

OUTREACH 2015



BUILDING PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSD 11 - ISSUE 1

REVIEW OF THE CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY *A Weak Week or Strong Sessions?*

The ministers who gathered here Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Chairman Valli Moosa and the Bureau of CSD 11 have done their jobs, and, collectively, done them well.

Thoughtful comments, often extemporaneous, have led to a report from the Chair that opens doors to the future and encourages optimism. So far, so good. So good in fact, that a group of veteran negotiators was led to speculate as to what might have happened if the Chair had presented his Report, and adjourned CSD 11. It is worth some thought, but more as a theoretical exercise than a practical course of action.

Late on Thursday, the Chairperson submitted his draft decision. For the most part, it is faithful to his Report.

There are some significant differences. The Chairperson's assertion that the Ministers reaffirmed the "unique role and mandate of the CSD as the only high-level UN body to facilitate accelerated implementation of sustainable development" is not reflected in the decision draft. Perhaps it will reappear in the Preamble which we will not see until next week.

Other excision of some strong points in the Chair's report will reinforce what some saw as lack of "political will" in the Ministerial discussions. The clear call in the report for a "clear link between goals and targets ... and the means to implement them," has withered to a soft whisper in the decision draft. The unequivocal pronouncement that a "doubling of ODA flows ... is required," has disappeared entirely. Also gone is the call for the removal of "trade and environmentally distorting agricultural subsidies in developed countries."

Also excised is the "emphasis on good governance at all levels". Governments demonstrate political will by their commitment to adequate resources – and the need for new and additional resources is demonstrable – and by their commitment to good governance. Absent strong decision language on these two elements, the decision draft is bereft of evidence of political will.

On the creation of real partnerships among all stakeholders, the decision draft also retreats from the thoughtful reflections of the Report. For a decision draft the strength of which is its contributions

to the processes of the CSD, much more could have been said of constructive ways to use public policy networks, task forces, and sub-commissions.



At the same time the decision draft also expands constructively on areas touched too obscurely in the Report. The expanded discussion of Regional Implementation Forums is welcome endorsement of the need to inject more substance and reality into the discussions of the CSD, and its adoption would be strong evidence of commitment to real implementation.

Also welcome is the detail on reports of the CSD to ECOSOC, and the emphasis on the coordinating role of the CSD, and the need for much greater coherence and cooperation among Agencies of the United Nations, although such reports to ECOSOC should also address the need for coherence and cooperation with the WTO and the Bretton Woods institutions as well. Both of these elaborations seem fully consistent with the

spirit and content of the Ministerial discussion.

Returning to the strengths of the Chair's report, and retaining the improved elements of the draft decision should be within the reach of the negotiators. Like all texts, this decision draft can be improved in many small ways. Before any of us make those suggestions, however, it is worth revisiting the speculative discussion of the Report and asking ourselves what happen if we adopted the text as is. Where fundamental issues are at stake, as in the need to demonstrate political will, passionate debate is welcome and needed. When we get to the realm of preferences, perhaps restraint and respect are now in order.

This decision draft moves well toward giving the signals necessary for stakeholders – all stakeholders, including governments – to reengage in the Commission on Sustainable Development. It needs to be improved, and we will have legitimate differences on ways to accomplish that. The acid test of the CSD will be whether we have the discipline to focus our efforts on the truly necessary.

David Hales, Stakeholder Forum



Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues

Whilst discussions during yesterday morning's multi-stakeholder dialogue were intended to focus on the future CSD work programme, particularly the involvement of Major Groups and other Stakeholders, debate was nevertheless enriched by the occasional intervention on NGO colour of collar preference – blue or white (implementation V's politically focused) and the odd shot in the foot, particularly by the Youth delegate who presented a particularly convincing case on why Youth need not necessarily constitute a Major Stakeholder Group.

