to be available through the CSD early in 2002.

WEDO is also seeking to work with the women's groups in South Africa as they prepare for the Summit and to support their efforts to advance a gender agenda and showcase women's projects in the region, as part of the Summit activities. We also will be promoting gender balance among NGO participants at the regional and global meetings and hope to consult widely with women at these events. WEDO is bringing together the various views of women around the world to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive agenda addressing women's needs is included in the WSSD agenda.

Women's Action Agenda for a Healthy Planet 2002

The United Nations Conference for Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, was an important event for women worldwide, as it emphasized their important role in achieving a different type of development – one that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. Chapter

24 of *Agenda 21*, entitled "Global Action for Women Towards Sustainable and Equitable Development", acknowledges the need to integrate women and gender at all government levels and in the related activities of all UN agencies.

The acknowledgement of women's role in sustainable development in the final text of Agenda 21 reflects the comprehensive and integrated vision delivered to the UNCED by women in their own platform – *Women's Action Agenda 21*. This platform emerged from the first Women's World Congress for a Healthy Planet, organized by WEDO in November 1991.

Now, in the lead-up to the second Earth Summit, WEDO has partnered with women's organizations from around the world to review and revise Women's Action Agenda 21. The updated platform, Women's Action Agenda for a Healthy Planet 2002 (WAA2002), will be the result of broad consultations and feedback and will present an updated and comprehensive women's agenda when launched in Johannesburg. Those organizations wishing to participate in the consultations on WAA2002 may contact Rebecca Pearl at rebecca@wedo.org (telephone: 001212 973 0325).

WEDO has also published a primer, *Women and Sustainable Development: A Local Agenda*, for those involved with engendering local governance for sustainable development. The primer describes the global women's movement for gender and sustainable development, examines the challenges to women's involvement in local decision-making for sustainable development and maps out strategies to achieve better integration of gender issues, and involvement of women, in decision-making processes. Published earlier this year, *Women and Sustainable Development: A Local Agenda* aims to share strategies amongst women advocates at the local level, and also outlines the coordinated approach of women at the global level. It is available at WEDO's website, www.wedo.org, under "Publications".

Joan Ross-Frankson

CONFERENCES

UNED-UK Conference

A Vision for Our Common Future – Tuesday 22nd January 2002 at SOAS, London

This new event follows on from UNED's March 2001 national Conference, where ongoing multi-stakeholder working-groups were launched to prepare the UK for the Johannesburg Summit. 10 months later, on the eve of the first substantive global preparatory meeting for the Summit, where the key issues for the Summit will be decided, it is now time to report back on national preparatory work to a UK audience.

Key Issues

- What should Earth Summit 2002 be trying to achieve?
- What is the UK Government's position as it leaves for PrepCom 2?
- How can Civil Society influence and ensure a progressive outcome for Sustainable Development in the UK and internationally?
- What is the future of the UK process beyond WSSD?

Speakers

Rt. Hon Michael Meacher Minister for the Environment*

Rt. Hon John Gummer MP*

Jonathon Porritt, Chair UK Sustainable Development Commission

Mike Ashley, Executive Director Local Government International Bureau

Helen Carey, National Federation of Women's Institutes*

Barry Coates, Executive Director World Development Movement

Rt. Hon Tony Colman MP, Member of Globe UK

Sir Brian Heap, Fellow of the Royal Society*

Lord Holme, Chairman, BASD

Sharon James, Trades Union Congress

Sally Nicholson, Head of Global Policy WWF-UK

David Woollcombe, President, Peace Child International

* confirmation awaited

For further information contact: info@earthsummit2002.org

Down to Earth Conference

The Down to Earth conference on 'Sustainable Transport', on the 19th of October 2001, at Winchester Guildhall, was the first in the series of three organised towards gearing action under the over-arching aim of 'Sustainable Lifestyles'. 'Sustainable Communities' and 'Sustainable Resources' are the other two conferences of the series scheduled for 27th November 2001 and 20th February 2002 respectively (the conference on sustainable communities for 27th November was not yet over at the time of writing this report.). The key theme underlying all the three conferences is the need for behavioural change and the need to address lifestyle issues. The major outcome of the conference is expected to be real practical solutions and recommendations that can be taken by the community and business alike to work towards sustainability. Written as an action plan, these will help develop the roles and responsibilities that are needed at a local level. The three one day events, each run by a different body, provide an opportunity for partnership between national and local organisations supported by United Nations Environment and Development UK Committee, thus giving individuals and organisations the opportunity to feed into the 2002 Earth Summit.

