

Health & Sustainable Development

“Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature” (Principle 1, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development).

“With success comes responsibility. Health has been given a prominent place on the agenda for Johannesburg, and the health sector now needs to do its part. It is only by working in partnership with others that success can be achieved. The health sector has a key role in providing solid evidence of the health risks of non-sustainable development, in helping to shape effective policies and strategies to address the risks and in building capacity inside and outside the health sector to act on this knowledge. A daunting but exciting challenge lies ahead for us all. Will we rise to that challenge?” This was the query raised by Yasmin von Schirnding, Focal Point for Agenda 21 at the WHO, and supported by Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, WHO Director General, yesterday: “we have goals and measurable targets agreed at the Millennium Summit. The challenge is to move from knowledge to action”.

The Framework for Action on Health and Environment, produced by the WEHAB working group earlier this month in preparation for the WSSD, once again placed health at the very centre of sustainable development. “Poverty increases vulnerability to poor health and poor health increases vulnerability to poverty.” Today’s *Outreach* looks at some of the connections that exist and outlines the challenge faced by us all to ensure the health of future generations.

Health within WEHAB

Consider health as a ‘glue’ that binds the WEHAB issues together. Water related-diseases contribute significantly to illness and death. Dangerous climate change impacts and urban air pollution result from our energy demands. A healthy workforce is needed for agricultural productivity. Loss of biodiversity robs us of potential new medicines. Unhealthy environments lead to poor health. Water supply / sanitation and water resource management improvements are a key factor in reductions of infectious water-borne and vector-borne diseases. Improved stoves and ventilation, as well as use of new renewable energy sources are urgently needed. The sustainability of the agricultural process is of fundamental importance to human health, through delivery of adequate food and nutrition. Much of the world relies on traditional plant-based medicine, and over 50% of commercially available drugs are extracted or patterned from them.

Show me the money

The challenges faced in improving health care, and

in particular in tackling AIDS, malaria and TB remain significant, despite the recent efforts of the Global Fund to increase resources. Finding lasting healthcare solutions for under-served populations will not be achieved without an increase in human and financial resources. This has been a cornerstone of WHO policy since Brundtland took office and was reiterated yesterday. “The World Commission on Environment and Development established that investing in the future of the planet makes sound economic sense. The cost of repairing damage is much greater than the up front cost of preventing it.” A detailed and compelling analysis by the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (Commissioned by Brundtland and Chaired by Jeffrey Sachs) has identified and attempted to quantify the direct returns on investments in health. While the initial recommended spend is certainly large (an additional USD 66 bn a year for low income countries), this is expected to save 8 million lives a year and provide economic benefits that yield a sixfold return on investment. A clear case has been made and agreed, at least in theory. Brundtland said: “I believe that in health we have the foundations for lasting consensus. We can demonstrate with confidence that investment in health repays major dividends.

Waste not? Want not?

But how and where do we allocate these resources? Unhealthy consumption practices and lifestyles are driving the emerging epidemic of non-communicable diseases, which currently account for 60% of global deaths. Globalisation of unhealthy lifestyles is a key factor in this process. Four of the most prevalent non-communicable diseases – cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes – are linked by common preventable risk factors: tobacco use, unhealthy lifestyles, diet and physical inactivity.

Policy changes for progress

The WHO identifies a need to better align sectoral policies for health, environment and development promotion and protection. This process will require health professionals to be more responsive to key motivating factors behind policies that are mutually beneficial; for example, food and agricultural policies that promote integrated pest management over use of toxic chemicals, that encourage substitution away from crops that harm health, and that promote consumption of a balanced diet, rich in fruits and vegetables. Creating an awareness of other sectors in delivering improved health is a key aim for the health sector in the WSSD process.

Frameworks for Action?

Performance of health care systems, so under-resourced in many of the poorest countries, depends on service provision, resource generation, financing and stewardship. Essential to improving these are:

- making quality care available across the life span;
- preventing and controlling disease and protecting health; promoting regulations and legislation in support of health systems;
- developing health information systems and ensuring

active surveillance;

- fostering health-related science and technology;
- building and maintaining human resources for health; and
- securing adequate financing.

Where to now?

The WHO has Later in this issue of *Outreach* we outline some of the outcomes of the 'Implementation Conference' that took place last weekend. to harness the desire for action among a wide range of participants concerned with health. 5 areas were addressed with enormous application and significant 'Action Plans' resulted, which the groups are now striving to turn into action! The challenges for the future remain immense, but might be encapsulated in this one phrase, again from Gro Harlem Brundtland's speech yesterday: "People are at the centre of sustainable development and their health is central to the future. Are we ensuring equitable access to life giving resources? If the answer is no – why not? Because our world has not yet agreed to give sustainable development the priority it deserves. By striving for consensus and concerted action, we achieve the goals of sustainable development and poverty reduction. There is no work more vital, no cause more just."

