



WOMEN'S ACTION AGENDA FOR A HEALTHY PLANET 2002 (WAA2002)
PRELIMINARY DRAFT
OCTOBER 23, 2001

Each of the ten themes elaborated in this preliminary draft begin with an overview, followed by possible solutions and end with benchmarks and mechanisms:

Theme 1: Governance and Sustainable Development

Theme 2: Globalisation and the Claim for Transparency and Accountability in the Institutions of the Global System

Theme 3: Socio-Environmental Dimensions of Conflicts and the Arms Race; Role Of Women In Peace Building

Theme 4: Tensions between the Free Market Ideology and Sustainable Production and Consumption Goals

Theme 5: Women's Right to Access and Control Over Global Public Goods

Theme 6: Women's Sexual And Reproductive Health and Rights and the Environment

Theme 7: Environmental Security: Protecting The Health of Present and Future Generations

Theme 8: Protection of Biodiversity, Indigenous Knowledge and Resources

Theme 9: Gender Dimension of Sustainable Cities

Theme 10: Gaps and Opportunities in Education, Communication and Information Technologies

THEME 1: GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A. Overview

1. Good governance systems are built on (1) democracy and participation as the foundation of legitimacy in all democratic systems—transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency, responsiveness to the need of all stakeholders; (2) the rule of law, and gender equity. Good governance puts people first. It is indispensable for building peaceful, prosperous and democratic societies.

2. Through nine chapters, Agenda 21 formally introduced the concept of major groups or key stakeholders in society. It recognised the need to engage these stakeholders in the development, implementation and monitoring of the global agreements. Through the 1990s, the reform packages that have had impact on the UN and global governance have nearly all been accompanied by an increase in the role and responsibilities of stakeholders. The number of ECOSOC recognized NGOs has risen from 4 in 1946, to 928 in 1992, to 1519 in 1998 (Dodds 2001).

3. Women make up 52 percent of the world population. Governance is not gender-neutral; “the discourse, procedures, structures and functions of governance remain heavily skewed in favour of men in general, and certain groups of men in particular” (Ashworth 1996). Women’s participation in governance structures has been limited to a minority number of women actually holding decision-making positions. Women make up 12.7 percent of government; among government ministers, they make up just over 14 percent, with only 9.4 percent in the legal area and less than 5 percent in economic, political and executive positions.

4. Governments have pledged, in a number of international agreements, to make women’s empowerment and gender equity a priority. The UN has designated a representation rate of 30 percent as the ‘critical mass’ required to maintain the impetus to truly equal, 50/50 representation. Some countries have reported outstanding progress in this area, but measurable data on governmental efforts to increase the proportion of women in decision-making on sustainable development is quite limited. The general lack of gender-disaggregated data does not allow for adequate assessments.

5. Clearly, the issue of women’s participation in sustainable development cannot be divorced from the issue of women’s participation in government as a whole. It is a critical element of Chapter 24 of Agenda 21 with governments being called upon to take steps in a range of areas including: increasing the number and proportion of women involved in decision making for sustainable development; strengthening of government institutions that systematically bring a gender perspective to government policymaking; strengthening NGO capacity; and strengthening gender-sensitive approaches to research, data collection and dissemination.

6. Misogynistic views have been at the core of discrimination against women. Women have been consistently excluded from governance structures, across history and across societies. However, it is important to note that women are not the only group that has been under-represented. Many governance systems have been based on the dominance of one or a few social groups. Such dominance structures continue to cause suffering and conflict. Conflict will not build peace. It will not create justice. It will not be a path to sustainable development in a global, peaceful and diverse society. Equal participation of women and gender justice are key components of the *“vision of a new just and humane order in which all peoples, regardless of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, physicalities(?), class, age, and ethnicity can live and produce together in harmony, mindful of today’s and future generations”* (Abzug 1996, p6). Illiteracy and poverty are fundamental problems that prevent women’s full engagement in civic participation, but there are also barriers relating to childcare needs, meeting hours and appropriate transportation, even in developed countries.

7. The benefits of globalisation have not been equitably shared. Gaps between rich and poor are widening between and within nations, and environmental degradation is proliferating in many areas. Laws, conventions, treaties, institutions, and other mechanisms have not developed in a coordinated manner and have not led to the coherent system of global governance needed as a base for sustainable development. Many citizens around the world do not understand why, despite existing agreements and a growing urgency to address our common problems, the world is continuing to stumble further into crises of insecurity, inequity and injustice. While many viable solutions have been identified, there is a lack of a commonly owned vision of the future of humankind and life on planet Earth, and a lack of joint political will, courage and appropriate mechanisms to implement such a vision.

8. The emergence of new formations of power and social transformation, such as corporations and NGOs, are having an impact on the policy decisions of national governments, and hence the lives of ordinary citizens. The rights of citizens, especially second and third generation rights regarding economic opportunity and healthy environments, are no longer guaranteed solely by the conventional units of political organization and engagement, such as the State. These can only be adequately dealt with by re-examining the fundamental premises of the current system of global governance.

9. The rise of TNCs has put unprecedented, concentrated power into the hands of a few, who are mostly men, and mostly based in the industrialised countries. Liberalisation of the global economy and deregulation of financial markets has led to the exclusion of large segments of global society from political and economic decision-making (see Theme 2). Many entities within the private sector do not yet take the post-Rio agenda seriously. Discussions about the role of the private sector in sustainable development often result in a rather useless 'chain of blame' discourse, naming shareholders (for short-term profit-mindedness), consumers (for the lack of demand), governments (for failure to create incentives and disincentives), and intergovernmental institutions (for lack of coordination and streamlining).

10. NGOs have increasingly operated globally, benefiting from the development of new information and communication technologies, and their access to the media. NGOs have considerable influence through generating public awareness and consumer pressure, and within policy-making processes at various levels. International women's networks have been actively engaged in the cycle of UN Conferences and Summits in the 1990s and play an important part in monitoring the implementation of agreements. Discussions on the role of NGOs have recently focussed on their legitimacy, accountability, and transparency. Large parts of the NGO community have recognised the need to provide information on who they represent, what the bases of their recommendations are, and how they operate.

11. In many areas a tri-sectoral approach is being used and advocated, which identifies governments and intergovernmental bodies, the private sector, and civil society as key stakeholders. Within such a framework, 'civil society' comprises all non-government and non-business stakeholders, such as women, youth, trade unions, Indigenous Peoples, scientists, etc. Thus, a tri-sectoral approach reflects the realities of power. However, governance systems based on such an approach will not serve the fundamental principles of diversity and equity.

12. Suggestions for further development of international governance have included, for example, a People's Assembly to the United Nations, or a UN Parliamentary Assembly, both with advisory functions. At the same time, UN bodies have been experimenting with various forms of stakeholder involvement, such as the Stakeholder Dialogues at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, or NGO participation within the board of UNAIDS. As a result, mechanisms of participation vary quite widely—from 'traditional' lobbying of accredited stakeholder representatives to stakeholder dialogues to involvement of NGOs in monitoring government performance (eg reporting to the CEDAW Committee). National level examples include the National Council for Sustainable Development, and at the local level, Local Agenda 21 processes have significantly increased stakeholder involvement (see Theme 9). However, many mechanisms are not formalised and not sufficiently funded. Thus, participation often remains highly unpredictable and inequitable, and does not automatically lead to involvement in decision-making.

13. Multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs) have emerged as an important tool. They are processes which ideally aim to bring together all major stakeholders in new forms of communication, decision-finding and possibly decision-making on a particular issue; recognize the unique contributions of all stakeholders; involve equitable representation; are based on democratic principles of transparency and accountability; and aim to develop partnerships and strengthen networks among stakeholders. MSPs cover a wide spectrum of structures and levels of engagement. They can comprise dialogues, or grow into processes encompassing consensus building, decision-making and implementation. There is an increasing number of examples of such processes at all levels. However, women's participation has, in many cases, not been a priority. For example, the CSD Stakeholder Dialogues since 1998 have not included women as a distinct group, expecting the NGO group to incorporate the views of women and Indigenous Peoples.

14. Current global institutions are not adequate to meet the challenge of sustainable development as they mostly respond to crisis and short-term political needs rather than long-term threats. There is a serious imbalance in international institutions covering the three interlinked issues of trade, environment and sustainable development. The multiplicity of environmental bodies, conventions and agreements creates confusion and risks of institutional conflict.

B. Possible Solutions

15. The root causes of the striving for dominance and privilege, disregard for the needs of others, unwillingness to change, and short-sightedness, are barriers to good governance and sustainable development. Existing dominance structures need to be overcome. Equal participation of all citizens, interest groups, stakeholders, creeds, and nations is key to global and gender justice.

16. We need a concrete and lively common vision of sustainable development and gender justice, based on a shared set of values. Much of that has been set out in the Rio Principles and other international agreements. To fill the gap between vision and reality we need strategic, co-ordinated approaches. The 'chain of blame' regarding the lack of implementation of the sustainable development agreements can only be broken by a joint, concerted effort from us all.

17. New systems of governance should therefore fully engage all stakeholders, and partnerships are a critical tool. Stakeholders should be able to enjoy their rights of participation, and should be challenged to fulfil their responsibilities in the implementation of change. The Earth Summit 2002 process offers an opportunity to review mechanisms of stakeholder participation and collaboration. They may comprise a variety of mechanisms, ranging from consultation to dialogue to partnership and involvement in the decision making process to implementing, monitoring and evaluating. Participation needs to be founded on clearly defined principles (transparency, collaboration, learning, equity, flexibility), ground rules (for communication, procedures, agenda and issues of process, facilitation, reporting) and objectives (outputs such as report, actions plans, impact on (inter)governmental processes). Meaningful participation requires active support from the facilitating body, including ensuring equitable access to information (including policy-based, technical and scientific data), justice, funds, capacity building, and training, in addition to creating the space for participation in decision-making and implementing.

18. Governments are responsible for the framework in which corporations operate. Existing voluntary corporate social responsibility mechanisms present notable steps forward but are insufficient because they fail to raise the standards of all companies. Regulatory and legal frameworks to promote socially and environmentally responsible corporate investment and reinvestment in, and partnership with, local communities, as called for in the Habitat Agenda, need to be put in place. In addition, business executives will need to show true, service-oriented leadership, develop entrepreneurial approaches to sustainable development, and overcome the narrow, profit-minded orientation of their operations.

19. NGOs at all levels need to address issues of their own legitimacy, transparency and accountability. Mechanisms of publishing information about their operations and constituencies, reporting, and evaluation should be developed within the NGO community and in collaboration with other stakeholders.

20. Earth Summit 2002 offers an opportunity for aligning sustainable development goals to trade, FDI, debt and aid by placing the trade agenda squarely on the scoring sheet of achievements (see theme 4), thereby adding to the potential for more meaningful agreements and decisions. Integration of, and linkages between, the three pillars of sustainability should be reflected in all policy-making processes. The agendas of many relevant meetings, such as the CSD, have been narrow, focusing on only a few topics. While this allows for in-depth consideration and discussion, it has failed to highlight the critical linkages between and across all of these issues. Priority consideration should be given to these inter-linkages and crosscutting concerns of gender equality, poverty eradication and environmental justice.

21. Options for addressing the lack of integration include: the upgrading of UNEP; writing sustainable development into the operating guidelines of the international financial institutions; maximizing the usefulness of multi-lateral environment agreements (MEAs) by fully integrating them into the development planning processes at all levels; clustering MEAs and their institutions; and effectively addressing the current shortcomings in compliance with international commitments. The reporting functions of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its links to corollary Commissions should be strengthened. Joint Commission meetings at Ministerial level could create significant synergies.