For more details, please visit the website
www.down-to-earth.co.uk

Earth Summit 2002 Vision

(continued from front page)

important/crucial discussion on the future of environmental governance. Out of this discussion we could see: Clustering of conventions; Addressing fragmentation of environmental governance systems; compliance; and involving stakeholders.

The recognition that there is an increased role for stakeholders in implementing the global agreements requires the international community to start setting up proper norms for their engagement across the system. UNED Forum have developed a set of principals for stakeholder participation. A consistent predictable framework of partnership with stakeholders will be crucial to deliver sustainable development agreements.

Finally we need, by Johannesburg, to have ratified the relevant stages of the six Rio Conventions. These are:

- The Cartagena Bio-safety Protocol;
- The Kyoto Climate Change Protocol;
- The Convention on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;.
- The Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent;
- The Convention to Combat Desertification (requires funds)

Earth Summit 2002 should be seen as a landmark event, but we should also be thinking about where we hope to be in 2003,4,5,6 and beyond. 2002 needs to be seen as the starting block to set all this in motion.

Publications

'Multi-stakeholder Processes for Governance and Sustainability. Beyond Deadlock and Conflict'...

... is the title of an upcoming book by Minu Hemmati, with contributions from Felix Dodds, Jasmin Enayati, and Jan McHarry, to be published by Earthscan and UNED Forum in January 2002 (hard cover & paperback; order from UNED Forum at info@earthsummit2002.org)

The book is the result of UNED's work on multi-stakeholder processes over the last year (www.earthsummit2002.org/msp). In a project led by Minu Hemmati, a review was done of twenty examples of multi-stakeholder processes like – from Local Agenda 21 to stakeholder dialogues at the CSD, the Global Compact, the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Initiative etc. The socio-psychological research on communication and decision-making in diverse groups was analysed and how appropriate stakeholder collaboration can help to put essential values into practice, such as good governance, equity, transparency, accountability, and effective implementation of change towards sustainability, was outlined. Based on these analytical building blocks, the book proposes a set of principles of stakeholder participation and collaboration, and provides an easy-to-use checklist for designing multi-stakeholder processes.

The work contributes significantly to the existing body of knowledge on stakeholder collaboration, and will help to shape such processes in the future. At UNED, the guidelines will be used to inform our own multi-stakeholder initiatives at the domestic and international levels. One major example is the *Implementation Conference. Stakeholder Action For Our Common Future*, a 4 day event to take place during the week before the Summit in Johannesburg. The preparatory process and the meeting itself aim to create a space for stakeholders to agree joint action plans within five issue areas: freshwater; renewable energy; food security; public health and HIV/AIDS; and stakeholder responsibility – all of them with a particular focus on social inclusion and poverty eradication; governance; the impact of globalisation; and gender.

If you are interested in this process, visit www.earthsummit2002.org/ic and get in touch with coordinators Minu Hemmati (minush@aol.com) and Robert Whitfield (rwhitfield@earthsummit2002.org).

Diary

UK Diary dates

● 12th December 2001

'Education for Sustainable Development' Workshop

9.30am–5.00pm

South Bank University, Main Building

Organised by UNED Forum and South Bank University

Contact Anna Birney,

email: abirney@earthsummit2002.org;

phone: 020 7839 1784

● 12th–13th December 2001

'Climate Change – What we Know and What we Need to Know'

Meeting at the Royal Society

London

Organised by The Royal Society

Contact: climate@royalsoc.ac.uk

● 7th January 2002

'Population and Sustainability' UK

Preparations for Earth Summit 2002

Working-group Meeting

1.00–4.45pm, Friends Meeting House

London

Organised by: UNED-UK

Contact: Catherine Budgett-Meakin

budgettmead@compuserve.com

● 22nd January 2002

'A Vision For Our Common Future'

UNED-UK Conference

London

Contact: unedforum.org (see page xx)

● 24th January 2002

Local Government Association Conference

Contact: phone 020 7863 9099,

www.lga.gov.uk

● 20th February 2002

IT'S YOUR CHOICE! Changing Patterns

of Consumption and Production in the UK

Imperial College, London

Contact: Hersha Mistry – 020 7594 6884

or at www.ad.ic.ac.uk/cpd/uned.htm

● 20th February 2002

'Down to Earth 2 – Sustainable Resources' Conference day 3

Contact: gayer@earthsummit2002.org

www.down-to-earth.co.uk (see page xx)

● 28th February 2002

'WWF Cymru WSSD conference'

Wales

Contact: www.wwf-uk.org

● 8th–11th April 2002

'Your Wake Up Call' conference – young people's Parliament Auditorium.

