

The 'What If' Summit?

During the last two years some significant decisions were taken that have resulted in the situation that we find ourselves in. As Johannesburg comes to a close so what if different decisions had been made? I thought I would share some of the 'What Ifs' with you.

What if we had started a year earlier?

It was agreed that we would have a bottom up approach to the Summit. But none of the timelines worked! National Reports were being produced at the same time as Regional assessments at the same time as Chapter of Agenda 21 Task Managers Reports at the same time as the Secretary General's overall assessment. Countries were not told that there wasn't enough time to complete this.

The process of producing National Reports should have fed into Regional assessments, which should have fed into Agenda 21 Task Manager Reports which should have fed into the UN Secretary General's overall assessment. The national reports should also have addressed the targets from Agenda 21 and other relevant Conferences. They could have brought forward a wealth of best practices.

What if we had selected the critical issues that the world needed to address at the beginning?

If at the beginning of the process we could have agreed what the critical issues were that the Summit should address the whole process could be designed to address those issues. The UN Secretary General saw this and in his May 17th speech identified his view as

Water and Sanitation

Energy

Health

Agriculture Productivity

Biodiversity and Eco-System Management

The Secretary Generals list isn't one that everyone agreed to but if you look back to the 'Non Paper' of 2000, which had resulted from a set of meetings on the Summit, they were on that list. If the Summit was really serious about addressing poverty it should have also included Human Settlements and Employment.

What if the UN Agencies had been involved in the team organizing the Summit?

For Rio, the UN Agencies were involved in helping to draft the text and overseeing the sections they had knowledge of. If the UN Agencies had been involved in the same way from the beginning then we may have found a much more rich text. The interagency committee on the Summit was closed down and this resulted in the freezing out of the core involvement in the Summit of the Agencies.

What if the UN Agencies Reports had been geared to the Summit?

Different UN Agencies produce annually key reports which should have been factored into the preparations for the Summit. These would have been the Human Development Report (UNDP), the first World Water Assessment Report (the interagency report originally planned for the Summit), Geo 3 (UNEP), the World Development Report (World Bank).

What if there had been a structure to the Programme of Action?

In the corridors and coffee bars in Prep Com 2,3 and 4 governments and stakeholders alike complained that the Programme of Action had no structure. As it had no structure many of the key political discussions never happened. Stakeholder Forum published on a number of times a suggested structure.

Basis for Action

Activities

Capacity Building

Technology Transfer

Financial activities

Role of Stakeholders

Targets

Timetables

When you want to move from words to action concrete agreements can deliver on the ground while vague principled agreements deliver further discussion.

What if Stakeholders involvement was taken seriously?

Although the active involvement of stakeholders in this process has been held out to be the most advanced in any UN processes it has been a joke. There is no evidence to say that the Stakeholder Dialogues have been fed into the formal negotiations at all. This could have been so different. In fact one outcome of the Dialogues has been disastrous for many stakeholders have focused on these and not the formal negotiating processes. There was an attempt by some governments at PrepCom two to try and refocus the Dialogues around the 'Bonn model' without any success. With a proper structure to the document, the Dialogues could have

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been designed to deliver the section on what stakeholders could deliver for each of the key issues.

What if we took the Regional PrepComs seriously?

Why couldn't the Regional PrepComs have been designed to not only address the same issues as the main PrepComs but also that their regional specific components not included within the global text without renegotiating.

What if the Bureau had been made up of the previous Chairs of the CSD?

One of the suggestions made early in the process was that the Bureau should be made up of the best people we had available. The chairs of the CSD being people who were of a very high level Ministers, ex Ministers, former Ambassadors and UN Agency heads. They would have offered real leadership – something this process has lacked.

What if Bureau members were given a Guide on what their role was?

After so many UN Conferences and Summits you would think that there existed a guide for new Bureau members on what a Bureau member should do.

What if the Secretary General's Advisory Panel had been made up of Some of the UN Special Ambassadors?

People like Michael Douglas, Pavarotti, Alex Ferguson, Roger Moore, If these people had been going out selling the Summit the media would have reported it.

What if there was a link between the Programme of Action and the Partnerships?

If the PrepComs had actually given us a structured Programme of Action then there could have been a real engagement of stakeholders in creating and delivering

partnerships to realise the PoA.

What if we had kept initiatives and partnerships and not changed it to partnership initiatives?

The original note from the Secretariat in December 2001 called for 'initiatives and partnerships' which by April 2002 had become 'partnership initiatives'. If the original had survived then we might have had a number of governments announce their own targets together and initiatives to deliver them.

What if the WSSD Secretariat had produced "framework papers on the five WEHAB issues for Bali?"

We saw in Bali the Energy paper which could have formed the basis for a new text based on a Programme of Action approach. If the other papers had been produced and released might we have been in a different position? If governments had had confidence in the system to deliver then would they have thrown out the PoA and started again? This has been done in other UN Conferences, for example, Habitat II twice threw out the document and started again.

What if stakeholders had been involved in the design of the first week of discussion on partnerships?

A month before the Summit, no stakeholder was involved in the design of how we might approach a discussion of partnerships on the WEHAB agenda.