Interventions passed without any major opposition to the proposed two-year cycle and the selection of Water and Energy as initial foci. However the need to address water not only for people but also within an ecosystem context was stressed, initially by the Farmers and subsequently re-affirmed by Hungary and the Scientific Community. Proposals for complimentary cross-cut issues included sustainable consumption and production from Sweden and also Health were also raised.

Debate on the future role of the CSD highlighted the need for the further clarification of its role in relation to other international institutions and processes. Raised initially by the NGO representative, the Trade Unions highlighted the possible leverage role that the CSD could play, catalysing progress in other stagnating processes, particularly in relation to Doha. The Chair suggested that the CSD was sending a clear message to the WTO dialogues on trade and market access, particularly that a general consensus had been reached on two issues: the need for agricultural subsidies to go and that improved market access is good for sustainable development. Whilst not sparking an immediate response from the floor, silence was not necessarily indicative of consensus, as the EC subsequently pointed out. Whilst recognising the need to re-address the issue of trade distorting subsidies, the EC diplomatically drew attention to current conditions where urban societies are, in effect, subsidising rural societies and that the maintenance of this principle was in some situations essential for social sustainability. Whilst recognising that there is a need to structure the system so that it does not negatively impact upon the sustainable development of other countries, the EC reminded the Chair that it should not be assumed, recognising the need to re-address trade distorting subsidies is not necessarily indicative of a consensus to remove all subsidies.

St. Lucia picked up upon the thinly veiled premise underlying the EC's intervention that 'those who can afford to should be able to subsidise' and proposed that, following a similar principle, transfers from the rich to the poor should be applied at a global level to enhance international cohesion for sustainable development. Whilst acknowledging the pertinence of debating these issues, further discussion was rapidly quashed by the Chair on the basis that multi-dialogues intended to focus on the future role of the CSD was perhaps not the most appropriate forum.

The need for the CSD to foster a 'can do' enabling atmosphere was undisputed and clearly affirmed by the Trade Union's hope that the CSD would provide an opportunity to develop and deliver

concrete plans, not provide yet another forum for the re-affirmation of general goals.

Salient aspects of fostering a 'can do' atmosphere addressed during the session were supporting the engagement of major groups, processes by which this engagement could be achieved and reporting mechanisms to measure the extent to which 'can do' continues to be translated into 'has been done'. The need to support and enhance major group engagement was undisputed as a vital means of enhancing the delivery of the CSD's future work programme. However, the Chair did query whether there was a need for room for improving the stakeholder representation system. Initiating a shift in the relative areas of expertise amongst participants in CSD discussions was proposed, with Australia calling for seats to be occupied by implementers not experts in policy negotiation.

A number of suggestions for additional Major groups were proposed from the floor, with particular support for Consumers and Educators. Given the fundamental linkages between the lack of education and the incidence of poverty, educators to facilitate education for all – particularly public education on lifestyles and the concept of sustainable development and education as a means of narrowing the knowledge divide were highlighted. Whilst receiving support from a number of stakeholders, including the Scientists, Youth, India, Canada, Iran's intervention outlining their current programme to improve the gender balance of education courses was particularly noteworthy. Other suggestions for Major group representation included representatives of Law enforcement, SMEs, the self-employed (proposed by Business) and Parliamentarians (Senegal). The engagement of Media, initially proposed by Hungary, was seen by India to not only be crucial as reflectors of opinion but also as opinion makers. With much nurturing, the Chair welcomed support for his self-confessed lobbying strategy for the inclusion of the Disabled as a Major Group from Finland, the NGOs, Australia and tangentially from Trade Unions, through linkages with the need for enhanced occupational health and safety training. Religious Communities, again raised by the Chair, and the Elderly (Finland) were also advocated. It was the latter that prompted a severe 'shooting in the foot' incident by the Youth representative, who proposed that the issue of 'Who are the Major Groups?' might also benefit from the application of a 'prism approach' – for example including the elderly or/and the disabled as cross-cut themes throughout the composition of each national delegation. This evoked an immediate query by the Chair as to whether, on that basis, Youth itself warranted a distinct Major Group categorisation. Fortunately the issue was swiftly resolved – the Chair strongly questioned the validity of the applicability of the prism approach in this case, prompting a swift admission by the Youth delegation that, on this occasion they had been wrong!

