

equity
eco

Tuesday
3 September 2002

The Leaders
Speak

World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, Issue 7

Published by Consumers International, the Danish 92 Group, Earthjustice, Eurodad, Friends of the Earth International, Greenpeace, Northern Alliance for Sustainability, Oxfam International, and WWF

Dear President Mbeki,

It is our honour to provide you with a number of comments on the Draft Political Declaration “The Johannesburg Commitment on Sustainable Development” (1st September draft), distributed on Monday.

We believe that the expression of a commitment to sustainable development is indeed needed, given that it is not sufficiently reflected in the Plan of Implementation. We have been consistently struggling to ensure that the legacy of Rio is not jeopardised in this process. The WSSD has lacked vision and impetus. The Political Declaration is the last opportunity in this regard. Please take these suggestions as our contributions.

Para 10: The reference to the new conventions and protocols in this paragraph should be accompanied by a call for their entry into force and/or their implementation. Further, the words “resolutions and decisions” should be added after the word protocols.

Para 14: The words “individually and” should be added before the word “collectively”.

Para 29, line 2: After “human dignity”, the text should read “access to sanitation, clean water and energy...”; Line 4: Add the word “clean” before “technology”.

Para 32: Add: “and ask the Commission on Sustainable Development to adopt further targets in areas

where they could not be reached in Johannesburg”.

Para 35: Add: “and we encourage African civil society organisations to take part in these”.

Para 39: Add: “In this regard, we agree that there should be a review of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) at the Cancún WTO Ministerial meeting in 2003.”

Para 40: Add: “Recognising that

most of the world’s water bodies are shared by more than one country, international co-operation is essential for the wise management of this resource.”

Para 42: Add line 2: “hazardous and radioactive waste stockpiles”. Replace “address climate change” with “reduce in the long term emissions by 60 to 80 percent in accordance with the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).”

Please turn to page 4.

“The House Is Burning”

Heads of State began their marathon of five-minute speeches yesterday, and *Eco* was struck by the gaping discrepancy between the grand rhetoric of the world’s leaders and the language in the Plan of Implementation and the draft Political Declaration. The world’s leaders called repeatedly for clear targets and timelines, but the documents they are about to sign are woefully lacking in both. Are they blind to this fact?

A common theme was the urgent need for political will (Indonesia, the UK, Venezuela, others). Kofi Annan emphasised that a key word is responsibility—for the future and for the most vulnerable. Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez urged governments to address the root causes of poverty and to recognize that a new ethic or a new morality is needed in the world. *Eco* agrees with all these sentiments, but has seen little evidence of concrete commitments toward these ends here in Joburg.

A clear and possibly tragic example of this gap is on energy. Germany, Brazil, Marshall Islands, and others spoke forcefully of the threat of global climate change and the need for commitments to renewable energy. Even Canada may be on its way to signing the Kyoto Protocol. Yet the language agreed yesterday reads: “take joint actions and improve efforts to work together at all levels... recognising the role of national and voluntary regional targets as well as initiatives where they exist...” and on it goes *ad nauseam*. The words speak for themselves and obviously say nothing—no targets to deliver energy to the poor, no targets for renewable energy. Rumour has it that the deal, which went all the way to the White House, was that the US got to scrap targets on energy in exchange for agreeing to targets on sanitation and water. A deal which everyone else apparently swallowed.

Toward the conclusion of his speech, Chirac eloquently asked if humanity can become “the enemy of life itself”. Unfortunately, M. Chirac, given what has been agreed here in Johannesburg, *Eco* has come to the conclusion after this past one-and-a-half years of negotiations that the answer may well be yes. Or at least it may be true of that sub-species of humanity: *Homo negotiatus flatulatus*. Be careful, the house is burning—don’t add fuel to the fire!

What They Said...

Consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, *Eco* has decided to take a closer look at several of the speeches made by Northern leaders. We agree with Chirac's statement that Northern countries are most responsible...

Chirac: Plus or Minus Five?

The Chirac speech was one of the most fiery of yesterday's speeches by heads of state and government.

