

The CSD Beyond the Summit

As has been Stakeholder Forum's role we would like to start to explore what the future. Just as we held dinners for Governments in February 1998 looking at what a Summit in 2002 might look like today we would like to share some ideas that surfaced at a meeting we held on the future of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

Originally it had been expected that the Summit process would produce a new work programme for the CSD. This has not happened and so we are to expect the 2003 CSD session to be an organizational one. It is clear that for the CSD to work it needs to focus much more. In the first five years it dealt with something like 10 chapters a year and in the second phase 3 or 4 issues. This is still too much. The Secretary General in May gave his speech on what he thought were the critical issues facing us all. He identified five these were:

- Water and Sanitation
- Energy
- Health
- Agriculture Productivity
- Biodiversity and ecosystem management

Known as the WEHAB agenda, the CSD discussion could do no better than to accept this agenda. The cross sectoral issues could be poverty and sustainable consumption and production as they were in the last five years. If we accept that the CSD will only have a policy discussion every other year then the year of partnerships could also focus on the same agenda. The partnership year would help frame the space for the policy discussion on an issue the following year.

Perhaps we might really try for some joined up thinking and combine the high level CSD on Health with a special WHO Ministerial. This would force the UN Division on Sustainable Development to work with the WHO and it would force the Health and Environment Ministries to work together and the relevant stakeholder groups.

Simon Upon has promoted the idea of commissions to prepare work. These would have a 1-2 year timeframe and would be made up of a mixture of governments and stakeholders and their paper would form the basis for the discussion on a particular issue.

One of the real failures of the CSD over the past ten years has been its inability to ensure an action focused output from the deliberations and to agree to report back on the implementation of outcomes each year. This would apply to UN agencies, governments and stakeholders. Perhaps part of the CSD intersessional should be utilised to review progress from previous

years. This would enable there to be an effective discussion on any roadblocks that had been encountered.

The Summit process did not really draw on the excellent work done in the regional assessment and the regional reports. Perhaps we need to invest much more in the building of the capacity in the regions to input and that the recommendations from each region should be incorporated into the final document without further negotiations. There is little that is at the global level that needs addressing most of what needs addressing is at the local, sub national, national and regional levels. Lets try and devise a way to incorporate these into the CSD.

There has been immense frustration with the multi-stakeholder dialogues during this Summit process on a number of accounts;

- 1) There was no link into the policy discussion
- 2) There was no attempt at the Regional level even to try and engage the Stakeholders into the process.
- 3) For the Summit some of the stakeholder groups did not know the issues until two weeks before the Summit and were finalising their participants on the day of the dialogue.

This compares very poorly with the Bonn Dialogues which were designed by Stakeholder Forum and which did link the dialogue to the official decision making process. It did see a real dialogue.

"Multi-stakeholder Dialogues (in Bonn) stood out because of the way it was put together and the way it was facilitated and the instructions given to the participants it actually turned it into a dialogue. Having done multi-stakeholder dialogues for all but two of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development meetings quiet often you either end up with the stakeholders talking to each other or the stakeholder and governments in a room but you don't get a dialogue" Franklyn Moore of USAID:

The CSD needs to look at the Bonn Dialogues for lessons learnt. But beyond this it needs to engage in the partnership year with those who are engaged in taking words to action. The Stakeholder Forum Implementation Conference did that it took the agreed international agreement and looked for where collaborative action might deliver. The outcome were 30 partnership initiatives. Only time will show if this is going to deliver on the ground.

Finding the route map to action for stakeholders will never be easy. Perhaps Kadal Asmal who chaired the World Commission on Dams and is now the Education Minister in South Africa put it right when he said:

"A parting warning: doing so (conducting an MSP) is never a neat, organized, tidy concerto. More often, the process becomes a messy, loose knit, exasperating, sprawling cacophony. Like pluralist democracy it, is the absolute worst form of consensus building except for all the others."

There are some key questions for the future that we should be thinking about as we prepare our thinking for next years CSD Organizational session.

- 1) If the real issue is a lack of implementation at the national level is any reform of the CSD going to be relevant?
- 2) Where will the leadership for change come from? Is it conceivable that it will come from countries?
- 3) Can we achieve change if we can not message it?
- 4) How do we focus?
- 5) Can we separate the truly global from the national?
- 6) What is the relationship between consensus and action?

