



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

inside:

The NGO perspective on the state of play

Crunch time is coming

a daily
multi-stakeholder
magazine on
climate change
and sustainable
development

outreach

16 June 2012



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pic: Jorge Andrade

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About Stakeholder Forum

Stakeholder Forum is an international organisation working to advance sustainable development and promote democracy at a global level. Our work aims to enhance open, accountable and participatory international decision-making on sustainable development through enhancing the involvement of stakeholders in intergovernmental processes. For more information, visit: www.stakeholderforum.org

Outreach is a multi-stakeholder publication on climate change and sustainable development. It is the longest continually produced stakeholder magazine in the sustainable development arena, published at various international meetings on the environment; including the UNCSO meetings (since 1997), UNEP Governing Council, UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) and World Water Week. Published as a daily edition, in both print and web form, Outreach provides a vehicle for critical analysis on key thematic topics in the sustainability arena, as well as a voice of regional and local governments, women, indigenous peoples, trade unions, industry, youth and NGOs. To fully ensure a multi-stakeholder perspective, we aim to engage a wide range of stakeholders for article contributions and project funding.

If you are interested in contributing to Outreach, please contact the team (gmacdonald@stakeholderforum.org or acutter@stakeholderforum.org)
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Major Groups and other stakeholders still need a structure

Vicki-Ann Assevero

Independent Scholar and the Green Impresario

On the 2nd June, paragraph 49. of the Rio+20 Outcome Document read as follows:

'We commit ourselves to re-invigorating the global partnership for sustainable development that we launched in Rio in 1992. We recognise the need to impart new momentum to our cooperative pursuit of sustainable development, and commit to work together with Major Groups and other stakeholders in addressing implementation gaps. [Agreed ad ref]'

On 24th May this year, Sha Zukang, UNCSO 2012 Secretary General wrote a letter to 'all Major Group colleagues' and stakeholders urging them to view the side events at Rio+20 as 'an excellent opportunity' to make the voluntary commitments necessary 'to push forward the sustainable development agenda'. Governments acknowledge and understand that without universal participation from the world's citizens, sustainable development cannot be achieved. Civil society is also aware of its essential role in shaping and influencing multilateral negotiations. But exactly how do the Major Groups and other stakeholders participate in the state-centric multilateral process and are these forms of participation sufficiently inclusive, authentic, representative, legitimate and stable?

The participation of Major Groups in the Informal Informals has highlighted the complexities of collective action, even amongst those which are self-selected, eager, committed and *voluntary* actors, whose participation in the multilateral UN system was formalised through Agenda 21 in 1992. The negotiations create space for the representatives of Major Groups to meet together, discuss advocacy strategies and to be briefed by the Secretariat. Major Groups can observe the negotiations, and at the discretion of the Co-Chairs, can even make verbal contributions. Participants from Business and Industry, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, Children and Youth, Farmers, Scientists, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, and Women can definitely buttonhole delegates and press their points in the corridors. Major Groups write papers, draft suggested language and can submit items to our very own Major Groups Programme Coordinator at UN DESA. The question which remains, however, is do these informal and ad hoc activities make a difference to the formal multilateral negotiations?

It seems that they do, but in a rather convoluted and unpredictable manner. Take for example the 'three *pillars* of sustainable development'. The image of pillars as

fixed, massive and unchanging has largely been replaced by 'dimensions', which better captures the flexibility and interconnectedness of the social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainability. The scientific community advocated for such a change to reflect the causal uncertainties inherent in studying the effects of climactic, atmospheric and anthropogenic changes to our planet. Merely a subtle semantic change? Perhaps, but this new framing more accurately conveys the reality of the challenge.

Another example comes from Business and Industry, through the efforts of Aviva, the UK's largest insurance company, and partners. Aviva has proposed a Convention on Corporate Sustainability Reporting. Having taken the initiative to convene a coalition of other businesses, investors and NGOs to further the proposal at Rio+20, Aviva (and others) voluntarily became advocates for embedding sustainability practices in business and creating measurable indices. This Major Group is directly asking governments to commit to a Convention on Corporate Sustainability Reporting to harmonise global practices.

Major Groups have definitely enriched the multilateral process. Is this enrichment consequential? Sometimes the multilateral process will embrace major group ideas, but sometimes not. And that is the crux of the problem.

Brazil, as host country, innovated by creating the Diálogos 2012 (Rio+20 Sustainable Development Dialogues), a real and a virtual forum for civil society to directly address Heads of State with their suggestions on sustainable development. We cannot judge the Dialogues yet, but the voting process for the best ideas promoting sustainability may not be an authentic gauge.

There are over five hundred side events planned during UNCSO 2012. If the G77 members bemoan their inability to participate in all the formal negotiations relevant to them, it is clear that Major Group members will also suffer from the huge overlaps of trying to attend and integrate across so many events.

Major Groups require their own structure so that their creative will and self-organising capacities can be rationalised to provide a meaningful legal counterweight to UN multilateralism, while continuing to work among themselves to create and test sustainable solutions to problems that they have defined ■



The NGO perspective on the state of play

NGO Major Group

In the two statements made below from the NGO Major Group, reference is made to both the overall concern that the Prepcom is not making progress, and rather risks regression, plus some very specific concerns on different paragraphs.