"We cannot say we did not know", "The house is burning", "Humanity's crime against itself", "Can mankind who is at the forefront of evolution become the enemy of life itself? Touché! Some of the best sound-bites we've heard so far - but let's take peek to see what lies beneath..."

1. Climate: an unfortunate absence of the term "renewable energy"—encouraged, no doubt, by the nuclear lobby.

2. Poverty: an unfortunate absence of the word "subsidies", the progressive elimination of which should be ensured if the President truly wishes to help developing countries.

The call for 0.7 percent of GNP for ODA by 2012 should make developing countries grind their teeth in frustration since it was already a Rio promise, but has not been fulfilled except by a handful of states.

3. A tax on the profits of globalisation seems a good idea (a sort of Tobin tax, presumably), but we would like to know what the President's strategy is to take this forward. French delegates have not actively promoted this idea thus far.

4. Biological and cultural diversity: it is true that they are mutually beneficial. We are waiting for a proposal from the President on this critical issue.

5. Production and consumption: we hope that the Science and Technology Initiative for Sustainable Development for the G8 Summit at Evian will not be dumped as was the renewables Task Force Report in Genoa at G8 in 2001.

Chrétien: We Will Ratify...Well, Not Quite!

Yesterday, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said in his speech that when the consultations have been concluded, and before the end of the year, the Canadian parliament will be asked to vote on ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

Once again, Canada came close to announcing its ratification of the Kyoto Protocol without giving actual confirmation of this.



That said, the statement by the PM that he would put a ratification decision to a vote in the Parliament is a clear sign that: (1) there's no turning back, and (2) winning this vote is pretty much a given. As a matter of fact, 93 out of 170 MPs have called on the PM to ratify the agreement. Furthermore, all but one of the opposition parties support ratification, not to mention 70 to 80 percent of Canadians, and some 190 municipalities (representing 14 million Canadians), among others.

The announcement has left Chrétien with wiggle room, should he decide to backtrack. However, since most delegates here interpreted his announcement as a full commitment to ratification he will have a difficult time explaining a failure to ratify in the near future. For the time being, *Eco* gives Canada the benefit of the doubt, and hereby confers on it probationary status as an ex-member of the environmental Axis of Evil.

Schroeder: Renewables

Germany's Chancellor Schroeder was one of the few leaders who offered more than beautiful poetry about the need for sustainable development in his Johannesburg speech.

He put 500 million euros on the table to build a strategic alliance for renewable energy with developing countries, and offered a further 500 million for improvements in energy efficiency in the South. This money will be spread over five years. Whether all of it will be new money, and whether "energy efficiency improvements" is merely

a new term for selling advanced fossil fuels to the developing world, we shall have to wait and see.

At least Schroeder offered support for the urgently needed global shift to renewables. No doubt his speech was also intended to break the OPEC-led G77 blockade against a global renewable energy target being agreed at this Summit.

By putting money on the table, he wanted to signal that there is something in a renewable energy target for G77 countries. It is not clear, at the time of writing, whether this tactic has succeeded. But *Eco* approves of it—it certainly beats Esso's buying favours with the White House. So *Eco* wonders when other world leaders will follow Schroeder's bold lead.

Summit-weary *Eco* activists welcome Schroeder's call for an international conference on renewable energy. We also can't wait to receive our invitation to Berlin.

Crying in the Wilderness?

Belgian Prime Minister, Guy Verhofstadt, today made some strong statements showing political leadership. Let's hope that others will follow...

"It is not analyses which are missing. It is not solutions which are missing. What we are missing is the political will to implement them."

"The deal that has been made this morning on trade and finance falls far beneath the expectations of the developing countries. We have to go further.... I encourage you, Mr President, to propose us a Political Declaration much stronger, more ambitious, and more generous than the Plan of Action."

"The progress made since Rio is really insufficient. Climate change is a reality that we have recently experienced in Europe, Asia and America. It is high time that all, I repeat ALL, ratify the Kyoto Protocol and begin to implement it effectively."

Rasmussen: EU: Get Real!