One of the key opportunities we missed was in PrepCom two when we changed initiatives and partnerships to partnership initiatives. The result of this was that possible coalitions of like minded governments announcing an energy commitment or the sanitation target was lost to the need to find consensus. This is an area that we need to look at for the future.

Perhaps we should reflect on a quote from Einstein as we prepare for next year.

“Any intelligent fool can make things more complex. It takes a touch of genius – and a lot of courage – to move in the opposite direction”

Felix Dodds, Stakeholder Forum

A 'Weak' of Negotiations - Where aren't we?

The failure of negotiations at PrepCom IV - Bali - to make significant head way into resolving the problematic areas of the Draft Plan of Implementation meant that negotiations at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) were charged with the formidable task of ensuring agreement on text. This text had not found resolution over four weeks of intense negotiations at the previous two PrepComs. With the most contentious issues remaining open for discussion, it was clear that something had to change in the pace of the negotiations to ensure unanimous agreement. However, this change was not clearly visible during the first days of the 'Vienna Style' negotiations - which in a 'comforting' manner slipped back into negotiating text line by line, word by word, comma by comma, without reconciliation or agreement. As a result of, what seemed like, inflexible negotiating positions - conflict resolution groups - Contact groups or bubbles were set up on issues such as the Rio Principles (apparently we can't even agree on the already agreed), Chemicals, Climate Change, Energy, Governance and Means of Implementation. Relentlessly these groups met with the aim of passing across a clean text to the main negotiating arena. 'Substantial progress' was made by each of these groups, as it was by the Vienna Style negotiations. Unfortunately, in many cases, this 'substantial progression' could be better described as 'substantial regression'.

The Vienna Style Negotiations did serve their purpose in gaining agreement on the 'softer' areas of the text. However, with negotiating positions remaining steadfast it became clear on Wednesday night that the process had become exhausted. An alternative mechanism would be required to ensure consensus on the most contentious of issues such as - human rights, Rio Principles, trade, some elements of finance, and targets on sanitation and renewable energy.

In response to this, delegations were asked to identify which issues they felt should be raised to Ministerial level in order to gain consensus. Initial consultation indicated that the sanitation and renewable energy targets would be passed up to the Ministers. The US, not unsurprisingly, was in full support of these recommendations - this would have provided the perfect opportunity to trade the target on sanitation with that on renewable energy. However, in a tactical move the EU stated that they were not as yet in agreement between their sovereign states as to what should be sent up.

This shift from negotiations in the Vienna Style to the Ministerial level left the Summit process in a critical position - which at one point appeared near collapse. The EU - in a clear attempt to prevent a trade off occurring between the two targets - suggested that a mere fourteen issues be put across. The Group of G77 + China took immediate and clear offence to the statement of the EU, re-iterating the words that some NGO's have been speaking for the past four months, that it would be better to have no result than a bad result which did not work for developing nations.

In addition to their earlier recommendation the EU went on to make a 'bold' statement about the worth of continuing with the Vienna Style negotiations, and their lack of willingness - at this stage - to draw Ministers into the discussions. Despite, apparently, being meant with the most constructive of intentions, this statement had unforeseen implications. The US seized the opportunity with great delight in accusing the EU of deciding the procedures for the meeting. Stating that the EU obviously did not want to partake in these discussions, and that they were frankly shocked at the EU wanting to walk out of negotiations. Under such circumstances, the US did not see how the WSSD could succeed. This was met with a resounding applause, as was a statement made by G77 + China, that the EU pretend to construct bridges amongst delegations with the intention of gaining consensus, yet when they get to this phase in the negotiations they build nothing but barriers. As a result of the Chair adjourning the meeting, and despite a strong intervention by the EU stating that they did not walk out of negotiations, it seemed that the process was in a state of collapse. However, the strategy of adjournment paid off, re-focusing delegations attention of the task in hand - ensuring agreement on the Draft Plan of Implementation.

As a result of the Vienna Style Negotiations clearly not being able to deliver consensus on all areas of disagreement the Ministers were drawn into the negotiations. Over the weekend, this strategy appeared to be paying off, in terms of gaining agreement on the text - the question has to be asked however - agreement at what cost. It seems that we are reaching agreement on statement that negates the fundamental principles of sustainable development. This is optimised by the dominance of the WTO over multilateral environmental agreements, and the lack of willingness by 'some' states to agree on reference to human rights. As negotiations continue into another 'night/morning' session we can only hope that a new dawn brings with it a few rays of sunshine - unfortunately, the unseasonable torrential rain and storms we have seen during the Summit may have been more portentous.