One thing perhaps we can all try and get out of this Summit is the ability to learn from the mistakes. The introduction of Knowledge Management might be considered it is now being used by the World Bank and many other key institutions.

Summit Interview

- with John F Turner, US State -

I am joined by John Turner, Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Environment & Scientific Affairs for the US State Department. Mr Turner, Welcome.

On Monday we saw the Political Declaration which reflects the implementation Document in that lacks focus and does not offer new commitments or priorities with this as a starting point how do we move forward?

Well with the appearance of the draft of the declaration shows that we are in the endgame of the summit concluding a great deal of effort by the world community to come together on a plan of action. It is our hope that the declaration does not become a re-tread on some of the tough issues, we have taken care of these in the plan of action, but instead a more general statement and commitment on behalf of the world leaders of going forward the aspirations, more of a visionary document.

Looking at the partnership process that we have been looking at here in Johannesburg how can we expect strong partnerships to be developed post Johannesburg when from the implementation documents we haven't see governments make strong commitments?

The US has looked at the summit in two separate chapters or sagas, one is to successfully conclude the months that we have drafting text, a plan of action accompanied by goals. This has been an important process but I think that we all need to realize that text, words lofty statements in itself are not going to make a difference anymore. Words do not save a child from water born diseases, words do not bring food to the hungry or energy to remote villages. What we need to do now and the United States thrust is to conclude the planning and the words and commit to real action. So the US came with a very bold package with new resources and new commitments to join other partner, these issues are so challenging and large that the governments need to invest in these, also it needs to join other governments and NGOs at such events as the Implementation Conference delivered to us by Stakeholder Forum, when we realize that 9 out of 10 dollars come from the private sector we need to engage with and energize the private sector. So I think that we have to realize that Johannesburg although an important event, an event that has to be part of a long journey of commitment to action and our President and Secretary of State have pledged billions of new dollars to invest in health and education, to help build the infrastructure in countries where needed for economic growth and environmental stewardship and social advancement. So we are very pleased that we have been able to come together with a number of partners during Johannesburg. I think that that sets a pattern, perhaps a new compact for development.

Turning to the interesting debate that we have had around the WEHAB agenda, what can we do with these clustered issues after Johannesburg?

Well, we have had goals and these are only lofty rhetoric without the commitment of resources and we simply cannot tolerate several billion people without access to safe drinking water or energy just basic energy. So those are our underlying needs and we need to address Forestry and Oceans and do a better job as well as deal with some of the devastating pandemics in Africa but projections for the crippling effect of HIV Aids and malaria in other parts of

the world. These are just some of the issues that we need to address in partnerships around the world.

We have also had a lot of debate on governance should we be focusing on domestic good governance or should we be focusing on improved sustainable development good governance?

Well I think that one of the real breakthroughs in Johannesburg has been a collective consensus that helping governments in impoverished areas in the world and create an environmental framework that will help them to succeed. We cannot have environmental stewardship or good health care or new job opportunities unless we fight corruption and we end the violence in these areas. We bring about a democracy where the people are involved in government decision making. We need processes that are transparent to the press and the public. We need a better science and a good legal system, with the rule of law and property rights where contractual laws can be abided by. We need a governance system of standards and regulations that are predictable.

Its really gratifying to me in the United States that the NGO community has come together with business and come together in a dialogue with governments to talk about how we can invest in the framework of these impoverished countries, realizing in the past that just inserting government aid has sometimes been destructive if you don't create the environment. So the United States President has pledged the largest increase in government assistance in American history, some \$5bn over the next 3 years. We want to invest in those countries that are willing to invest in people, create a better government at home and are willing to promote private sector entrepreneurialship. Those three guiding fundamentals should guide all of us, collectively as a whole family.

Finally, we are seeing heads of state yesterday and over the next two days saying that while we have made progress, we have not achieved enough. What should they be able to say that we've achieved by the next time we meet at summit level, and when do you think that should be?

There are those that came to the summit to draft text. As we go forward and beyond I think we are going to be held accountable by today's impoverished citizens around the world. We're going to be held accountable by future generations who will say 'you came together in Johannesburg, you came together previously in Rio'. They're going to ask 'What did you do? Did you make a difference so that we can enjoy a sustainable future for all the global family?' What did we do? Did we commit to action, place based regions around the world to start helping lifting their lives, in many areas, whether it be water, energy, health, education or better stewardship of resources like forestry, like oceans. To try to reverse the tragic decrease in bio-diversity.

So its going to be a long term commitment, its going take a tremendous amount of resources that will only be available if we combine together all sectors of society. That to me is the promise of Johannesburg, to begin this journey of commitment, collective commitment, i.e. partnership. So domestic and national improvements in governance are absolutely essential, and I think that's been one of the really breakthrough focuses of Johannesburg. It's the first time that developing countries have come together with developed countries and the rest of the world and agreed a positive plan of implementation to create that environment.

Mr Turner, thank you very much.

Thank you very much.

Simon Ford & Toby Middleton, Stakeholder Forum

Partners In Crime or Cooperation?