A residential programme involving 180

young people from UK & South Africa

Millennium Point, Birmingham

Contact: wakeup@earthsummit2002.org;

phone: 020 7484 7928

www.your-wake-up-call.org

International Diary Dates

● 6th–11th January 2002

Rio 02 – world Climate & Energy Event

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Contact: krauter@rio02.org

● 16th–17th January

World Summit on Sustainable Development

Bureau Brainstorming – on main thematic

outcomes of regional Summit Preparatory

Committee Meetings

UNHQ, New York

● 28th January–8th February

Second Preparatory Session for the

2002 World Summit on Sustainable

Development

UNHQ, New York

Andrey Vasilyev, DESA;

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4260; e-mail: vasilyev@un.org;

Major groups contact: Zehra Aydin-

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fax: +1-212-963-1267;

e-mail: aydin@un.org; Internet:

<http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>

● 9th–11th February 2002

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit

2002 – 'Ensuring Sustainable Livelihoods:

Challenges for Governments, Corporates

and Civil Society at Rio + 10'

Organised by: TERI

New Delhi

Contact: The Summit Secretariat, TERI

Darbari Seth Block, Habitat Place, Lodhi

Road, New Delhi – 110 003, India

Fax 0091 11 468 2144 or 468 2145

Tel. 0091 11468 2100 or 468 2111

● 13th–18th February

UNEP Governing Council: Global

Ministerial Environment Forum [7th

Special Session] – considering

international environmental governance

process outcomes

Cartagena, Colombia

● 20th–22nd February, 2002

Local Government International

Preparatory Committee Meeting

North Vancouver, Canada

Organized by The International Council

for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

Contact: thamid@iclei.org

● 3rd–6th March, 2002

"Sustaining our Communities:"

International Local Agenda 21

Conference. Organized by the

Department of Environment, Australia.

This conference will provide a forum to

discuss approaches to sustainable

development and advise Australia's input

to the Johannesburg Summit 2002.

Adelaide, Australia

Contact: j.salter@adelaide.sa.gov.au

<http://www.adelaide.sa.gov.au/soc/>

● 22nd–31st March 2002

UNEP Global Youth Forum – GYF2002:

Copenhagen, Denmark

Organized by: UNEP, Hosted by: Nature

and Youth (Natur og Ungdom), this

forum will be a youth event leading up to

the WSSD. It will build on the Youth

Conference on Environment and

Sustainable Development held in

Borgholm, Sweden from 23–27 May 2001.

Contact: e-mail: theodore.oben@unep.org

or landskontoret@natur-og-ungdom.dk

● 25th March–5th April 2002

Third Preparatory Session for the 2002

World Summit on Sustainable Development

UN HQ, New York

It will aim to produce the first draft of a

"review" document and elements of the

CSD's future work programme.

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contact: Zehra Aydin-Sipos, DESA;

tel: +1-212-963-8811; fax: +1-212-963-

1267; e-mail: aydin@un.org; Internet:

<http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>

● 27nd May–7th June 2002

Fourth Preparatory Session for the 2002

World Summit on Sustainable Development

Indonesia

It will include Ministerial and Multi-

stakeholder Dialogue Segments, and is

expected to result in elements for a

concise political document to be

submitted to the 2002 Summit.

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contact: Zehra Aydin-Sipos, DESA;

tel: +1-212-963-8811;

e-mail: aydin@un.org; Internet:

<http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>

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](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/index.htm)

COPENHAGEN+5: A SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
RESOURCE FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS
[www.earthsummit2002.org/
wssd/default.htm](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/wssd/default.htm)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GLOBAL COMPACT
www.unglobalcompact.org

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

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

GREENPEACE
www.greenpeace.org

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

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE
www.ipcc.ch

INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON FORESTS
www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC)
www.iccwbo.org

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FRESHWATER
www.water-2001.de

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>

LIAISON COMMITTEE OF DEVELOPMENT NGOS
TO THE EU
www.oneworld.org/liaison

LIFEONLINE
A multimedia initiative on the impact of
globalisation on Urban Environments
www.lifeonline.org