It seems that the scene is now set for the arrival of the Heads of State. The Convention Centre is now divided by physical barriers, which appropriately reflect the mood of the moment; a global apartheid and the clear divide between perceptions on the value of the Plan of Implementation.

Georgina Ayre, Stakeholder Forum

(NOTE: If you see her, please buy Georgie a coffee - she has followed EVERY working group session!)

Summit Interview

- with Jan Pronk, The Netherlands -

'I am joined by Mr Pronk, the Secretary General's Special Envoy to the WSSD and previous Environment Minister for the Netherlands. Mr Pronk, thank you. Here we are in Johannesburg. Big issues, do we have big solutions?'

'There ought to be big solutions, but no new ones. What we need is implementation of the promises, implementation of the agreements, which were made during the last ten years since Rio: Agenda 21 and also the agreements on the millenium development goals. Non-implementation would be a major failure'.

'As the Summit opens, we start with 5 round tables which you'll be co-chairing, between the major groups on each of the WEHAB issues. What would you like to see come out of that process?'

'Action plans. Action plans in the form of partnership agreements. On the basis of a very flexible approach, best practices, transparent, willingness of major groups, governments, private business, non governmental organisations and many others, to listen to each other, to share their experiences, to answer questions from each other so that there are no compartments any more and implementation can be improved'.

'I'd like to pick up that point with you on partnerships, coming out of Johannesburg, is the UN actually equipped to carry that process forward?'

'The UN of course is also a very difficult organisation composed of many individual secretariats, units and agencies, in my view we need a reform of the UN system, perhaps in particular a reform of the inter-governmental beaurocratic machinery, more than the reform of the secretariat itself, because the secretariat has organised itself in order to service the international community. There is a lot of overlap, there are blank spots, there is inefficiency and there is in-fighting, so we need a reform and I hope that the mandate which had been given sometime ago to the Secretary General of the United Nations to come forward with concrete proposals on the reform, can also be filled in on the basis of the question, what reform is necessary in order to make the UN responsible for sustainability questions?'

'Interesting. I want to come back on the WEHAB issues, the secretary general's of water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity. Do you feel that these could give us a framework for a sustainable development work programme for the next five or ten years and if so what could be done?'

'The choice is good: water, energy, heath, agriculture and biodiversity are crucial because these are the particular sectors where you can combine environmental protection and poverty eradication processes in conjunction with each other. They are the lifeline between man and nature, man and the future, man and the past, humankind and possibilities for life in itself. That means that in particular, action programmes with regard to these areas are crucial, even more than other sectors which also could have been defined, such as ecosystems, mountains or macro-economic areas of work for instance trade. These are crucial. So we need a framework of action. A roadmap. Not so much new targets, because we have agreed on the targets already. Maybe some additional sub-targets are necessary, for instance on sanitation. But the overall frame-

work is there, as far as targets has been agreed upon. Now we have to agree on how to implement them. And we know from international negotiations, and its always much more difficult to agree on the how, rather than to agree on the whether. The agreement on targets is there was relatively easy. Now its much more difficult to agree on the ways and means. IT cannot only be done by governments, it has to be done in terms of policies by governments and private businesses and non-governmental organisations and civil society groups together.

'Mr Pronk, from the evidence of the last ten years, are governments committing enough, is sustainable development being taken seriously?'

'Not enough. If I look back, and I think that implementation of the environmental dimension of Agenda 21 has gone farther than implementation of the poverty eradication dimension of Agenda 21. So there is a lack of equilibrium. There are many explanations for it and I don't go into the matter because that would take too much time, but the unevenness also together with the whole process of globalisation which has lead to an additional imbalance in the world. It has created a huge divide. Many people who are already on the market have indeed a chance of survival and much more than that. And many people who didn't get access are left behind are being forgotten, and we are at the moment in a very difficult situation because these people very often get the feeling that the system does not want them any more. And that may create a situation in which these people are no longer asking for assistance from the system, but they are saying 'we no longer want the system as the system doesn't want us any more' and that is also creating a cultural and political divide. That may also lead to more violence and that may then, also put the interest and the survival of whole communities as stake, and that is an additional reason why I would like to say to governments at the moment: this Summit is our last chance'.