22. Effective gender analysis reflects the correct information on how resources are allocated between men and women, highlights constraints imposed by women's socially-constructed and confined roles, and proposes women-empowering policies. Assessments and indicators that address the key factors and directly relate to people's everyday lives can be powerful instruments to raise awareness and change behaviour. Gender is a high-impact category with regard to, for example: income level; education; power / decision-making; access to credit; division of labour; and access to, ownership and control of natural resources. Information on gender equity must be covered by any set of indicators aiming to

capture the state of sustainable development. Social monitoring must be integrated into environmental monitoring in order to achieve sustainable development monitoring.

23. Gender mainstreaming policies and procedural rules need to be integrated into the work of all government departments, and adequate monitoring mechanisms should be established. Strategies towards gender balance in governance and sustainable development include: affirmative action programs; awareness-raising, capacity-building, education and training of women and men; evaluating sustainable development institutions for gender balance and evidence of concern about gender issues; sharing good practices at all levels; overcoming women's apathy and lack of understanding of government processes with innovative types of outreach; guiding young women towards careers as decision-makers in sustainable development; establishing joint women and environment task forces within each primary institution of ecosystem management. All such efforts must be backed by adequate funding and support, and should be monitored and evaluated for effectiveness and replicability.

24. Stakeholder participation in policy-making and implementation needs to be further developed. Governments and intergovernmental bodies need to operate on the basis of a consistent, predictable, and transparent framework. Multi-stakeholder processes should be further developed and defined through experimentation and sharing and analyzing of experiences. They provide an appropriate format, if properly managed and resourced. A tri-sectoral approach should be avoided. [Is further elaboration necessary?]. Participation of women as a distinct stakeholder group needs to be ensured, based on a critical analysis of the gender aspects of the issues addressed.

C. Mechanisms and Benchmarks

25. Governments, intergovernmental bodies and all stakeholders need to employ the above-mentioned strategies towards implementation of Agenda 21 / Chapter 24. A gender review of the current CSD set of indicators should be carried out and a revised version should be produced. A consistent comparable reporting methodology should be instituted within the UN system and should be implemented by the year 2004 to allow tracking over time of women in decision-making roles on sustainable development in countries worldwide. Such mechanisms should be promoted among national governments and stakeholders. Progress should be reviewed within the sustainable development process every 5 years, using a common framework.

26. Based on existing agreements that recognise the need for stakeholder involvement, the international governmental community should begin a process to further develop appropriate mechanisms of stakeholder involvement. A common, yet flexible, framework for stakeholder participation should be developed by 2004. Earth Summit 2002 could agree on a process for review and further development of participation resulting in options put to the UN General Assembly.

27. Integrating stakeholder participation in all mechanisms of implementation that Earth Summit 2002 might agree will be a crucial tool. This would concern, for example, a "Global Compact / Global Partnership" (RSA Minister Valli Moosa, Sept 2001) for implementation of the Millennium Declaration targets; and needs to be an integral part of a "global deal" of whatever form and shape (UN ECE PrepComm, Sept 2001).

28. A trust fund should be created to enable meaningful participation of all stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries and countries in transition and women.

29. The Earth Summit 2002 process should initiate (and, by 2005, complete) negotiations on a global corporate accountability and liability convention, balancing the power of corporations with citizens' and workplace rights and securing effective compliance with multi-lateral environmental and social agreements.

30. Civil society organisations such as NGOs, women's groups, youth organisations, etc. should engage in a process of developing a code of conduct for NGOs to create common mechanisms of transparency and accountability.

Notes

(1) Governance: 1: Exercise of authority; direction; control 2: manner or system of government or regulation' (Webster Dictionary 1992: 420). 'Governance is the sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs' (Commission on Global Governance 1995, p2).

(2) Stakeholders are those who have an interest in a particular decision, either as individuals or representatives of a group). This includes people who influence a decision, or can influence it, as well as those affected by it.

THEME 2: GLOBALISATION AND THE CLAIM FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

A. Overview

1. 'Globalisation' has become a catch-all term used to refer to changes in every category of human endeavour, from science to commerce, religion to culture, and from politics to media. In all those areas human interactions are increasingly interrelated, mutually interactive and occurring at a global level. In terms of its economic dimension, globalisation entails a movement towards a world economy characterized by free trade, free mobility of both financial and real capital, and rapid diffusion of products, technologies, information and consumption patterns.

2. The defining agenda motivating the current policies governing economic globalisation, known generally as the "Washington Consensus", is to integrate the world's national economies into a single borderless global economy in which goods, services and capital can flow freely in response to market forces with minimal governmental interference. Based on the premises of increased efficiency and the rule of law, the current policies seek the privatisation of public services and assets, as well as strengthened safeguards for investors and private property.

3. The simplest but yet most compelling argument in favour of globalisation is the idea that it enables resources to be used where they are most productive. However evidence shows that national economies must be capable of continually adjusting themselves to changing conditions of the world economy before they can reap the economic benefits associated with globalisation. Labour market flexibility, casualisation and informalisation of employment, and proliferation of what are variably called atypical, precarious or contingent jobs are some of the terms commonly used to describe the salient aspects of these changes.

4. The Washington Consensus is increasingly being challenged, most dramatically in December 1999 when over 50,000 trade unionists, NGOs and religious communities organized massive protests at the World Trade Organization Conference in Seattle criticizing both the prevailing policies of WTO and the general assumptions and trends of globalisation. Since Seattle, protests have been organized at the World Economic Forums in Melbourne and Davos; the IMF/World Bank meetings in Washington and Prague; the European Union Summit in Nice and Gotteborg [Göteborg?]; the G8 meetings in Okinawa, Windsor and recently in Genoa.

5. These protests focussed world attention on the fact that globalisation has increased poverty, violence, crime and environmental degradation. Today more than 1.3 billion people live on less than \$1 per day and 3 billion people live on less than \$2 per day, 800 million people are malnourished, 1.3 billion people live without clean water, 2 billion people live without sanitation, 2 billion people lack electricity, and 1.4 billion people are exposed to dangerous levels of outdoor air pollution. These unfulfilled needs for a clean and healthy environment cause millions of people to die prematurely each year.

6. As a matter of fact, approximately ten years after the Earth Summit in Rio, a number of global environmental problems are growing more severe. These global environmental problems include climate change, loss of biological diversity, land degradation and desertification, deforestation and forest degradation, pollution of fresh and marine waters, depletion of stratospheric ozone, and accumulation of persistent organic pollutants. The Earth currently is approaching the point where its physical and biological systems may not be able to meet human demands for environmental goods and services, threatening the ability of nations to meet their people's needs for adequate food and clean water, energy supplies, safe shelter, and a healthy environment.

7. Another questioned dimension of unlimited globalisation is the lack of transparency and democratic accountability, the rise of crime, corruption and terrorism. It is crucial to ensure that the institutions governing economic globalisation are democratically accountable and financially transparent. Annual currency trading is 10 times the global GNP and 82 percent of all foreign trade exchange occurs in transactions among eight countries. As economic crises of the 90s have demonstrated, speculation on financial capitals can be devastating for national economies. The prevailing international institutions, most especially the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are facing increased scrutiny and call for reform. There is a similar and growing debate on how to make the United Nations system more effective and relevant to international challenges. There are also calls for the creation of new institutions at the global level however with scarce realistic response.

8. The gender effects of economic globalisation have varied in different countries according to their socio-economic structure and particular form of integration within the world economy. They have re-

sulted in falling fertility rates, rising educational attainment of women, increasing urbanization and changing family structures. Research has shown that globalisation increases women's multiple responsibilities in paid and unpaid work. The failure of governments to integrate women's unpaid work in national accounting systems and intergovernmental organizations to formulate and evaluate trade policies from a gender perspective has exacerbated women's economic inequity. Women comprise 70% of the 1.3 billion absolutely poor. [explain limited public services and limited access to/control over public resources?]

9. Generally speaking, women's employment has steadily increased during the last two decades around the world. However large differences continue to persist with respect to the quality, conditions and pay of female and male work. During financial crisis in the 1990s, women were called to be the safety net for their families when all other forms of social security had failed.

10. In terms of governance, women continue to be grossly underrepresented both at the national level and in international institutions. Women are also underrepresented in trade organizations. In 1999 among the 159 trade policy experts selected at the WTO, 147 were men and 12 were women. [should all this data be included in theme 1, instead?]

B. Possible Solutions

11. The international community should use the opportunities presented by the Summit process and the increased awareness of the need for global security, which can only rest on justice and equity. Mobilization of women in different areas of representation including civil society, have substantially increased with the spread of globalisation. This trend should be strengthened as women got used to expressing their voices in intergovernmental international meetings.

12. The process of globalisation has given greater impetus to women's participation in the market economy, a trend that should also be stimulated and expanded. Women-owned businesses comprise between 20 and 30 percent of the global business population and are fast becoming a global economic force¹. Governments and bankers have found that women who own their own businesses are more likely than men to repay their loans and to invest profits in their families and communities. In 1999, women-owned businesses in the U.S. employed some 27.5 million people—nearly twice the combined number of employees at the 50 biggest corporations in the world. Micro-credit programs have become one of the key strategies for addressing women's poverty [not all work well; please ask Janice/WEDO to comment]. Government programs to increase women's access to credit have been established in many countries, including the U.S., the United Kingdom, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa and Uganda. However, women in formal employment and self-employment often end up with a multitude of tasks inside and outside the home, creating working hours of 70 to 90 hours per week, and more. Policies aiming to increase women's engagement in paid labour need to be complemented by policies aiming to alleviate the unpaid work load in the household and family (eg facilities for child care and elderly; engaging men in household and family tasks; etc).

C. Mechanisms and Benchmarks

13. The low presence of women in the formulation and execution of environmental policy and their under-representation in decision-making bodies leads to the lack of gender concerns in sustainability efforts. We encourage that, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, governments provide adequate financial, technical and in kind resources for implementing programs and projects oriented to enhance women's participation.

14. Poverty eradication measures and specific attention to gender specific concerns are very urgent. The international development targets need to be broken down into short-term targets and urgently pursued. Many Developing Countries lack the financial capacity to meet this challenge, thus the International Community, particularly bilateral agencies, multilateral financing institutions and international organizations, should support country efforts in this direction. Free and fair trade (see theme 4), re-negotiation or alleviation of debt, and increased official assistance, bearing in mind the accepted United Nations target of 0.7% of GNP of developed countries (of which 0.15% should be for Least Developed Countries), are components of such support. Economic assistance measures need to be designed in

¹ According to the Progress of the World's Women 2000 issued by UNIFEM (www.unifem.undp.org)

such a way that they do not undermine the long-term financial and economic stability of a recipient country.

15. Review of the United Nations “Indicators for Social Aspects of Sustainable Development”, reveals that few of these are gender specific, for example, giving only the overall unemployment rate rather than gender disaggregated labour force participation rates. As countries continue work programs on economic and social development of the broader range of environmental indicators, they must ensure a gender analysis as part of this review.² [this theme is partly covered in theme 1, should it be addressed fully in only one of them?] There is a need for comprehensive analysis of gender aspects of globalisation and that information should be made available broadly.