EU President Anders Fogh Rasmussen's address to the Summit on Monday centred on trade, aid, and the environment, but critically, it failed to connect the dots to arrive at a convincing vision of sustainable development. *Eco* boils the deficiency down to three core problems: misunderstanding, hypocrisy, and delusion.

First of all, the PM asserts, "When trade advances, poverty retreats." Unfortunately, the record shows this is simply not true. Since Rio, international trade in goods and services increased by 87 percent while the number of people living below the \$1/day poverty line continues to languish at over one billion. This is precisely why the Summit has not delivered on its mandate. Fundamental changes are needed in the policies and practices that currently make trade a golden goose for the global elite. EU: Wake up!

Secondly, the PM urged rich countries to live up to their "long-standing commitment to reach the 0.7 percent target for development assistance" (reaffirming language from Agenda 21, Chap. 33). In the next breath, he noted Europe's efforts to work towards this target. This is the same brand of hypocrisy that results in Europe talking big about market access and trade for least developed countries on the one hand, while providing massive, distort-

ing subsidies to European farmers (and protecting these from WTO restrictions) on the other. EU: Walk the talk!

And, finally, Rasmussen's call for a "global deal" ignores the fact that Europe has effectively agreed to a Plan of Implementation in Joburg that gives little for nothing – hardly a deal for poverty or the environment. The PM refers to care of forests, atmosphere, water, and food as "luxuries". Sustainable development surely requires that they be considered basic necessities. A real global deal would begin with all parties accepting that equitable access to these resources is a human right, rather than a tradable commodity. EU: Get real!

Of Angry Cops and Hungry Dogs

It was quite the most exciting press conference Eco-Equity ever held – and that's saying something. In their wisdom, the UN has decided that NGOs can hold only one press conference inside the SCC during the last three days of the Summit (and that's on

Wednesday afternoon). So... we called one outside instead. Just outside, behind the bike sheds, in fact – where the hacks from the press centre go to have a cigarette.

Fifty journalists and five camera crews showed up. The press conference had lasted a full ten minutes, when suddenly the UN and South African police moved in—apparently, we were blocking the road (we weren't). So while most of the brown-badged *Eco* spokespeople retreated (under threat of having those precious badges removed), two squeezed back into the press centre doorway and continued the conference. That is, until a large South African policeman appeared with a dog that looked rather hungry. They suggested, somewhat forcefully, that the dog was very eager to bite any *Eco* person with the temerity to utter so much as another word. "This is a danger area!" cried the policeman—on camera. The dog growled.

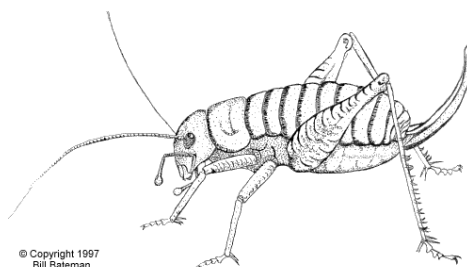
Today: watch out for Eco-Equity coalition spokespeople paragliding into SCC with copies of today's press release. The news will get through!

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Parktown Prawn

The Prawn was intrigued to hear that Italian President Silvio Berlusconi made it all the way through his five-minute opening speech without ever once mentioning the word environment. Was this deliberate or inadvertent? Inquiring prawns want to know.

A friend contributes an anagram on WSSD: ME, I'M TOLD MR U.S. IS A (NO PUN) BAD-TOWN LEVELEST. More!

Warning. The Prawn has heard any number of journalists say that the food in the cafe on the lower ground floor in the conference centre has made quite a lot of them sick.

US delegation members were overheard at dinner Monday night talking about the US's strategy for defeating corporate accountability initiatives at WSSD. The US wants to delete paragraph 50 of the political declaration, contending that it replicates paragraph 65. Paragraph 65 contains a

more general reference to implementation of the outcomes of the WSSD.

The US also plans to rely on a relatively weak letter of interpretation to be issued by John Ashe. According to the US, this letter of interpretation will be as authoritative as the agreed upon text, and could serve as an out for countries unwilling to implement measures on binding corporate accountability.