'Last chance indeed Mr Pronk, where should we be at Johannesburg + 10?'

'I don't think we need many more of these Summit conferences. We have too many. We have set a time frame for fifteen years. The millenium development goals mean that poverty eradication should result in halving world poverty in a number of these fields in the year of 2050. Lets not meet at a Summit level before the year 2015, but let us meet annually at the level of policy makers, which means including everybody also who is working in the fields in these five WEHAB sectors, in order to exc hange views, exchange practices and coordinate further implementation. If so then in the year 2015, we can perhaps say that we have kept our promise'.

Toby Middleton & Erica Moret, Stakeholder Forum

- with Minister Ronnie Kasrils -

Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry for South Africa

'This Summit of course, is tremendously significant, and it gives us an enormous opportunity to get things right in this planet in terms of sustainable development for the future. Water is key to human development and we've got to protect the water resource of the planet, so clearly for me, the water issue is the fundamental one, and in fact in relation to the so-called WEHAB acronym, water is significant there, water and sanitation on its own, but its cross cutting because water sanitation is relevant to health, water's relevant to energy, water sanitation to biodiversity, water relevant to food security and agriculture. Let me state that in relation to water and sanitation, there are clear cut targets that must be focussed on with specific time frames and programmess of action for imple-

mentation, we must have that otherwise we simply reiterate what we stated at Rio 10 years ago. So the target for clean water means that we've got to half the number of people, the 1.1 Billion without clean water by the year 2015. We want a sanitation target: the 2.4 billion figure must be halved by the year 2015. The water resource area, the conservation, the development, the integrated management of water, the equitable distribution of water, is absolutely vital to security. The question of shared river courses and using water as a catalyst for cooperation between different countries, where rivers or lakes form boundaries, this is vital indeed and South Africa or Southern Africa is a very good example in this respect of how we should cooperate with our neighbours. This is required in the Middle East, in North Africa and in other parts of the world, but as I said at the beginning, we must ensure that we have implementation programme with political will arising out of this Summit.

I believe that with the decision, with political will, we can reach these targets, there must be resources made available, particularly to the poorer countries that can't afford the technology, the partnerships must be built up, and on that basis, yes I am very optimistic of the outcome. We will save this planet, not only for our children and their children's children but for the future.

Erica Moret

- with John Gummer MP, UK -

Ten years ago at Rio, the Earth summit achieved a remarkable first. The world's governments agreed that the planet's future depended upon international co-operation and agreement and that our children's lives would be immeasurably the poorer unless we tackled together the global environmental and social issues that beset us all. The emphasis was on the environment, on climate change, the depletion of the ozone layer, the loss of habitats and the threat to rare species of animals and plants. Yet the underlying deal was clear. The rich nations recognised that theirs was the responsibility and that they would have to pay for the global action that was necessary.

Now in Johannesburg, ten years later, we meet again to review what has been achieved and to recognise the huge changes that have occurred in the meantime. No longer is the agenda largely environmental. We have learned that we need a far more holistic approach. It is not just that the rich must pay for the poor to protect their environment, it is that the rich must recognise the poor as equals in the stewardship of the planet that sustains us all. Rio was the last of the Imperialist conferences, Johannesburg the first of the new age. At Rio, the rich recognised the disaster that loomed and planned the world's response. In Johannesburg we're all in it together, painfully trying to find common answers to which we can all sign up.

That's part of the reason why the meeting has had such a bad press. The media are still dealing in old speak. Theirs is still the world in which the rich dictated the terms and then prided themselves on their charity and good heartedness towards the poor. Aid and investment for the developing nations is still seen by the popular press as a kindness done out of our generosity not yet as a necessary part of protecting our own future.

Yet that is the reality. Climate Change and the depletion of the ozone layer threaten us all. Solving those problems demands effort from us all. However much the rich world wanted, it could not provide an effective solution to either on its own. Within ten years China will become the world's largest polluter. India will not be far behind. Unless they are part of any solution to Climate Change, there will be no solution - even when the US finally comes to rec-

ognise the dangers.