16. The idea of global taxation and regulation through a currency transaction tax should urgently be pursued. The Johannesburg process should build on efforts that are already been crafted in other fora towards developing an internationally co-ordinated policy response that would be an important step forward, particularly in terms of advances in intergovernmental co-operation, global governance, global and corporate citizenship. [Are more detailed suggestions required on the transparency and accountability of international financial institutions?]

THEME 3: SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS OF CONFLICTS AND THE ARMS RACE; ROLE OF WOMEN IN PEACE BUILDING

A. Overview

1. We are convinced that violence can never be compatible with sustainable development. The struggles for power, which are taking place in many regions of the world nowadays, at local, national and international levels, lead up to tremendous personal loss, grief, fear and uncertainty. Organized violence against and between groups of people often take the form of armed conflict. International humanitarian laws are systematically ignored, leading up to massive violations of human rights in the form of genocide and ethnic cleansing.

2. It is not only bilateral power struggles or the interests of specific groups (such as drugs mafia or fundamentalists) behind many of the conflicts, but also international political relationships (power blocks) and the existence of the industrial military/arms complex and interests.

3. The consequences of these conflicts for communities and society at large are enormous, effecting the civilian population, especially women, children, the elderly and the disabled. Civilian victims, mostly women and children, often outnumber casualties among combatants. In communities women and girls are particularly affected because of their status in society and their sex. They suffer violence, displacement, loss of home and property, poverty, family separation, loss or involuntary disappearances of relatives, murder, and terrorism. As a tactic of war, women are often victims of rape, forced prostitution and forced pregnancy. Lifelong social, economic and psychological traumas are major long-term consequences.

4. Among the increasing numbers of refugees and involuntary displaced people, the majority are women, adolescent girls and children.

5. As a result of conflicts, women often become the sole managers of households, sole parents, and caretakers for elderly or injured combatants. In the midst of conflict and collapse of communities, the role of women in preserving social order is crucial. Refugee, displaced and migrant women often display strength, endurance and resourcefulness. Notwithstanding these roles and tasks, women’s priorities in countries suffering from armed violence continue to be largely marginalized.

² The Women’s Caucus of the CSD has previously suggested that a comprehensive effort for 2002 should be conducted to measure progress. They have pointed to the utility of the Human Development Report’s (HDR) two gender-related indices, the Gender Development Index (GDI) and the Gender Empowerment Measure, provide useful and up-to-date data. The GDI is based on the Human Development Index (HDI) that measures the average achievements in a country in the basis of three dimensions, namely longevity, knowledge and real GDP per capita. The GDI takes account of inequality in HDI achievement between the sexes. The GEM aims to evaluate whether women are able to actively participate in key areas, namely the economic, social, political. GDI focuses on capabilities and conditions, while GEM is rather concerned with their use for full participation. It is critical that these indices be integrated with the sustainable development indicators to more fully take gender into account

6. The environmental consequences of armed conflicts are serious obstacles for maintaining peace and building sustainable development. Not only can environmental stress and scarcity form an important cause behind the occurrence of conflicts, but bombing and the use of land mines cause a direct destruction of forests, land, and water systems. Spraying with toxic chemicals has a devastating effect on ecosystems, as the Vietnam war showed us. Also, the effects of military bases can be enormous, as the “Kelly Syndrome” showed.³ Widespread fires cause a lot of destruction, and deliberate pollution of water resources is a devastating war tactic, effecting communities and the environment.

7. Nuclear warfare, its production (including uranium mining) and testing have the most dangerous effects on people and their livelihoods. Atomic weapons tests conducted in the 1950s and 1960s all together are estimated to have put some 100 to 1,000 times more radioactive material into the atmosphere than the Chernobyl accident, which put 400 times more radioactive material into the earth’s atmosphere than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. In the era of the biological revolution the threat of biological warfare is real, but by many ignored.

8. Due to the demand for energy, food and shelter, the pressure on natural resources in areas where refugees are settling often increases enormously, causing conflicts over resources with the local population. In times of conflict, management of land and natural resources often is impossible, increasing erosion and land depletion.

9. Minerals and other natural resources, such as diamonds and timber, as well as poaching, are used to finance conflicts and the purchase of arms. In some cases armed conflicts have resulted in the opening up of preserved natural areas; in others the exploitation in these areas stopped due to the too dangerous situations.

10. The arms race and increased military spending (military industrial complex) to more than \$800 billion per year have a negative impact on sustainable development. This happens, not only due to direct effects from the use of conventional and advanced weapons (and anti-weapons systems), but also because of the major investments required, which suck vital human and financial resources away from pressing social, educational and industrial needs. People living in poverty are most affected by military spending, because of the lack in investment in basic services. The after-war consequences for communities are enormous, for example through the more than 100 million anti-personnel landmines scattered in 64 countries in the world.

B. Possible Solutions

11. Peace building and peace education should be recognized as major elements of sustainable development.

12. An increased international effort is needed among nations, NGOs and the United Nations to call a halt to the arms race and the actual and potential conflicts of the world. Women’s organizations consider the reduction of military spending and trade, and control of the availability of armaments to be an essential prerequisite to true sustainable development.

13. International agreements that regulate the arms race and that protect humanitarian rights should be ratified and implemented by every nation in the world. Amongst these are: the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (1949), and its additional protocols (1977) that provide that women should especially be protected against any attack on their honour, in particular against humiliation and degrading treatment, rape, enforced prostitution or any form of indecent assault. As the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, 1995, decided; “violations of human rights of women in situations of armed conflicts are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law.” The lives of women and their families have to be protected in situations of armed and other conflicts, and the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations should be reduced.

14. Women across the world are already at the forefront of many peace efforts.⁴ At grassroots and community levels women have organized to resist militarisation, and to create space for dialogue and

³ “Kelly Syndrome”: used to identify those affected by pollutants from the Kelly Air Force Base, widespread among residents of North Kelly gardens (NKG) in USA; characterized by neurological, developmental, respiratory, muscular, liver and kidney disorders, and a drastic deterioration in quality of life.

⁴ Examples are: the Sudanese Women’s Voice for Peace (SWVP); Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe in Rwanda; the Soldiers’ Mothers’ Committee in Russia; the Saturday Women of Istanbul in Turkey; the Northern Ireland Women’s Coalition; the National Union of Guatemalan Women; Khemara or Cambodian Women; the Liberain

moderation. The role that women play in maintaining social security at the community level, and in contributing positively to regions or countries of resettlement, or to their countries of origin on their return, should be internationally recognized.

15. Predominantly male leaders of the fighting parties negotiate an end to war and lay the foundations of peace. However, women want to be appropriately involved in decisions that affect them and represented in decision-making. They have begun to play an important role in conflict resolution, peace-keeping and defence and foreign affairs mechanisms. Women's commitment to peace remains critical to ensuring the sustainability of peace and peace agreements signed by political and military factions.

C. Mechanisms and Benchmarks

16. Major efforts should be made to guarantee equal access and full participation by women in power structures (in which they are still underrepresented), and their full (and respected) participation and involvement in conflict resolution at decision-making levels.

17. Peace education, starting at an early age, and fostering a culture of peace that upholds justice, tolerance and sustainable development for all nations and peoples, is essential for lasting peace; and should therefore be integrated in all educational systems. Non-violent forms of conflict resolution and women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace should be promoted.

18. Programmes that strengthen the leadership and peace-making skills of women in all phases of the conflict and peace continuum should be promoted. Capacity building of women and NGOs to influence peace negotiations at community and national levels, and the networking and dialogue among women leaders should be supported.

19. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of peace building and keeping are needed, as well as into relief and rehabilitation programmes. Before decisions are made, an analysis should be made of the effects on women and men respectively. Data collection of the gender differentiated impacts of conflicts and peace building is needed.

20. The relationship between the social and physical consequences of conflicts should get specific attention at national and international levels and amongst the military system. Environmental impacts that affect the livelihoods of people should become visible and be prevented.

THEME 4: TENSIONS BETWEEN THE FREE MARKET IDEOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION GOALS

A. Overview

1. The free market system, including forces of production and consumption, supports human well-being and economic stability but also contributes to environmental degradation, resource scarcities, and the inequitable distribution of wealth and power. Free market forces, left unchecked, contribute to the inequitable distribution of means of food production, support existing power structures, and encourage over-consumption that contributes to pollution and to resource scarcities. Free trade is not the same as fair or sustainable trade.

2. Excessive focus on economic efficiency, including minimizing costs and maximizing profits, can lead producers to ignore the effects of their decisions on workers, the poor, and the environment. Externalities such as pollution and equity are ignored unless specific incentives are provided to ensure that such factors are considered. Many of these externalities are difficult to measure, and dealing with them may be costly.

3. Large national and trans-national corporations have developed under the free market system. Such corporations wield tremendous influence over the use of resources, distribution of wealth, and the quality of the environment, but are internally controlled and generally not responsive to civil society. Women are significantly underrepresented in corporate decision-making.

4. Commons resources, those owned or used collectively, are particularly fragile and may be subject to the tragedy of the commons. [Is an explanation needed?] Free markets encourage the use of commons resources without assigning responsibility for their maintenance. Transferring such resources to private

ownership has been proposed as a solution but can have disproportionately negative consequences for the poor. Privatisation also can increase wealth for one segment of society at the expense of others.

5. Global climate is affected by human activities, particularly by the use of fossil fuels in production and consumption. Local emissions are likely to have global consequences for climate, with the most severe problems created far from the source of emissions. People living in poverty are likely to be among the most vulnerable to negative effects of global climate change.

6. Consumption levels vary widely across and within the nations of the world. Developed countries consume disproportionate amounts of the world's resources. Developing countries are likely to increase consumptive patterns as part of the development process. To blame industrial production for the world's environmental problems is to recognize only part of the problem. Consumption drives production in free markets, so all consumers must take responsibility for the effects of their behaviour. Industry responds to consumer demands, so consumers are at least indirectly responsible for the problems caused by industrial production. At the same time, producers heavily encourage consumption through advertising, and therefore are co-responsible for consumption patterns.

7. Increasing consumption creates the need for additional energy and natural resources. Activities such as mining, logging, and the construction of hydropower facilities can deplete resources, displace indigenous communities, and disrupt natural ecosystems. Such effects rarely receive adequate attention during planning stages and sustainable practices are even more rarely adopted.

8. The production of food and shelter are basic necessities of life and are essential to planning for sustainable development. Many people and nations have inadequate access to the means of production to ensure that basic needs for food, potable water, shelter, and good health are met. Women, in particular, often are not permitted to own land or have inadequate access to tools and supplies. The growing world population requires ever increasing production of food. While food production has increased drastically in the last few decades, millions remain undernourished. (See Theme 8) The quest for better production methods sometimes produces unanticipated consequences such as soil depletion, contamination from fertilizer runoff or pesticides, and increases in pest infestation. Such modern methods also can disrupt successful traditional practices that promote social stability. Food transportation and distribution systems are often ignored as scientific solutions are sought to increase crop yields. Overall gains can mask the need for adequate food production in poor rural areas.

9. Methods of production themselves can be hazardous and producers sometimes ignore the risks they create. Tragedies can result, injuring or killing many workers or other people in surrounding areas. Corporations in many nations are not required to make public information about emissions, labour conditions, product and production risks, and other matters of interest to the public. People living in neighbouring communities may lack essential information about risks to human health created by production facilities.

10. Production and consumption produce enormous amounts of waste materials, much of which is hazardous. Even benign waste creates major disposal problems. The free market system encourages the production and trade of goods but does not encourage producers to consider where their products will end up, and does not encourage recycling or other methods of waste reduction.