Gordon Baker, Stakeholder Forum

Author Acknowledgments: *Yasmin von Schirnding*

Working Group Session Reports

Vienna Style Negotiations

Thursday PM

The afternoon session commenced with the Chair inviting delegates to offer their opinions as to which issues or paragraphs should be passed up to Ministerial level later on in the evening. It was intended that twenty minutes would be spent on these discussions, in order to remove the most difficult issues to be removed from the Vienna Style Negotiations for the time being, allowing negotiations to resume on the less contentious issues, with the assumption that they would move forward at a more progressive rate.

In response to this invitation from the Chair, Norway proposed that the Sanitation target be given to Ministers, Iceland followed this by offering Paragraph 19c, containing the target on renewable energies to the Ministerial discussions. Not un-surprisingly, both of these proposals were supported by the United States, further to this, they requested that no other statements be removed from the Vienna Style negotiations at this time. This could lead to a potentially dangerous situation, with the two targets being traded off against one another at the Ministerial level. More probable is that this suggested passing over of the sanitation target by the US to the Minister is consistent with their negotiations strategy, and is a statement of how steady-fast they are on agreeing on the inclusion of these targets. It can be assumed that at a later time more issues will be passed over to the Ministers, and in this instance the sanitation target could prove to be a useful 'trump card'. The position of the US was supported by Japan.

The group of G77 and China, headed by Venezuela required more clarity, before forwarding to the Ministerial discussions, clearly wary of the implications of removing targets and language from the Vienna Style negotiations. In consistency with this, the EU re-

quested that they present their positions later on in the evening, as they had not as yet had the opportunity to reach agreement on this, they were reminded by the Chair that the Ministers would be meeting tonight, and therefore should have their discussions sooner rather than later to ensure that they had a say in what went across. Canada also requested that the sanitation target be left for Ministers to negotiate, but requested that the report from the water contact group be presented to the rest of the delegations before any decision was made. With regards to the target on renewable energy, Canada suggested that paragraph 19c be negotiated as a package. In response to repeated calls from the floor for the water contact group report to be presented, the Chair invited Canada to do as such.

Canada was invited to report back on the water contact group discussions, this contact group has met twice over the passed week, with the mandate of agreeing text contained within paragraphs 7alt and 24 relating to sanitation targets – one of the most problematic areas within the negotiations. As a result of these two meetings, and a number of bi-lateral discussions, many countries have now agreed to remove the brackets from the text, leaving only language relating to time-bound targets bracketed, due to consensus not being reached on this language, alternative sets of brackets were presented to the Vienna Style negotiations. With the major negotiating bodies still remaining in disagreement on which language to be agreed upon, it was clear that resolution was not going to be reached within the Vienna Style negotiations. Norway, the Group of G77 and China, the Czech Republic, New Zealand, Switzerland and Japan all supported the inclusion of the target. Australia and the US remained in strong opposition.

Moving on from this, the contact group dealing with the Rio Principles was asked to present on progress made. It was stated that although significant progress had been made, the work was not fully complete, and essentially the group needs to reconvene in order for agreement to be reached. The Chair requested that these issues be dealt with right now. The Group of G77 and China stated that we should be transparent, suggested that the two Principles did not have to be negotiated as a package. It was requested that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and the precautionary approach be de-linked as one is a principle and one is an approach. Switzerland strongly opposed this, requested Ministerial guidance on how the Rio Principles should best be dealt with. The US fully supported the position of G77, stating that there was no logic in taking the two together as they had no relevance or relationship to one another, other than that they had been agreed in Rio. The EU felt that this position was unacceptable, and that they could not agree on the Principles without looking at them as a whole package.

The session closed early with the EU and the Group of G77 and China stating that progress could not be made at this time, and that the group should therefore reconvene at 8.30pm. Delegates looked weary at the thought of another late night, we can only hope that adequate consensus will soon be reached.

Georgina Ayre & Jinal Shah, Stakeholder Forum

Partnerships or Statements?

Thursday PM

The ninth plenary meeting took place in the Pavilion on Thursday in the afternoon. It consisted of 31 presentations from a diverse range of organisations – each of which was supposed to be five minutes long, but most were a good deal longer – something which must have been very irritating for those at the bottom of the list as much as it was inconsiderate for their audience.

While there were some very interesting inputs – some of which are summarised below – it was difficult not to wonder how all these high hopes and interesting accounts fitted into the Vienna process five floors below – where the aspiration for sustainability was being steadily eroded – “the devil is in the detail”.

The session opened with an inspirational contribution from Mary Robinson, United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights who reminded us that human rights and sustainable development could not operate or be successful without each other. It is to be hoped that references to Human Rights will not be taken out of the Plan of Implementation. In particular, there is a continuing controversy over Paragraph 47 since, currently, reference to human rights and fundamental freedoms are conspicuous by their absence.

Ian Johnson, Vice President of the World Bank, challenged the audience with the facts that 80% of the world's population only consume 20% of the world's resources:

- While this is a fact sustainable development is not possible;
- While consumption patterns are so out of balance between the majority and minority worlds, sustainable development is not possible;
- While there is so much inappropriate behaviour by transnational corporations, sustainable development is not possible;
- While so many are disenfranchised, sustainable development is not possible.

He said it was a moral imperative to push for economic, social and ecological justice.