The US further smugly commented that it played "to the max" language regarding the compatibility of environmental agreements to the WTO, and dismissed claims of victory by NGOs who "shed tears" over a meaningless victory, since WSSD is not where trade is being negotiated.

Attention! Attention! Last Chance to Reaffirm Women's Rights!

Eco fully supports the Women's Caucus as they push for changes to paragraph 47, running up to the last minutes of negotiation. At the time of writing, the phrase "consistent with national laws and cultural and religious values" still stands as a qualification to the text on delivery of health services. Alongside the Women's Caucus, *Eco* demands that the phrase be dropped, and replaced with the following new text: "and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms".

eco-equity

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Eco is posted on several websites including greenpeace.org, rio10.dk, earthjustice.org. Please send letters to ecoeditor@yahoo.com.

Continued from page 1.

Para 45: Add: "and reducing green house gas emissions".

Para 47: Additional sentence: "We call on the CSD to further develop and operationalise criteria for the selection, development and monitoring of such partnerships, and ensure that any such partnerships are clearly linked to the programme of implementation."

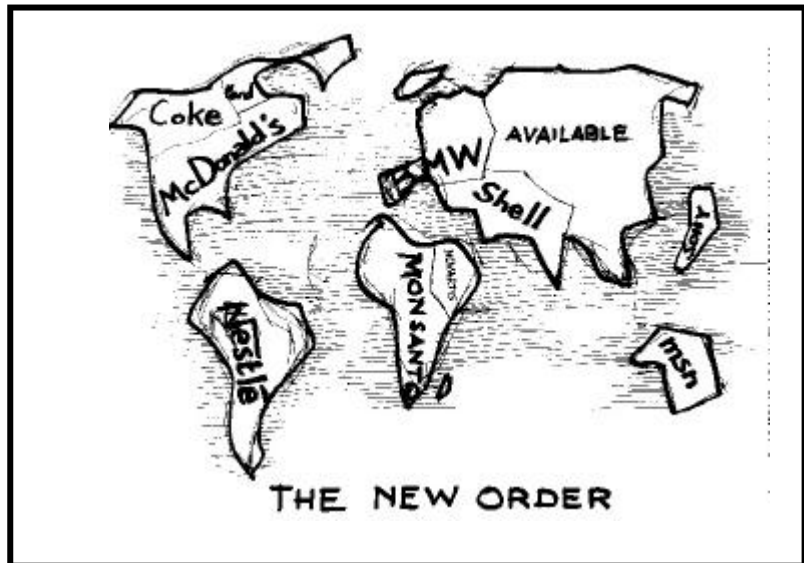
Para 48: Replace the word "responsibility" with "duty".

Para 49: Replace text after "its" (line 2) to read: "social contribution, and secure corporate responsibility and accountability".

Para 50: Re-write as follows: "Accordingly, we agree that the UN should convene a conference to discuss the full development and effective implementation of intergovernmental agreements and measures to actively promote corporate responsibility and accountability" (end of sentence).

We trust, dear President Mbeki, that you will give full consideration to our proposals.

With kind regards,
The ECO Coalition



Thirty Years Ago in Eco

The State Department's official instructions to the US delegation at the Stockholm Conference have fallen into our hands.

The delegation's position on major issues, previously somewhat puzzling, is now fully intelligible. . . .

The State Department seems particularly intent on seeing that no more money be made available for international environmental protection, and the delegates are instructed "to make

clear that US contribution must be through the [UN] Fund and that the US does not expect the UN specialized agencies to automatically include the costs of the implementation of conference recommendations in their regular budgets."

At least now we have a measure of the US government's concern for the fate of the global environment.

*Eco 1, Number 5, Stockholm,
10 June 1972*

attention seeking

A special Eco insert from the groups listed below

Partnership or PR?

While others are squabbling about words in declarations, the US is acting by launching partnership initiatives for sustainable development.

This is to be the gist of the message brought to Joburg by US secretary of state, Colin Powell, alongside the unveiling of new US-funded projects. But as the superpower's top WSSD representative was gearing up for his short trip to Africa, a vast array of civil-society delegates from developing countries all over the world put together this response.