LOCAL AGENDA 21 UK
www.la21-uk.org.uk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
www.lga.gov.uk

OUR WORLD
www.wwflearning.co.uk
www.wwf.org.uk

SECRETARIAT FOR THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
www.biodiv.org

SECRETARIAT FOR THE UNFCCC (UNITED NATIONS
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE)
www.unfccc.de

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL
www.sustdev.org

SUSTAINABLE NORTHERN IRELAND PROGRAMME
www.sniponline.org

TEARFUND
www.tearfund.org

UK SOCIAL INVESTMENT FORUM
www.uksif.org

UNA-UK
www.una-uk.org/

UNDP
www.undp.org

UNEP NAIROBI
www.unep.org/

UN HOME PAGE
www.un.org

WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
ORGANISATION
www.wedo.org

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
www.wbcasd.org/

WORLD CONSERVATION MONITORING CENTRE
www.unep-wcmc.org

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION
www.who.org

THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (EARTH SUMMIT 2002)
www.johannesburgsummit.org

WORLDWIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF-UK)
www.wwf-uk.org

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www.bond.org.uk

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www.canuk.org.uk

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212 High Holborn, London WC1V 7BF
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76-86 Turnmill Street,
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International Council for Local
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Fax: 01865 312 417
Oxfam Publications
Tel: 01865 313922

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www.gn.apc.org/wen

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Fax: 01483 426 409

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Intergovernmental Forum on
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c/o WHO, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: 00 41 22 791 3650/4333
Fax: 00 41 22 791 4875
E-mail: ifcs@who.ch
Internet: www.ifcs.ch

International Monetary Fund
700 19th Street NW,
Washington DC, 20431 USA
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UN Convention to Combat
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New York Office
1 United Nations Plaza, New York
NY 10017 USA
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Human Development Report Office
336 E. 45th Street, Uganda House
New York, NY 10017
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Website: www.undp.org/hdro

UNEP

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PO Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya
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your wake up call

Young People Speaking On Behalf Of The Planet

At long last, we seem to be coming to terms with the fact that humankind does not stand apart from the rest of creation. We are inextricably linked up in it, and totally dependent on the Earth's life support systems for our well-being and survival.

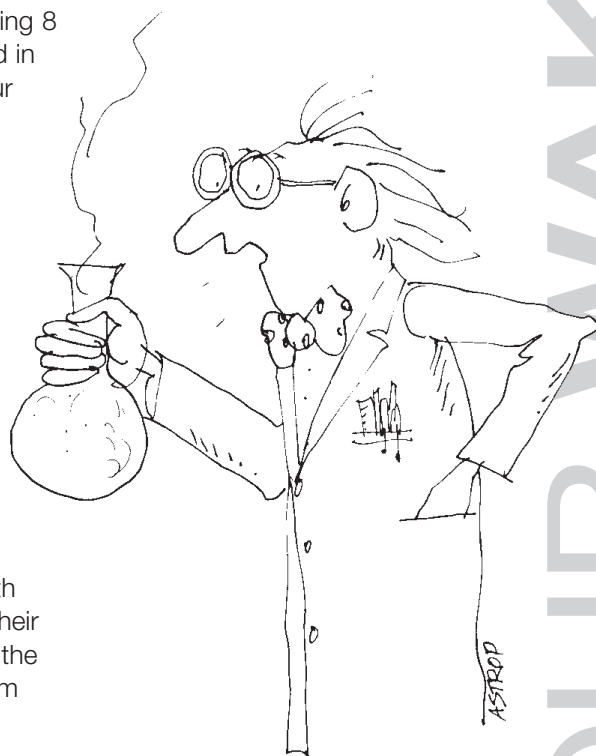
The Greek goddess for the Earth was called Gaia, and the ancient Greeks took it as a matter of course that they had to nurture and sustain Mother Earth. Slowly, and very painfully, we are discovering that simple but all-important wisdom.

Young people are more aware than ever that our world is under threat. Many more changes have taken place this century than ever before and they have come about faster than at any previous time in our history. Some of the changes have improved our way of life, but they have also meant that our lifestyles are threatening the existence of the planet. We cannot ignore the fact. We all need to do something about it.