There were other useful contributions from presenters (notably David Anderson of UNEP, Go Harlem Brundtland of WHO, Anne Petitpierre of ICRC [Red Cross], Mohamed Ashry of the GEF, Dr Hassan of the Third World Academy of Science, Trine Lise Sundness of the International Free Trade Unions – who said that we wanted to make our children and grandchildren proud of the outcome of WSSD – and, finally, Tom Goldtooth, of the Indigenous Environment Network – who reminded us that indigenous peoples have particular claims to the land [to which they are tied by an umbilical cord] and to their heritage).

It was not clear how these proceedings fitted into the overall Summit process: What will happen to these worthy and interesting presentations?

One was left with the feeling that what was happening in the Pavilion had very little to do with the proceedings in Exhibition Room 1 where, for example, the Rio principles are being watered down and perhaps even dismantled; where previously agreed UN language is being put aside; and where one is tempted to agree with the women of Indonesia “this is a Northern Summit for Unsustainable Development”.

Catherine Budgett-Meakin, Stakeholder Forum

Health & the Implementation Conference

IC Purpose

To inspire stakeholders to create collectively, clear, measurable

on-going action to deliver the Sustainable Development Agreements

IC Desired Outcome

Concrete, agreed and owned collaborative actions plans aimed at implementing the Sustainable Development Agreements in four specific areas

Introducing Consensus – a background

The Implementation Conference experimented with creating a space that would enable and empower stakeholders to come together to agree action. After three days of intense activity, over 75 participants from 50 organisations and 21 countries, reached agreement on new action plans in six issue areas. Several groups developed more than one action plan to be pursued by all or several of the organisations present. Stakeholder Forum is in discussion with each group to identify needs and garner (and provide) support. One key requirement is the engagement of further participants in most of the programmes – please let us know of your interest!

The following is an initial summary of the individual partnership initiatives finalised at the IC. The event itself was a stepping-stone in a long-term process that started in the summer of 2001, and will continue and spread out after the gathering in Johannesburg. The Implementation Conference was held in Johannesburg, in close proximity to the Summit, in order to deliver a powerful message to governments and international agencies on how partnerships can be built effectively among practitioners who take the lead from the sustainable development agreements and work out their contributions in a spirit of openness and consensus building.

“Drop the Malaria Tax” Campaign

Background

“Initiate appropriate and sustainable action to strengthen the health systems to ensure that by 2005 at least 60% of those at risk of malaria, particularly pregnant women and children under 5, benefit from the most suitable combination of personal and community protective measures, such as insecticide treated mosquito nets and other accessible and affordable interventions to prevent infections and suffering.” (Abuja Declaration, 2000).

Vision

Reduce the numbers of deaths due to malaria in sub-Saharan Africa through removal of tariffs on malaria control products; and building resources to increase supply of and access to insecticide-treated bed nets.

Outcomes

- Target five countries in year one: Burkina-Faso, Malawi, Guinea Bissau, Eritrea and South Africa. Targets identified through a pragmatic assessment of ability to target/ influence stakeholder and government representatives. Target five more (tbc) in year two.
- Numerous agreed steps of campaign (and information gathering) to catalyse political will;
 - Creation of partnerships with stakeholders and governments;
 - Measurement of impact on vulnerable groups (esp. children, poor and young women).

Partners: Massive Effort Advocacy Campaign; Roll Back Malaria; World Health Organisation; World Vision; Stakeholder Forum.

HIV and AIDS in the World of Work

Background

“We resolve to have, by the year 2015, halted, and begun to re-

verse, the spread of HIV/AIDS." (Millennium Declaration).

Vision

Create an African Forum of civil society stakeholders for the sharing of best practice on tackling HIV/AIDS in the workplace.

Outputs

- Adaptation of the International Labour Organisation's Code of Practice (on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work) for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.
- Development of network/ programme to include sharing of best practice, and new recognition awards ceremony for outstanding programmes: Stakeholder Conference planned for Oct 2003.
- University of Ghana offered to act as Secretariat.

Partners: City of Cape Town; Corporate sector; Department of Health of South Africa; Global Reporting Initiative; Massive Effort Campaign; SAFAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF; UNAIDS; University of Ghana.

Nutrition

Background

"Improve availability and access for all to sufficient, safe, culturally acceptable and nutritionally adequate food... address issues of micro-nutrient deficiency... develop and strengthen preventive, promotive and curative programmes to address ... risk factors including alcohol, tobacco, unhealthy diets and lack of physical activity. (Draft Chair's Text, WSSD 2002)

A. The Indaba Declaration on Food, Nutrition, Health and Sustainable Development

Vision

Food systems, and therefore diet, are fundamental determinants of human health and welfare, and integral to sustaining the natural world.

Outputs

- Creation of an agreed text of the nutritional causes of poor health and desired responses;
- This Declaration to be disseminated widely at WSSD; and
- Commitments to be extended, and made integral to the WHO's nutrition strategy (as introduced in the Joint WHO/FAO expert consultation paper on diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases. To include commitments to action in international advocacy.

Partners: WHO, UK National Heart Forum, other signatories tbc

B. Child Nutrition

Vision

Improving nutritional status and well being in stunted children through physical activity.