Mechanisms for facilitating genuine stakeholder engagement throughout both policy and implementation phases of the cycle at local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels were strongly supported – particularly through regional fora, co-ordination councils, tasks forces, partners, networks and other platforms for dialogue. The need for the CSD to consider how resources to facilitate stakeholder involvement can be mobilised, particularly within the South, was re-iterated by a number of

representatives, including Brazil, St. Lucia and Canada.

Also poignantly expressed by the Trade Unions was the importance of ensuring the CSD is not a 'toy telephone' and that when stakeholders speak, it listens and ensures civil society views taken into account and acted upon. Whilst recognising that through

stakeholder engagement can be time consuming, resource intensive and requires patience, there was general consensus that processes to ensure this is achieved are vital to ensuring the delivery of the CSD's future work programme.

Claire Rhodes, Stakeholder Forum

JOHANNESBURG TARGETS

Target deadline	Target	Priority area	Cross-cutting areas
2003/2005	Facilitate implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer by ensuring adequate replenishment of its fund by 2003/2005. <i>Ref: Para. 39b</i>	Health / Atmosphere	
2004/2005	Put into effect the FAO international plans of action by the agreed dates: (i) for the management of fishing capacity by 2005; and (ii) to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by 2004. <i>Ref: Para. 31d</i>	Marine / Fisheries	Agriculture, Health, Biodiversity, Trade
2004	Establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment. <i>Ref: Para. 36b</i>	Oceans	Biodiversity
2005	Take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development and begin their implementation by 2005. <i>Ref: Para. 162b</i>		
2005	Develop integrated water resource management and water efficiency plans. <i>Ref: Para. 26</i>	Water	Water, Biodiversity, Agriculture
2005	Further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management, based on the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000. <i>Ref: Para. 23b</i>	Chemicals	Health, Biodiversity, Agriculture
2005	Accelerate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action by countries and by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and intensify efforts on reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests, to contribute to an assessment of progress in 2005. <i>Ref: Para. 45g</i>	Forests	Biodiversity, Agriculture, Water, Climate, Trade, Energy
2005	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005. <i>Ref: Para. 120</i>	Education <i>Reaffirmation of Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All</i>	Poverty, Health, Energy
2005	Recommend to the UN General Assembly that it consider adopting a decade of education for sustainable development, starting in 2005. <i>Ref: Para. 124d</i>		Poverty, Health
2005/2010	Reduce HIV prevalence among young men and women aged 15-24 by 25 per cent in the most affected countries by 2005 and globally by 2010, as well as combat malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases. <i>Ref: Para. 55</i>	Health <i>Reaffirmation of General Assembly resolution</i>	Health, Poverty, Agriculture, Water, Biodiversity
2008	Encourage countries to implement the new globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals as soon as possible, with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008. <i>Ref: Para. 23c</i>	Chemicals	Health, Energy
2010	Encourage the application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach for the sustainable development of the oceans. <i>Ref: Para. 30d</i>	Oceans	Biodiversity, Agriculture
2010	Improve access by developing countries to alternatives to ozone-depleting substances by 2010, and assist them in complying with the phase-out schedule under the Montreal Protocol. <i>Ref: Para. 39d</i>	Health / Atmosphere	