The NGO Major group remains strongly committed to the principle of non-regression and supports the bracketed language in paragraph 19 on this critical concept. Given the growing global ecological crisis, the outcome document must recognise the need to prevent backsliding on environmental protection and sustainable development. We urge states which oppose the current text on non-regression to seriously reconsider their opposition, or to propose constructive alternatives. We must not squander this opportunity for damage control. The following are a few examples where we see regression on language from prior international agreements:

- On the text referring to **health**, the Beijing plan of action and the 'Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women' refer to rights, whereas now the language is being replaced by access to services. Rights language must return.
- We remain concerned that the debate on **access to information, public participation and access to justice** is unresolved as paragraphs 68g and 93 ter are weaker than the Rio 1992 outcome and JPOI. We urge states to commit to progress;

There is a growing fear that negotiations are backsliding on numerous principles and ambitions, while crises are increasing by the day. The first groundbreaking report of the Club of Rome (and later many others) emphasised that there are limits to Growth. This reality must be acknowledged and reflected in the text by **replacing 'economic growth' with 'economic prosperity.'** The protracted nature of the negotiations calls into question the very purpose of this conference. How can we 'achieve international cooperation in solving international problems' as per the UN Charter, when negotiations are being driven by loyalties that do not extend beyond the nation state? The urgency of these matters must be reflected in the negotiations. In short, Rio+20 must build on agreed principles: **there must be no regression.**

On **Green Economy**: we want to reiterate again and again that we need to stop the GDP-growth addiction, especially in industrialised countries, so that we can move forward towards sustainable economies. We do not stop this with only pushing for other indicators, because this paradigm is of course also related with the need for a radical transformation of our current monetary system. We need to move from a debt based economy towards a commons based economy in order to stay within our ecological limits. Unfortunately, we don't see any reference in the text on this idea. We regret the total unwillingness of the industrialised nations to discuss the lowering of their material resource consumption to sustainable levels. This needs to be done immediately to respect the carrying capacity of our Mother Earth and in favour of equal sharing of resources with underconsuming countries/regions.

On **Governance**: the Council on Sustainable Development, under the General Assembly, we demand, needs to be given coordinating capacity and the mandate to assure that all agreements are fully implemented and that the agreed goals will be met. This new Council must include pro-active participation of all Major Groups in the decision-making processes and implementation. A lot of nice words have been said about the essential role of stakeholders in sustainable development, so it is disappointing to see that there is low ambition to launch, here in Rio, the process for a global convention of environmental rights and public participation.

On **Education**: We emphasize the importance of including non-formal education in the negotiation text. Education for sustainable development supports the development of the whole personality and needs to be gender-based and equity-based.

On **Subsidies**: We think it is shocking that after 10 years we are still supporting unsustainable patterns of production. This shows the lack of political will very clearly, and the priorities governments have. Please keep in mind that, already in the JPOI, reference is made to the need to get rid of the harmful subsidies. It is still unclear what will happen with the references to harmful subsidies in this text (Energy 6 on fossil fuel subsidies, Oceans 14 and 17 on fisheries, and Trade 2 on agriculture) ■



NGO Major Group Clusters: priorities and demands for a successful Rio+20 outcome

In February 2012, the Organizing Partners of the NGO Major Group launched over 20 voluntary thematic clusters for the purpose of arriving at common policy positions and lobbying strategies and to identify potential partnerships or initiatives for (1) the collective lobbying of governments and (2) the implementation of Rio+20 decisions.

The following are the top three priorities or demands from a selection of the thematic clusters that defines, for them, a successful outcome of Rio+20. Further selections from these thematic clusters will be published in upcoming editions of Outreach.

Green Economy Cluster

- A radical transition towards a green economy has to be focused on consumption and production patterns, through reducing humanity's resource use in order to stay within the limits of our ecological capital (biogeochemical and social planetary boundaries).
- The transition must also be focused on achieving social and environmental justice, global equity and poverty eradication, as well as building resilient communities that are affected by climate change and the negative impacts of the current economic system.
- The growth-driven economic paradigm based on the GDP has to be changed to take better account of a set of Genuine Progress Indicators that focus on true measures of planetary and human well-being.

Sustainable Consumption and Production Cluster

- Existing consumption and production patterns must be changed to ensure greater prosperity and life quality for all within the Earth's life support systems. This involves developing a circular economy based on a fair and more efficient use of natural resources, on principles of sufficiency rather than luxury, and on more collaboration and cooperation across stakeholders, rather than increased competition.
- Implementation and monitoring of sustainable consumption and production (SCP): Governments are invited to establish national and regional contact points on SCP, responsible for monitoring and reporting on progress within the country and the region to address the globally-agreed objective of changing production and consumption patterns.
- The 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP negotiated at CSD19
 - provides a valuable tool for further advancement of SCP and therefore
 - must be adopted as a part of the final Rio+20 outcome.

SDGs Cluster

- The development of a strong process for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These Goals should be thematically organised, building on the MDGs, and should create time-bound quantitative targets that will catalyse sound pathways to sustainable development.
- Continuing on from the MDGs, the proposed SDGs should focus on poverty eradication as an overarching aim and include means of implementation.
- Support the implementation of Resource Sufficiency Evaluation (RSE) at a national and global level.

Innovation Cluster

- The commitment to give room for new thinking and initiatives regarding global governance innovations, to increase the integration of resources, knowledge and preferences of global civil society.
- Discussions on global governance system innovation potentials of 15/15/15 UN Civil Society Partnership and its implementation elements. These include Global Challenges Centers, Global Forum on Innovative Resource Mobilization for Education and Science, and Collaborative Global Commons Growth Documentation System, as well as the development of new forms of ICT enhanced participation of civil society within the UN system.
- Delivery of systemic measures to effectively address market failures like externalities and under-provision of public goods.

Local and National Sustainability Strategies Cluster

- Encourage governments, local and national councils from around the world to participate in and support the development of a global network.
- Encourage all governments to develop and implement their local and national sustainability strategies, as they agreed to do in 1992 and 2002, to base them on the Rio Principles, to focus on fully implementing and achieving all of the sustainable development agreements and commitments that have been made to date, and on making a rapid transition to full sustainability.
- Encourage the UN to establish a global programme to support and assist all countries and communities in developing and implementing their local and national sustainability strategies, along with their action plans on SCP.





Crunch time is coming

Derek Osborn
Stakeholder Forum

As the Prep Com limps towards a conclusion and a new phase of discussions, it is time to focus on what must still be achieved in the final stages. Here are six key challenges on which the success of the Summit may be judged.

