

Stakeholder Views

Briefing Paper

Stakeholder Views for a Sustainable Future

A synthesis of views from different major groups across the globe on possible the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

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**STAKEHOLDER
FORUM**

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Some Key Stakeholder Messages to the Johannesburg Summit Preparatory Committee in January 2002

Stakeholders throughout the world are helping in many different ways to make the incremental transition towards a more sustainable society. Several groups have made significant progress on sustainable development over the past ten years in their own activities both on the ground and at national and international levels. However, all groups recognise that there is much more to be done and most want to help achieve further progress. Many Stakeholders are now actively preparing to play a major part in the World Summit for Sustainable Development (Earth Summit 2002) and the activities that come out of it. Stakeholders have been actively engaged in the regional preparatory processes, and representatives of the nine major groups have recently prepared global syntheses on behalf of their groups as an input to the second Preparatory Committee for the WSSD in New York in January.

In this paper Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future (formerly UNED Forum) has pulled together some key recommendations from the different stakeholder submissions as a contribution to the debate on options to be addressed at the Summit and beyond. Much of the findings from the review of progress since Rio is common to all the stakeholders, and indeed to the UN Secretary General's report. This paper does not repeat that analysis. Rather it concentrates on those recommendations for action that are emerging from the various stakeholder inputs.

1. Principles, Vision and Strategy. All stakeholders subscribe to the vital importance of the concept of sustainable development as a guide to how the world should evolve. In this context there is continuing support for the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. However, many would like to see further operationalisation of the principles contained in Agenda 21, including the precautionary, subsidiarity and polluter pays principles. These should provide the foundation from which all activities and policies that come out of Johannesburg.

Secondly, the vision for Sustainable development needs to be much more clearly communicated and understood. A number of groups have utilised the Earth Charter as a document which clearly depicts the vision of sustainable development in a powerful and eloquent way. The Charter could be used to build greater awareness and stronger support for sustainable development across the globe. The first substantive Prep Com for the Summit (Prep Com 2) could initiate a discussion, between governments and all parts of society, about how best to use the Charter to build a stronger and shared sense of the vision and goal of sustainability.

Sustainable development involves a very wide field of needs, actions and policies which relate to many different stakeholders, as well as governments. In order to work out all its implications and establish priorities, it is necessary to establish wide-ranging sustainable development strategies. These strategies should cut across international, regional, national and local levels and include a variety of different stakeholders in their development, implementation, monitoring and review. Some countries have established effective national strategies for sustainable development (NSSDs) and bodies since Rio, this should be assisted through greater support and funding for initiatives like the UNDP's Capacity 21 Programme. Also the linkages between NSSDs and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers of the World Bank need to be made more explicit. Similarly many local government authorities around the world have developed local agenda 21s. Some businesses, NGOs and other stakeholder groups have also been active in trying to turn sustainable development into an operational process. However, Sustainable development now needs to be built more systematically into the governance structures and objectives of national and local government and of other organisations, such as through the establishment of local, and national Councils on Sustainable Development. Earth Summit 2002 (WSSD) could usefully establish a stronger framework and guidance for countries, local government and other stakeholders on how to establish and monitor progress on such strategies. Regional strategies and councils should also be established, to create the appropriate intermediate machinery for coordinating sustainable development at the regional level. The next five years will be an important time for developing more regionally-based implementation, regulation, monitoring, coordination and assessment of progress. It will be particularly important to establish appropriate machinery for the advancement of sustainable development in Africa where many of the problems are most acute.

2. Poverty Eradication, Human Security and Human Development Sustainable Development is not just an environmental demand it is a developmental necessity. The Millennium Summit reaffirmed and restated international commit-

ment to agreed development goals for 2015. However it was not specific about how to meet these targets and measures that have been agreed at the Millennium Summit and previously, particularly regarding the central goal of alleviating poverty. There is general agreement that more vigorous action in this area is the largest single challenge within the sustainable development debate, and key to building a new North-South partnership for sustainable development at the Johannesburg Summit. Stakeholders see the Summit as a vital step to build concrete programmes for action and partnership to tackle poverty, by focusing on some of the specific target areas. These include water and sanitation, health (including, environmental health and HIV/AIDS), food security and energy (particularly renewable and sustainable energy). The Second Prep Com should establish which bodies will take the lead in developing, coordinating and monitoring such programmes, as well as identify how new and additional resources can be mobilised for their implementation. The Summit could then add intermediate goals to be reached in 5 and 10 years, as well as by 2015 and 2020, so as to add greater urgency, planning and impetus to the programmes to be established.