Yet if the poor are to join in solving the problems that have, up to now, largely been caused by the rich it will only be on the basis of partnership. At long last they have something which we cannot take but they have to give - willingly and on their terms. Cutting pollution, developing cleanly, learning from our mistakes - these are not things that can be imposed from outside. They have to be driven from within, and only enabled from without.

So this will be real partnership and it will demand much greater global justice. The poor will not allow the rich to enjoy all the fruits of pollution while they are expected to shoulder so significant part of the burden in preventing the additional emissions that would destroy the planet. They will insist that sharing more equitably the globe's capacity will be a prerequisite for sharing in its protection. And the difference is that they will have the power to insist. We need them, we cannot do without them. The moral and theological concepts that underlie the notion of the brotherhood of man are now to be vindicated by practical necessity. We are all brothers, one of another, when it comes to defending our home. In the battle for the planet we are all in it together.

So it's no wonder that Johannesburg does not entirely commend itself to the representative organs of the old rich. They have also been given a significant opportunity to carp because the organisation of the Conference has been more than usually chaotic. In part, this derives from the new role of the poor. This is a Conference designed from the bottom up. It was intended that the whole of the UN membership should guide its outcome and lay out its agenda. The Third World had been disappointed by the outcome of Rio. They thought there was a clear deal in which we would all seek to defend and enhance our environment and the rich would pay for it. They expected real transfers of resources from North to South. In reality, aid has been cut back significantly, commercial investment, which was growing remarkably, has now, since recession, been reduced. There doesn't seem much in all this for the poor. For that reason they were encouraged to take ownership of the Johannesburg process. The result has been much work but little outcome.

In the event, although vast effort has been expended, we go to South Africa with practically nothing tied up. The UN secretariat has been notably unsuccessful, leadership has been poor, and progress has been inhibited by process. So hopes are nothing like as high as they ought to be. Leading players on all sides are not yet ready to make the political commitments that will be increasingly essential. The serious loss of confidence that has followed September 11th and the Enron saga is seriously undermining. The US in particular is not sufficiently engaged and officials failed even to make the best of what they had to offer when, at Bali, the politics failed and the process took over.

The brightest spot on the horizon is the increasingly sensitive and creative role played by the multinationals. It is true that some, like Christian Aid, have been slow to recognise the huge change that has come over major corporations in the last ten years. There are of course exceptions like Exxon but companies like Shell and BP, Unilever and Vodafone lay considerable store on their commitment to corporate social responsibility. It is through that commitment that we hope in Johannesburg to cement some wide ranging agreements in which governments, corporations, and NGOs will together seek to contribute to sustainable development in the developing world.

Those are indeed the two words which will be the keynote of our deliberations. Sustainable development - not cheating on our children by growing in a way which does not deprive future genera-

tions of the resources that are rightly theirs. It is a tall order and, successful or not, Johannesburg will be but the beginning. Yet, it will be a beginning, the start of a new relationship between rich and poor – a relationship that it took death before Dives understood. A relationship that we must understand in time to avoid the mutual destruction of the planet.

Where Next?

Yes, the heads of state and government roll in and life's exciting right now.

But what happens afterwards when the media circus has rolled on, when everyone's gone home?

Assuming success, will the agreements entered into, the partnership arrangements made, the follow-up systems put in place really make a difference? Will our time and energy have been well spent?

Will it be better than after Rio? Have we learnt and applied the lessons?

Governments will, mostly, want to keep their promises. As they did after Rio. But they are fallible and easily distracted. Above all the demands of the instant and urgent, the need for survival through re-election, all too easily deter them from facing up to the long term and difficult challenges which the Summit outcomes pose. Even now the press has two major stories – global cooperation at the WSSD on the one hand, preparations for war on the other. Which will run longer?

Agenda 21 recognised that the task was too big for government alone. It sought to enlist the help of the nine Major Groups. It established international channels for this through the processes of the CSD. It set up LA21 as a stand-alone local process. But, at national level at least, the main focus was vague. Openness and consultation were enjoined, but no attempt made (or indeed given political sensitivities could be made) to encourage more formal or comprehensive participatory processes at national level.