Negotiations on the implementation text for the first environmental summit in a shopping mall came to a calm but solemn end just before 11pm on Monday September 2, 2002.

The WSSD may not have reached landmark conclusions to protect the environment and foment sustainable development but it did enshrine, for once and for all, the role of corporation in the sustainable development process.

The Joburg Summit, as it maybe remembered, created the Partnership process--attempting to connect myriad "stakeholders"—specifically corporations—to work together on sustainable development.

The Partnerships are lauded as viable "Type II" alternatives to government commitments to secure sustainability. Yet many of the Type II arrangements involve many corporations who have established track records of causing environmental harm (e.g., Union Carbide), fomenting social disruption (e.g., ExxonMobil), undermining human rights (e.g., Shell Oil) and precipitating economic malaise (e.g., ABB). Hence partnerships may at best forge new relationships with unaccountable actors or worse be best practice efforts in unsustainable development. Either way the partnerships will help make the case and highlight the role of corporations in being involved in securing sustainable development—for better or worse.

Officially the Conference Secretariat noted that:

"Partnerships and initiatives to implement Agenda 21 are expected to become one of the major outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. These "second type" of outcomes would consist of a series of commitments and action-oriented coalitions focused on deliverables and would contribute in translating political commitments into action."

Of course the "Specific modalities of such partnerships (including targets, timetables, monitoring arrangements, coordination and implementation mechanisms, arrangements for predictable funding and technology transfer, etc.) [will] need to be elaborated..."

Contrastingly, many civil society organizations have approached the Type II Partnerships with a considerable degree of skepticism, especially given the extent to which they involve corporations.

Members of Friends of the Earth argued throughout the preparatory process as well as here in Johannesburg that Type Two Partnerships enable governments to abdicate "their own responsibilities to deliver on their political commitments to voluntary initiatives." They also note "Type 2 outcomes could, in many cases, also result in further "greenwash" by polluting companies wanting to divert criticism."

Not surprisingly the United States has applauded the partnership process. In their penultimate briefing, two days before the close of the Summit, US Assistant Secretary of State John Turner, noted that after Joburg "the US is considering using the CSD [Commission on Sustainable Development] as a breeding ground for partnerships." This decision, however, novel will be subject to the approval of CSD member states.

At the same time throughout the process the US has actively sought to resist any and all efforts to negotiate any means to keep corporations that may be involved in partnerships accountable to

governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or citizens.

The US claims to support strong domestic efforts to hold firms accountable. Yet this decision is blind to the fact that strong domestic measures to keep firms accountable, whether they are in partnerships or acting alone, is a greenlight for firms to take and conduct their unsustainable practices to countries where standards are low and the rule of law is weak.

In a world of globalization and transnational firms that respect no national boundaries, the only real means to achieve sustainable development that includes and involves corporations is with an international instrument to regulate their behavior.

To date the US has identified approximately two dozen different "Partnerships for Sustainable Development". Approximately half of these are projects already underway. While a third are tentative proposals.

Indeed the two of the three flagship proposals maybe more undermine sustainable development instead of securing it. The Congo Basin Forest Partnership, a hanger-on from the previous Clinton Administration is being re-proposed in the midst of the White House's recent commitment to increase domestic logging on public lands as a means to secure sustainability and environmental protection.

The Water for the Poor Initiative commits a considerable amount to promoting the delivery of sanitation services to those with out it, in order to achieve the WSSD goals to provide sanitation to half of those around the world by 2015. By focusing exclusively on West Africa and the Middle East the partnership fails to target approximately 80-85% of those lacking access to sanitation. Indeed if the partnerships keeps in line with US domestic policies it may further endorse the privatization of sanitation services, further jeopardizing access by the poor and those with the greatest needed.

In both programs how the participants will involve and be accountable to those served remains to be articulated.

If partnerships are to work and especially if they are to be *bred* through the

CSD then they must be operationalized in a framework that holds the providers accountable. Such a framework of accountability cannot be applied to each and every partnership on a case-by-case basis. An accountability framework, especially one that seeks to protect against the ongoing legacy of corporate malfeasance and crime must be international, binding and have stiff punitive consequences for violators—especially for firms that have gotten off time and time again, especially for recidivist activities. Accordingly a key post-Joburg development will be crafting such an international binding accord to govern and oversee this new age of partnerships.

by Michael Dorsey, Director Sierra Club

The Fourth Pillar of Sustainability

Ch 10 on Institutional frameworks

Well – we've come a long way over the past week and a half. The text on institutional frameworks has now been agreed. Not without a fight, but it is finally there. Since we were unable to sit in the final conclusions of the working group on this topic it is not possible

to accurately discuss the whys and wherefores of who proposed amendments to the text. However, it is at least possible to portray those changes that have taken place and to consider whether the result look anything like a reasonable outcome.

What have we lost?

References to human rights and fundamental freedoms have been taken out from the

121.d.bis, and the para 121.d.bis -alt has been removed entirely.

A proposal to establish initiatives that would promote coherence between the Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and WTO agreements has been taken out. "Mutual supportiveness" between these fairly disparate areas is clearly was not deemed as possible at this time (para 122.c). A greater domestic role for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was also not supported (para 122.e). And specific financial commitments for different MEAs (para 122.f) have been lost.