1. The Conference needs to send out a reaffirmation of the overarching goal of sustainable development and its crucial role as the only possible path to genuine economic recovery. The G20's efforts to re-launch economic recovery, and Rio's efforts to re-launch sustainable development, are two sides of the same coin. Both need each other to provide the comprehensive new vision and message of hope the world so sorely needs.
2. Reaffirming this goal goes together with reaffirming the basic principles that define and guide sustainable development. It is alarming to see some countries trying to undermine a number of the key principles of sustainable development established in Rio 20 years ago, and congratulating themselves that they can still subscribe to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The task of sustainable development is both greater and more urgent than it was 20 years ago, and these existing foundations should have been non-negotiable. The delegates should have been looking to the inspiring words of the Earth Charter created 20 years ago, and studiously ignored by negotiators ever since. But above all, they should focus on building stronger and more effective means of implementation, to see the already established principles acted upon. Nero notoriously played his fiddle while Rome burned around him. Will our latter day negotiators be seen as seeking to outdo him, fiddling around with pointless debates on the well-established founding principles of justice and sustainable development, while the global environment deteriorates around them?
3. Measuring progress will be essential so that we have proper yardsticks of progress. Beyond GDP, sustainability indicators, and natural capital accounts are not just pleasant academic diversions. They are the essential new compass needed to chart the course towards the sustainable future we all want. These initiatives need to take root at the core of the global economic governance system; in each bank, corporation and IFI.
4. The agreement to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will potentially be the most significant outcome from Rio+20. But the crucial feature of the SDGs – their universality – is under attack. The essential development goals to eradicate poverty and hunger in the poorest parts of the world must be matched by the developed world making efforts to reduce their pressure on the Earth's limited carrying capacity, by taking steps to move towards more sustainable patterns of production and consumption. That is the new global deal implicit in the proposal for SDGs and the deal that the political leaders arriving next week must strike.
5. The private sector needs to reset their course by a new compass. The world's financial community and business groupings are themselves calling for a new global framework for corporate sustainability reporting. Why are some of the negotiators timidly backing away from decisive action on this point?
6. Governance for sustainable development is the central challenge of our generation. It requires regular and consistent oversight by heads of government and finance ministers, as well as by environment and development departments. The world is looking for the establishment of a new high level forum to drive progress forward. One that is supported by a much strengthened capacity at the centre of the organisation to integrate global scientific assessments and to champion the claims of future generations. Remitting all this to the vagaries of a process to reform ECOSOC would be a wholly inadequate response. Not least, this would put at risk the great advances on the governance that have been made over the years by the growing recognition of the crucial role of Major Groups in advancing sustainable development, especially within the UN process.

Already, the parallel summit gatherings of the scientific community, the local government sector, the Parliamentarians of the world, businesses associations and other groupings, are showing what these different civil society actors can do to advance sustainable development both within and between their own spheres. It is crucial that in their future deliberations, the countries of the world keep open their doors to be prompted, encouraged and to learn from these inspiring examples of sustainability in practice. The frustrated and sometimes cynical world of the UN corridors needs constant revival by practical examples of progressive spirits in the real world.

As the negotiations move forward to their concluding phases, these key objectives must be kept firmly in view. In Churchill's famous words: ACTION THIS DAY ■

ODA doubles in twenty years but still not reaching target

'In recognition of the special importance of the role which can be fulfilled only by official development assistance, a major part of financial resource transfers to the developing countries should be provided in the form of official development assistance. Each economically advanced country will progressively increase its official development assistance to the developing countries and will exert its best efforts to reach a minimum net amount of 0.7 per cent of its gross national product at market prices by the middle of the Decade.' International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade 1, UN General Assembly Resolution 2626 (XXV), October 24, 1970, para. 43

As governments discuss Means of Implementation, Outreach decides to have a look at the story of ODA (Official Development Assistance).

The donor governments promised to spend 0.7% of GNP on ODA at the UN General Assembly in 1970—some 40 years ago. The original deadline was the mid-1970s.

The 1992 Rio Conference Secretariat calculated that the costs of implementing Agenda 21 would be approximately \$125 billion a year in North to South flows, and \$625 billion in total. This would enable the world to move on a sustainable path.

The 1990s actually saw development aid reduce, not increase. It was only in the last ten years that there has been a substantive increase in aid. Since 2002, ODA has gone from \$65 billion to over \$147 billion, a 126% increase.

The EU, which provides over half of all ODA worldwide, has made a number of commitments to achieve this consensus. It agreed to increase its ODA to achieve 0.39%

of gross national income (GNI) by 2006 (as a step towards the 0.7% target set by the UN). This collective pledge was based on individual promises by some member countries to donate at least 0.33%, and others to maintain their already higher aid levels.

In 2005, the EU made additional commitments to collectively reach ODA of 0.7% of GNI by 2015, and levels of 0.56% of GNI as an intermediate target by 2010. This was underpinned by an individual target of 0.17% for the 12 newest member countries (0.33% for 2015) and 0.51% for the others (0.7% for 2015), with those countries that have already reached their targets committing to maintain higher aid levels. The new commitments include help to mitigate external shocks that cause poverty, and making aid more predictable.

By 2015 it is hoped at last that the target will be met... 45 years after the commitment was made ■

Development Assistance (1992-2012)

Year	ODA	Year	ODA
1992	\$69 billion	2002	\$65 billion
1993	\$66 billion	2003	\$80 billion
1994	\$66 billion	2004	\$92 billion
1995	\$66 billion	2005	\$118 billion
1996	\$63 billion	2006	\$117 billion
1997	\$55 billion	2007	\$117 billion
1998	\$58 billion	2008	\$136 billion
1999	\$60 billion	2009	\$131 billion
2000	\$60 billion	2010	\$141 billion
2001	\$58 billion	2011	\$147 billion

The future working people want

Workers and Trade Unions Major Group

Working people need leaders to invest in green jobs, to fund the implementation of a universal social protection floor and to raise global funding to support these ambitions. In the face of the most bitter crisis in unemployment, investment in green jobs is urgent. ITUC's research, based on the analysis of 12 countries, demonstrates that an investment equivalent of 2% of GDP at national level could potentially create 9.8 million jobs each year in those countries.

A green job should reduce environmental impacts of enterprises and economic sectors to sustainable levels, while providing decent working and living conditions to all those involved in production, and ensuring workers' rights

are respected. A green job must provide adequate social security and decent wages and be covered by sufficient health and safety provisions.