3. Globalisation: Setting Trade and Investment to Sustainability. Now that Doha is in the process of launching a new trade round, the key issue for sustainability will be to ensure that the round delivers on the legitimate aspirations of developing countries for better market access to the developed world, and for the elimination of distorting and environmentally perverse subsidies, as well as other distorting market practices in the North. The trade round also needs to provide for greater coherence and support for the Multilateral Environment Agreements, ILO Conventions and Human Rights Principles, as well as other international obligations, establishing mechanisms to put these obligations at the core of the trade agenda. This would include the adoption of Sustainability Impact Assessments prior to the negotiation of trade agreements and well as after their implementation. The Johannesburg Summit could be used to send a clear message and framework for the trade and investment community to more effectively address these issues.

Investment is one of the major engines for change in the world, and the types of investment are critical in shaping whether development will be sustainable or not. It would be useful to develop an agreed international framework to guide or regulate the basis on which investment is undertaken, particularly foreign investment so as to ensure that it does support sustainability goals, including socially responsible, ethical and environmentally sound investment. Such agreements could build on the guidelines and standards already emerging from international environment, labour and human rights legislation. The Summit could be used to launch an international process to create such a framework for enhancing the quality of investment.

4. Sustainable Production and Consumption Global markets need to make the shift towards more sustainable and efficient frameworks. This will include enabling and increasing corporate responsibility, such as through introducing eco-taxes, adoption of ISO 14000, use of environmental and social accounting, and Sustainability reporting. It will also be vital to stimulate public debate and awareness, as well as to engage a more informed consumer and producer position e. g. through product labelling, independent product verification, publicity campaigns, technical training and capacity building in sustainable production methods, investment in the research and development of sustainable alternatives. The Second Prep Com offers an opportunity to initiate a debate to develop a process for enhancing such activities. This process should be met more substantially with international commitment and the development of a clear strategy at the Johannesburg Summit.

5. Natural Resources: Integrated Management and Regulation

Governments, regional bodies and international institutions need make progress on taking an integrated and ecosystems approach to natural resource management and regulation. This will include ensuring greater coordination between different environmental areas, e.g. Climate and Oceans, but also coordination with institutions that impact the environment, including development and economic bodies. Funds and resources (human, technical and information) for local, regional and international environmental issues need to be significantly enhanced e.g. increased finance for UEP and the Global Environment Facility. The adoption of the polluter pays principle, should be used to raise further funds e.g. through eco-taxes which can be ring fenced for mitigating polluting impacts and developing environmentally sound alternatives. Similarly, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle, broad stakeholder participation, community-based and local level activities should be further endorsed and supported by multilateral and national bodies, to build on-the-ground implementation or integrated natural resources programmes.

International and regional environmental regulations need to be further implemented and enforced at the national level. The Summit should be the occasion for the ratification and entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol (and its associated measures and instruments), the Biosafety Protocol, and further steps on implementing the Conventions on POPs and

PICs, Hazardous Wastes and Chemicals, Desertification, and Straddling fish stocks, amongst other agreements. Implementation, resources and enforcement machinery for MEAs need to be strengthened. These agreements also need to be integrated more effectively along ecosystem-based frameworks. This could occur through establishing thematic groupings, e.g. chemicals, atmosphere and biodiversity, to encourage greater in-tie in between conventions. The integration of the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainable development in a new broad legal framework might be pursued as a new initiative. This would include developing frameworks to establish greater clarity between MEAs and other agreements, such as ILO, Human Rights and global economic agreements.

6. Health and Environment

Critical issues related to health and environment, include the need to provide access to an adequate quality and quantity of water supply and sanitation, sustainable and affordable energy, basic health care and family planning services (medications, education and training, clinics and hospitals), provision of essential food requirements, adoption of occupational health standards in order to tackle major chronic and acute global diseases e.g. HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, waterborne diseases. Further national and international commitment to address these issues needs to be made at the Summit.

Actions include the clarification of trade law in relation to intellectual property rights as compared to the production of essential generic medicines. Also indigenous and traditional knowledge of biological resources with medicinal potential need to be legally and financially acknowledged and respected. The precautionary principle should be further applied in the development and use of biotechnology, e.g. for new medicines and food crops.

Many are calling for a more rights-based approach to the provision of basic needs essential for ensuring sustained healthy populations, especially to target those most critically in need, including poor and rural communities, women, youth, elderly and disabled. Additional regional and global funds and resources will be required to meet this huge need, including establishing clear entitlements for the poor, e.g. to credit, land tenure, IPR, and this should initiated by bringing new and additional financial commitments to the Summit.