Will it be better this time round? We're certainly more aware than 10 years ago of the need, as endless discussions on the role of partnership, civil society and all the fuss about Type 2s has shown. But how far will whatever we are achieving here go beyond creating islands of good practice, brave intentions and human solidarity when the world returns to default mode in a flood of continuing unsustainable development? Not much, unless it also meets one fundamental requirements; more effective engagement with the political mainstream in our respective countries.

We often talk of the Rio process as a "co-owned" process (at least we often did in the UK civil society preparations!). But in practice it has been a very unequal relationship. With a handful of partial exceptions governments have dictated the terms and defined the (invariably limited) opportunities for influencing policy. Typically this might consist of some consultation on national sustainable development strategies, and none or very little on trade or macro-economic policy.

Government itself pays lip-service to the need for policy integration but seems quite unable to deliver, and thus to iron out the contradictions in national and international policies which are at the heart of the WSSD. There are many reasons for this, but among the most important is that they are unwilling to challenge the dominance of key interest groups and of received perceptions in areas where they are traditionally strong (eg, on transport, land-use or taxation policies).

For too long we have relied on our existing political systems to deliver on the so-called social, economic and environmental three pillars of sustainable development. Both logic and necessity now urge us into the mainstream of political life to help create a new, fourth pillar – a political system whose central purpose is to promote sustainable development and is thus able to tackle the flagrant contradictions in policies and practices which make nonsense of current efforts to save the planet.

This is of course much (much, much) easier said than done. But, success or failure, Johannesburg gives us a unique window of opportunity. If it succeeds governments will go home needing help in implementing its outcomes. Civil society, particularly through its representatives here, should come forward and offer this, but in a more structured and ambitious form than in the past. We should encourage government to pledge to work with us as equal partners to create a comprehensive framework for cooperation in implementing Johannesburg outcomes which reaches out to all sections of civil society.

It's a simple idea, but a powerful one. It is hard to quarrel with conceptually, but it does raise obvious questions of how it would work in practice. There are various options. The most practical and immediately useful would be to concentrate on constructing delivery mechanisms on specific targets. To be worth the trouble and buy-in they would need to be much more effective than anything which government alone could offer in terms of meeting its commitments.

A prime candidate here would be national coalitions to increase awareness of global warming and to promote delivery of national targets on energy use. Through bringing in interest groups and sectors of the population groups had so far been largely unaware or uninvolved they would spread the wider message of the need for radical change and speed up the process of building national support for policies our politicians have hitherto lacked the courage to advocate.

And should the Summit fail? Then all the more reason to go back home and do the same. Perhaps it will only be when we have more governments much more strongly committed to the sorts of policies which Jo'burg will have failed to deliver, which in turn implies much wider backing from their citizens, that whatever follows the WSSD can succeed.

Either way, wherever domestic political circumstances permit, this is where civil society should from next week begin concentrating its efforts.

John Gordon, Special Adviser to the Stakeholder Forum

WHAT Next?

We all know that any progress towards finding solutions to the problems of poverty and of environmental degradation requires great patience. The iteration of ideas on the priority areas of water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity identified by The UN Secretary General is bound to be a slow process.

In the even longer term, I think that we have to recognise what may be an even more difficult challenge. I believe that true sustainability requires a fundamental re-assessment of the inter-relationship between the political, legal, social and economic aspects of the way in which humanity manages its affairs. This was the basis of the approach taken by the World Humanity Action Trust ("WHAT") to the problem of achieving sustainability.

'Governance' is a word that we all use, but it means different

things to different people, so WHAT began by defining 'governance' for the purposes of its work in the terms I've outlined. Perhaps it would be better if we were to speak about governance systems. That would help to emphasise that the subject is an inter-related matrix on the lines of the definition in the WHAT Report, "Governance for a Sustainable Future".

The WHAT report extracted common governance themes from the reports of international commissions that looked at the problems of three examples of global commons. The three subjects were fish stocks, agricultural genetic diversity and water. The key themes that emerged were the need to:

1. Get away from single-issue approaches to policy making and decision taking.
2. Move towards the adoption of methods of environmental accounting and proper valuation of natural resources and
3. Move towards the elimination of subsidies that distort demand and usually benefit the rich at the expense of the poor.