The UN describes social protection as 'the missing piece in a fair and inclusive globalisation'. The Social Protection Floor is a set of basic social security rights, services and transfers to help promote human rights and support decent living standards worldwide.

A global Financial Transactions Tax (FTT) could fund programmes to alleviate global poverty and support sustainable development and climate action by taxing specific financial transactions from the very sector that created the global financial crisis.



Women's resistance & resilience at Rio+20: powerful stories by powerful women

Claire Greensfelder and Bridget Burns
on behalf of the Women's Major Group

On the morning of Friday 15th June, a strong and diverse group of nine women passionately engaged a crowd in Riocentro with their first-hand reports on women's determined resistance to unsustainable projects and policies, and their resilience in staying the course in their fight for Mother Earth.

On the morning of Friday 15th June, a strong and diverse group of nine women passionately engaged a crowd in Riocentro with their first-hand reports on women's determined resistance to unsustainable projects and policies, and their resilience in staying the course in their fight for Mother Earth.

From Kazakhstan to Nigeria, Cambodia to Guatemala, Sudan to Bolivia — their stories echoed each other: that around the world, corporate greed, unsustainable energy use and environmental degradation are at the roots of social inequity and environmental crises, causing women to have to struggle in order to live in a just society with a healthy environment, women's rights ensured.

The event was part of a series of daily activities at Rio+20 organised by the Women's Major Group, a collective of over 200 women's and ally organisations from every corner of the world. Event moderator, Gita Sen, of DAWN (Development Alternatives for Women for a New Era) stated this morning, "The voices on this panel are the ones which policy makers must be listening to."

Sascha Gabizon of Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), one of the key organisers of the Women's Major Group, said "Rio+20 could be our last chance to mobilise world leaders and civil society to assure a real paradigm shift away from greed and unsustainable growth, towards societies based on human rights and gender equality"

Norma Maldonado from Guatemala, addressing women's resistance to monocultures introduced by foreign countries, said "there is a cruel irony that Guatemala is the home of so many species of food and yet is also the most malnourished country in the hemisphere....We can grow our own food!"

Winnie Kodi of Sudan spoke on moving towards energy independence and political empowerment in post-conflict regions, while **Maureen Penjueli of Fiji** told the audience that "there is a moral obligation to speak truth to the human and ecological disaster that is being perpetuated on innocent people. It is critical to resist governments who seek to invest in our countries, when the results of those arrangements take away our rights and our wellbeing", and **Carmen Capriles of Bolivia** told how Bolivian

women were "steadfast in their protection of the climate and forests."

Sopheha Chrek from Cambodia stated that Cambodian women have been engaged in a non-violent struggle for their land rights, she declared "women cannot and will not be suppressed."

Goldman Environmental Prize winner, **Kaisha Atakhanova of Kazakhstan**, spoke out on the harmful effects of uranium mining on women in Central Asia, while **Caroline Usipeko-Omoniye of Nigeria** reported that the Niger Delta generates nearly 80% of revenue for the country, yet the people remain in poverty and suffer the devastating consequences of the oil industry.

Moderator Gita Sen summarised: "we have heard women speaking truth to power. But are those policy makers listening to us?" She continued, "Are the voices that should be heard and should be responded to, 20 years after the earth summit, really heard by decision makers? We have our doubts!"

"We have had testimonies from women from different countries of the South. We have heard how women's land and resources are being grabbed...We have heard that pollution of massive scale is created, soils degraded, and people being displaced, after having cared for these resources for centuries, are now turned into refugees."

"Women, indigenous peoples, youth — their lives are being put on the line when they dare to resist a form of development which destroys their lives and livelihoods and communities and cultures."

Sen added "This is being reinforced by anti-women laws, by patriarchal practices, in families, in states, and in the way states interact with each other."

The panelists also offered ideas for the path forward, looking at how to live more in tune with nature and calling for creation of women's tribunals and a UN special rapporteur on uranium mining.

Sen remarked "we need a Women's Charter of Rights defining what we mean about sustainable consumption and production." She concluded that "the real struggle for the right to development is fought by women on the frontlines, working every day as our panelists demonstrated here this morning" ■

More info

Follow the Women's Major Group @Women_Rio20



Youth Blast: Perspectives on Rio+20

Lendsey Achudi

International Youth Council-Kenya

Between 7th-12th of June, the Major Group for Children and Youth and The Brazilian National Youth Secretary – in partnership with the Government of Brazil, Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Agência Brasileira de Cooperação), CONJUVE (National Youth Council) – organised an event titled, ‘Youth Blast – Conference of Youth for Rio+20’. The event gathered youth from all over the world at the SulAmerica conference centre to strategise and make proposals for Rio+20. The event was divided into two parts – first was the Brazilian days (7th-8th June) which focused on supporting and strengthening the Brazilian youth movement. This was followed by the international days (10th-12th June).

More than 3000 young people were expected at the Youth Blast, ahead of Rio+20, however, it seemed like less than 1000 people turned up. This could be an indication that young people are becoming more disgruntled by the lack of will from policy makers and the lack of faith that, this time round – 20 years after the original conference – the outcomes will be any different.

All the same, the youth in attendance reaffirmed their strategic role in sustainable development and decided to promote the implementation of the Rio outcome through

their participation, inclusion and autonomy. This is in accordance with the recommendations in Agenda 21, Action Program for Youth and the Action Platform and Millennium Declaration. The youth suggested that the participation of new generations should not be ignored or regarded as visions for the future. The youth want to be recognised as ombudspersons in negotiations relating to sustainability.

As a result of their commitment, the youth supported the development of integrated policies put forward, which included, but was not limited to, rights to education, decent jobs, integral health care, sustainable socioenvironmental culture, communication and digital inclusion.