Outcomes

Type 2 partnership proposed for collaborative research based intervention into physical activity, nutritional status and health of children, which, if successful, will impact on government policy on physical activity in schools.

Partners: South African universities (Orange Free State, Potchefstroom, Western Cape, Pretoria); University of Malawi; South African Nutrition Society; UK National Heart Forum; Sweetspot-Wellness Infonet (South African NGO); US National Institute of Health; S.A. Medical Research Council; Association of Country Women of the World; Armenian Women for Health and

Healthy Environment; and HelpAge.

Migration of Health Workers

Background

"Human resource development is a fundamental aspect of poverty reduction and is vital to the process of sustainable development... Training and retention of health professionals is a major challenge, particularly in developing countries." (A Framework for Action on Health and the Environment, 2002).

Vision

"Concerned that migration has resulted in maldistribution of health resources, increasing unmet health needs globally;

Concerned that rights of individuals (migrant workers and communities served) may not be adequately protected; the group

Seeks to achieve a sustained collaboration to improve the performance of health delivery systems for vulnerable, poor, underserved and disadvantaged populations, particularly in developing countries.

This will be achieved through creative solutions as well as systematic, concerted actions to enhance the potential benefits of health worker flows."

Outputs

Nine specific deliverable action plans have been identified; which include participants' active engagement of groups not represented at this initiating event. Output to form the basis of the International Organisation for Migration's (IOM) position on the issue. Agreed central ongoing network management and development responsibility of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Partners: IOM, WHO, Rockefeller Foundation, Commonwealth Secretariat, DENOSA, SA government, Thai Ministry of Public Health

Health Research Partnerships

Background

"Promote equitable and improved access to ... essential and safe drugs at affordable prices". (Draft Chair's Text for WSSD, 2002)

Vision

Strengthening Partnerships in Health Research for Sustainable Development

Outcomes

- 1) To promote a Code of Conduct (including guidelines) for partnerships in health research; and to identify best practice in research partnership implementation (eg. Swiss / Tanzanian programme);
- 2) To increase human and material resources in health research (eg from Global Fund).
- 3) Proposed seminar (Ghana, March 2003) to include further participant organisations, progress to date and develop further partnerships.

Partners: African Environment and Human Development Agency; Ghanaian government; Human Science Research Council; Ifakara Health Research and Development; Medicines for Malaria Venture; National Research Foundation, pharmaceutical companies; Swiss Commission for Research Partnership.

Text compiled by Gordon Baker, Health Issue Coordinator for the Implementation Conference. Contactable by cellphone in Joburg 082 858 1569 or email gbaker@earthsummit2002.org

Institutional Frameworks

don't let go

The final stages of the negotiations on "Institutional Frameworks for Sustainable Development" found NGOs left on the outside of guarded doors. This failure of transparency was met with real concern by the few NGOs who had been closely keeping track of developments. It is somewhat ironic that the contact group was simultaneously struggling with issues of good governance and accountability, whilst at the same time unable to expose the final trade offs openly. Let's hope this does not give an indication of the substantive outcome as well. When we left the debate on Tuesday night, one of the co-chairs had proposed deletion of three paragraphs, in an attempt to get final agreement before the group had to take the text into the Vienna process.

Two of these paragraphs are particularly key. The first is in relation to the modalities for partnerships in the follow up to the Summit (para 138.b) and the second is regarding the link between human rights and the environment (para 152). On Wednesday, the negotiations went behind closed doors and we had to wait till Thursday morning to read ENB to find out broadly what had occurred. At a meeting of the EU and NGOs on the same day it became clear that the EU was weakening its position on these two paragraphs and gave the distinct impression that they had given up on the idea of persuading the G77 and US to take a fresh look on these issues. Finally, we read on Thursday the "new and improved" proposal, which included an even larger "package" of deletions, still including these two crucial paragraphs.

This current state of play comes as a real disappointment to those who have been following this discussion. Particularly as, during the negotiations that NGOs were informally allowed to attend, there had been some positive progress on the text. Indeed the US had even agreed to the 2005 on beginning to implement the National Strategies on Sustainable Development (para 145.b), which in Bali they had maintained they would not do. Also the section on good governance at the national level, which started the Summit with seven alternative variations has now been whittled down to just two alternatives and seems very close to resolution.

However, it seems that it is considerable time pressures that are being imposed on reaching agreement that is pushing governments into weaker and weaker positions. The fatigue on the faces of some of the delegates speaks volumes about the kind of strain they are under. At one point the co-chair tried to shame the group into finding resolution by telling them outright that they had been made to look like "a bunch of idiots" when the chairs had had to report back on their progress to the Vienna session. The Norwegian delegate protested to this pointing out that the co-chairs were "forcing us to work under artificial timelines." He said wryly "I have been fortunate, or perhaps now misfortunate, to have attended numerous summit and UN meetings and in all of those I have never attended ONE that was able to conclude negotiations before the last day".