The section encouraging the International Financial Institutions and trade bodies to ensure that their decision-making systems are based on principles of good governance has been removed (122.b). On trade and finance, para's 123 and 124 have been almost entirely revised. More useful text has been taken out, in particular text that sought fulfillment of the 0.7% GDP target for Official Development Assistance (ODA). Also the release new Special Drawing Rights for countries in financial dire straights was removed.

On ECOSOC, a section referring to establishing arrangements between the Council and its meetings with the Bretton Woods Institutions and WTO, has been lost (para 126.f). This would seem to be a missed opportunity, as the proposal might have allowed further discussion about complementarity between these institutions.

A section on establishing modalities for partnership for furthering implementation of WSSD outcomes has been watered down to a loose paragraph about encouraging partnership initiatives. The lack of reference to modalities or guidelines certainly leaves something of a gap about to how one will be able to assess the quality and significance of the contribution of whatever partnership initiatives might actually come forward (para 138.b).

Two references, regarding GEF replenishment and allocation of funds from GEF to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), have been deleted (Para 139). The loss of reference to GEF is fairly understandable since the fund received extra financial commitments just before the summit. However the UNCCD section is less obvious. It was certainly an issue strongly backed by the G77 and China, and it seems likely that this issue will crop up again in the future.

A direct reference "good governance" at the national level (para 146.) has now been replaced by references to a number of specific principles that may contribute to good governance e.g. public participation, transparency and accountability.

Another disappointing loss is the deletion of para. 151 on Rio Principle 10 – regarding public access to information, public participation on decision-making and access to justice. One would have hoped that governments had progressed sufficiently in this area to want to support its further implementation.

What have we gained?

There is now a broad reference to good governance at the beginning of the chapter (now 120.bis -moved from an earlier part of the text) – supporting the G77 call for good governance to refer to all spheres or levels of governance.

Governments also found resolution about the need to strengthen the “social dimension for Sustainable Development” (para 122.g). An additional commitment to implement the ILO conventions has been removed however, as the G7 it was repeated in earlier in the document (para 9.b)

There is support for greater horizontal coordination across UN system around work on Sustainable Development and an obligation to keep CSD and ECOSOC “fully informed” on actions being taken by different UN Agencies (para 134)

There has been an agreement to begin implementation of national strategies for sustainable development (NSSDs) by 2005. And there is reference to the possible use of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers as equivalent to NSSDs, where they “integrate economic, social, environmental aspects” (para 145.b)

There is now a new paragraph on the importance of participation of youth (para 153). Also the need to encourage Partnership initiatives has been recognized as a part of the follow-up from WSSD (para 138.b)

What gaps remain?

Currently, the most marginalised groups, including Indigenous Peoples, continue to be missed off the agenda. Such groups need focused support to help them make a contribution to enhancement of institutions at all levels.

Going back to earlier texts there was a whole set of sub-paras that talked about supporting the implementation of the outcomes of WSSD and Rio + 5. These have since been entirely removed and now these sections only refer to implementation of Agenda 21. It seems as governments feel there is nothing worth implementing from this Summit or from Rio+5!

This section does not seem to really fit very well with the rest of the text – and there is a lack of clarification about how it relates to other sections. As well as a lack of specificity about the kinds of changes that need to take place.

Whilst there are some references to the importance of vertical action and integration between institutions at different levels or spheres of governance in the main part of the text. When we look at ch.10 there is no such recognition to tying-in local to global governance practices.

Where to from here?

The biggest gap in the entire section on institutions is a commitment to set a process of assessment and reform underway. The “Interlinkages” report published by UN University’s Institute for Applied Studies came to that precise conclusion – that an thorough global audit and assessment needed to take place. First, it would identify institutional gaps and barriers for sustainable development and second it would make recommendations about the kinds of institutional structures and options available to help tackle such problems.

We must see governance or institutional frameworks as a fourth and crucial pillar of sustainability. Without the other three elements governance is without substance. But without facing institutional issues head-on as we come out of the Summit, it is unlikely that we will see any significant progress elsewhere.

Rosalie Gardiner, Stakeholder Forum

Local Government Declaration

We, the Mayors, Leaders and representatives of the cities and local governments of the world, and of their international and national associations, meeting in Johannesburg on the occasion of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), agree the following Declaration:

Welcoming the initiative of the United Nations and its Member States in convening the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which meets at a crucial time in the life of our planet,

Committed to the goals and targets of Agenda 21, the Habitat Agenda and of the UN Millennium Declaration, in the struggle against global poverty and for sustainable development;

Reaffirming our commitment to the principles of sustainable development, including solidarity, transversality (integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions), participation of civil society in decision-making, and responsibility towards future generations and disadvantaged populations;

Aware that, despite many successes and much commitment (in particular by local governments) in relation to Agenda 21, we remain far from achieving a sustainable future for humankind;

Gravely concerned at the ongoing process of depletion of the earth’s resource base and degradation of the global environment;