In addition to the various workshops, keynote speakers were invited to speak to the youth. Most notably was the Secretary General of the Rio+20 Conference, Sha Zukang. He reiterated his commitment to make the conference a success, and said that he will not leave room for failure. Other speakers included Marina Silva, a prominent Brazilian environmentalist and politician. Only time will tell if the youth will be heard this time ■

Indigenous Peoples must have at the Rio+20 conference

Indigenous Peoples Working Group

Honour our peoples, honour our Mother Earth

Indigenous Peoples around the world have a special connection to their lands and resources arising from a long standing relationship to their territories. We all have a moral and legal obligation to ensure future generations have an abundance of resources needed for their long-term survival and wellbeing. We must respect the rights of Mother Earth, and protect the web of life which supports us all.

We must bring forth necessary political changes and cultural understanding in order to address global systemic change. The Indigenous Peoples propose an alternative paradigm – Buen Vivir – meaning full exercise of all human rights, respect for diversity of all ways of life, as well as living in harmony with nature.

Indigenous Peoples seek the inclusion of a cultural pillar in sustainable development. Drawing strength from our spiritual and cultural values, determined to overcome the extreme disparities of power and wealth, to prevent further losses in biological and cultural diversity.

Deepen democracy and fulfil Human Rights

Sustainable development is an endeavour for governments

and all peoples, which calls for bold steps to deepen democracy in all areas of governance, and fulfilment of all Human Rights. The implementation of Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination is a necessary safeguard and outcome of equitable and sustainable development.

The institutional framework for sustainable development requires the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making at all levels. The full implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including respect for our free, prior, informed consent, is required in all policies, programmes and projects affecting our lands, territories and resources.

Regulate extractive industries and deliver corporate accountability

It is the duty of governments to work with Indigenous Peoples to develop laws and regulations that incorporate free, prior and informed consent to regulate extractive industries. Mechanisms are required to recognise the right of Indigenous Peoples to exercise jurisdiction and authority over resource extraction within their territories. Diverse local economies need to be promoted and protected from predatory investments which drive social conflicts.



Conference on building a Global Network of NCSDs



National Councils
for Sustainable Development

15:00-19:00 - Sunday 17th June

Room A, State of Rio de Janeiro Pavilion, Athletes' Park (5 minute walk from Riocentro)

Speakers and panellists include:

- **Derek Osborn**, President of Stakeholder Forum/Co-Chair of Rio+5 (Chair)
- **Elizabeth Thompson**, Rio+20 Executive Coordinator
- **Peter Davies**, Welsh Commissioner for Sustainable Futures
- **Marlehn Thieme**, Chair, German Council for Sustainable Development
- **Annika Lindblom - Deputy SG**, Finnish National Council for Sustainable Development
- **Ingeborg Niestroy - SG**, European Environment & Sustainable Development Advisory Councils
- **Ella Antonio**, President, Earth Council Asia-Pacific
- **Simon Hoiberg Olsen**, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan
- **Farooq Ullah**, Executive Director Designate, Stakeholder Forum

The **purpose** of the conference is to underline the importance of NCSDs, explore how they can play a leading role in the implementation of Rio+20 outcomes and initiatives, and encourage new sustainable development bodies to participate in the network. The conference will also seek to further discuss the purpose and modalities of the network itself, providing a space for participants to input their recommendations on the creation of a guiding Charter of Principles.

Please RSVP to jcornforth@stakeholderforum.org
www.ncsds.org

Eight joint recommendations of local and subnational governments

The Local Authorities Major Group

Local and subnational governments stress the important role that urbanisation plays in sustainable development; as well as the need for a new multilevel governance that promotes effective partnerships. We call on Member States to take into account the specific perspective of local and subnational governments for addressing global challenges towards sustainable urbanisation, metropolisation and regionalisation.

Cities and Subnational Governments are part of the same governance. A balanced territorial development is rarely only urban or rural-based and needs the complementarities and synergy of all its assets. The interlinking of territories and their economic, environmental and social interdependence require the use of integrated approaches.

It is in cities around the world that the pressures of globalisation, migration, social inequality, environmental pollution, climate change, and youth unemployment are most directly felt. Urban areas have, for centuries, been cradles of innovation, and currently represent more than 75% of global GDP. In this context, we need to develop territories that are environmentally sustainable, socially responsible and economically productive.

Summary of the recommendations of local and regional governments

1. A new multilevel governance architecture is needed. One where governmental stakeholders can unfold the full potential of their contribution to sustainable development. One where transparency, participation, equity and accountability are the founding principles.
2. Sustainable cities should be a crosscutting issue in the Sustainable Development Agenda. We need Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable cities should form one of them.
3. Cohesion among territories in development policies should be fostered.
4. Culture should be acknowledged as an important dimension of sustainable development.
5. Legal mechanisms of local and sub-national governments should be developed.
6. Financial mechanisms for local and sub-national governments should exist.
7. Cities and regions should be empowered as hubs of green growth.
8. The Rio+20 Conference should be the first step towards a Habitat III which focus on reinvigorating the urban agenda.



Nutrients: for food or pollution?

The choice is ours!

UNEP

Half the world's food security depends on nitrogen and phosphorous from fertilisers to grow crops. In some parts of the world, farmers cannot get enough of these nutrients to feed growing populations, while in others, industrial and agricultural activity has saturated the environment with them.

- Human activities produce around 120 million tonnes of reactive nitrogen each year. Nearly two thirds of this ends up polluting air, water, soil, marine and coastal areas.
- Some 20 million tonnes of phosphorous are mined every year and nearly half of this – 8 times the natural rate of input – enters the world's oceans.
- Between 1960 and 1990 the global use of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser increased more than sevenfold, while phosphorus use more than tripled.

Released from fertilisers, fossil fuel burning, wastewater from humans, livestock, aquaculture and industry these nutrients lead to air, water, soil and marine pollution, with loss of biodiversity and fish stocks, destruction of ozone and increased emission of greenhouse gases.

Nutrient use, if properly managed, enhances soil fertility, and contributes to food security and sustainable agriculture. However, when managed inefficiently, the same nutrients can be associated with a number of adverse effects on both human health and the environment. The excess nutrients in the environment have created profound impacts, in particular the pollution of water supplies, as well as creation of dead zones (eutrophication) in the oceans, thus undermining the important ecosystems and the services and livelihoods they support.