11. International organizations such as the World Trade Organization focus primarily on strategies that will promote trade and do not adequately consider the consequences for the poor, the powerless, and the environment. Rules often support inequality and do not consider, or are in conflict with, the post-Rio agenda. Dispute resolution procedures often exclude voices representing the public interest. The WTO supports existing power structures with women and the poor underrepresented in decision-making.

12. Agreements protecting human rights such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; Convention on the Rights of the Child; Declaration on the Right to Development; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women have not been ratified by all countries. Even where ratified, such agreements often receive little attention from governments or corporations.

13. Intellectual property laws encourage development of new products and technologies but often exploit traditional knowledge without compensation and without considering important equity and sustainability issues. However, under the Convention on Biological Diversity, requirements for benefit sharing, for example between trans national corporations and local communities, have been ratified.

B. Possible Solutions

14. Educate the public about the effects of consumption patterns on production, including information about activities and products that emit pollutants or greenhouse gases, deplete natural resources, stress ecosystems, or exploit workers. Inform the public about the “footprints” they and their society leave on the Earth. Develop public service advertisements to educate consumers and change behaviour. Use marketing professionals to develop such information campaigns. Develop school curricula to teach about human rights and the environment.

15. Increase access by each individual, particularly women, to the means of production to support basic needs for food, drinking water, shelter, and medical assistance. Eliminate laws restricting land ownership by women. Analyse possible consequences of proposed changes in agricultural production methods and incorporate local knowledge before major changes are made. Productive local practices should not be abandoned unless new proposals indicate that the least advantaged members of society will benefit.

16. Increase local, national, and global governmental efforts to develop safer, cleaner and more effective methods of production. Involve workers, neighbours, and others put at risk by production processes in planning for risk management. Provide incentives for producers to reduce product emissions in both products and methods of production, to reduce the use of hazardous materials, and to use energy more efficiently. Develop incentives for producers to consider the “cradle to grave” treatment for of all substances used in production or products themselves, particularly when hazardous waste is involved. Encourage recycling and other waste reduction strategies.

17. Reduce consumption in developed countries, with the largest reductions being made by the countries with the highest per capita consumption levels, and educate the public about possible strategies. Each country should develop a national strategy for sustainable production and consumption, including an action plan and time frame. Provide developing countries with technical and other assistance to help them adopt environmentally sound production and consumption practices.

18. Develop better strategies for the sustainable management of commons resources. Drastically reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and other substances that contribute to global climate change. Implement the Kyoto Protocol as an essential first step. Encourage research into carbon sequestration and other technical approaches to reducing the effects of greenhouse gas emissions.

19. Encourage governments to ratify existing instruments protecting human rights, and especially the rights of women and children. Each country should make best efforts to comply with such agreements, and to make sure that international institutions to which they belong do the same.

20. Conduct vulnerability assessments to identify areas adversely affected by production and consumption. Develop plans to mitigate effects, particularly on women, children and others who lack political power.

21. Amend the WTO rules to ensure that human rights and the environment are given consideration equal to trade in WTO decisions. Increase transparency for all global organizations dealing with trade, with information about operations and decisions available to civil society. Provide standing to groups representing the public interest. Include equitable representation of males and females, from developing countries, developed countries and countries in transition, in all WTO decision-making bodies. Allow nations to implement policies that favour families, the poor, or the environment. Create separate global institutions to protect consumers and the environment.

22. Encourage corporations to conduct sustainability assessments to estimate the effects of production on workers, communities, natural resources and the environment, and the poor. Develop a code of conduct that provides guidelines for corporations on their social and environmental responsibilities and monitor compliance. [Should this recommendation be made consistent with the recommendation in theme 1 calling for a TNC convention?] Encourage corporations to invite the participation of civil society in decisions affecting human health and safety or the environment. Encourage stockholders to improve their understanding of corporate policies relating to gender, labor, and the environment in their companies and to organize to demand changes in corporate practices when necessary.

23. Prevent privatisation of basic necessities such as water and energy unless provisions are made to mitigate hardships for the poor.

24. Amend intellectual property laws to compensate for the exploitation of local knowledge for commercial gain. Create an international clearinghouse for benefit-sharing arrangements, providing model contracts, capacity building, ensuring local access and local control over resources.

C. Mechanisms and Benchmarks

25. Identify and monitor specific areas within each country with inadequate access to food and safe drinking water. Provide specific information about effects on women and children.

26. Move toward integrated models of environmental governance to promote efficiency and effectiveness and to prevent the transfer of environmental problems of production from one medium to another.

27. Include effects of social and environmental externalities such as pollution, labor conditions, and equity in cost-benefit analyses. The fact that something is difficult to monetize should not remove it from consideration.

28. Design better sustainable development indicators that will monitor development and environmental quality, but also raise awareness and change behavior. Disaggregate data for relevant variables such as gender, wealth, and development status. Conduct qualitative as well as quantitative studies of sustainable development.

29. Monitor commons resources such as air and ocean fisheries and make clear reports to the public.

THEME 5: WOMEN'S RIGHT TO ACCESS AND CONTROL OVER GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS

A: Overview

1. Women's right to access and control over global public goods is fundamental in improving women's situation and empowering them to not only benefit from their contributions but to effectively contribute to the development agenda in their respective countries and globally. However despite this understanding and knowledge, the situation of women in matters of democracy, human rights and right to access and control over resources has hardly improved and in many regions, it has worsened.

2. Equity between men and women in accessing natural resources is absolutely critical to improving food security and livelihoods. Some of these natural resources include land, forests and water. While the gap between rich and poor can be used as one representation of the North-South divide, a similar, if not more pronounced divide exists between men and women. As a result of this gender divide, women represent the largest group of the poor globally. Lack of equal property rights is a major cause of women's impoverishment. Women's access to and control and management of land are crucial aspects of sustainable development. Land as a resource has dimensions of ecological diversity, productivity for human sustenance and wealth creation in the economy. The relationships of women and men to land have differed historically. In the context of human rights, changes in the world economy have led to gender inequities in the way land is controlled and managed.

3. Women own less than 1 percent of the world's landed property, while they are often responsible for the majority of agricultural production. Even in countries where women have ownership rights, huge inequities in access still exist. In addition, land is being moved away from food production and into corporate control for large-scale industrial monocultures, tourism, shrimp cultivation and other industrial processes. This has further marginalized and impoverished women and men farmers, and intensified food insecurity.

4. Around the world, women are responsible for producing the bulk of domestically consumed food, and in Africa, this figure is as high as 70-80 percent. Women produce 80-95 percent of the food consumed in the poorest parts of the world. The current magnitude of land degradation poses a great threat to the livelihoods and survival of many families in the developing world. Over 110 countries, including more than 80 developing countries, are affected by the degradation of about 3,600 million hectares of the world's total land surface. In Africa alone, an estimated 5-6 million hectares of productive land are affected by degradation each year. More than 1 Billion people who live in these areas are at risk from the effects of this loss of productivity on their livelihoods.

5. Water is a natural resource necessary for the sustenance of life and ecological systems, and a key resource for social and economic development. Despite improvements in water-use efficiency, particu-

larly in developing countries, both the use and demand for fresh water and the incidence of water pollution have increased as a result of population growth and expanding economic activities. During the past decade, access to water supply and adequate sanitation has barely kept pace with population growth and the demand for water, food and fibre production is on the increase. Women “produce” water for food production and domestic use, spending up to eight hours a day searching for water sources, and collecting, storing and purifying it. They negotiate with their neighbours for access, evaluate sources, analyse supply patterns, lobby relevant authorities and launch protests when water availability reaches dire levels. In Latin America, women have even kidnapped water officials to force authorities to provide sufficient water for the needs of their families. Water is a matter of livelihood for them, for they have no money to purchase basic necessities.

6. As a result of traditional gender roles, in most developing countries women are responsible for supplying fresh water for the household and agricultural activities of their families and communities. The impact of increasingly scarce fresh water supplies has obliged women water carriers to travel longer distances and spend many hours waiting to fill their pails. In many cases, girls have to assist their mothers to fulfil these and other related tasks, such as the necessary environmental control measures to deal with water-borne diseases (e.g. boiling or chlorinating water). Women deal with utilizing and conserving water resources on a daily basis and have considerable expertise and experience regarding water management. Despite this, in many cases, women are neither able to control or participate in decision-making structures relating to water systems. Environmental policies and programmes in areas such as freshwater resources management have differential gender impacts. In addition, contaminated water has resulted in reproductive health problems including birth defects and lack of food for women and their families, particularly affecting poor women living in under-serviced urban areas.

7. In the next two decades, it is estimated that water use by humans will increase by 40 percent and that 17 percent more water will be needed to grow more food for the increasing populations in the developing countries. One third of the countries in the water-stressed regions of the world are expected to face severe water shortages in the 21st Century. By 2025, there will be approximately 6.5 times as many people, or 3.5 billion, living in water-stressed countries than in 2000. The increasing pollution and depletion of surface water resources exacerbate the situation. It is estimated that more than half the world’s major rivers are seriously polluted and depleted. It is also necessary to allocate adequate water resources to sustain ecological functions and systems.

8. Women in developing countries continue to spend most of their lifetimes walking long distances carrying heavy loads of energy sources to fulfil the needs of their various reproductive duties. Women’s continued poverty, despite the significance of their contribution to the economy, is linked to the fact that they are viewed only as consumers, not producers or managers of energy. Additionally, women are relegated to using basic forms of energy and transportation and have no access to and control over technical knowledge or ownership of resources to develop and use alternative forms of energy and transportation. Women are also particularly vulnerable to environmental pollution due to energy use, due to their reproductive roles and household responsibilities, and to high-energy prices and expenditures, especially in female-headed households, which make up a large portion of the poor.

9. In the North, there is a growing divide between the rich and poor that has a distinct gender perspective. Approximately 15.4 percent of women and 12 percent of men are living below the poverty line in the U.S.A. Poor women are disproportionately found as heads of single parent families and among people of pensionable age, due to their greater longevity than men.

10. Although in global terms food production has outpaced population growth, there is a major divide between North and South and between the rich and the poor. More than one billion people are very poor and suffer from food insecurity while 800 million are chronically malnourished. Every year, 6 million children under the age of five die of malnutrition and related preventable diseases. Millions more become blind, retarded or suffer other disabilities that impair functioning because of lack of vitamins and minerals. Moreover, hunger and poverty are the root cause of much political turmoil and armed conflict and of a growing tide of refugees and migrants. The developing countries are the hardest hit but even within this cluster, there are differentials, sub-Saharan Africa being one of the hardest hit. Some of the causes include climate change and global policies that distort the market forces. Within this scenario, women are the principal producers

11. For efficiency purposes, privatisation of natural resources is becoming a favoured policy around the world. Unlike decentralization of forest management, which is said to have a democratic intention, privatisation has a number of negative impacts to the communities around the resources being privatised. For example, women, especially from developing countries, will suffer multiple effects—including losing control and access to resources and having to pay high prices for formerly free resources—considering that

other than being the poorest population they depend heavily on these resources. Privatisation will also cause the prices of these resources like, water, energy, etc to rise, making them unaffordable and thus inaccessible.

B: Possible Solutions

12. Treat clean water as a common property and a human right
13. Women's overall developmental needs and aspirations should not be confined to improved stoves
Women's needs go beyond improved stoves and include household energy and transport, automobiles and other energy-using appliances as well as the selectors of cooking fuels as the main actors in determining their household's direct and indirect energy consumption.
14. Encourage integrated land management system and discourage monoculture systems.
15. Ensure continuous improvement of quality, quantity of water services
16. Change land ownership laws, in such a way that it strengthens women's rights.