Convinced that, if we are to resolve the challenges facing the world, a strong partnership between all spheres of government (from international to local) is essential;

Recalling the important role played by local government representatives in the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, and ascribed to local government for the future in Agenda 21, not only in chapter 28 (which dealt specifically with the local authority contribution) but also in many of the thematic chapters;

Recalling too that since 1992, over 6000 local governments have set up a Local Agenda 21 process with their community, and many more have undertaken strategies to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of local development;

Recalling further the conclusions, undertakings and requests set out in the Final Declaration of the 2nd World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities in Rio de Janeiro on 6 May 2001;

Endorsing the conclusions and future strategies set out in the Local Government Dialogue Paper for the WSSD;

Welcoming the growing partnership between local government and the UN and other international organisations, towards strengthening decentralisation and development of capacity of local governments and their associations, including in particular the establishment by UN-Habitat of the UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities in 2000:

The context

- With half of the world's population now living in urban settlements, and with the world's population due to grow to 8 billion by 2025, the issue of sustainable urban management and development is one of the critical issues for the 21st century. National states cannot, on their own, centrally manage and control the complex, fast-moving, cities and towns of today and tomorrow - only strong decentralised local governments, in touch with and involving their citizens, and working in partnership with national

governments, are in a position to do so. The future of rural settlements is also of vital importance, with urban/rural linkages and interdependence becoming key issues for the future of sustainable development.

- The effects of economic liberalisation and globalisation are felt most sharply at local level. Whilst many have benefited from these processes, e.g. via new inward investment into local economies, the growing gap between rich and poor, with increases in absolute poverty levels in many places, has led to growing problems of insecurity, social exclusion and of environmental degradation. These negative impacts of globalisation are felt everywhere, but in particular in developing countries, and threaten to undermine the positive work of local authorities. Unsustainable production and consumption patterns likewise add to these negative impacts.
- In 1992 in Rio, the international community and all partners established the goals and actions necessary to achieve a sustainable future. Overall, the steps taken to date to implement Agenda 21 have not been adequate to meet the challenges identified. The decade since 1992 has seen conflicts, massive breaches of human rights, and ecological and other natural disasters, in addition to growing social inequality. A large part of the world's population lives without access to even the most basic services.
- Since 1992, however, many local governments have played a significant and positive role in taking forward the Rio engagements, implementing Agenda 21 and the Rio conventions in the local sphere. In this period, the role of local government as catalyst for development and community leader has also evolved, with a strong emphasis on partnership with business and civil society. Local government's relationship with the UN has also developed in a positive way. However, the exclusion of local government as a recognised sphere of government within the United Nations system continues to pose a significant barrier to the ability of local governments to achieve sustainable development.

Our principles

We believe there are four inter-connected principles for local governments, which need to inform and underpin all of our efforts to combat poverty and build a just, peaceful and sustainable world:

- First, the overarching principle of *Sustainable Development* (integrating the economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions)
- Second, *Effective Democratic Decentralisation* (with a substantial set of key competences, and commensurate financial resources for local governments)
- Third, *Good Governance* (effective leadership, transparency, accountability, probity, proper management and effective services, equitable access to services, a commitment to partnership working, and institutional capacity building.)
- Fourth, *Co-operation and Solidarity* (partnerships for exchange of good practice, support and mutual learning)

We aim to work positively with, and bridge the gap between, our national governments, the international community and civil society to promote these principles, and to develop skills and capacity.

Commitments by local governments

Arising from the above, we reaffirm our strong commitment to Agenda 21, and further commit ourselves:

- To support the development targets set out in the General Assembly's Millennium Declaration, including the overarching goal

of reducing by the year 2015 the proportion of those who live in absolute poverty, and the target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;

- To work with national governments and the international community to strengthen local government's capacity to deal with sustainable development, including via the dialogue processes agreed in 2001 by the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and the General Assembly's Declaration (paragraph 37) on the occasion of the five year review of the Istanbul Human Settlements Summit;
- To develop city and local development strategies which integrate the economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions of development;
- Over the next decade, to build upon the successes of Local Agenda 21 and accelerate implementation through Local Action 21 campaigns and programmes that create sustainable communities and cities while protecting global common goods;
- To undertake City to City / Municipal International Co-operation activities and partnerships, aimed at mutual learning, exchange of good practice, and the development of capacity for sustainable development, in particular in the context of growing urbanisation;
- To develop a new and deeper culture of sustainability in our cities and localities, including a commitment to socially and environmentally sound procurement policies and consumption patterns, sustainable planning, investment and management of resources, and promotion of public health and of clean energy sources; to this end we ask all local governments to discuss endorsement of the Earth Charter;
- To develop effective and transparent local governance, including a proactive community leadership role, working with the local organisations of civil society and the private sector, and ensuring the equal participation of women and men, and the active involvement of disadvantaged sectors;
- To manage local governments holistically so as to achieve development goals effectively by the integrated management of financial, human and natural resources.