The result of this is a divide between societal needs for food and energy, and a complex web of adverse environmental impacts. This divide, 'the nutrient challenge', is set to intensify as population, urbanisation, and food and energy demands increase and lifestyles change.

To find out more, join us at UNEP's side event:

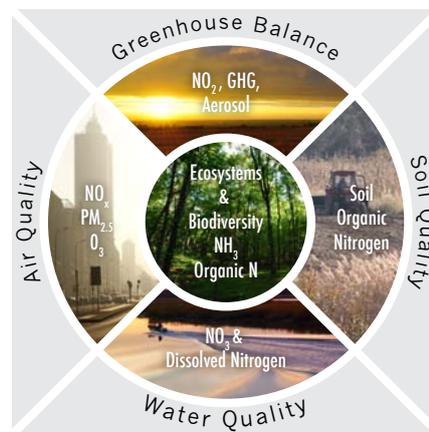
Side Event:

Nutrients: For Food or Pollution? The Choice is Ours!

Sunday 17th June 2012, 10:00am to 11:45am

Venue: Banco de Caixa, Auditorium, Avenida, Almirante Barroso, 25 Subsolo, in the centre of Rio de Janeiro (Metro: Carioca Station)

The European Nitrogen Assessment identified five key societal threats from excess reactive nitrogen: These are **Water** quality, **Air** quality, **Greenhouse** gas balance, **Ecosystems** and biodiversity, and **Soil** quality, in short **WAGES** (see Diagram below). The move towards a Green Economy needs to embrace a new focus on effective nutrient management, and sustainable nutrient management is critical for green growth and low carbon economy.



The global partnership on nutrient management: a global platform to steer dialogue and actions to promote effective nutrient management

The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) responds to the 'nutrient challenge' by identifying ways to reduce the excess nutrients in the environment, without hindering global development. It reflects a need for strategic, global advocacy to trigger governments and stakeholders to move towards more efficient use of nitrogen and phosphorous.

It provides a platform for governments, UN agencies, scientists and the private sector to forge a common agenda, mainstreaming best practices and integrated assessments, so as to effectively 'nutrient proof' policy making and investments.

UNEP are holding a side event this weekend, where, through an interactive discussion with the audience, a group of panel speakers (representing governments, science community, industry and UN agencies) reflect on the nature of nutrient management challenges, discuss the added value of the GPNM to reach consensus on concrete actions by all stakeholders and complement government efforts to address nutrient challenges. They will also discuss strengthening the dialogue process among policy makers, the science community, industry and UN agencies, to initiate a global assessment of nutrient use efficiency to support future discussions and negotiations at the global level ■



Reflections from a first time participant in the Rio+20 informal informals

Nadia Kaddour

Committee on International Environmental Law, Bar Association of the City of New York

Recently, I was thrilled to find out that my organisation, the New York City Bar, had received a few years ago consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Participating in the preparatory process for Rio+20 as a member of civil society was a new and exciting experience for me. Between March and June of this year, I was able to attend several meetings and events at the United Nations evolving around the draft of the Outcome Document, The Future We Want. I was amazed to be able to sit with delegates and diplomats from all over the world discussing the future of sustainable development. This was in part possible thanks to the commitment taken 20 years ago, in Rio, by Member States to strengthen the role of civil society, as acknowledged in Chapter 23 of Agenda 21: 'One of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision-making'.

The negotiations on the Outcome Document (which started as a 19 page document in January and reached 80 pages in June) have so far taken place in an informal setting. Representatives of Major Groups could attend the negotiations, sit wherever they wanted and interact with delegates on the side, but they were not allowed to make any comments on the document during the course of the negotiations. Speaking is reserved for UN delegates and diplomats representing their countries.

I had mixed feelings about these informal negotiations. Following my initial reaction of excitement and pride being there among sophisticated diplomats representing almost our entire planet and discussing critical subjects, I started feeling powerless, since no Major Groups could raise their voices during the informal negotiations. Little by little I became more sceptical about the participation of Major Groups in the negotiations. However, at the end of the day, I had to admit that the fact that such

participation was extremely important in order to develop contacts and get the sense of how negotiations were evolving. It is up to the Major Groups to make the best of these contacts and meetings, by following up and reaching out to people to send their messages.

For me, the side events were a more authentic display of the potential of the partnership among diplomats, governments, businesses and other groups of civil society. These meetings had a much smaller attendance, but the audience was very diverse and dynamic representing diplomats and members of civil society. I witnessed a real interaction among all stakeholders.

My overall experience was rather positive. It is clear that the participation of civil society is an ongoing process, which has come long way since Agenda 21. There is a unanimous sense that the contribution of civil society is a valuable asset to the United Nations' institutional framework. The diversity, energy and the fact that civil society has its own independent identity, separate from any sovereign, brings unique added value to the work of the United Nations.

The active and crucial role of all members of civil society is acknowledged several times in the Outcome Document, which also stresses the necessity to improve and strengthen civil society participation, in particular through better access to information and communication technology, and the increase of alliances among all stakeholders. I believe a more rational approach is needed. As Nobel Peace Prize Kofi Annan stated "Business, labor and civil society organizations have skills and resources that are vital in helping to build a more robust global community." Let's remember his words as we continue drafting the Future We Want ■



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People's Summit: water, a common good

João Barreto

Brazil, for the Youth News Agency and Rio+YOU

One of the topics discussed at the People's Summit is the importance of water. One of the stands, named 'Water, Rivers and People', gives visibility to the 1100 million people in the world without access to potable water. The exposition also discussed the serious problems facing the water cycle in a large number of locations around the globe, lectures on the green economy, and numerous other reflections on ways to optimise the use of the water.

Practical examples included: the transposition of the Jordan River to the Negev desert, increasing water conflict between Palestine and Israel; the Gibe III dam in Ethiopia, co-managed by the government and private organisations in ways that neglect human rights; and,

finally, the impact caused by Santo Antonio and Jirau dams at the Madeira River in the US, which are having severe negative impacts on several Native American and other local communities.