7. Finance for Sustainable Development. There should be specific discussions about how the decline in Official Development Assistance can be reversed, and put back on a steady path of growth, towards meeting the 0.7% GNP target, as well as ensuring the untying of aid from donor country trade and industry objectives. Also there needs to be debate on how debt relief and debt cancellation can be extended, as well the use of Special Drawing Rights.

There needs to be a specific negotiation during 2002 seeking a substantial replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and an extension of its scope. Additional finances (to ODA) need to be made for the provision of Global Public Goods (GPG) e.g. eradication of global diseases, climate enhancement, conservation of biological diversity. These will need to be clearly defined, as well as the mechanisms for their provision, perhaps through the establishment of an inter-governmental task force on GPGs with stakeholder involvement. Other key areas, such as the redirection of national military expenditure towards sustainable development aims, need to be openly debated. The Summit should also be an opportunity to review and establish new financial mechanisms e.g. exchange rate and currency transfer taxes, that may be addressed at the UN Financing for Development process as well as elsewhere, and to assess their relevance to the Johannesburg Summit in mobilising finances for sustainable development.

8. Technology Transfer, Capacity Building and Education

These are key resources in mobilising implementation of sustainable development. In applying the principles of partnership and "Common and Differentiated Responsibility", significant international, regional and bilateral steps need to be made to increase the adoption of environmentally sound, ethical, affordable and socially responsible technologies and practices. The second Prep Com should begin to establish strategies and programmes for enhancing exchange of technologies and capacity building on the key sectoral issues being addressed at the Summit, including enhancing the role of and financial support for UNDP's Capacity 21 initiative. Stakeholders, as well as governments and multi-lateral institutions, can also play key roles in this process, as many NGOs and CBOs, local authorities, faith communities, private corporations have experiences of best practice that could be learnt from and adapted to be applied elsewhere. Global multi-stakeholder networks along sectoral lines could be established at the Summit, to enhance this process. The role of Information and Communications Technology will clearly have a part to play, the activities of NetAid and related capacity building programmes need to be further supported towards establishing greater ICT infrastructure and use at national and local levels. Furthermore, the Summit should give international endorsement of sustainable development to be set at

the core of education from primary to tertiary levels, cutting across disciplines and research, as well as informal means of learning e.g. adult education, workplace training. This will require additional commitment of resources to train the teachers and trainers in this approach to learning.

9. Governance and participation. Cutting across the three pillars of sustainable development, many groups continue to note the imbalance of governance away from the environmental and social pillars. These include:

Environmental Frameworks: As such there are calls for UNEP to be given agency status. Its resource base should be assured and strengthened. The political weight of UNEP within the UN would be increased, further assisting its role in co-ordinating UN agencies that work on environmental areas, under the auspices of the UN Environment Management Group. National reporting requirements would also be increased. It should be given stronger regional capacity and resources for its regional offices, enabling a more balanced interaction with the Regional Economic Commission. It needs to be given a specific role and mandate in order to better promote and coordinate the clustering of MEA's secretariats.

Development and Economic Frameworks: Current reforms in the area of economic institutions, such as the WTO, World Bank, IMF and other multilateral economic and development institutions, should aim to ensure that they set their overarching goal toward a global economic architecture that supports balanced and equitable sustainable development. It should include the strengthening of the role of stakeholders, e.g. through establishing rules of major group accreditation as exists in UN ECOSOC. The Summit should also address the possibility of a strengthened economic body within the UN, to draw these institutions within a more integrated governance framework.

Sustainable Development frameworks: The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) should be strengthened to fully establish its overarching and integral relationship to other UN agencies and commissions, external institutions. The mechanisms and processes to do this need to be clarified. The involvement of stakeholders needs to be further enhanced within CSD dialogues and outcomes. Also the CSD Intersessionals need to become much more pro-active. One possibility would be to move the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues to the beginning of the Intersessionals and to receive input from the regions on the issues topics of that given year. This would require the Regional Economic Commissions to be much more active in the process. During the second week of the Intersessionals, governments would then make presentations with a global focus. The Chair would produce a draft drawing from the stakeholder dialogue, the regional input, IACSD and the global discussion. The draft would be published on the last day for governments to take back to their capitals for review and report back the following year. The Second Prep Com should address the possibility of the adaptation of the Regional Economic Commissions to become Regional Commissions for Sustainable Development, including multi-stakeholder involvement. National governments should be encouraged and support bringing in wider ministerial representation to CSD sessions (beyond environment ministers), with ministerial representation defined according to the issues being address at a particular CSD session, to ensure that decisions coming out of the process are more likely to reflect a cross departmental view within separate governments.