2010	Achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity. Ref: Para. 44	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, Agriculture, Water, Health, Trade, Poverty, Energy, Climate Change
2010	Enhance health education with the objective of achieving improved health literacy on a global basis by 2010. Ref: Para. 54e	Education	Health
2012	Encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. Ref: Para. 15	Sustainable consumption and production.	Biodiversity, Agriculture, Water, Health, Trade, Poverty, Energy, Climate Change
2012	Develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, including the ecosystem approach, the elimination of destructive fishing practices, the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012. Ref: Para. 32c	Marine / Fisheries	Biodiversity, Agriculture, Trade
2015	Halve the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than \$1 a day Ref: Para. 7a	Poverty (MDG)	Poverty, Trade
2015	Half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger Ref: Para. 67	Agriculture	Water, Biodiversity, Health, Trade, SP&C
2015	Half the proportion of people without access to basic drinking water Ref: Para. 25/40a	Water	Biodiversity, Health,
2015	Half the proportion of people without adequate sanitation Ref: Para. 25	Water	Water, Health, Biodiversity
2015	On an urgent basis and where possible by 2015, maintain or restore depleted fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield. Ref: Para. 31a	Marine / Fisheries	Biodiversity, Health
2015	Reduce, by 2015, mortality rates for infants and children under 5 by two thirds, and maternal mortality rates by three quarters, of the prevailing rate in 2000 Ref: Para.54f	Poverty (MDG)	Health, Agriculture, Water, Energy
2015	Ensure that, by 2015, all children will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education relevant to national needs. Ref: Para. 62e/116a	Education	Health
2020	Aim to use and produce chemicals in ways that do not lead to significant adverse effects on human health and the environment Ref: Para. 23	Chemicals	Biodiversity, Water, Oceans, Health
2020	Achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, as proposed in the "Cities without slums" initiative Ref: Para. 11	Poverty (MDG)	Health, Water, Energy. Biodiversity

Key issues with no time bound targets

Renewable energy - Diversify energy supply and substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources in order to increase its contribution to total energy supply.

Access to Energy - Improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources, sufficient to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the goal of halving the proportion of people in poverty by 2015.

Energy Markets - Remove market distortions including the restructuring of taxes and the phasing out of harmful subsidies.

Support efforts to improve the functioning, transparency and information about energy markets with respect to both supply and demand, with the aim of achieving greater stability and to ensure consumer access to energy services.

Energy efficiency - Establish domestic programmes for energy efficiency with the support of the international community. Accelerate the development and dissemination of energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, including the promotion of research and development.

Corporate responsibility - Actively promote corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the full development and effective implementation of intergovernmental agreements and measures, international initiatives and public-private partnerships, and appropriate national regulations.

Institutional Framework for sustainable development - Adopt new measures to strengthen institutional arrangements for sustainable development at international, regional and national levels.

Enhance the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including through reviewing and monitoring progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and fostering coherence of implementation, initiatives and partnerships.

Facilitate and promote the integration of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development into the work programs UN regional commissions.

Establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system.

Jo Philips, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Mainstreaming Gender to Achieve the MDGs

The major UN conferences of the past decade resulted in setting a far-reaching global policy agenda. In particular it became widely accepted that promoting gender equality and women's empowerment is essential to human development and poverty eradication. However, implementation of this policy agenda has been elusive.

At the 2000 UN Millennium Summit, 189 governments reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development adopted the Millennium Declaration, which assures equal rights and opportunities for women as well as men. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of numerical and time-bound targets intended to improve living conditions and remedy key global imbalances by 2015, may offer a real mechanism for achieving sustainable development.

These eight goals have been subject to some criticism. The MDGs fail to adequately address the systemic inequities within the global economic system that undermine achieving the goals, and both the targets set for the and the indicator selected to measure progress are too few, too narrow, and won't necessarily achieve broader objectives such as poverty eradication.

further, the MDGs lack an explicit and systematic gender focus, limiting women's empowerment and gender equality to areas such as education, without any mention of its central role in poverty eradication and sustainable development. As UNDP estimates that women comprise two-thirds of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty, any attempt to alleviate poverty and achieve sustainability need to make gender equality a central focus. Yet this is not the case in the current MDG framework.