The planet is a world of young people – half the people in the world are under the age of 20. One of the most effective ways of change is through young people. Young people have hopes and fears, dreams and beliefs. Their cultures may be different, yet in many ways their daily lives are similar, as are their hopes for the future and their ways of looking at the world.

Your Wake Up Call is an exciting new project challenging 8 to 18 year olds throughout the UK to get actively engaged in making a real difference to the sustainable future of our world. The project aims to guarantee that the decisions made by the world leaders attending the Earth Summit 2002, will be directly influenced by the opinions and wishes of young people. The Earth Summit 2002 (otherwise known as The World Summit On Sustainable Development) takes place in South Africa in September 2002, and will be attended by the leading politicians of an expected 160 countries, as well as fifty thousand other people – probably the largest global event ever attended by Prime Ministers and Presidents to take major decisions on the environment and the quality of life.

Overleaf are the challenges in which Your Wake Up Call is hoping to engage young individuals and the young members of organisations here, as well as some links with young people in different areas of South Africa too. Their collective ideas and ingenuity can overcome many of the problems which our planet faces. Their collective wisdom can stimulate the formation of extensive networks to bring sustainability to this world, so that what we do today does not endanger the well-being of the natural world or the living conditions of other people now or in the future. Even if some of the problems seem a long way away, anything that affects the chain in which we and all living things co-exist, will affect us in the end.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT **IS** IT!
E102, E223, E212, E320, E234,
BANANA TRIFLE, WHAT ELSE!

Your Wake Up Call was founded on the idea that young people want to be active participants in decisions that affect the future of the planet. At the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, (known as the Earth Summit), governments of countries all over the world were urged to seek young people's concerns and opinions about the environment. Your Wake Up Call provides an opportunity for the young people to prove their commitment to the ideas of sustainable development in the run-up to this international event and indeed over the next ten years, in particular towards environmental issues in addition to social and economic needs.



The characteristics of a sustainable planet can be simply expressed. For example:



— IF THAT'S ATTENBOROUGH,
WE **MUST** BE THE LAST TWO!

TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT...

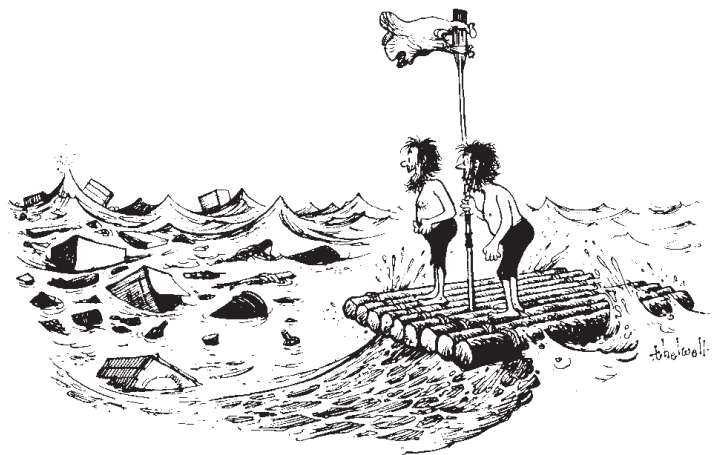
... it is necessary to use energy, water and other natural resources efficiently and with care; to minimise waste, re-use it, recycle it, and recover it through recycling, composting or energy recovery, and finally sustainably dispose of what is left.

TO MEET SOCIAL NEEDS...

... it is necessary to create or enhance places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look well; to ensure access to good food, water, housing and fuel at a reasonable cost; and to empower all sections of the community to take part in decision-making and consider the aspects of education, health, employment and social justice in the decisions.

TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC SUCCESS...

... it is necessary to create vibrant economy that gives access to satisfying and rewarding work without damaging the local, national or global environment; to value unpaid work; and to make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily available to all.



"Hello! We can't be far from civilisation..."

ACTION

Young people can undertake whatever actions they wish (within reason!) to further the aims of Your Wake Up Call. Examples of some being run on a national basis include:

.....

PLEDGING:

Every young person will draw up 5 pledges which they will put into action themselves in their community. In addition, they will nominate another 5 pledges which they will vote that the UK government should fulfil on a local, national or international level, to match the example set by the young people.

TWINNING PROJECTS:

Young people will be encouraged to make contact with someone of a similar age in South Africa. This could take place through youth projects, charities with a strong youth wing, organisations which campaign for the rights of young people, etc. These partnerships will be symbolised by a major artistic project which can be used during the Earth Summit 2002, and remain in South Africa for use there in years to come. Johannesburg is twinned with Birmingham. To add to the schemes already in existence between these two cities, Your Wake Up Call is organising activities and events which will enable young people from both these areas to join up on various new projects.