Participation: Stakeholders are very active in promoting sustainable development. They stand ready to join in partnerships of all kinds to help expand the contributions they can make. As the Secretary General's Report puts it:

"While these successes are important, there are several shortcomings. The participation of women at all levels is still relatively low, and participation at the international level is not adequately geographically balanced and not adequately financed. As a result, the majority of the voices that are heard are those who can afford to participate and have ready access to the process. At the national level, few countries provide incentives to non-governmental actors to participate, limiting their contributions to the national process."

An often-observed shortcoming, particularly at the national and international levels, is that stakeholder participation is rarely allowed in actual decision-making. Moreover, participation at these levels is often based on temporary and ad hoc rather than permanent and reliable mechanisms and procedures. A strengthened sense of ownership of the decisions taken among participating stakeholders would help in implementing many decisions relating to sustainable development."

The Summit should seek to strengthen and consolidate the process for engaging a wide range of stakeholders in debate and action relating to sustainable development. Stakeholders have grown in authority, capacity and responsibility since

Rio. Their participation is not simply a token gesture but is essential for ensuring progress on implementation. They can contribute to Sustainable Development through bringing expert and local knowledge on key issues, experiences of best practice from on the ground implementation, local and community-based programmes, independent assessment and peer review of programmes. These multi-stakeholder activities should be linked to more substantive roles for the further implementation of Agenda 21. These roles should be recognised by and established in partnership with governments.

Stakeholders will be bringing their own reviews of action and proposals for the future to the Johannesburg Summit. Stakeholder Forum is seeking to encourage the further development of joint stakeholder action through the Implementation Conference, which is to be held just before the Summit. The Summit could be made the occasion for giving full recognition of this vital stakeholder activity.

More broadly stakeholders need to be fully involved in all aspects of developing and implementing sustainability strategies and programmes at regional, national and local levels. Frameworks for achieving this, such as the Aarhus Convention, could be further developed and supported at national, regional and global levels.

10. Global Deal

At Johannesburg heads of state and high-level ministers will need to set out a strong statement of global commitment, endorsing the key steps that will help make the shift towards Sustainable Development. Many groups positively referred to the development of a Global Deal, but called for an inclusive process to clarify government and stakeholder roles, as well as establishing its broad remit and goals. The NGO Dialogue Paper for Prep Comm 2 outlines some key principles that should underlie a new Global Deal for sustainable development. They said that *"The notion of the WSSD producing a new "Global Deal" was considered by the UNECE NGO consultation as a result of suggestions made previously by the South African and Danish governments, among others. Its objective would be to bridge North/South differences on key elements, including:*

Equity – eradicating poverty through equitable and sustainable access to resources;

Rights – securing environmental and social rights;

Limits – reducing resource use to within sustainable limits;

Justice – recognition of ecological debts and cancellation of financial debts;

Democracy – ensuring access to information and public participation; and

Ethics – rethinking the values and principles that guide human behaviour."

The full version of this document can be obtained one at:
<http://www.earthsummit2002.org>

Annex 1. Issues Matrix

The following matrix compares the suggested issues of the Secretary General's Review of Agenda 21 document (Ref: , shown here under the "SG" key) with the issues addressed within stakeholder meetings outline in the above analysis (shown here as "SV"). The shaded boxes with three plus signs (+++) indicate direct cross over between issues, boxes with one or two +'s indicate some relationship but less directly.

SV SG	1.Principles, Vision and Strategy	2. Poverty, Human security and devel- opment	3. Global- isation	4. Produc- tion and Consump- tion	5. Natural Resources	6. Health and Envi- ronment	7. Finance for Sus- tainable Develop- ment	8.Tech- Transfer, Capacity Building, Education	9. Govern- ance & Participa- tion	10. Global Deal
1. Global- isation	+++	+	+++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+
2. Poverty and Sus- tainable Liveli- hoods	+++	+++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
3. Produc- tion and Consump- tion	+++	+	++	+++	+	+	+	+	+	+
4. Promot- ing health	+++	+	+	+	++	+++	+	+	+	+
5. Access to Energy and En- ergy Effi- ciency	+++	+	+	+	+++	++	+	+	+	+
6. Man- agement of Ecosys- tems and Biodiver- sity	+++	+	+	+	+++	++	+	+	+	+
7. Fresh- water resources	+++	+	+	+	+++	++	+	+	+	+
8. Finance and tech- nology transfer	+++	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+++	+	+
9. SD Ini- tiatives in Africa	+++	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+
10. Gov- ernance for Sus- tainable Develop- ment	+++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+