Among the eight goals, one is specifically dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment, another on maternal mortality. Other goals - dealing primarily with poverty eradication, health and sustainable development - are presented as gender neutral. The MDGs cannot be reached if the targets and indicators continue to lack their gender dimensions. It is also of particular concern that educational access is the sole target for gender equality.

With girls' education is critical to meeting the development goals, it alone does not address inequalities women face in other areas such as poverty eradication, health, governance and sustainable development. Additional indicators that go beyond education, such as division of labour by sex (ECLAC) and provisions to combat all forms of violence against women and to implement CEDAW (Millennium Declaration, Para. 25), should be included.

Each country will be issuing at least one national report on progress towards achieving the MDGs by 2005, and on an annual basis thereafter. We have already seen the dangerous marginalisation of gender in many country reports developed thus far, and a lack of necessary gender mainstreaming throughout each of the eight goals. Country reports from Mauritius and Poland, for example, only mention women and gender in the goals related to

gender equality and health, excluding any gender priorities in the goals of poverty eradication, education, environmental sustainability, and global partnerships. In addressing Goal 3, Tanzania, for example, only addresses gender in the context of education, confining itself to the sole and limiting target that the process has officially set forth.

Women's Engagement is Critical

In spite of these limitations, the MDGs offer enormous potential for women's rights advocates. The MDGs have broad support, as the 191 UN member states, UN agencies and international trade and financial institutions have pledged to achieve them by 2015. Additionally, the review and follow-up processes to UN Conferences and Summits of the past decade will focus extensively on achieving the goals, providing a critical opportunity to implement the commitments we've struggled to gain. But if this potential is to be realised, women need to get involved.

Some women's rights groups have already begun research, analysis, and advocacy around the MDG agenda, being critical of its shortcomings, while understanding its potential. We need to build on and expand these efforts if we are to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are central to achieving each goal. Women must set intermediary benchmarks at the national level in addition to those officially set forth. These benchmarks can be used to monitor progress by governments to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in each of the eight goals.

Expanding the indicators currently being promoted to measure progress on the MDGs and applying a broader gender lens to them is an important approach to mainstreaming gender throughout the goals. Many gender-sensitive indicators already exist-including those developed by UNDP, ECLAC, the World Bank and governmental commitments from United Nations world conferences, such as Beijing and Johannesburg-and have been used to measure progress of other UN agreements. In some instances, new indicators may need to be developed.

Women must also ensure that a gender review process takes place before each country report is completed, in order to ensure that gender is a central component of each goal. In monitoring country reports, we must assess where gender is included and excluded, as well as how it is mentioned. Gender scorecards can be used to monitor both gaps and progress, and can further assist the gender review process in mainstreaming gender throughout country reporting.

The success or failure of the MDGs depends on the needs and participation of the world's women. With a gender centred approach and sufficient political and financial will, the MDGs have the potential to advance equality, rights, and development.

For official information, visit www.un.org/millenniumgoals or www.undp.org/mdg.

Women's Environment & Development Organisation (WEDO)
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Secure & Equitable Access to Land (SEAL)

Food Security in the African Region

Securing access to agricultural land has been identified as one of the crucial factors in addressing the issue of food insecurity, facing about 1.2 billion people throughout the world, mostly in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Access and distribution of agricultural land in some communities in these regions is highly skewed towards a profit oriented approach at the expense of food production, by social and economic factors, thereby keeping many rural people in poverty and food insecurity.

This situation is resulting in land disputes and profiteering, allowing the affluent to have more opportunity and privilege to own and control land affairs than the less advantaged people in the community, usually women.

Objectives:

- To provide partners with opportunity for extensive comments and discussion on the overall goals of the partnership;
- To identify and develop a methodology for project identification;
- To identify further modalities for collaboration and working with other coalitions and networking partners;
- To galvanise interest in support of the long-term implementation of the WSSD Agreements pertaining to access to land.