C. Mechanisms and Benchmarks

17. Accelerate the development of energy efficient technologies and increase the share of renewable energy to a reasonable level.
18. Set-up of Global Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Programme by Governments, ensure protection of all water catchment areas and restore all freshwater ecosystems.
19. In case of privatisation or mix water services must retain the character of a public service; i.e. nobody should be deprived of access because of inability to pay or any other reason.
20. Analyse the state of natural resources, provide relevant information on threats towards them as well as training and capacity strengthening.
21. Enhanced advisory services about early warning of impending environmental crises based on regional vulnerability assessment.
22. Setting up of food security information and early warning system [Should this go in WFP/FAO]; Food and nutrition surveillance system.

THEME 6: WOMEN'S SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A. Overview

1. Population, poverty and pollution are a powerful triad, with inextricable links to gender issues. Women are profoundly affected by demographic, development and environmental trends and their involvement and empowerment is essential to effective response strategies.
2. All over the world, population trends and environmental conditions have an impact on women. In tending to the basic needs of their families, women are close to key natural resource issues, such as: the availability of water for drinking, cooking and agriculture; soil erosion and the quality of arable land; and the availability of fuel-wood and/or other necessary energy sources. In many places, women are exposed to hazardous indoor air pollution as they tend to cooking and other family requirements that require burning fuel-wood inside. Lack of sanitation impacts women and their children. Unsanitary conditions and unsafe drinking water are important forces behind the worldwide burden of disease. Laws and practices that deny women the possibility to own or inherit land or to take loans inhibit women's ability to use resources sustainably.
3. Concerns are growing in the scientific community about the linkages between, poverty, environmental trends, women and reproductive health. A variety of chemicals are associated with cancer in women – including breast, ovarian, cervical, uterine and vaginal – pregnancy failures and childhood development difficulties. Poverty and accompanying malnutrition are also associated with reproductive health problems. Special concern has been expressed about the effect of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) on human reproductive disorders. Chemicals containing POPs are feared to be “endocrine disrupters,” which interfere with normal hormone function and undermine reproductive health, with impacts on fertility, miscarriage, sperm counts, certain cancers, and puberty for girls.
4. The health of the Earth's environment is closely related to both demographic trends and patterns of consumption and waste generation. At present, demographically stable developed nations are the driving force behind the most far-reaching global environmental challenges. Developed nations are responsible for most of the harmful emissions impacting the environment and generate the bulk of the world's wastes. With 20 percent of the global population, developed nations account for 85 percent of private consumption. In contrast, the poorest 20 percent of global population accounts for 1.3 percent of private

consumption. As a result, a child born in the developed world is likely to have an ecological impact equivalent to more than 30 children born in developed countries. But poverty is also a powerful factor in environmental degradation. When those in poverty do not have the technologies, knowledge and rights needed to achieve sustainable development, they can have a significant and increasing impact on the natural resource base and the environment.

5. Basic human needs are not being met with respect to a wide variety of key resources. More than one billion people lack access to clean water, and almost two billion do not have basic sanitation. Eight hundred million people are chronically malnourished and two billion people lack food security (access to safe and nutritious food needed to maintain a healthy life). Food production will need to double in the coming decades in order to keep pace with population growth and human requirements.

6. There is a danger (based on prior experience) for discussions of sustainable development to focus disproportionately on demographic issues, suggesting that reducing population growth is a requirement for sustainable development, rather than a result of it. In fact, meeting basic human needs and realizing human rights are essential to achieving both population stabilization and sustainable development.

7. In the past, there was a tendency to blame environmental degradation primarily on population growth. This led to blaming women – especially those in developing countries – for rapid population growth. In many places starting in the 1960s, women were coerced into “accepting” family planning methods without regard to their human rights; examples include mass sterilization campaigns or rewards to health providers who convinced women to “accept” the longest-acting methods. Beginning in the 1980s, through UNCED in 1992 and in a growing effort since that time, women from around the world have partnered with progressive governments to shift the understanding and dialogue about the impact of rapid population growth and how to address it. While provision of contraceptives is required for women’s health and rights, as well as for stabilizing rapid population growth, the world recognizes that many other factors contribute to decisions, or the ability to decide, about childbearing. A broad-based approach to these issues was adopted by nations of the world at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and has been further delineated at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) and subsequent progress reviews in 1999 and 2000.

8. Ensuring that women and girls are able to exercise their human rights – including their right to control their reproduction and sexuality—promoting the empowerment and autonomy of women and girls, and improving their political, social, economic, and health status is a highly important end in and of itself. In addition, it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development. The full participation and partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive lives.

9. Gender inequity exacts a toll on women’s lives, health and potential and is closely associated with high fertility. Where they are denied education, secure livelihoods, and the full legal and social rights of citizenship, women often depend on children as their only means of attaining status and security. Efforts to increase women’s self-determination improve the health and well-being of women and their children and also slow the pace of population growth. For example, women with a primary school education have fewer, healthier, and better-educated children and are far less likely to die in childbirth than their uneducated peers. Child mortality and high fertility form another potentially destructive synergism – where infant and child mortality rates are high, parents tend to have more children in the hope that some will survive, yet high fertility results in even greater health risks for the health of women and infants. When women’s health needs are addressed, and the human rights of women realized, demographic objectives are also satisfied.

10. Sexual and reproductive health and other basic human needs – education, sanitation, clean water, and nutrition – are equally important and interdependent; all are human rights and give rise to state obligations. Especially for women, good pre-natal and obstetric care, safe and reliable contraception, HIV/AIDS prevention and care, and other aspects of health are inseparable from such basic amenities as reliable transportation, hygienic conditions, and clean water. At the same time, women’s rights to liberty, security of the person, and development are unattainable without comprehensive, accessible and affordable sexual and reproductive health services and the freedom to make decisions about sexuality and fertility. These rights form a seamless web, and all are grounded in basic human needs.

11. Human rights as well as needs, both individual and social, and specifically those of women and girls, must be at the centre of population and development policies. The human rights approach adopted at the ICPD and re-affirmed since then is the guarantor that these rights and needs will remain central to the way policies, services, and programs are developed and delivered.

B. Possible Solutions

12. Discussions of sustainable development should be characterized by a commitment to address basic human needs and realize sustainable development through a dialogue and program based on the human rights, empowerment and needs of women and men the world over.

13. Achieving sustainable development will require comprehensive, integrated solutions to the interrelated challenges of rapid population growth, global environmental degradation and poverty. Ensuring human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, for all people is integral to this effort.

14. Unsustainable patterns of consumption should be eliminated through enhanced efficiency and development and deployment of cleaner, sustainable technologies. This will have an impact on wealthier countries and individuals who will have opportunities to become more efficient in their resource use, as well as for poorer countries and individuals who may be able to skip over or “leap frog” over inefficiencies and become more efficient in their resource use as their development opportunities increase.

15. Meeting the basic human needs of all the world’s people is essential to achieving sustainable development. In this effort, special emphasis should be placed on ensuring that all people have access to health services - including sexual and reproductive health services such as contraception - education, clean water, basic sanitation, energy and necessary food requirements.

16. Investments and programmatic approaches must be stepped up to integrate sexual and reproductive health education and services into primary health services, including for adolescents. In so doing, the international community should re-affirm and implement the principle of voluntary and informed choice in the provision of these services. Access to safe and legal abortion should be expanded, and governments should repeal all laws and regulations that jeopardize women’s health.

17. The particular impacts of unsustainable development on women must be clearly recognized, as must the key role that women do and can play as stewards of natural resources and the environment.

Worldwide, women are more than half of the agricultural work force, and in some parts of the world women are up to 80 percent of the agricultural work force. There must be a mobilization to protect women’s right to full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, and to ensure women’s access to credit. Agricultural extension and resource management training must be made available and accessible to women.

18. Efforts should be undertaken to better understand and respond to environmental factors that negatively affect human reproductive health.

C. Mechanisms and Benchmarks

19. Achieve the goals established at the ICPD, ICPD+5, FWCW and FWCW+5:

20. All countries should strive to make accessible through the primary health-care system, reproductive health to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015.

21. By 2005, 60 percent of primary health care and family planning facilities should offer the widest achievable range of safe and effective family planning methods, essential obstetric care, prevention and management of reproductive tract infections, including sexually transmitted diseases, and barrier methods to prevent infection; 80 percent of facilities should offer such services by 2010, and all should do so by 2015.

22. Where the maternal mortality rate is very high, at least 40 percent of all births should be assisted by skilled attendants, and 80 percent globally, by 2005; these figures should be 50 and 85 percent by 2010; and 60 and 90 percent by 2015.

23. The gap between the proportion of individuals using contraceptives and the proportion expressing a desire to space or limit their families should be reduced by half by 2005, by 75 percent by 2010, and by 100 percent by 2015.

To reduce vulnerability to HIV/AIDS infection, at least 90 percent of young men and women, aged 15-24, should have access by 2005 to preventive methods—such as female and male condoms, voluntary testing, counselling, and follow-up—and at least 95 percent by 2010. HIV infection rates in persons 15-24 years of age should be reduced by 25 percent in the most affected countries by 2005 and by 25 percent globally by 2010.

25. By 2015 all countries should aim to eliminate maternal mortality and achieve an infant mortality rate below 35 per 1000 live births and an under-5 mortality rate below 45 per 1000.

26. Design and implement programs with the full involvement of adolescents, to provide them with education, information and appropriate, specific, user-friendly and accessible services without discrimination to address effectively their reproductive and sexual health needs taking into account their right to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent. These programs should, *inter alia*, build adolescent girls’ self esteem and help them take responsibility for their own lives; promote gender equality and responsible sexual behaviour; raise awareness about, prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS and sexual violence and abuse; counsel adolescents on avoiding unwanted and early pregnancies.

27. The 1990 illiteracy rate for women and girls should be halved by 2005; and by 2010, the net primary enrolment ratio for children of both sexes should be at least 90 percent.

28. Universal ratification of the Convention to Eliminate All Forms for Discrimination Against Women and of its Optional Protocol.

29. Expand the development programs that link efforts to promote environmental protection with women’s health and empowerment.

30. Additional research to develop new family planning methods, especially methods (such as microbicides) to help prevent the spread of STIs, including HIV/AIDS.

31. Implement the targets set by the World Water Forum's Ministerial Conference in March 2000 to promote global progress toward universal access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.
32. Sign and ratify the treaty (name?)- finalised by 122 countries in December 2000 - that will require governments to minimize and eliminate some of the most dangerous persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The treaty sets out control measures covering the production, import, export, disposal, and use of POPs.