The so called green economy was another topic discussed during lectures and talks at the stand, emphasising the urgent need to share sustainable practices and broadening its reach to wider portions of society.

Discussions of this nature will continue during the People's Summit, moving from environmental degradation to new water policy frameworks for the next 15 years, showing possible sustainable solutions that favour both economic growth and social justice ■

Green economy and job opportunities

Matteo Conci

Italy, for the Youth News Agency and Rio+YOU

This title was the topic of a side event organised by UNEP. In the last year we reached a global population of over 7 billion, and by 2050 predictions suggest this will further rise to around 9 billion. Of these, 70% will be youth under 25.

"We need youth people to save the planet", says Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP. "You cannot talk about green economy without tying it to social inclusion and employment. Over the next 30 years we expect the creation of at least 600 new types of job linked to the green economy, and they all belong to the youth". In collaboration with UNESCO, they are therefore working on a governments support programme to help young people understand what is at stake and what skills should they develop to be useful in this transition.

Therefore education is the key proposal to include young people in the process of transition from a consumption economy to a sustainable one. Concrete examples are already there. In Kenya, for example, there is a programme that has been taking place for five years now, aiming to increase the entrepreneurial spirit of young people. In the last three years the programme has become increasingly involved in work around climate change and its consequences. The result has been amazing: thanks to this initiative alone, 40% of the students presented final projects with a "green" theme.

for young people

But we do not have much time: "the risk that this is a lost generation is undeniable", continued the speakers, "and it is very important that Rio does its part to produce a concrete programme to allow young people to lead our planet towards sustainable development. In any case, the impact of youth will grow faster than you think".

Meanwhile, the final Prep Com has come to an end and soon we will be reading the latest draft of the Outcome Document that Heads of State will debate at the Summit itself. Although we still have high hopes, we also fear the possibility that narrow economic and political interests prevail once more, preventing the necessary rejuvenation projects called for not only by NGOs, but also by the scientific community and international environmental organisations such as UNEP. Will they listen?

More information

Viração Educomunicação and Rio+YOU are the world's largest youth-led news agency, covering all events in Rio de Janeiro. Around 80 young journalists, designers, editors and photographers are reporting on everything that happens in the Youth Blast, Social Entrepreneurs' Forum, Rio+20, People's Summit, side events and demonstrations.

www.rioplusyou.org

[#rioyouthagency](https://twitter.com/rioyouthagency)



ECO Corner

ECO Corner is produced by the cooperative efforts of Climate Action Network members at the Rio+20 Conference

How to finance the green economy? End polluter handouts

It comes as little surprise that some of the biggest sticking points in this Rio+20 process concern the section on Means of Implementation. There have been numerous proposals for ambitious new goals, but what good are they if there is no new funding provided? Securing stable funds for development is always a challenge, but it seems particularly difficult at Rio, due to the current stress on Western economies following the financial crisis.

With painful cuts being made at home, how can these countries be expected to commit money to programmes that will have only indirect benefits for their own citizens? The challenge is daunting and it drives much of the cynicism that surrounds Rio+20, both in the media and in quiet conversations at RioCentro.

This cynicism can become a self-fulfilling prophecy, but as Mr. Sha has reminded the Conference “failure is not an option”. ECO agrees, funding for sustainable development must be found. And we have a suggestion.

Over a million global citizens have already thrown their support behind this incredibly obvious solution: stop

giving money away to polluters. Nearly \$1 trillion is spent on fossil fuel subsidies each year. If countries are at all serious about tackling the challenges of sustainable development, these subsidies are the first thing that needs to go.

The window for action on climate is closing, yet we are still pouring public money into this deadly industry. Rich nations claim austerity and continue spending billions in subsidies to oil, gas, and coal producers. You cannot build a green economy on a dirty foundation.

Fossil fuel consumption subsidies, primarily in developing countries, also do not generally help the poor. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has shown that only about 8% of consumer subsidies go towards the poorest 20%. And numerous reports have shown that fossil fuel subsidies are ineffective ways to promote energy access or provide social safety nets.

Clearly, this trillion dollars of dirty money could be better spent, and should be viewed by delegates as one of the best sources of alternative finance ■

One process for MDGs and one process for a post-2015 framework

Governments came together in Rio to agree on basic principles and process forward for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One of the foundations for the process is that it should not divert attention, funding or other resources from accelerating progress towards the current set of 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This MDG process and the related MDG review process are one track for the time **pre-2015**.

Reviewing the 2015 goals is good, but we need to also plan for the future. The **post-2015** process aims to design a global development framework to succeed the MDGs in 2015. This thinking obviously needs to happen now, rather than after 2015. The UN has already set these wheels in motion, even before the SDGs appeared on the horizon. Last year, they appointed a UN task team on post-2015 that produced a report on the post-2015 roadmap, which will be published shortly. A UN high-level panel on the post-2015 process was appointed with three Co-Chairs, and further members to be announced after

Rio+20. Further, the UN Secretary General appointed a Special Advisor on post-2015, and post-2015 stakeholder consultations have already begun to take place.

From its onset, the SDGs were meant to be part of this post-2015 track. Columbia was clear about that and so was everybody else. SDGs are meant to ensure that the post-2015 development framework, the new set of goals, will genuinely integrate environment and poverty concerns. Hence it is paramount that Rio+20 indicates clearly how and when the SDG process will be integrated into the post-2015 track.