Requests to the international associations of cities and local governments

We ask the members of the World Associations of Local Authorities Co-ordination - the Arab Towns Organisation, the International Union of Local Authorities, the United Towns Organisation and Metropolis - , the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), the Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC), and the regional and thematic local government associations, within their respective mandates:

- To organise a worldwide Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign to promote local government's awareness of, and active commitment to, the international development targets set out in the General Assembly's Millennium resolution, and to work in partnership with the UN to this end;
- To engage in partnerships with national governments, international organisations and other sectors to implement campaigns and programmes to implement Local Agenda 21;
- To promote and organise programmes for local government strengthening, mutual learning and capacity-building, via City to City / Municipal International Co-operation and sustainable cities networks, including local government exchanges of experience in support of sustainable development;

- To strengthen the partnership for sustainable development with the UN, in particular with UN-Habitat on issues related to the Habitat Agenda, with UNDP on development programmes, with UNEP on relevant environmental issues, with the WHO on health issues and with UNITAR on questions of sustainable development training; and to enhance co-operation with the Commission on Sustainable Development and relevant UN bodies and Agencies within their remits;
- To develop closer relationships with the UN more generally, including through supporting the work and development of the UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA), as a "portal" for co-ordinating UN involvement with local government;
- To support the completion of the process of unification between IULA and UTO, with the aim of having a worldwide united general representative organisation as advocate for local government and as interlocutor with the UN and international community;
- To organise an ongoing debate over the impact of liberalisation on local public services, with a view to ensuring that key public interest services are maintained, and that social and environmental factors are properly integrated into public decision-making.

Requests to national governments

We ask our national governments:

- To work with local governments and their national and international associations, in order to strengthen local government's capacity, competences and resources (including local leadership development), in particular in meeting the challenges of sustainable development and urbanisation;
- To involve local government as equal partners in action-oriented national sustainable development strategies and alliances;
- To launch and support national campaigns for local sustainable development planning and the protection of global common goods so as to support Local Action 21;
- To play an active and positive role in carrying out the decisions of the General Assembly and UN Commission on Human Settlements on effective decentralisation and the strengthening of local authorities, including the identification of key principles and enabling legal frameworks appropriate for the challenges of Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda;
- To promote and establish relevant, demand-driven programmes for local government strengthening, mutual learning and capacity-building, via City to City / Municipal International Co-operation and networks, ensuring that legal powers, financial resources and appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are in place;
- To support the work of relevant UN agencies including UN Habitat in developing effective partnership working with local government, to tackle the issues of sustainable development, effective democratic decentralisation, and good governance;
- To affirm the principle of partnership with cities and local governments as a vital sphere of government in achieving sustainable development.
- To guarantee and reinforce the vital role of local government as an essential partner in regional initiatives for sustainable development, in particular the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

Requests to the UN and international community

We ask the UN and the international community:

- To recognize that local government is an essential sphere of government, vital to the success of sustainable development and good governance, and not a non-governmental or sectoral group
- To reinforce the spirit of partnership with local government in all relevant areas of activity and mutual interest, in particular supporting the specific role of UN-Habitat as local government's key partner in relation to sustainable human settlements;
- To develop and strengthen the work and role of the UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, using it as a co-ordination point for work with local government across the UN system, and to intensify partnership with the international associations of local government, supporting their process of unification;
- To develop and promote City to City / Municipal International Co-operation and networks as an effective tool for exchange of good practice, learning, development and capacity-building, building on initiatives such as the Cities Alliance;
- To increase public aid for development, dedicating at least 0.7% of GNP to co-operation programmes with developing countries, to cancel the unsustainable debt of highly indebted poor countries, and ensure that a significant proportion of the finances so provided or released is used for local government programmes (in particular decentralised co-operation) and services;
- To establish a new framework for global economic governance, supporting equitable economic exchanges and integrating the social and environmental dimensions;
- To work for the effective decentralisation and strengthening of local governments and their networks, through the dialogue and other processes agreed by Member States in the UN Commission on Human Settlements and the General Assembly, identifying key principles and enabling legal frameworks appropriate for the challenges of Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda;
- To review the impact of economic liberalisation on public services, with a view to maintaining key public interest services, and ensuring that social and environmental factors are properly taken into account in decision-making;
- To preserve the world's major ecological balances, in particular through concrete commitments by all States to implement the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity.

Conclusion

We live in an increasingly interconnected, interdependent world. The local and the global are intertwined. Local government cannot afford to be insular and inward-looking. Fighting poverty, exclusion and environmental decay is a moral issue, but also one of self-interest. Ten years after Rio, it is time for action by all spheres of government, all partners. And local action, undertaken in solidarity, can move the world.

Unions Defend Women's Rights at WSSD

Johannesburg, September 03, 2002 (ICFTU News): This morning at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), trade

unionists led by Trine Lise Sundnes, Confederal Secretary of LO Norway, brought their support to the call by the Women Caucus for a stonger recognition of womens rights to be included in the Implementation Action Plan. The group was joined by hundreds of supporters outside the Sandton Convention Center, where Heads of State and Government continue to address the Summit, which is due to close on Wednesday.

Demonstrators chanting slogans such as WSSD Trades Away Womens Rights or Womens Rights are Human Rights Change Paragraph 47, caught the attention of delegates as they walked into the Center where Heads of State and Government were to attend the different sessions scheduled to take place.