THEME 7: ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY: PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

A. Overview

1. We see environmental security as a basic human right and a prerequisite for sustainable development. People, living now and in the future, should have the possibility to live in an environment that is safe – both from the perspective of quality and from that of optimal ecological functions - and that provides them with the necessary resources. This means that ecosystems, biodiversity and ecological functions should be maintained in appropriate quality and quantity.
2. However, in many parts of the world environmental security is presently endangered. People are exposed to dangerous chemicals and toxic substances, or to nuclear and solar radiation, do not have access to safe and clean water, land, or energy resources, there is not enough food of good quality, or any moment flooding, mud streams and land slides might occur. Environmental insecurity can have a chronic character or expresses itself in acute disasters. Often these so called natural disasters are man-made.
3. Environmental conditions contribute significantly to communicable diseases, which account for about 20-25 per cent of deaths annually worldwide. Infectious and parasitic diseases, as well as respiratory infections and diseases, are closely related to environmental conditions and endanger development prospects. Unclean water and associated poor sanitation kill over 12 million people every year; air pollution kills an estimated 2.7 to 3 million people annually. Malaria, a disease closely related to changing environmental conditions, causes 1 million deaths every year. It has been estimated that roughly 60 per cent of the global burden of disease from acute respiratory infections, 90 per cent from diarrhoeal disease, 50 per cent from chronic respiratory conditions and 90 per cent of malaria could be avoided by simple environmental interventions.
4. Nuclear energy production is a major threat for environmental security of many people. The whole production chain has proved to include major dangers for human health, from uranium mining to actual accidents during production, and the unsafe disposal of nuclear waste. Over 2 million people, including 500,000 children, were immediately affected by the accident in the Chernobyl nuclear facility in the Ukraine. Although the full impact of the accident will only be visible over the coming years, there has been a great increase in thyroid cancers (by 100 times), and about 30 per cent of the 50,000 of the workers who cleaned up the site suffer from reproductive disorders. The worst-affected region in neighbouring Belarus has seen increases in childhood cancers by more than 60 percent, blood diseases by 54 percent and digestive organ diseases by 85 percent.
5. Many chemicals that did not exist 50 to 100 years ago (100,000 since 1900) are now widely dispersed throughout our environment (air, water, soil and food), of many of these we do not know the exact health effects. As Rachel Carson warned us, in 1962, people are on the top of the food chain and therefore exposed to concentrated levels of pollutants. Among these the persistent organic pollutants, such as phthalates, PCBs dioxins, and at least 84 pesticides, disrupt the endocrine system, causing changes in intelligence, decrease in disease resistance or reproductive disorders and infertility. Apart from these heavy metals have been brought widely in the environment by metal smelters, industrial and transport activities; they have diverse effects on human health, including cancers (arsenic and cadmium), genetic damage (mercury) and brain and bone damage (copper, lead and mercury).
6. Scientists expect that global climate change not only will increase serious risks of extreme weather conditions, including flooding, draught and heat stress, but that environmental change will increase the location, spread and intensity of insect- and water-borne diseases. As ecological zones will move, agriculture and food production will also change, with major risks for food and water security.

7. These developments result in major suffering among people, especially among those living in poverty. Poor people and others who are marginalized – including indigenous people - often live in unsafe situations: settlements prone to landslides or flooding, in the neighbourhood of polluting industries or waste dumps, with poor (protection from) housing and sanitation and waste management. They do not have the resources and power to withstand or flee such situations and build a sustainable livelihood.

8. The number of environmental refugees is constantly increasing: in 1998 about 25 million people were displaced by environmental degradation: outnumbering the warrelated refugees for the first time in human history (World Bank). Environmental refugees often put extra pressure to the environmental security in the areas where they are forced to stay, and have significant economic, sociocultural and political consequences.

9. Women, who make up more than half of the world population and 70 percent of the 1.2 billion extreme poor, have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health⁵. The enjoyment of this right is vital to their life and well-being and their ability to participate and contribute in all areas of public and private life. However, women have different and unequal opportunities for the protection, promotion and maintenance of their health: such as unequal access to basic health services, disproportionate responsibilities in the family and society, discrimination and experiences of violence and unsafe pregnancies. Women weakened by environment-related health problems are more vulnerable in pregnancy and childbirth.

10. Women have different susceptibilities to various environmental hazards, contaminants and substances from men, and they suffer different consequences from the exposure to these. These risks to women's health are particularly high in urban areas, as well as in low-income areas where there is high concentration of polluting industrial facilities or agricultural activities. Occupational health issues are growing in importance, as a growing number of women work in low-paid jobs in either the formal and informal labour market under tedious and unhealthy conditions. Also unsafe environmental conditions in houses, poor sanitation and waste treatment present new threats to health, particularly for women, who have the highest levels of exposure. Cancers of the breast, cervix and other cancers of the reproductive systems affect growing number of women and may be preventable or curable, if detected early.

B. Possible Solutions.

11. Major efforts are needed to increase awareness about the relationship between environmental conditions and human security, health and sustainable development. Hold those accountable that cause environmental security problems for others.

12. Countries should (build capacity to) implement the existing legislation and international, regional and national regulations regarding pollutants: including the Basel Convention and other conventions relating to the trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes, POPs Convention, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Code of Practice of the IAEA relating to the movement of radio-active waste. They should take actions towards the prohibition of movements that are unsafe and insecure and ensure the strict control and management of hazardous wastes and radioactive waste; regulations on bio-safety in Convention on Biodiversity.

13. Implementation of the Kyoto Protocol of the Convention on Climate Change is a prerequisite for all countries. Support to developing countries to implement the protocol, and major investments in development and promotion of sustainable energy resources are needed. Based on the precautionary principle, nuclear energy forms no alternative for fossil fuel energy production, and should be phased out.

14. GOs and organisations should promote and ensure household and national food security, and implement programmes aimed at improving the nutritional status of people living in poverty, especially girls and women, by implementing the commitments made in the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Nutrition, giving special attention to the gender gap in nutrition.

15. Ensure the availability and access to safe drinking water and sanitation and put in place effective public distribution systems as soon as possible. Ensure that clean water is available and accessible to all by the year 2010 and that environmental protection and conservation plans are designed and implemented to restore polluted water systems and rebuild damaged watersheds.

⁵ Health is a state of complete and physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

16. Reduce environmental hazards that pose a growing threat to health, especially in poor regions and communities, (as agreed in Rio) apply a precautionary approach in all activities and plans, and include the reporting on women's health risks related to the environment in monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21

17. The improvement of the living conditions and development opportunities of people living in environmentally insecure areas should be a priority area for development assistance and investments. The affected populations should participate in the decision-making on these.

18. Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services, and strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health.

19. Support women's consumer initiatives by promoting the marketing of organic food and recycling facilities, product information and product labelling, incl. Labelling of toxic chemicals and pesticide containers with language and symbols that are understood by consumers, regardless of age and level of literacy.

20. Not only should every effort be made to prevent the increase in numbers of environmental refugees, those who had to flee their homes should be get official refugee status and everything has to be done to enable the sustainable rehabilitation of their original livelihoods in order for them to return again (special GEF fund).

C. Mechanisms and Benchmarks

21. Use of a precautionary approach for all activities that could have an effect on environmental security of groups of people. In every case the question should be central what effect the activity will have on the future health (perspectives) of the community. (USE OF EIAs)

22. Information, criteria and statistical data on environmental security and health should be systematically collected, disaggregated and analysed by age, sex and socio-economic status and by established demographic criteria, used to serve the interests of subgroups, with particular emphasis on the vulnerable and marginalized. Education and awareness raising on environmental security is necessary at every level (from school education until management functions).

23. Communities in general and women in particular should be enabled to participate in decision making on environmental security issues. The use of community health cards should be recognized as a powerful instrument to gather relevant information and to empower communities.

24. GOs and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all their environment-related policies and programmes, so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects for women and men.

25. The production of nuclear energy and toxic substances should be phased out by the year 2015. Safe alternatives for toxic substances (in agriculture, industry and households) and energy production should be available for all by the same year.

26. Enough food of good quality, clean water, sanitation and appropriate waste management systems should be available for all by the year 2010.

THEME 8: PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY, INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES

A. Overview

1. The earth's biological diversity is under threat as a result of current production and consumption patterns driven by market forces, resultant destruction of natural habitats, and the widespread introduction of uniform and genetically modified seeds that defy the very concept of sustainable development.

2. The food security of the global community, which depends on the richness of biodiversity in fields and forests, is at risk. About 66% of the world's population depend on food produced with the use of indigenous knowledge of plants, animals and farming systems (RAFI 1994). On the local level, biodiversity loss threatens the sustenance of communities which rely on food, fibres, medicines and other products to ensure their subsistence and income (Zweifel 1996). Some 80 % of world's population depend on traditional medicines for their primary health needs (WHO 1993).

3. Women in most societies play a significant role in managing the diversity of the ecosystem, since they are primarily responsible for sustaining the livelihood of their families. Women farmers are more likely to

know the nutritional needs of their families, as well as the nutritive content of the crops they grow, and have often developed multiple farming strategies based on a sophisticated management of genetic diversity (Shiva 1994). To reduce the risk of crop failure, women farmers in many parts of the world cultivate a wide variety of traditional crops, and also practice inter-cropping and crop diversification in the field and in smaller plots like kitchen gardens.

4. According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), women produce between 60 and 80 per cent of the food in most developing countries and are responsible for half of the world's food production. Women's contribution to food production and security remains unrecognized and undervalued, however, as much of it remains in the informal sector and for household consumption. The major producers of food in the world, women are also responsible for the collection of fuel, fodder and water – activities that take up a considerable amount of women's time (Tripathi 1998).

5. Yet, women lack access to the resources for farming (or income generation) – land, inputs, credit, extension facilities (education or any vocational training) etc. and tend to rely on common property resources. Land, which forms the basis of organisation of rural communities, is generally controlled by men. Privatisation of land (and commons) through so-called progressive agrarian policies, has further resulted in transferring community land into the hands of private owners. Forest land which has been contracted out to private contractors is suffering the same fate. The privatising of water bodies and forest resources has also greatly curtailed women's access to important resources such as water, fuel and fodder (Tripathi 2001). Privatization, one of the engines driving economic globalization, has intensified some of the existing gender, class and race-based inequalities that poor women farmers are subjected to.

6. The contribution of women in terms of labor and skills, and to an even greater extent, their knowledge of how to use and manage natural resources to satisfy multiple household needs, continues to be overlooked. In most societies in Africa, Asia and Latin America, the care of seeds has traditionally been in the hands of women, who have developed a broad spectrum of well-adapted crop varieties (Zweifel 1996). However, the transformation of agriculture to meet the needs of a globalized market economy is contributing to the gradual erosion of their biological resources and knowledge systems. The opening up of trade in agriculture has resulted in hardships for small farmers to compete in the world market, and increased dependence on monoculture production, fertilizers and genetically engineered seeds.

7. Chapter 24 of Agenda 21, endorsed at the 1992 Earth Summit, recognises the importance of women to sustainable development and has as one of its key objectives the promotion of "traditional methods and the knowledge of indigenous people and their communities, emphasising the particular role of women, relevant to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources" and the ensured "participation of those groups in the economic and commercial benefits derived from the use of such traditional methods and knowledge" (UNCED 1992).

8. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), also adopted at the Earth Summit, explicitly recognizes in its preamble "the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity", and affirms "the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policy-making and implementation for biological diversity conservation" (UNEP 1992).

9. While the CBD recognizes in principle the innovative contributions of women and men farmers, and indigenous communities as a whole, and stipulates that there should be fair and equal sharing of benefits arising out of the commercialization of resources, there is an absence of clear and effective rules and processes to guarantee the integrity of the terms and conditions established through contractual agreements within and between communities, countries and corporations (RAFI 2000).

10. Clarification is needed, however, between the CBD and conflicting international law with regard to the appropriation of women's knowledge of, and control over, genetic resources. The recent interest in indigenous knowledge coincides with the growth of the biotechnology industry and a rush to develop and enforce intellectual property rights laws under the auspices of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and other trade policy negotiations. For example, the Free Trade Area of the Americas is considering proposals that would strengthen the terms of TRIPs, as would a variety of other regional and bilateral trade agreements (IATP 2001). Such regimes are further undermining women's autonomy and their access to, and control over, vital resources.