Nevertheless, despite much cajoling, the group has not resolved all the issues up for debate in chapter 10 and it looks increasingly likely that much of it will have to go into the ministerial sessions for resolution. Outing issues of particular note include the paragraph on the Social Dimension of Sustainable Development (para 122.g). Certain "parts" of this paragraph is also up for the deletion in the neat quick-fix "package". The controversial bits of the para-

graph refer to building capacity to support the ILO Core Labour Standards and to the development policy around "social protection systems". The EU, Norway, Swiss and New Zealand have previously been strong supporters of this paragraph in its entirety. They argued that the social dimension is the pillar of sustainable development that has not yet been adequately incorporated into the process. Certainly, when we look at the outcomes of Rio, it is possible to say that most of the major outcomes were environmentally focused. There is certainly some room for greater balance. During the contact groups the G77 seemed willing to go along with a reference to the ILO agreements. But they did question the value of repeating it when there is now an agreed reference to it at paragraph 9.b and they said they did not want reference to the term "labour markets" which they, somewhat strangely, said did not exist in some of their countries. However, as the negotiations progressed, the group has found it increasingly difficult to agree on wording that is acceptable to everyone.

We should not be entirely without hope. The EU may rally yet. And Norway, with allies including the Swiss and Mexico, has remained stubbornly determined throughout the negotiations. But we also have to remember that the text is still a far cry from a clearly structured programme of action for institutional reform that one might have hoped for from a 10 year global summit.

Rosalie Gardner, Stakeholder Forum

Innovative Biannual Award Scheme for WEHAB Partnership Initiatives

"Examples of Excellence"

Presentation & discussion: 30 August 2002, 11am – 12.30 pm

Ubuntu Village, German Pavillion

The United Nations Environment Programme Environment & Trade Unit (UNEP DTIE, Paris), the German Federal Ministry for Environment, nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, and Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future are preparing an international award scheme, which will be presented and discussed at the event.

The overall vision of the award scheme is to increase the contribution of partnership initiatives for sustainable development that benefit from active business involvement through highlighting and supporting the replication of successful partnership models in the WEHAB areas. The scheme is in its developing stages and will benefit from discussions and inputs from governments, agencies and stakeholders.

The event will feature a brief presentation of the scheme in its present form, comments from the partners involved as well as IUCN.

The event will be chaired by Derek Osborn, Co-Chair of Stakeholder Forum. Speakers will include Cornis van der

Stephan Contius (German Government), Minu Hemmati (Stakeholder Forum), and a representative from IUCN...

Discussions will be professionally facilitated by Nigel Gibbs to ensure a lively and effective dialogue.

I.C. Outcomes

August 31st, 11.30 – 12pm., Exhibition Room 1, Sandton Convention Centre

The IC was held in Johannesburg, 24-26 August, at the Indaba Hotel and the IUCN Environment Centre, Sandton.

The purpose of the Implementation Conference was to inspire stakeholders to create collectively, clear, measurable on-going action to deliver the Sustainable Development Agreements.

The desired outcomes were concrete, agreed and owned collaborative action plans aimed at implementing the Sustainable Development Agreements in the four issue areas of energy; food security; freshwater; and health.

After three days of intense activity, the different stakeholders reached agreements on twenty-six new action plans, programmes and partnerships aimed at delivering sustainable development. The Implementation Conference: Stakeholder Action for Our Common Future (IC) has been acting as a hot house for bringing on new collaborative action. Some four hundred stakeholders from over 50 different countries have been working in 25 working groups, supported by 25 facilitators from around the globe, to finalise their action plans. The IC is the culmination of the first phase of a process Stakeholder Action for Our Common Future, which commenced twelve months ago and is aimed at contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agreements through collaborative stakeholder action.

At the presentation, we will provide information not only about the different action plans but also about the process and mechanisms that helped to create them, in preparation for the IC and at the event itself.

For any questions about the IC please contact the Project Coordinators:

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Accidents & Ailments Cost the Earth

As well as 2 million lives a year

During the 10 days of the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development, over 50,000 workers across the globe will die from work-related accidents and disease, more than will be killed by war or even AIDS. According to the ILO, the number of accidents, injuries and fatalities in the workplace is actually increasing. Currently 250 million accidents occur in the workplace

every year and work-related diseases affect some 160 million people. This combination of disease and accidents claims the lives of over 2 million workers per year, leaving millions of family members without an income.

How can workplaces that produce this amount of misery be considered sustainable? They cannot: not only is this astronomically high number of largely preventable deaths shocking in itself, it is a key, but hugely understated issue in sustainable development.

As well as the workplace providing livelihoods for the world's workers and their families; spill-over effects, in terms of the environmental and health, can pose a dire threat to the community at large, the universally found scourge of asbestos is a case-in-point. In addition, work accidents and ailments cost 4% of the combined total of the gross national product (GNP) of all countries on the planet, or the equivalent of the total GNP of Africa, the Middle East (including oil-rich countries) and South Asia put together.

The worst conditions for workers are, of course, in the developing world, where multinational enterprises hunt for the lowest environmental and worker standards in order to gain competitive advantage. For example, the rate of fatal accidents in developing countries in Asia is four times higher than that of industrialized countries - certain hazardous jobs can be up to 100 times riskier in that part of the world. And most of the world's workers have no insurance or compensation for death and disability.