The Womens Caucus is calling on delegates to change Paragraph 47 on health-care systems by adding the words in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The ICFTU believes that if left out, it would have the effect of subjecting human rights to local or national standards which may violate internationally recognised human rights standards.

Womens rights, just like trade union rights are part of the principle of freedom of association and the heads of state and government should recognise it!, said Trine Lise Sundnes.

Women rights are under attack today. One of the main place of violations of women rights occurs in workplaces, where peripheral, part-time and hazardous work is the new trend. This trend comes from the new globalised world where too often governments and companies infringe their rights, added Lucien Royer, spokesperson of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

ICFTU

Youth Action for Sustainable Development

Nothing illustrates the cock-eyed organisation of this summit better than the way the youth caucus has had to struggle to agree their statement. There was one youth caucus meeting at Sandton and a second meeting at NASREC. Until Monday, they had had minimal contact with each other, preparing statements seperately. When they met finally on Monday, inevitably, they disagreed vehemently. On Tuesday, they hope finally to agree a statement to read to the Plenary on Wednesday – long after it might have any practical impact on the summit.

This Statement follows on the heels of carefully argued statements that emerged from the Millennium Young People's Congress, the Borgholm Youth Summit, the Dakar World Youth Forum and the Aarhus Global Youth Forum. They all say roughly similar things on AIDs, employment, education, youth's right to participate etc. Makes you wonder about the value of statements!

This is why the youth follow-up to Jo'burg planned by Peace Child International and hosted by the Moroccan Youth Forum with the support of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco – is focussing on action rather than statements. For five days of the 10-day meeting, young people will travel to all the provinces of Morocco to work with disadvantaged communities on action projects selected by leading Moroccan development NGOs. In this way, the

young delegates will leave with a feeling of having done something, rather than just talked and signed pieces of paper.

The meeting, named the World Congress of Youth, is a follow-up to Peace Child's first Congress – the Millennium Young People's Congress – held in Hawaii in October 1999. At this Congress, young people prioritised an Action Programme entitled – Be the Change! – youth action for sustainable development. Up to now, BTC has funded 50 projects in 27 countries – all youth-led, youth managed and youth implemented with the support of adult mentors.

Morocco will review the experience of this – and other – youth-led action programmes. It will invite development professionals and young people themselves to advance the intellectual argument about the role of young people in sustainable development. In particular, it will focus on how best to engage young people to support their governments, and the UN, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The goal is to gather the experience of a multitude of youth groups who are active in this field – including the International Youth Parliament, Schools Partnership Worldwide, Y-Care, the Youth Employment Summit and many others. The result will be a recognition by the main government and UN funding agencies of the central role that young people can play in helping to meet the ambitious targets set for 2015.

The Congress will also explore the issues of tolerance and solidarity – key themes for the modern Islamic state of Morocco. Like the Hawaii Congress, Morocco will be preceded by several National Consultations organised by governments and civil society to tease out the key recommendations of many thousands of young people interested in these issues. These consultations will elect 'delegate' representatives who will carry their national policies to the Congress. Also invited are "activists" – young people with a proven track record of achievement in action for sustainable development. The heart of the Moroccan Congress will be an exhibition of these young people's achievements – an exhibition which will, we hope, point the way to greater recognition of the fact that young people are the most committed, most energetic, most skilled and most cost-effective partners for governments as they seek to implement the agreements made here at Johannesburg.

By David Woolcombe, President, Peace Child International

Science & Technology Community: Informal Conclusions

The Summit Round Tables have discussed "making it happen". The most important change since Rio is the involvement of the Major Groups and the dialogue both among the groups and with national delegations. Things will not happen if we cannot ensure a continued dialogue and implementation of true partnerships.

Science and Technology has been highlighted through the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation at Ubuntu Village. This was organised by the Government of South Africa and advised by the Science and Technology community Major Group. We have deepened the dialogue through a number of high level seminars as part of the Forum. The nine reports produced for the Summit also

The WSSD Sustainable Development Barometer

The World Summit Consumption Barometer

Offset your CO₂ emissions now.



The consumption impact of the Summit on Joburg has gone down from 86% to 62% - helped by delegates who have offset the CO₂ emissions they have created flying to Joburg. Can we reduce that figure even more? Invest in Climate Legacy Certificates at www.climatelegacy.org before you leave. Lets achieve a 'carbon neutral' Summit.

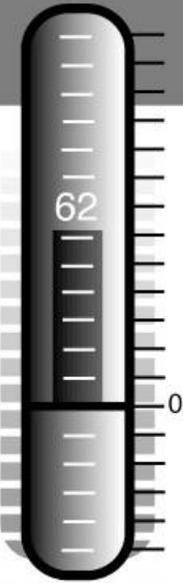
In partnership with Coca-Cola

Resource consumption at Summit venues on Saturday 31 August

Water	653 Kl
Waste to landfill	13.93 tons
Waste recycled	4.07 tons
Electricity	96.44 MWh
Green Electricity	40.29 MWh
CO ₂ offset	6050.52 tons

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

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Met Office World Weather Reports

Cape Verde cascade | Issued on: Tue Sep 3rd 2002
Rain amounting to 23mm fell in the 24 hour period ending 1200 GMT Tuesday at Mindelo on the Cape Verde Islands. This equates to more than half the expected September rainfall of 39mm.