FUNDRAISING:

A pyramid of fundraising, involving young people if they wish, will be topped with increasingly large sources of donations from different professional sectors of society. The funds raised will be used to establish a landmark project related to literacy. The world is ruled to a great degree by the written word – good jobs, being able to read notices and official papers, and so on, often lead to healthier and happier individuals. As a number of people drop out of school, or for other reasons have difficulty writing and reading, projects involving story-telling, illustration, words and books themed on environmental issues and other aspects of sustainable development will also benefit from the funds raised.

WEBSITE:

Designed to include challenges and tasks which will change on a daily basis, the website will be a major part of the communication plan which will advertise the progress and activities under the umbrella of Your Wake Up Call.

EARTH SUMMIT 2002:

Various meetings, press events, lobbying, and hands-on practical projects will take place in imaginative ways during the period of the Earth Summit, bringing to the notice of the world leaders gathered there, as well as the other 50,000 people expected to attend the event, the opinions and wishes of the young people who have taken part in Your Wake Up Call in whatever role they have chosen to do so.

.....

WHEN DOES YOUR WAKE UP CALL START AND HOW WILL IT BE MANAGED?

In January 2002, Your Wake Up Call will start its programme of activities, which the website will keep everyone up-to-date with, alongside leaflets and media outlets. The programme will largely be made up and undertaken by the young people themselves, with management and administrative back-up from the London office which will co-ordinate the projects.

CELEBRITY PATRONS:

Young people in their teens and twenties, who are celebrities in their professions (cooking, dance, design, journalism, music, sport, TV, writing, etc.) will use their energy and charisma to inspire and create new ways of looking at the concept of sustainable development in the every day lives of the young people taking part in Your Wake Up Call.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Approximately 30 well known businesses will select a young member of staff to join this Committee. These people will have established themselves as rising stars in their place of work, and demonstrate a real commitment and interest in Your Wake Up Call. They will meet every two months to contribute ideas, pointers and practical solutions, as well as lend assistance to the project in many ways. They will also spread the message of your wake up call through networks of staff, clients, dealers, manufacturers and others involved in the business.

ASSOCIATES:

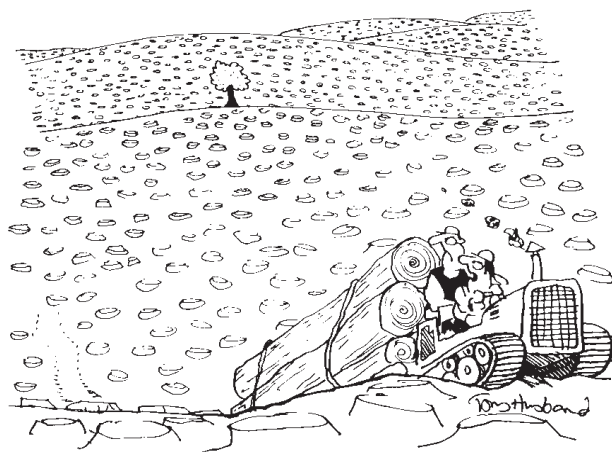
Your Wake Up Call is developing an association of independent groups (charities and NGOs) who care for young people, campaign on behalf of young people, promote issues which concern young people, and which have strong membership bases of young people. Members of the association will pursue a rigorous programme of events, ideas, projects and resources to constantly remind everyone of the scale of the commitment needed to protect the Earth, and our responsibilities in meeting that challenge.

MEDIA:

A media strategy to gain regular attention on the radio and TV, as well as in newspapers, magazines and other outlets, will be actively pursued, involving the young people.

UNED:

Your Wake Up Call is a new initiative of UNED Forum. UNED is a London based international multi-stakeholder forum, committed to the promotion of global sustainable development. It is one of the UK's key players in shaping the policy work for the Earth Summit, and encouraging a wide range of stakeholders to take a role in this important event.



"Bloody Hell! We missed one..."

FURTHER INFORMATION:

All enquiries can be directed to:

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Tel: 0207 484 7928 (direct) & 0207 839 1784 (general)

E-mail: wakeup@earthsummit2002.org

Website: www.your-wake-up-call.org (active from January)