Yet the tremendous potential for spill-over between workplace and community can also be harnessed to positive effect. And there is no doubt that trade unions, as legitimate representatives of workers, are pivotal in generating higher health, safety and environmental standards to the workplace, and therefore improving sustainability.

This is highlighted by the role trade unions are playing in the fight against HIV/AIDS

In just one example from many worldwide, the ICFTU's Philippine affiliate, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), has created seven clinics where its members and their families can visit a doctor free of charge. The personnel in these clinics play another essential role: contributing to preventing the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV.

In addition, the trade union does everything it can to convince Filipinos not to stigmatise people who are HIV-positive or suffering from AIDS. "Many are still exposed to discrimination at work and do not dare to disclose the fact that they have the illness," explains Ariel Castro, Director of Education at the TUCP. "At our seminars, we regularly ask an HIV positive or AIDS patient to join our team of instructors, but do not inform the participants. It is only at the end of the seminar, when everyone is aware of the risk and non-risk situations, that they are surprised to have spent several hours with a carrier of the virus."

See ICFTU web link to the WSSD: <http://www.icftu.org/wssd2002>

"The challenge is to move from knowledge to action" (Gro Harlem Brundtland, WHO Director-General, 29 August 2002).

Last but by no means least of the WEHAB issues covered this week in *Outreach* is health. In this article we report on the outcomes from the Implementation Conference that took place last weekend (24-26 August). In their preparatory meetings in Norway and Johannesburg, the WHO identified the need for "new partnerships and alliances ... for health and sustainable development." We acknowledge their guidance and support throughout our prepara-

tions, and express our hope to continue in partnership with them and the very many other organisations that contributed to the health segment of the IC.

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

Gender Priorities

Statement by the Women's Caucus

Throughout the process that has brought us here to Johannesburg, we have been deeply concerned about the backward direction of the deliberations.

Women from around the world took a comprehensive global platform to the 1992 Earth Summit. We used this platform to successfully lobby for an array of critical references to women including an entire chapter on women in Agenda 21 and an additional 145 references throughout the document.

In the ensuing decade women struggled for and gained significant commitments to gender equality at key UN conferences - the World Conference on Human Rights, International Conference on Population and Development, and Fourth World Conference on Women - and within the UN Millennium Goals. Now we see these gains being whittled away and, in some cases, they're actually being reversed.

In Rio women's central role in sustainable development was officially recognised for the first time. Despite the fact that this role has now been well documented through extensive research and data collection, women's equality and gender perspectives are still seen as peripheral, and by many governments.

Women demand that the WSSD turn the promises of the last 10 years into concrete action.

Peace is the only basis of engagement, so that must be our first priority. Governments must:

- Adhere to international law, in particular the agreed provisions of treaties on arms control and economic, social and cultural rights, including the rights to sustainable development;
- Reallocate funds from military budgets to human needs;
- Ensure universal ratification of the international criminal court guaranteeing prosecution of those responsible for genocide and war crimes, including sexual and all other forms of violence against women.

Second, governments must get the gender balance right in decision making processes at all levels:

- Set measurable goals and timetables to achieve 50/50 by 2005;
- Promote gender sensitive policies by disaggregated data and indicators, gender impact analysis and gender budgeting;
- Narrow the gender gap in primary and secondary education by 2005 and achieving primary education for all children by 2015.

Third, governments must emphasize gender equality and get serious about poverty eradication:

- Replace the neo-liberal paradigm with a gender sensitive and environmentally sound development framework that puts people and the planet before profit;
- Set a timetable to halve, by 2015, the number of people living in extreme poverty starting with an immediate increase in the ODA

to 0.7% ;

- Guarantee women's equal right to own, manage, inherit and control land and to access credit and appropriate technology;
- Reform international finance and trade institutions so that they can fulfil their responsibility towards implementation of UN conference outcomes of the 1990's;
- Cancel the debt and eliminate harmful subsidies;
- Establish a UN convention on corporate accountability.

Fourth, governments must protect environmental security and health:

- Stop back-peddalling on women's right to reproductive and sexual health;
- Reduce maternal and child mortality by 2015;
- Increase access and resources to HIV prevention information and services and to affordable drugs;
- Halve the proportion of people with no access to safe water by 2015;
- Respect biological diversity by applying the precautionary principle and ensure adequate remuneration to women and indigenous peoples in the patenting of biological resources, processes and knowledge;
- Commit to a 15% global increase of renewable energy resources by 2010.

The Women's Caucus call on governments to urgently change the course of this meeting. In the words of Bella Abzug, 'Women do not want to be mainstreamed into a polluted stream. We want to clean the stream into a fresh and flowing body - a world of peace, that respects human rights for all, renders economic justice and provides a sound and healthy environment.'

WEDO

90 Seconds with...

Dr Dawid de Villiers

Deputy Secretary General for The World Tourism Organization

The WTO is a specialized agency in the field of tourism within the UN system. We relate to all kinds of policy issues concerning the development of tourism, therefore the sustainability issue is of great importance to us.