JOINT STATEMENT BY
CIVIL-SOCIETY
ORGANISATIONS IN ASIA,
LATIN AMERICA, AND AFRICA

Partnership agreements are expected to be a significant outcome of the WSSD, holding out promises of complementing the intergovernmental Plan of Implementation with action on the ground. However, such agreements cannot substitute for meaningful Type-1 targets and time-bound commitments, allocation of resources to support implementation, and new monitoring and reporting mechanisms. In our assessment, the almost finalised Plan of Implementation is disappointing in this respect.

The argument is not against partnership. We have a long-standing record of forming partnerships ourselves. However, although we appreciate that such initiatives demonstrate official recognition of civil society's vital role in implementation, we are concerned that misplaced emphasis on these so-called Type-2 outcomes may serve to mask the failure of governments to make binding commitments within a global frame-

work, the so-called Type-1 outcomes.

Two days before ending the Summit, there is no agreed mechanism for procedures and follow-up of Type-2 partnerships. The paragraph 138 b) only includes an extremely weak reference between Type 1 and 2: "...partnerships follow-up should take note of the preparatory work of WSSD". There is an urgent need for the governments to continue the effort from Bali in developing the guidelines (the Chairman's explanatory notes on partnerships). Due to the draft political declaration elaborated by the South African president, all partnership announced in relation to the WSSD forms part of the Johannesburg Summit. Without any mechanism in place that means that even environmentally harmful projects would be an outcome of the Summit.

As a result, rather than promoting sustainable development, the Summit runs the risk of opening the floodgates to a stream of old-fashioned, traditional aid approaches in which the visibility of Northern donors is again paramount. This would lead to disjointed, publicity-centred and donor-driven activities.

Nevertheless, if civil-society participation, local ownership and proper monitoring and follow-up procedures are put in place, we are committed to engaging with our respective governments, other stakeholders, international institutions and others to ensure that partnerships serve to carry out Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Please, notice our demands and commitments below.

OUR DEMAND: partnerships must be built upon mutual respect between government, civil society and other stakeholders. Furthermore, formalised linkages between Type 1 and 2 must be ensured at both international and national levels.

OUR COMMITMENT: to ensure dialogue and interaction between civil society and government, following up on the plan agreed in Johannesburg.

OUR DEMAND: partnerships must NOT be done for public-relations purposes only.

OUR COMMITMENT: to identify and expose projects that are mainly for show or lack serious commitment to sustainable-development targets.

OUR DEMAND: partnerships must be built on local, bottom-up needs identified together with the communities. We expect national and local governments to include these needs and priorities in their policies and project formulations. In many countries, reforms are needed to strengthen the influence of the poor in decision-making regarding public policy and resource allocation.

OUR COMMITMENT: to collaborate and interact with our governments in pursuit of local influence, including policy formulation and project design.

OUR DEMAND: partnerships must be implemented, monitored and evaluated with the full participation of all local stakeholders, including civil society.

OUR COMMITMENT: to mobilise communities and other stakeholders in implementation based on their local culture, traditions and values as well as on local environmental conditions.

OUR DEMAND: partnerships must be built upon and enhance local institutions, local indigenous knowledge systems and local resources, including technology and R&D. Furthermore, resources should be provided for gender-sensitive capacity-building of community- and small producers' organisations.

OUR COMMITMENT: to promote the transfer of both traditional and modern know-how and technologies to the communities and small producers.

OUR DEMAND: partnerships must institutionalise corporate accountability and transparency at municipal, national, sub-regional and international levels.

OUR COMMITMENT: to monitor and expose any wrongdoing by corporations that undermine the welfare of communities, and to lobby for national policies to institutionalise national corporate accountability.

OUR DEMAND: partnerships must not create new disparities and

conflicts among people and communities.