Background

Secure and Equitable Access to Land (SEAL) is a collaborative partnership of Southern organisations for land and development, which was developed as part of the Food Security Issue at the Implementation Conference, hosted by Stakeholder Forum for Our Future (www.earthsummit2002.org/ic) prior to WSSD in Johannesburg (24-26th August 2002). The partnership has been

accepted as a WSSD Type 2 Sustainable Development Initiative for Africa: 'Access to Land in African Regions' further details of which can be found at www.johannesburgsummit.org/sustainable_dev/p2_sd_africa.html.

The Partnership involves countries of Africa and Asia (see the appendix a, attached) with facilitation and coordination support from Stakeholder Forum, UK (also a member of the partnership).

The partnership has expressed interest in holding a two-day follow-up meeting in Uganda to build upon outcomes arising from the three-day SEAL workshop at the Implementation Conference.

Raising over 250m poor people from the bottom of the poverty line in sub-Saharan Africa will require tremendous investment, in terms of ideas, strategies and resources. This includes increasing recognition of the invaluable role played by networking organisations in development and land sustainability.

SEAL, a South-South partnership of civil and academic organisations which recognises the importance of intra-Southern co-operation in promoting sustainable development, aims to facilitate the adoption and replication of Southern initiated projects on securing access to land towards poverty eradication and attainment of food security within Southern countries with similar climate and socio-political conditions.

SEAL is therefore a pragmatic networking partnership that is receptive and prepared to work with other networks in partnerships for development.

SEAL is not a duplication of other networking initiatives on land, it is a result of organisations agreement to develop a unique collaborative programme to strengthen the networking structure of civil society in Africa and to share the experience from other regions of Asia and Latin America. More than any other region, Africa urgently requires a pragmatic and programmatic approach to land development for food security.

Musa Salah and Claire Rhodes, msalah@earthsummit2002.org & crhodes@earthsummit2002.org

SIDE EVENTS

Implementation not Negotiation:

Driving Sustainable Development from the Community Level

Exemplifying the salience of moving from negotiation to implementation, 'A Partnership for Sustainable Communities in the Tropics' - an Equator Initiative Partnership Fair event, provided a valuable opportunity to demonstrate the extent to which action to deliver the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals is already well established at a

community level.

The Equator Initiative is a partnership that brings together the United Nations, government, civil society, business and foundations sectors to help build the capacity and raise the profile of the growing number of sustainable communities throughout the tropical developing countries in the equatorial belt.

Grassroots community-level development projects and small business ventures in the region are linking economic improvement and job creation with protecting the environment. The results range from sustainable forestry and fishing to organic agriculture and ecotourism. Sustainably harvested plants are being used to make a wide range of cosmetics, medicines, fabrics and other natural products. Using and conserving biological diversity are now part of the business bottom line for these thriving local enterprises.

Presentations by Equator Initiative partners outlined key aspects of its next 5 year work plan focused on supporting these sustainable communities, particularly:

- The biennial **Equator Prize**, planned to be next awarded during COP7 of the Convention on Biodiversity;
- **Learning exchange grants** to facilitate the exchange of best practice amongst grassroots practitioners;
- **Eco-entrepreneur mentoring** to provide business and financial advice for small sustainable business startups;
- Assisting **people and protected areas** where communities balance generating sustainable livelihoods with conserving the biodiversity in or near World Heritage Sites;
- **Enhancing the connection** between community representatives and political decision makers;
- Fostering **research and learning** to identify the ingredients for 'success' within an array of locally specific conditions.

Discussion was enriched by a presentation from community representatives and 2002 Equator Initiative Prize winners from the Caf  de la Selva initiative in Mexico - a chain of coffee shop that sells organic coffee grown by indigenous communities from Chiapas – who highlighted the extent to which the initiative has delivered significant benefits to the local community in all three pillars of sustainable development, particularly enhanced livelihood security through improved incomes for indigenous coffee farmers and thus reduced vulnerability to fluctuating socio-economic and political environments.