We try to provide guidance to Governments and to assist them to implement sustainability in tourism development and tourism policies. Although we are interested in a wide range of tourism matters we are concerned about the impact of tourism, both the economic and the environmental impact and of course the social impact.

Since Rio, in the 10 years that has passed, tourism has grown in to one of the major industries in the world, in a world where poverty stands in the heart of sustainability. We can't have a healthy planet while people suffer.

We the World Tourism Organisation have a conviction that tourism can play a major role in dealing with the poverty problem. This is not just a thought, we have been able to collate facts and figures through research that has been undertaken which prove that tour-

ism is a major export activity in the lesser developed countries as well in many developing countries. For many this is the one, if not the only source of development.

For this reason we therefore have brought the issue of poverty alleviation through tourism to the World Summit for Sustainable Development and we believe and hope that we can get the finance institutions interested in using the strength of tourism to deal with the issue of poverty.

Global Environmental Governance

A distinguished audience assembled in the IUCN building Tuesday evening to attend the launch of a new book edited by Dan Esty and Maria Ivanova on Global Environmental Governance. The event was introduced by Gus Speth, Dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and by Dan Esty and Maria Ivanovna themselves.

This timely publication includes contributions by several of the leading thinkers and actors on global governance for the environment. In an opening chapter Gus Speth provides an authoritative overview of the progress - and failures—of environmental activism over the last thirty years, and the strengths and weaknesses of the global institutions which have attempted to manage them. David Hales and Robert Prescott-Allen emphasise the crucial importance of improving our measurement and assessment of progress towards sustainable development, and establishing clear standards and systems for reporting progress systematically.

Barbara Gemmill and Amimbola Bamidele-Izu develop a powerful case for the contributions from civil society to be enhanced through a more formalised structure for engagement. They point out that UN programmes seek legitimacy for their policies through the involvement of civil society, yet formal mechanisms for NGO participation within many parts of the UN system remain limited. This chapter strikes a strong chord with Stakeholder Forum who have been developing a parallel critique of present UN processes for engagement of major groups over a number of years. This must be regarded as one of the major bits of unfinished business from the Johannesburg Summit. As increasing reliance is placed on some of the implementation of Agenda 21 being undertaken by partnerships involving the actors other than governments it will be increasingly important that they are engaged in a more open and equal way in the processes for reviewing progress at the CSD and other international fora.

In concluding chapters Esty and Ivanovna outline a powerful case for reform and strengthening of world environmental governance. While recognising the remarkable achievements of UNEP over the past thirty years within its extremely limited resources and lack of formal powers they underline the gaps and weaknesses in the present arrangements. They touch upon the idea of starting from a clean sheet to create a strong and authoritative Global Environmental Organisation on familiar lines which they and others have advocated previously. But they now offer as possibly a more practical and efficient way forward to build a Global Environmental Mechanism incrementally starting with the launch of a global in-

formation clearing house and a global technology clearinghouse as immediate concrete steps forward and initiating a Commission to examine options for more fundamental reform.

As in previous contributions by these authors they focus first and foremost on what is needed to improve environmental governance, and they produce a very clear and compelling analysis of what is missing in present arrangements, and what would be involved in building a more effective structure. They tend to leave on one side the broader discussions about sustainable development, and what may be involved in building structures to integrate all three arms of sustainability more effectively. There is little discussion of the CSD, and one is left with feeling that the authors believe that the world might make better progress if the world built effective institutions for dealing with each of the three aspects of sustainability in their own right, and allowed the CSD to play a somewhat reduced role. Not a conclusion shared by everyone, but everyone concerned with improving the governance of these issues at international level will want to study and reflect on this important book.

Derek Osborn, Stakeholder Forum

The Debate on Sanitation Hangs in the Balance.

Many countries want to add a strong commitment to a target for improving sanitation by 2015 to the drinking water target already included in the millennium goals. Others still apparently prefer a much weaker formulation embodying no real commitment to action.

Surely the world should not still be fighting this old-fashioned battle? It's 150 years since John Snow turned off the sewage-polluted water supply from the Broad Street pump in London that was a prime cause of the cholera epidemic then raging in Dickensian Soho. Have we learned nothing?

The great improvements in public health in Britain in the 19th Century were due as much to improvements in sanitation as to the improvements in drinking water quality. There is evidence from many parts of the world of the clear link between safe drinking water and provision of sanitation services. That is why the theme of the 1999 World Water Day was "Everybody lives downstream".

Sanitation provision is part of the overall problem of pollution control. If hard evidence were required, it is surely provided by the example of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement signed by the United States and Canada in 1972. This followed a burning oil slick on a river in Cleveland, Ohio and mercury pollution of Lake Erie. Ten years later, the result was stupendous. Fishing was again permitted in Lake Michigan and Chicagoans could enjoy swimming on their beach.

It was said of the Bourbons that they had forgotten nothing and learned nothing. Is there a parallel with the effects of drinking bourbon?

Surely countries must commit themselves now to bringing basic sanitation to those billions of people still suffering from the public health risks linked with lack of sanitation by the Millennium goal of 2015?