OUR COMMITMENT: to collabo-

rate in implementing creative modalities, including a regional approach to promote peace and solidarity in the implementation of partnerships at the community level

A Farmer's Bad Dream

By PELUM's Small Farmer Convergence at the WSSD
PELUM Association is an indigenous network of civil-society organisations in East and Southern Africa, learning, advocating and striving for food security, fair trade, community empowerment and ecological land-use management. Through workshops in preparation for the WSSD, the farmers have expressed the issues facing them through this little story.

I Mirembe, a small-scale farmer from Mubende, had a dream. I was on my way to Mubende Health Facility, pregnant with my third child. I was anxious following the loss of my two eldest sons to HIV/AIDS who used to help me in the field. When I got to the clinic, there was no qualified doctor. Only someone who did not have a clue what he was doing.

I did not know where to go instead. Of course, we had no phone, and our roads were in a poor condition. In this dream, although I had a wealth of experience of farming and indigenous knowledge, I had very little money and could not

afford alternative services.

And as I waited for the nurse, I prayed that the child in my womb would one day have access to training and extension services in agriculture to be able to afford a better life than mine. It was hot, but there was no shade under which I could rest as all the trees had been cut or burnt down for charcoal

In this heat, I really needed to drink something. But the nearest source of water 12 km away was dirty. Our crops were drying because of lack of water, now, this is unbearable! I suddenly find myself waking up with burning thirst..

The only difference between my dream and my reality is that I am not pregnant. And I think to myself: "What can I do for my children and their children?" Who can I tell about my bad dream? Who will listen to me?

At the NGO Forum at Nasrec, farmers are represented as a major group in the International Steering Group. Here, small-scale farmers have finally spoken, and are being heard. It will not, however, end with the summit. Through their organisations and PELUM, the farmers will build stronger alliances and partnerships, and continue to lobby government and international organisations for change.

OUR DEMAND: partnership must bring only new, additional funding.

OUR COMMITMENT: to assist our government in identifying and rejecting re-packaged funding commitments, and to conduct budget lobbying to ensure that our governments match external contributions with local resources.

OUR DEMAND: partnerships should have strong follow-up mechanisms, including supervision, public access, annual reporting as well as external auditing and evaluation. In addition, more solid advances in the capacity of Northern partners are needed on methods and context sensitivity, in particular among business and other new actors.

OUR COMMITMENT: to assist our governments in institutionalising such follow-up mechanisms by means of vigorous civil-society participation.

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This insert aims to give more voice at the Summit to civil society in developing countries. This springs from the Rio+10 Project, facilitated by the Danish 92 Group, working in Africa, Latin America and Asia through a series of national and subregional networks coordinated by the following organisations.

Southern Africa: EMG; Mozambique: ABIODES; Namibia: Desert Research Foundation within the NANGOF NGO Forum; South Africa: ENJF, ENDABA and the WSSD NGO Secretariat. East Africa: EcoNews, Kenya; Zimbabwe: Zero Regional Environmental Organisation; Uganda: The Rio+10 Coalition; Kenya: EcoNews and ELCI; Tanzania: JET; West Africa: Friends of the Earth Togo and networks in 11 countries. Ghana: ICA. South East Asia: WWF-Philippines, alongside WWF in Indonesia (with IPF), Malaysia, Thailand (with NGO COD), Vietnam and national NGO networks. South Asia: CSE India; Nepal: Forum of Environmental Journalists; Bangladesh: Forum for Environmental Journalists; South America and Argentina: Fundación Ecológica Universal; Brazil: Vitae Civilis; Ecuador: Fundación Natura and IUCN Quito; Bolivia: Fundación Tierra; The Amazon: Coordination of Indigenous Organisations in the Amazon including rainforest peoples in Peru, Guyana, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, Venezuela, French Guyana, Surinam, and Colombia. Central America and Costa Rica: CICAFOC, supported by UNES and Enlace Sur Sur; Nicaragua: Centro Humboldt; Guatemala: Fundación Solar; El Salvador: UNES.

Signed articles express the authors' and their organisations' views, which are not necessarily shared by all the aforementioned organisations or by the Eco Coalition. Please submit comments and suggestions to: ecoattention@yahoo.com. The Rio+10 Project runs a website at: www.rio10.dk.