I think it's been possible to see evidence of the single-issue problem throughout the past week. Those calling for greater participation in environmental decision-making recognise the issue in one direction. But many seem only to mean that THEY should be heard. Of course we need mechanisms to enable everyone to be able to make an input. That is a principle of Stakeholder Forum. But to work effectively, there needs to be mutual respect and awareness that participation is a two-way dialogue process and that it is possible that we are wrong and that the other person is right.

We need to develop trust and the role of education in the process is vital. Given that development, it will be possible to have genuine, constructive involvement, which requires understanding of the nature of risk and of the importance of prioritisation of conflicting demands on resources. Without such understanding, society will often continue to fail to allocate scarce resources in the best interests of humanity as a whole.

Environmental accounting and valuation of natural resources are two sides of the same problem. For hundreds of years, nations have allowed coal and other natural resources to be treated as though they have no intrinsic economic value beyond the cost of extraction. Oil exporting countries treat their sales of oil as a direct contribution to GDP and generally, their accounts make no provision for depreciation. Therefore, the cost of energy from fossil fuels does not reflect the true costs and renewable energy cannot compete.

At the same time, the lack of an agreed system of valuing the environment means that the north can continue to ignore its responsibility for the environmental degradation it has caused over past centuries.

Finally, the perverse nature of subsidies and the barriers to trade that they cause is now well recognised, but there is little sign of the problem being tackled. This comes back, to some extent, to the need for integration in decision-making. If fishing needs to be restricted in order to preserve fish stocks, we must do far more to consult with those affected and put in place transitional arrangements to ease the process of change. We might use resources freed by the removal of subsidies. With consultation and careful planning, it might even be possible to match the phasing out of subsidies to the application of fishing restrictions.

If we fail to meet these challenges, to quote the WHAT report, "conflicts will persist and consensus on problems and solutions will continue to be shallow and imperfectly realised in policy".

Jack Jeffery, Stakeholder Forum, WHAT Governance Programme

Watching the Air We Breathe

The effects of air pollution can range from impaired human health and vegetation growth to the degradation of the environment and climate change. The Met Office provides forecasts of day-to-day pollution levels and the impact of emissions

Scientific and technical expertise is used to provide advice and practical support to industry, government, local authorities, environmental professionals and the general public. In the UK this expertise was used during the recent foot-and-mouth disease outbreak to forecast the wind-borne spread of the disease to aid recovery and mitigation planning.

The Met Office was successful in a bid for the National Assembly of Wales, and air-quality specialists are now ensuring that full use is made of the Geographical Information System (GIS) and web techniques. A strong atmospheric science team in research and development underpins such activities. In addition, their health team is considering how best to integrate air quality with health data to provide information to assist health professionals. The Met Office also monitors how contaminants from nuclear or chemical incidents spread to aid mitigation against adverse effects.

The Met Office

How will CLIMATE CHANGE your world?

The Jo'burg Climate Legacy Project 2002

You are invited to a series of side events to present the technical aspects of the Johannesburg Climate Legacy 2002. This groundbreaking project aims to fund sustainable development projects that will offset the carbon and related greenhouse gas emissions of the WSSD, as well as leave a long term legacy in South Africa.

All delegates, companies, governments, NGOs and labour have been invited to contribute to the scheme and more details can be found at the website www.climatelegacy.org

These presentations will focus on the screening criteria and sustainable development indicators that have been used to assess the project. We will also present the 16 projects that are eligible for funding under the project. The presentations will be of interest to all of those who are interested in the link between sustainable development and climate mitigation.

The question that we should all ask ourselves is... *How could CLIMATE CHANGE your World?*

The event will be held at:

Development Bank of Southern Africa 2nd September 11.00am

Address:- 1258 Lever Road
Headway Hill
MIDRAND

The WSSD Sustainable Development Barometer

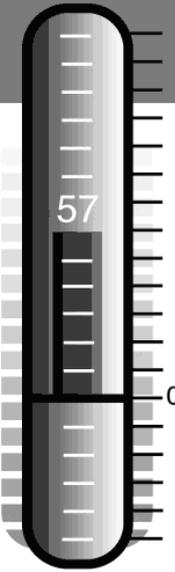
The World Summit Consumption Barometer

Water consumption is up 16%.



GREENING the WSSD

The overall consumption index is now 57% higher than before the Summit started - caused in part by the high consumption of water at the Summit's venues. South Africa has the third best water quality in the world. But please use it sparingly. And keep it clean. You need to do your bit to reduce the impact of the Summit.