Jack Jeffery, Stakeholder Forum

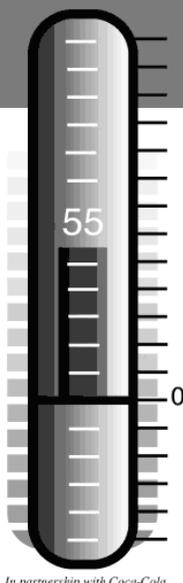
The WSSD Sustainable Development Barometer

The World Summit Consumption Barometer

The Summit produces 16 tons of waste in 1 day.



Of this 16 tons the Summit recycled 2.8 tons, which reduces the waste going to Joburg's landfills. But the overall index is still 55% above baseline. The message is clear: delegates and facilities at the Summit must do more to reduce, reuse and recycle waste if they are to reduce their overall impact on the host city.



Resource consumption at Summit venues on Tuesday 27 August

Water	662 Kl
Waste to landfill	12.4 tons
Waste recycled	2.8 tons
Electricity	105.6 MWh
Green Electricity	40.5 MWh
CO ₂ offset	5750 tons

As participants at the World Summit your actions make a difference. Always remember to reduce, reuse and recycle.

www.greeningthewssd.com

In partnership with Coca-Cola

2010/008

The SD Barometer is provided by 'Greening the WSSD'

Met Office World Weather Reports

Cascades In Corfu | Issued on: Thu Aug 29th 2002
 The Greek island of Kerkyra had almost continuous thunderstorms for 9 hours on Thursday, with a huge 120mm of rain falling in the 6 hours to 1200 GMT. The August average here is a mere 18mm.

Torrents For The Tennis | Issued on: Thu Aug 29th 2002
 Rain stopped play at the US Open Tennis in New York on Wednesday night and the rain continued into Thursday, with 30mm being recorded at La Guardia Airport in the 6 hours to 1200 GMT and it was still raining. The monthly average rainfall is 107mm.

South African Soaker | Issued on: Thu Aug 29th 2002
 Warmbaths lies to the north of Pretoria in South Africa and a slow moving frontal trough has deposited 36mm of rain on the town in the 24 hours ending 0600 GMT Thursday. This is twelve times the

monthly average of 3mm.

Warm Nights In Western Canada | Issued on: Thu Aug 29th 2002
 The temperature falls to 8.3 Celsius on an average August night in Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, Canada. On Wednesday night it was much warmer than this, the minimum recorded temperature being 17.2 Celsius.

Rusa Rains | Issued on: Thu Aug 29th 2002
 Tropical Cyclone Rusa has deposited 178mm of rain on the Japanese town of Naze in the 12 hours ending at 1200 GMT Thursday. This is more than half the August average of 310mm.



The Met Office Johannesburg 5 Day Weather Forecast									
Thursday 29th		Friday 30th		Saturday 31st		Sunday 1st		Monday 2nd	
Day Max	Night Min	Day Max	Night Min	Day Max	Night Min	Day Max	Night Min	Day Max	
21°C 70°F	8°C 46°F	17°C 63°F	9°C 48°F	21°C 70°F	5°C 41°F	21°C 70°F	7°C 45°F	22°C 72°F	

Events Diary

Friday 10.00 - 1.00	Plenary Session: Statements by Non-State Entities. Plenary Hall
1.15 - 2.45	Launch of the Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development Initiative. Committee Room 5
1.15 - 2.45	Sustainable Tourism & its Contribution to Poverty Alleviation. Ballroom 1
1.15 - 2.45	Health & Environment in the 21st Century: Priorities U& Action Strategies to Secure our Children's Future. Ballroom 3
3.00 - 6.00	Plenary Session: Statements by Non-State Entities. Plenary Hall
6.00	Plenary Session: Statements by Non-State Entities. Plenary Hall
6.30 - 8.00	HIV/AIDS, Human Resources & Sustainable Development. Ballroom 1
6.30 - 8.00	Regional Strategies for Global Sustainable Development. Committee Room 5
6.30 - 8.00	Beyond Johannesburg: Search for Global Partnerships. Ballroom 3

SCC: Sandton Convention Centre

Health Forecasting

A ground-breaking health forecasting scheme, first trialled in the UK Winter of 2000/1, assesses the viability of using real-time National Health Service (NHS) infectious diseases data and Met Office weather forecasts to predict workloads in parts of the NHS. The Met Office is the UK's national meteorological service, and this health-forecasting project uses the data skills of weather forecasting to assist the health-care community.

Dr William Bird, Met Office Medical Advisor explained: "There is evidence to link an increase in workload due to respiratory infections and trauma, with the weather. By link-

ing a weather forecast with NHS data, we hope to be able to help health authorities to plan effectively for an increased workload." Already one hospital saved £400,000 in just three weeks due to accurate forecasts.

The Met Office now plans to expand its health-related activities worldwide. Many epidemics of infectious diseases such as malaria, cholera and Rift Valley fever are related to the weather. Working with local health services, real-time surveillance data will be used to develop forecast models to help predict outbreaks of disease.

The Met Office