This is where it gets tricky. At the moment, Rio+20 runs the risk of setting up a third track. This should be avoided at all costs. Having one SDGs process, in addition to the existing post-2015 process would be a waste of time, effort and resources and will lead to duplication, confusion and delays. And after all, creating a third track poses very real risks of distracting from achieving track one, the current set of MDGs ■

Rio+20 Side Event Calendar

Date	Time	Room	Title	Organisers
16/6/12	11:00 - 13:00	UNEP Pavillion Auditorium	UNEP FI Event – A Financial Sector Perspective on Rio+20	UNEP
	11:30 - 13:00	RioCentro - P3-2	The UN system Perspectives on Green Economy	United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG)
	11:30 - 13:00	RioCentro - P3-6	The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
	13:00 - 15:00	RioCentro - T9	From Rio to Cairo to Rio? and Beyond	Population Action International
	13:30 - 15:00	RioCentro - T2	China's Progress on Sustainable Development & Expectations of Rio+20	China
	14:00 - 15:30	Global Compact CSF auditorium, Windsor Barra hotel	Launch of the Natural Capital Declaration (NCD)	Natural Capital Declaration (NCD)
	15:30 - 17:00	RioCentro - P3B	Oceans for the future - How can we achieve marine reserve targets?	Zoological Society of London
	15:30 - 17:00	RioCentro - T8	Democratization of International Relations - Role of UN World Conference	Conference of NGOs Room
	17:00 - 19:00	UN Global Compact	Delivering a Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Food and Agriculture	UNEP
	All day	Peoples Summit	Peoples' Treaties	Peoples' Summit
17/6/12	09:30 - 14:00	Sheraton Rio Hotel and Resort, Avenue Niemeyer	UNEP-Bright Moon Joint Event: Get Together in Rio-Summit on Green Economy and Sustainable Development	UNEP
	09:30 - 11:00	RioCentro - T3	Rights of Nature - the Foundation for Sustainability	Global Exchange
	10:00 - 12:00	Second space in UNEP Pavilion	Nutrients For Food or Pollution? The Choice is Ours	UNEP
	10:45 - 15:45	Barra Arena, Room UN6	Workshop #2- Brazilian and Other Latin America Civil Society	ECOSOC
	11:30 - 13:00	RioCentro T-6	An ethical framework for global governance	Earth Charter International
	11:30 - 13:00	RioCentro P3-6	Banking as if the future matters - Making the change from short term profit to long term prosperity	Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment
	12:30 - 14:00	UNEP Pavilion	Transition to Sustainability: The Inclusive Wealth Report	UNEP
	13:30 - 15:00	RioCentro T-2	From Production To Consumption - Towards A Sustainable Food System	Millennium Institute
	13:30 - 15:00	RioCentro T-6	Get mad and do something about it! Youth as initiators for change	Peace Child International
	14:00 - 19:00	Rio Pavilion, Athletes' Park	National SD Councils	Stakeholder Forum
	15:30 - 17:00	RioCentro P3-E	Launch of report "Sustainable development for the 21st Century"	Division for Sustainable Development (UNDESA)
	15:30 - 17:00	RioCentro T-6	Tax justice: key to sustainable development?	Christian Aid
	17:00 - 17:30	RioCentro T-9	Imagine All the People: Advancing a Planetary Movement	The Widening Circle
17:30 - 19:00	RioCentro - T2	Another work is possible: a trade union contribution to Sustainable Development	International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) on behalf of the Workers and Trade Union Major Group	

Reflections on the negotiations - Friday 15th June

Kirsty Schneeberger
Stakeholder Forum

On Friday, the Co-Chairs of both working groups expressly requested that the cluster groups return to the report back sessions with cleaned up text, and as many agreed paragraphs as possible. After the morning session it was looking like there was only a slim chance of this happening, however things picked up towards the end of the day.

The issue of principles was discussed at length, largely between the G77 and the US, this time in relation to Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR). The US maintained that section III is not the place to bring specific principles from the Rio Declaration into the text, reiterating their position that these principles are reaffirmed in general in other sections. The G77, however, reiterated that it cannot accept the text in Section III without reference to CBDR, it being an important principle that must underpin the entire green economy section.

This is more than semantics. The issue of CBDR is central to the talks here on sustainable development, for it goes to the very heart of the issue in broader terms: it must be recognised that all states have a common responsibility to look after and not pollute our common environment. But at the same time, those responsibilities are differentiated because of the history of some states engaging in polluting activities, and developing consumption based economies.

Following on from the above, sustainable consumption and production was also discussed, and the G77 brought attention to the unsustainable consumption patterns of the West, which undermine commitments to achieving sustainable development.

The afternoon session proceeded to unbracket phrases and words, but many still remain. Preceding 'jobs' with the word 'green' causes the G77 concern and it is seeking to remove references to 'green'. Others, such as the US, maintain that it must be contained. The EU is more flexible on the point. In the corridors, it is suggested that, within the G77, Saudi Arabia has worked hard to ensure the use of adjectives such as 'green' and 'brown' are not used in relation to describing economies.

Technology transfer got some more airtime, as the cluster tried to agree on whether or not to leave references to technology transfer to sections I and II. Data and information sharing was also a talking point; but agreement was not reached.

In more positive news, the paragraph on engaging stakeholders was agreed 'ad ref' – something that is of paramount importance to Outreach readers ■

Rishikesh Bhandary
Tufts University

With just 10 hours of negotiating time remaining, delegates tried to race through the facilitator's carefully balanced text that was introduced last night on means of implementation (MOI). Entrenching further into their positions, the G77 and China rejected the facilitator's proposal of a needs assessment exercise with an exploration of funding sources, and introduced a new proposal.

The G77 and China have proposed an intergovernmental process, under the General Assembly, to chart out a framework, or mechanism, for sustainable development financing to mobilise new and additional funds and facilitate technology transfer. This proposal comes at a time when industrialised countries have revealed little interest to entertain demands for 'new and additional' funds or any 'mechanism' that would require its own finances.

Expectedly, industrialised countries were a little surprised to receive such a bold proposal so late in the game. One delegate even went on and called the proposal 'unhelpful', while another one called the proposal 'old fashioned' and joined a small chorus of voices calling for thinking beyond Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Explaining their proposal, G77 and China said that they would prefer to chart out a mechanism for sustainable development finance, instead of discussing the scale, which can easily be disputed. The Group also noted a lack of agreement on innovative sources of finance and the insufficiency of ODA, South-South cooperation, and efficient use of aid to achieve sustainable development.

More than anything, this proposal seems to represent G77 and China's general dissatisfaction with the talks as a whole, and could be seen as an anchor meant to stall negotiations until more favorable terms are reached on means of implementation and elsewhere ■

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