The event closed with an opportunity to reflect upon key elements of a sustainable partnership, highlighting the need for **shared vision and commitment, collaborative ownership, partner diversity, flexibility, good governance and mutual trust** – elements which although take time to establish provide the fundamental basis for driving collaborative action towards the attainment of both the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals.

Claire Rhodes, Stakeholder Forum

Resilient Communities & Cities

A Pillar of Sustainable Development

The event presented a partnership initiative “International Strategy for Disaster Reduction” organised by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), UN Habitat, UNESCO, UNEP, the International Centre for Sustainable Cities, and the Hairou Commission.

The event was introduced by illustrating the huge impact of natural disasters across the globe. Some 158 million people are impacted by natural disasters every year, as compared to 31 million impacted by conflict, a ratio of 5 : 1. Natural disasters have huge effects on people lives, including vast economic losses, devastation of infrastructure and natural resources, injury and loss of life. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction aims to tackle some of these problems through:

- Raising awareness about how to reduce the risk of disasters,

- Increasing the commitment of public authorities (local and national),
- Stimulating interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships and networks
- Improving scientific and technical knowledge

The principle objective of the initiative is “building resilient communities” through a partnership of UN bodies, local authorities and NGOs, and ultimately seeks to reduce the social and economic costs of disasters. The principle functions of the partnership will include: advocacy; UN coordination; information and knowledge management.

As a contribution to the initiative a representative from UN Habitat described the secretariat for the partnership – based in Geneva, Costa Rica and Kenya. There is also a Task Force on Disaster Reduction that involves UN regional bodies, as well as civil society groups, in: education programmes, building public commitment; environmental management policies; and risk assessment. UNESCO spoke about their part in the initiative, in its work to align multi-disciplinary dimensions of disaster management, assisting development of risk mitigation strategies, and establishing legal, political, institutional frameworks to develop disaster management plans.

UNEP followed with a presentation of the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APELL) process, within the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics. APELL produces guidelines, technical publications, workshops and seminars, assisting national authorities and industry bodies to develop tools for communities and cities, and put emergency service principles into practice.

The next partner, the International Centre for Sustainable Cities, described themselves as a “do tank” as opposed to a “think” tank. They presented some of their work in disaster management, such as the Turkish earthquake in 1999. The Centre brings together technical skills, theoretical ideas and on the ground action. They use demonstration models towards establishing long term sustainability in cities. Finally, the Huairou Commission outlined their work as a partnership of women organisations, government, academic groups and professionals aim to support women. Their experiences of disaster response in Turkey and India – have built capacity in local women groups such as learning about construction techniques to enable them to monitor reconstruction programmes, establishing housing co-operatives, building dialogues with local authorities, provision of credit facilities and primary schooling. The Huairou commission also linked up women’s groups in India and Turkey to exchange knowledge and experiences in tackling the aftermath of an earthquake.

The partnership session wrapped up by outlining the partnership’s future plans. It will run for the next four years. It will start by reviewing existing disaster management policy tools for local governments and communities – not only in terms of direct relief programmes but also investing in creating structures that are more resilient in the long term. It will aim to run some pilot projects in communities and develop methodological tools for the local government community – joining institution and community learning.

ISDR website – www.unisdr.org

Rosalie Gardiner, Stakeholder Forum

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

CHAIR

David Hales & Gwen Malangwu

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS

Henrique Cavalcanti, Jaun Mayr, Bedrich Moldan, Mustafa Toulba, Simon Upton

STAFF

Felix Dodds *Executive Director*; Rosalie Gardiner *Head of Policy & Research*; Toby Middleton *Head of Communications*; Georgina Ayre *UNED UK Co-ordinator*; Minu Hemmati *Consultant*; Robert Whitfield *MSP Programme Co-ordinator*; Rebecca Abrahams *Kiev 2003 Adviser*; Beth Hiblin *International Administrator*; Hamid Houshidar *Finance Officer*; Aretha Moore *Personal Coordinator to the Director*; Trevor Rees *Kiev 2003 Project Co-ordinator*; Gordon Baker *Project Co-ordinator*; Michael Burke *Project Co-ordinator*; Prabha Choubina *Connections*; Irene Gerlach *Project Co-ordinator*; Claire Rhodes *Project Co-ordinator*