Resource consumption at Summit venues on Wednesday 28 August

Water	662 Kl
Waste to landfill	12.96tons
Waste recycled	4.15tons
Electricity	98.92 MWh
Green Electricity	38.20 MWh
CO ₂ offset	6248.46 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

201629

The SD Barometer is provided by 'Greening the WSSD'

Met Office World Weather Reports

Rusa's legacy | Issued on: Sun Sep 1st 2002
Widespread flooding in South Korea, with devastating affects for the population is what has been left in the wake of Typhoon Rusa. Gangneung lies in northern South Korea just to the east of the Capital Seoul, in the 24 hours up to midnight GMT Saturday 671mm of rain had fallen, nearly three times the average for the whole of August.

The weather's a mess in Sicily | Issued on: Sun Sep 1st 2002
The town of Messina, which lends its name to the straits between Italy and Sicily has suffered a rather wet spell recently. In the 60 hours up to 0600 GMT Sunday a total of 79mm of rain had fallen on the town, the average for August is only 25mm and for September only 51mm.

Sniezka showers | Issued on: Sun Sep 1st 2002
The mountain station of Sniezka lies around 1600 metres elevation in the far north of the Czech Republic. Heavy showers over the last 18 hours up to 1200 GMT Sunday has led to more than a months worth of rainfall falling on the mountain peak. A total of

125mm of rain was reported against the monthly average of 106mm

Mexican Misery | Issued on: Sun Sep 1st 2002
The town of Tapachula lies in the far south of Mexico in the Chiapas state, in the foot hills of the Sierra Madre Mountains. A period of heavy thundery showers has brought a staggering 144mm of rain to the town in just 24 hours, 139mm of this falling between 0600 and 1200 GMT Sunday. This is still well below the average for September of 449.4mm.

Stockholm sweats | Issued on: Sun Sep 1st 2002.
The temperature in Stockholm reached 26.1 degrees Celsius on Saturday well above the average daily maximum for August of 18.8 degrees, although the highest temperature recorded for the whole of August was 30.6 degrees on the fifteenth of the month.

Met Office and the Met Office logo are registered trademarks



The Met Office Johannesburg 5 Day Weather Forecast									
Sunday 1st		Monday 2nd		Tuesday 3rd		Wednesday 4th		Thursday 5th	
Day Max	Night Min	Day Max	Night Min	Day Max	Night Min	Day Max	Night Min	Day Max	
17°C 63°F	6°C 43°F	21°C 70°F	5°C 41°F	23°C 73°F	6°C 43°F	22°C 72°F	10°C 50°F	18°C 64°F	

Events Diary

Monday 9.00 - 1.00	Plenary Session - Opening Speeches, General Debate. Plenary Hall
1.15 - 2.45	African Coastal Management. Ballroom 1
1.15 - 2.45	East-West Environmental Partnership for Sustainable Development. Committee Room 4A
2.00 - 8.00	Plenary Session - General Debate. Plenary Hall
3.00 - 6.00	Roundtable - Making it Happen. Ballroom 3
6.30 - 8.00	The Social Dimension of Globalisation - A Dialogue with Civil Society. Ballroom 1
6.30 - 8.00	The Sino-Italian Cooperation Programme for Environmental Protection Towards Sustainable Development. Committee Room 4A
Tuesday 9.00 - 1.00	Plenary Session - General Debate. Plenary Hall
10.00 - 1.00	Roundtable - Making it Happen. Ballroom 3
1.15 - 2.45	Financing & Investment for Sustainable Development in Latin America & the Caribbean. Ballroom 1
1.15 - 2.45	From Baltic Sea to Lake Victoria - Innovative Regional Partnerships for Transboundary Solutions to Sustainable Development. Committee Room 5
2.00 - 8.00	Plenary Session - General Debate. Plenary Hall
3.00 - 6.00	Roundtable - Making it Happen. Ballroom 3
3.30 - 5.30	Symposium on Global Mapping Partnership. Japan Pavilion, Ubuntu Village
6.00 - 7.30	Special High Level Event on the Future of Multi-lateralism. Ballroom 1
6.30 - 8.00	Partnerships in Capacity Building for Trade & Sustainable Development. Ballroom 2

SCC: Sandton Convention Centre