11. TRIPs is being used by multinational corporations as a legal instrument to promote corporate control over plants, animals, micro-organisms, and their sub-parts – including genes as well as biological processes – and to increase market share. The power of exclusive monopoly patents gives a handful of corporations the legal right to determine who gets access to proprietary technologies, and at what price. Excessively high levels of intellectual property protection required by TRIPs have shifted the balance away from societal benefits, towards the monopolistic privileges of intellectual property holders. In particular, TRIPs and other intellectual property regimes provide no safeguard against the pirating of genetic material from indigenous and traditional societies. These problems not only undermine, but directly conflict with sustainable development objectives, including the eradication of poverty, the meeting of public health needs, the conservation of biodiversity, the protection of the environment and the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights (TWN 2001).

B. Possible Solutions

12. Recognize and raise public awareness of the role of women in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
13. Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to ensure women's right to full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inherit, own and control land and other forms of property, credit, extension facilities, natural resources and appropriate technologies.
14. Guarantee the a priori rights of indigenous peoples, traditional and local communities over their biological resources and knowledge.
15. Expand research programs to explore and record the women's indigenous knowledge and their specific ways of using and maintaining diverse natural resources. Such research must engage women in a participatory process and not extract their knowledge for external commercial interest.
16. Halt all patenting of biological resources, processes and knowledge. Develop concrete proposals to monitor and stop biopiracy.
18. Oppose attempts to impose intellectual property regimes on traditional knowledge and encourage the exploration of alternative ways and means to protect traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous people and farming communities.
19. Ensure by law the prevention of third party claims to genetic resources and uses without the prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities.
20. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits with indigenous peoples and local communities from the use of their knowledge and resources.
21. Ensure that any sui generis systems for the protection of traditional knowledge are consistent with CBD provisions including the recognition of the contribution of women and men farmers, benefit sharing and prior informed consent measures.
22. Undertake a gender and social impact assessment of existing international intellectual property rights instruments, including TRIPs, regional/bilateral IPR agreements, the Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV), the CBD and FAOs International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources (FAO IU).
23. Review and strengthen government policies and mechanisms to regulate and control corporate activities.

C. Benchmarks and Mechanisms

9 – 13 November 2001, 4th WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar:

24. Commence a serious, substantive review of Article 27.3(b):

- Act on the Africa Group proposal to clarify that plants, animals, micro-organisms and all other living organisms and their parts cannot be patented, and that natural processes that produce plants, animals and other living organisms should also not be patentable;
- Respect the right of developing countries to determine the need for appropriate sui generis laws that effectively protect community and farmers' rights, and promote agricultural diversity and sustainability;
- Ensure consistency with the CBD provisions on national sovereignty, prior-informed consent and benefit sharing; and
- Support negotiations in FAO's International Undertaking (FAO IU) on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to prohibit intellectual property on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture within the multilateral system, in the interests of long-term food security and to prevent biopiracy.

25. Refrain from invoking a dispute settlement procedure with regard to the implementation of article 27.3(b) during the period of the review of the provisions of this article and the review of the Agreement itself under article 71.1.

26. Ensure that the review of Article 71.1 retains the option to amend the TRIPs to exclude genetic resource for food and agriculture from patentability and in order to ensure the primacy of public interests over the security of private intellectual property rights.

27. Consider the rationale of TRIPs' location in the WTO and consider terminating the agreement in its entirety. Other regional and bilateral trade agreements and negotiations likewise should terminate their application of intellectual property law to any form of life.

October 2001, FAO IU in Rome and 8-26 April 2002, CBD COP6 in The Hague:

28. Develop all international biodiversity laws through multilateral negotiations within the UN system, including treaty instruments such as the CBD and the FAO IU.

October 15 -Nov 2 2002, UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva and [==date TBA] 2002, World Food Summit Five Years Later

29. Include the inalienable right of farming communities to save, exchange and develop plant varieties without restriction during the review of "The Right to Food" by the Human Rights Commission.

30. Pass a resolution condemning the Terminator technology (that is, genetic seed sterilization) as an offence against the Right to Food as most of the over 800 million malnourished people on this planet live in rural areas and depend upon farm-saved seed for their survival.

10-12 December 2001, WIPO IGC in Geneva:

31. Ensure that no international policy making body, including the World Intellectual Property Organization's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources (WIPO IGC), Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, commodifies, privatizes or in any other manner reduces the knowledge and *a priori* rights of indigenous peoples, traditional and local communities over their biological resources and knowledge within a system of commercial exchange.

32. Consider removing this intergovernmental committee from WIPO as it is an agency biased in favor of such commodification.

28 January - 8 February 2002, WSSD PrepCom II in New York:

33. Support the Treaty Initiative to Share the Genetic Commons and promote its recognition by governments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

34. Develop a global peoples' consensus for additional treaty language fully expressing the rights and responsibilities of all nations and peoples towards stewardship of the Earth's biological resources.

35. Develop an International Convention on New Technologies in order to assess the societal and political implications of emerging technologies before their commercial release.

36. Call for the UN Centre on Transnational Corporations to be reinstated with a wider mandate and the necessary resources to monitor and address corporate power and concentration.

THEME 9: GENDER DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE CITIES

A. Overview

1. Cities are not simply a result of their physical structure but represent an integrated system of all human activities—residence, work, education, health care, culture, leisure—as well as the physical structures that support them. With just under half of its population living in cities, the world is already urbanized. Today, there are 19 cities with 10 million or more people; by 2030, over 60 percent of the world's population will live in cities. The size and number of large cities is increasing most rapidly in the developing world. Urbanization of poverty is a growing phenomenon (UNCHS 2001).

2. Cities can be vibrant centres of culture and civilisation, but for many people they are places of urban poverty, alienation and disadvantage. In cities of developed countries, an estimated 16 percent of all households live in poverty while in developing countries, more than 36 percent of all households and 41 percent of all women headed households have an income below the locally defined poverty line. Growing insecurity and crime rates; the impact of HIV/AIDS; natural and human-induced disasters; rising congestion and increasing pollution; and inadequate water supply and waste treatment facilities are among the most urgent problems in many cities. The need to prioritise the problems of urbanisation was also highlighted in the UN Millennium Declaration when world leaders committed themselves to improving the living conditions of a hundred million slum dwellers by 2020 and to halving the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.

3. Sustainable urban development requires a specific focus on women, because issues and needs as regards housing and shelter, land rights, environmental education, sanitation, income and employment, transport, safety and security, labour and childcare, are gender-specific. In many countries, shelter of women is still subsumed under that of the family, they don't enjoy the same access to and control of land as men, women's work and family responsibilities generate specific transport needs, and generally women's participation in urban governance is too low.

4. Adequate Shelter for all is one of the two main areas of concern in the Habitat Agenda; it includes highly gender-sensitive issues such as poverty and economic development, access to land, security of tenure, equal rights, and access to essential services. Inadequate shelter impacts on the health and security of people. Homelessness has serious negative impacts on people's ability to participate in society. People living in poverty, such as women and children who are the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, suffer the most. More than one billion of the world's urban residents live in inadequate housing, in sprawling slums and squatter settlements in developing countries.

5. Security of tenure is amongst the most important of all housing rights. It is also one of the most important catalysts in stabilising communities and helping cities leverage corporate and individual investment; this in turn can improve access to services and the living conditions of the urban poor. UNCHS / Habitat is running the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure. The growing awareness of the relationships be-

tween human rights and sustainable development has led to a decline in human rights abuses, such as mass forced evictions. Negotiation and participation are increasingly being employed to secure the urban poor their rights to shelter. The right to adequate housing is recognized by 75 percent of the world's countries. Granting of secure tenure is one of the most far-reaching decisions that can be taken in promoting a sustainable shelter strategy (UNCHS 2001).

6. Women's access to, control and management of land are crucial aspects of sustainable development. Land as a resource has dimensions of ecological diversity, productivity for human sustenance and wealth creation in the economy. Women's and men's relationship to land have historically differed. Changes in the world economy have led to gender inequities in the way land is controlled and managed in a human rights context. In most parts of the world, patrilineal inheritance customs have led to land in private control being in the hands of men and not women. In the current world economy, with globalisation and the spread of the money economy, women are disadvantaged because land becomes capital. Women are disadvantaged in societies where male inheritance customs are strong. This becomes especially severe in situations of conflict and reconstruction. Land title deeds are the main form of security used to secure loans and credit. Women form organizations not only to obtain credit but also to obtain land as corporate bodies. Women need credit, but the amount and form in which they need it must be deconstructed and understood in the context of their lack of basic property rights as individuals. Women's lack of equal property rights with men is a major cause of the feminisation of poverty.

7. Apart from its effect on health and well-being, environmental degradation and pollution continue to constrain development and growth of cities. For example, less than 35 percent of cities in developing countries have their wastewater treated. Huge inequities prevail between affluent and poor parts of cities, causing significant environmental injustice. Ill health and premature death not only cause pain and suffering, they also impose heavy costs on the economy. An increasing number of countries now recognize the key principles of environmental management; 49 percent of cities globally have established urban environment plans.

8. Equality and social cohesion are closely linked to good urban governance, and a key pre-requisite to making cities more sustainable—socially, economically and environmentally—is women's equal participation in governance processes, including Local Agenda 21 (LA21). Despite the potential of cities to improve living standards, the benefits of urbanization are not shared equally. Cities are still divided into haves and have-nots; established and marginalized; offering different opportunities for women and men. Exclusion, as a result of physical, social or economic barriers, prevents many groups from participating fully in urban life and services. Failure of local authorities to integrate such groups in their decision-making is often a function of inertia, along with bureaucratic and unresponsive forms of governance. Participatory governance is a prerequisite to social cohesion and inclusion. It involves supporting local populations to engage in, and benefit from, opportunities offered by urban-scale activities, all of which devolved to the local level, while simultaneously offering opportunities for strengthening civil society (UNCHS 2001). Promoting local women's leadership and widening women's role in decision-making and action are key strategies. Participation of women and men brings higher quality of planning and a sense of ownership, and thus serves sustainability. 60 percent of cities globally involved civil society in a formal participatory process prior to the implementation of major public projects.

9. To a large extent there has not been an explicit approach to gender in most countries as part of LA21. This was confirmed in surveys conducted both by ICLEI and WEDO. In a 1996 survey of 2,500 municipalities only 53 percent reported that they include women in their LA21 processes. Current barriers to women's participation in LA21 include: the general lack of awareness by both women and men about the issues of environment and women's roles; a lack of interest and political will among local authorities and a lack of desire to change the balance in current power relations; gender biases in allocation of resources. Women's multiple responsibilities of caring for children and elderly, cooking, tasks in agriculture and water supply, and lack of childcare and adequate transport create enormous workloads that make it impossible for women to participate. In some areas the problem is women's lack of understanding how local government works and the importance of public participation.

10. As in many areas of sustainable development, there is a general lack of gender-specific data to evaluate women's situation at the local level and shed light on their specific concerns.

B. Possible Solutions

11. International agreements on gender equity, adequate shelter and land rights, such as in the Beijing Platform for Action, the Habitat Agenda and its review (Istanbul+5), the 1997 and 1998 resolutions of the UN Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, etc., need to be fully implemented. Governments need to realize their promises, developing appropriate policies and allocating sufficient resources. Developing countries should receive assistance in the form of official development aid and further debt relief.