Turkish Bath | Issued on: Tue Sep 3rd 2002
Iskenderun, Turkey experienced a wet and thundery Monday night with 41mm of rain falling in the 12 hour period ending 0600 GMT Tuesday. This more than the average rainfall of 35mm normally expected during the whole of September.

Thailand Torrents | Issued on: Tue Sep 3rd 2002
Foggy Loei situated among a mountain range in Northern Thailand is accustomed to weather extremes. During the 24 hour period ending midnight GMT Monday 152mm of rain fell. This being more than half the September average rainfall of 223mm.

Cooked Goose | Issued on: Tue Sep 3rd 2002

Temperatures at Goose Bay, Newfoundland soared to 30.6 degrees Celsius as recorded at midnight GMT beginning Tuesday. This is over 17 degrees above the average daily September maximum of 13 degrees Celsius. A very warm night followed with a minimum temperature of 20.4 degrees being recorded at midday GMT Tuesday. The average September minimum being a cool 4.7 degrees Celsius.

Helsinki Heat | Issued on: Tue Sep 3rd 2002
Parts of Northern Scandinavia has been enjoying an early autumn heatwave with the 1200 GMT temperature on Tuesday at Helsinki reaching 24.2 degrees Celsius. This is more than 10 degrees above the September average daily maximum of 13.3 degrees Celsius.

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The Met Office Johannesburg 5 Day Weather Forecast									
Tuesday 3rd		Wednesday 4th		Thursday 5th		Friday 6th		Saturday 7th	
Day Max	Night Min	Day Max	Night Min	Day Max	Night Min	Day Max	Night Min	Day Max	
23°C 73°F	7°C 45°F	23°C 73°F	8°C 46°F	22°C 72°F	8°C 46°F	20°C 68°F	7°C 45°F	21°C 70°F	

Events Diary

Wednesday 9.00 - 1.00	Plenary Session - General Debate. Plenary Hall
10.00 - 1.00	Roundtable - Making it Happen. Ballroom 3
1.15 - 2.45	Women & Wash - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene. Ballroom 1
1.15 - 2.45	Sustainability Education & the Management of Change. Committee Room 4A
2.00 - 8.00	Plenary Session - Multi-Stakeholder Event. To Be Announced

received much attention from national delegations as well as the Major Groups.

The thematic sessions on the WEHAB initiative were also important and excellently moderated by J. Frank. However, the interaction with the national delegations in a true participatory fashion could have been much better.

The Science and Technology community also spoke at the three Round Tables organised so far. We were pleased with the comments of the Swedish Prime Minister, Chair of Round Table 3, when he concluded that Science and Technology was an essential basis for sustainable development. He complemented the Science and Technology delegation for the visionary statement and commitments.

The Science and Technology delegation is committed to continue the process and help "make it happen". The importance of capacity building and education for all is necessary. Many delegations have experienced strong support to science and technology to bridge the "knowledge divide" between the North and the South. The Science and Technology community has made commitments and it is now up to bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure the economic back-up creating strengthened support to capacity building for Science and Technology.

Science and Technology is essential to address WEHAB and provide one of the driving forces to implement the agenda first introduced by Secretary General Annan. By integrating the three pillars of sustainable development in the research agendas, we will produce more policy relevant results. The agenda for our Type II submission on Science and Technology for sustainable development necessitates involvement of other major groups.

The Science and Technology community is also encouraged by many expressions of support to global collaboration across political, ethnic and religious borders. The community can play an important role in furthering global solidarity.

We hope that our suggestion will be followed that an independent advisory panel for Science and Technology be set up by the CSD. This will ensure that the deliberations of the commission have access to best available knowledge.

Thomas Rosswall, Executive Director, ICSU and Coordinator of Science and Technology Community Major Group

How does the Environment Impact Me?

Natural disasters can rarely be prevented, but everybody can play a part in mitigating the impact when a disaster strikes a vulnerable society.

The Met Office's proposed environmental prediction and impacts team will bring together the skills and expertise needed to assist in disaster preparedness — in a single location. It will include hydrologists and medical professionals as well as meteorologists, offering a one-stop shop for disaster-related data, information and services. What's more, we will fully collaborate with local met. services, local personnel and expert organisations to deliver the very best service to you.

The Met Office actively contributes to the World Weather Watch programme of the World Meteorological Organization — the UN body that co-ordinates meteorology and hydrology. In the UK, the Met Office also works closely with key public authorities to provide new services to improve their operational effectiveness. These include helping the Environment Agency in the mitigation of flood damage, and providing information to the health service to help hospital trusts better manage their resources.

These successful ventures form the basis for the new environmental prediction and impacts centre, which will bring together all the skills necessary to help relief and development agencies, as well as businesses, throughout the world.

The Met Office