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Action Canada for Population and Development *Zonny Woods*; ANPED *Pieter van der Gaag*; Arab Network for Environment & Development *Emad Adly*; Baha'i International Community *Peter Adriance*; CIVICUS *Kumi Naidoo*; Centre for Science & Environment *Sunita Narain*; Centro de Estudios Ambientales *Maria Onestini*; Commonwealth Women's Network *Hazel Brown*; Consumer Research Action & Information Centre *Rajat Chauduri*; Development Alternatives *Ashok Khosla*; Formerly Dutch Government *Herman Verheij*; Eco Accord *Victoria Elias*; Environment and Development Action (Maghreb) *Magdi Ibrahim*; Environment Liaison Centre International *Barbara Gemmill*; Huairou Commission *Jan Peterson*; European Rio+10 Coalition *Raymond van Ermen*; Friends of the Earth Scotland *Kevin Dunion* International Chamber of Commerce *Jack Whelan*; International Confederation of Free Trade Unions *Lucien Royer*; International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives *Konrad Otto-Zimmerman*; International Council for Social Welfare *Nigel Tarling*; International Institute for Environment and Development *Nigel Cross*; International Institute for Sustainable Development *Kimo Langston James Goree VI*; International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture *Linda Elswick*; IUCN *Scott Hajost*; International Union of Local Authorities *Jeremy Smith*; Leadership for Environment & Development *Julia Marton-Lefèvre*; Liaison Committee of Development NGOs to the EU *Daphne Davies*; Justice & Sustainability Associates *Mencer Donahue Edwards*; Participatory Research in Asia *Rajesh Tandon*; Peace Child International *David Woolcombe*; Poptel Worldwide *Malcolm Corbett*; Stockholm Environment Institute *Johannah Bernstein*; South Africa Foundation *Neil van Heerden*; Stakeholder Forum *Derek Osborn*; Stakeholder Forum *Margaret Brusasco Mackenzie*; UNA UK/ WFUNA *Malcolm Harper*; UN Environment Programme *Klaus Töpfer*; Women's Environment and Development Organisation *June Zeitlin*; World Business Council for Sustainable Development *Claude Fussler*; World Information Transfer *Claudia Strauss*; World Resources Institute *Jonathan Lash*; WWF International *Gordon Shepherd*.

DIARY

10.00 - 11.30	Comments by Major Groups on the Chairman's Draft. Conference Room 1
10.00 - 11.25	Partnerships for Small Island Development States. Conference Room B
11.30 - 12.10	UNIDO Initiative on Technology Transfer. Conference Room B
11.30 - 1.00	Delegations Study the Chair's Draft. Conference Room 1
12.15 - 12.55	African Regional Centre for Infectious Diseases. Conference Room B
1.15 - 2.45	Initiative to Set-up the Forum for African Civil Society on Sustainable Development. Conference Room B
1.15 - 2.45	Coherence & Coordination of Higher Education and Science & Technology for Sustainable Human Development. Conference Room 6
1.15 - 2.45	Civil Society Resources from the WSSD Process. Conference Room 4
3.00 - 3.40	Presentation on Connectivity & Development, Innovative Learning in Water. Conference Room B
3.00 - 6.00	Delegations Study the Chair's Draft. Conference Room TBA
3.45 - 4.25	Secure & Equitable Access to Land (SEAL) Partnership. Conference Room B
4.30 - 5.10	Educating for Sustainability: The Promise of the Earth Charter & the UN Decade of Education for SD. Conference Room B
5.15 - 5.15	Launching the Global Lead Initiative. Conference Room B

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