12. Governments and NGOs should collaborate in building support networks for grassroots women on equal land rights. Both women and men should be involved in the grassroots campaigns on equal gender rights, to overcome historical inequities through a reflective social process. Best practices of women's equal access to and control of land and property should be collected and disseminated. The training of paralegal advisers on women's land rights should be supported and extended. Such activities should be supported and promoted.

13. Good urban governance implies that city governments respond to and are accountable to all urban residents, including women and poor people. UNCHS's Global Campaign for Urban Governance and its Inclusive Cities Initiative aim to enhance participatory decision-making and transparent methods of governance. Governments and local authority associations should promote these initiatives to their cities and members.

14. Governments should also support the creation and strengthening of effective partnerships with local authorities, women, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, indigenous communities, NGOs, professional groups (housing, planning, environment, development), labour unions, foundations, and the private sector.

15. As regards reforming governance institutions and strengthening local actors, some of the emerging issues that need to be addressed include: redefining the roles and responsibilities of central and local governments; promoting city-wide development strategies; regulating equitable financial transfer between all levels of government; encouraging transparency through free flows of information; effective civic engagement and participation; and strengthening leadership while promoting ethical conduct in the governance of cities. Linkages between Local Agenda 21 processes and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda need to be strengthened to create synergies and avoid duplication and conflict.

16. Institutionalising gender responsive urban planning and management and local approaches to women in sustainable development and LA21 helps facilitate effective and comprehensive mainstreaming of gender issues, which also facilitates more equal participation of women and men in communities. This might include individual quotas or building these approaches into existing law. Local Government Women's Councils should be created to bring together past and present councillors and women activists. At the same time political will at the top, including concrete actions such as allocation of resources, is essential to mainstreaming gender in institutions.

17. In order to achieve equal participation of women and men in urban governance and LA21, it is important to provide both different common and separate fora for women and men, especially during initial stages of project/programme development. Other viable strategies include: facilitating effective media strategies; making available public space within the community for women; ensuring formal links of appropriate participatory structures to formal governance structures; supporting equal status partnerships and collaboration between professionals and grass roots structures; strengthening existing structures of effective women's involvement; enhancing teamwork and networking, in an outside the establishment; facilitating gender sensitisation of top medium and low-level management; appropriate timing and venue of activities; providing services (e.g. child care).

18. Resources need to be identified to increase attention to a gender approach in urban governance and LA 21. Resources also should be directly targeted to support women's involvement in communities to enable them to participate more fully in meetings devoted to these issues. They should target support with domestic help, childcare, transportation, etc. to facilitate women's participation. Reaching professional and grassroots women is particularly important. LA 21 processes need to develop supportive networks to encourage women's involvement.

19. Creative educational strategies are also important to integrate thinking about women and sustainable development for various audiences; including working with young people in schools and gender-awareness trainings for local government and administrative staff. Gender-sensitive training guides de-

veloped for each region could supplement training. Youth-led initiatives should be developed to involve young people in LA 21, including mentoring projects that link older and younger women.

20. Gender-disaggregated data need to be made available, using qualitative and quantitative as well as participatory methods in collecting data. Indicators designed to track gender responsiveness of sustainable urban development should include: progress as regards security of tenure; access to resources and services; income and employment; progress in sensitising policy makers; percentages of women among urban decision-makers; numbers of women participating in LA21 processes and other mechanisms of participatory urban governance and at all stages of decision-making; extent of partnerships; resources available for education and training, women's participation, and programmes benefiting women; effective use of gender expertise in planning and management.

C. Mechanisms and Benchmarks

21. Each country should prepare and publish, periodically, reports on the state of its cities, including gender-disaggregated data on poverty levels, services and housing for disadvantaged groups. Establishing proper information systems and diagnostic tools is a practical first step. Good information will provide the common platform for dialogue among stakeholders.

22. All countries should, by the year 2005, recognise the right to adequate shelter, develop adequate shelter policies and allocate resources to implementing them.

23. The Earth Summit 2002 process should be used to re-vitalise the implementation of the Habitat Agenda—either as a distinct issue of the Summit agenda or through carefully ensuring that urban issues are being integrated into the work on environment and development issues such as poverty eradication, HIV/AIDS, water, energy, etc.

24. Ongoing consultations on the introduction of a World Solidarity Fund targeting poverty eradication and sustainable development in developing countries, as agreed at Istanbul+5, should be linked with consultations about a “Global Deal/Global Partnership” for Earth Summit 2002, and not be subject to the nature of voluntary contributions.

25. In order to improve access to environmental information and justice, possibilities of globalising the Aarhus convention should be further explored.

26. Activities at international, national and local levels that generate gender-disaggregated data and develop gender-sensitive indicators should be linked to create synergies and void duplication or lack of comparability.

27. Develop and promote gender budget analysis and share experiences across cities.

THEME 10: GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

A. Overview

1. Information and Education play a key role in ensuring sustainable development. Information and communication technologies, and particularly the Internet, are transforming all human activities dependent on information.⁶ Information and communications are playing an increasingly important role in economic and social development.

2. Gender Gaps in Education: There are 900 million illiterates in the world and 130 million children unable to attend primary school. Agenda 21 states that education, including formal education, public awareness building and training should be recognised as a process by which human beings and societies can reach their fullest potential. Educational is critical for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of people to address environment and development issues. It is, however, evident that there are disparities between men and women, as illustrated below:

⁶ FAO/WAICENT. 2000. First Consultation on Agricultural Information Management.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Adult Literacy as percent of Females</u>	<u>Adult Literacy as percent of males</u>	<u>Female Net Access</u>	<u>Secondary Enrollment as percent of males</u>
Sub-Saharan Africa	49.6	75	35.8	76
East Asia	75.4	83	66.4	88
S.E. Asia and The Pacific	84.4	91	56.9	95
South Asia	38.6	60	46	70
Latin America and the Caribbean	86.2	98	65.8	101

[Add information about North America and Europe]

3. Agenda 21 and the Beijing Platform: In sustainable development, everyone is a provider and user of information in the broadest sense, including data, information, and appropriately packaged experience and knowledge. The need for information arises at all levels, from that of senior decision-makers at the national and international levels to the grassroots and individual levels. (Agenda 21:40.1)

4. Information Technology—The Global Digital Divide: The gap in the availability, quality, coherence, standardization and accessibility of data between the developed and the developing world and in countries in transition has been increasing, seriously impairing the capacities of countries to make informed decisions concerning environment and development⁷. Access to technologies is highly unequal in different geographic regions and social groups. This inequality contributes to increasing the gap between those who have access to abundant information resources and those who are deprived of this access, thus reinforcing the marginalisation that already exists in terms of development and technical resources⁸. Women in particular, tend to be under-represented in terms of access to these technologies and especially women from less developed regions and from marginalized groups.

5. To illustrate this divide, there are a billion telephones in the world and approximately 5.7 billion people. Some 15 percent of the latter have access to 71 percent of the world's main telephone lines. At the same time, more than 50 percent of the world's people have never used a telephone. Put differently, low-income countries where 55 percent of the population of the planet is to be found has less than 5 percent of the world's share of telephone lines. While high-income countries have 50 telephone lines per one hundred inhabitants, many low-income countries have less than one telephone line per 100.⁹ This ranges from Cambodia with 0.06 percent to China with 0.98 in 1992 .

6. The World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet in Miami, Florida, 1991, emphasized the need to link women to the male monopolized information technology process. The situation has not changed—the Global Internet gender ratio has remained static at 63 percent male and 37 percent female.¹⁰

7. Democratizing Knowledge and Technology: The North's approach to science and technology has led to Western systems of knowledge and technology—based on a particular culture, class and gender, and these are now being foisted in the South. This “monoculture of the mind” is displacing local knowledge and experiences¹¹.

8. There is a general lack of capacity, particularly in the developing countries and in many areas, at international level, for the collection and assessment of data, for the transformation into useful information and for the dissemination¹².

B. Possible Solutions

9. Education for all: Female literacy and enrolment; access to knowledge, information and the necessary means and tools.

10. Using the lessons learned and good practices: 80 percent of South Africans listen to radio and more South Africans own radios than own mattresses. The apartheid state, similar to other repressive regimes throughout the world used radio for effective disinformation campaigns, which activists about the power

⁷ UN. 1992: Agenda 21. Chapter 40-Information for Decision-Making

⁸ APC. 1995. APC Women's Networking Support Programme to the Fourth World Conference on Women

⁹ ITU/BDT Telecommunication Indicator Database.

¹⁰ MIDS. January 1997

¹¹ Shiva, Vandana. 1993. Monocultures of the Mind.

¹² UN. 1992. Agenda 21. *ibid*

of radio. NGOs in South Africa are now using radio as a tool for women's empowerment. Overall radio covers 75 percent of Africa's population and is the most vital tool of communication in the continent.

11. Increase use of communication technologies: In the field of education, information technologies are viewed as a means of complementing traditional educational techniques to enable systems to adapt to the different learning and training needs of societies. Computer simulation, telematics and teleconferencing, alongside educational T.V and radio, have great potential to reach larger audience than the traditional classroom process and to make learning more effective, attractive and stimulating. The increasing variety of interactive media (e.g. compact disc and interactive T.V) enlarges the scope and possibilities of self-directed learning. These tools provide an unparalleled opportunity for "reaching the unreachable", and for making life from education for all feasible, particularly for learners for whom access is limited by time and space, age, socio-cultural environment, work schedules and physical and mental handicaps. Modern education systems, of which UNESCO's 'Learning without Frontiers' initiative is a forerunner, cannot only give learners access to knowledge available in different parts of the world but also ensure dialogue-the main factor in effective learning-both among learners and between learners and ¹³sources of learning.

12. Working towards reduction of digital disparity: The existing disparity between the information-rich and information-poor countries has been taken as a serious concern by some governments, especially within the G-77, have committed themselves to promoting universal service to ensure opportunities for all to participate.¹⁴ The World Bank established the Information for Development Program in early 1995, with the mission to assist developing countries with their integration into global information economy. In 1995, the International Telecommunications Union established WorldTel, a 10-year project that aimed to provide some 40 million telephone connections in developing countries. The Conference of African Ministers, in Addis Ababa (1995), set up a High Level Working Group of African experts to develop a regional plan of action on information technologies called African Information Society Initiative, to mobilize the necessary financial resources for WorldTel's implementation.

C. Mechanisms and Benchmarks

13. Education for sustainable development as a priority within formal domestic education processes.

14. Equipping women's organisations and individuals with advocacy skills to enable them to lobby their governments more effectively.

15. Strengthening women's organisations to play an active watchdog role to ensure that states are held accountable and monitored in their efforts to implement the agreements that they have ratified.

16. The creation of gender disaggregated data systems as critical for crafting adequate policies and for identifying obstacles to be addressed.

17. Strengthening North-South partnerships to provide necessary resources for infrastructure, supported by a framework of renewable energy sources. Also Development and human resource development, South-South, regional and National cooperation can be a major strategy as it complements local strategies which are quite beneficial especially to women.

18. Promotion of community radio and rural television to disseminate technical and social information.

19. Capacity-building and training in technology scanning and selection, Managing national and global ICTs for development efforts, Design and delivery of appropriate technologies and services.

¹³ UNESCO. 1996. UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 1996-2001 – Information technologies for development, democracy and peace

¹⁴ UNRISD. 1995. New Information and Communication Technologies, Social Development and Cultural Change: Digital Technologies and Development.