



A Daily publication of the Sustainable Development Issues Network (SDIN)
Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13)

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Taking Issue is produced by:

Jan Gustav Strandenaes

Senior Editor

Ida Bergstrom

Journalist/Photographer

Kirsten Kossen

Journalist

Samuel Waweru

Journalist

Hilary Jeune

Journalist

Anthony Mwangi

Graphic Design/Layout and Cartoons

Visit the SDIN morning strategy meetings for reports from working groups, information sharing and strategic discussions. SDIN Morning Meetings are open to all NGOs.

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Dark Shadows over CSD 13: Access denied

A steady stream of dedicated persons from the more than 500 representative strong major groups community approached Conference Room one yesterday only to find they were barred by UN security guards from entering the conference room.

Never in the history of CSD had this happened. Bewilderment, incomprehension seemed at first to paralyse those major group representatives who were first turned away from the doors. You may sit up at the galleries, civil society was told. You may listen to the debate, was the message. Look, but not touch, was the interpretation among civil society. Then anger took the place of frustration and incomprehension. The major groups had obviously once again become a challenge to a number of delegations speaking about governance without practicing it. But being barred is only the surface of the problem.

Civil society always important

There is an abundance of references to civil society in all UN documents. The Secretary General of the UN, Mr. Kofi Annan just released a report called "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all." The report is an ambitious attempt to shed new light on the importance of the UN in an effort to reform and recreate it as a globally responsible, necessary and indispensable vehicle to create among others development, security and human rights for all. Mr. Annan states in this report that: "Civil society organizations have a critical role to play in driving this implementation process forward to "make poverty history". Not only is civil society an indispensable partner in delivering services to the poor at the scope required by the Millennium Goals but it can also catalyse action within countries on pressing development

concerns, mobilizing broad-based movements and creating grass roots pressure to hold leaders accountable for their commitments..."¹

Closing windows of opportunity

How has the CSD Bureau and CSD members delegations acted to promote larger freedom and improving democracy? By closing the windows of opportunity for civil society at CSD.

It is worth remembering, as stated in yesterdays Taking Issue, that during the first decade of CSD, initiated during the Rio +5 session in 1997, the Interactive Dialogue Sessions with Major Groups lasted 1 and a half day, three entire plenary sessions, all with official delegates present. This year's session was suggested for 1 ½ hour. However, – this decade of CSD is different





in terms of almost all modalities. As such, some have said, civil society has been given more opportunities than ever before to interact into the official negotiating process.

CSD Bureau to carry out its duty

True, under the leadership of the Norwegian Minister of Environment, Mr. Børge Brende, Chair of CSD 12 (2004), the Major Groups were integrated in totality in the ongoing review process, and given more entry points into the ongoing work in the plenary than ever before. True, the entry points for civil society during the IPM this year, more than placated civil society's inherent fear of being excluded from the policy sessions. But even if these decisions by the Bureau may appear as novel initiatives, the Bureau is not doing anything else but carrying out their duty.

What gives the Bureau its mandate

The JPOI orders the CSD Bureau with regard to the practical modalities of the programme of work with CSD: (§ 139 b on objectives) to "Enhancing participation and effective involvement of civil society and other relevant

stakeholders in the implementation of Agenda 21, as well as promoting transparency and broad public participation;" and (§ 149 b) "Continuing to provide for more direct and substantive involvement of international organizations and major groups in the work of the Commission (on Sustainable Development);" And based on the JPOI, CSD 11 decided that the role of civil society groups in the future sessions of CSD should continue to be strengthened. (See Box)

Civil society excluded everywhere

The Millennium Declaration and its operational system as expressed through the 8 MDGs, their targets and indicators, were created to serve "we the peoples" of the United Nations. Civil Society has become a central partner with the United Nations and its various member nations to implement these goals. Even in this context, civil society is now being excluded from genuine participation at the first five-year review of these goals.

Precisely at a time when the international community of governments is calling for stronger commitments from all parties involved and relying heavier and heavier on civil society to carry out projects, civil

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I see a United Nations keenly aware that if the global agenda is to be properly addressed, a partnership with civil society is not an option; it is a necessity".

KOFI ANNAN

society is being increasingly deprived of their opportunity to be heard at the negotiating table at the UN.

The Bureau above governments?

The present actions by a majority of the Bureau seem only to accentuate this tendency. Such actions by the CSD make a travesty of the principles of good governance in the midst of the UN, the organisation that invented this concept.

Only by granting major groups recognised and real entry points both during the negotiations on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, and during the process on reacting to the Chair's report on Friday this week, as well as Monday and Tuesday next week, by reinstating the interactive session on Thursday this week as well as upholding the interactive dialogues during the High Level segment, can the present Bureau fulfil the obligations pointed out to them by the Secretary General of the UN as well as by the decisions of more than 100 state leaders explicitly reflected in the JPOI. Or is the present Bureau above the worlds state leaders?

...jgs

¹ §38, p.13 from *In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all*, A/59/2005, March 21, 2005

APOLOGIES

We would like to apologize for using gender insensitive language in yesterday's Taking Issue. (page 4)
Furthermore, we would like to apologize for omitting Asia as one of the players. (page 3)

Decision 20 CSD 11: Future Programme, Organization and Methods of Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Decides that contributions to the Commission from major groups, including the scientific community as well as educators, taking into account paragraphs 139(g) and 149(c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, while following the established rules of procedure and practices of the Commission on Sustainable Development, should be further enhanced taking into account Chapter XI of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, through such measures as:

- (a) Strengthening major group involvement in the activities of the Commission, including through the participation of representatives from major groups at the appropriate level in an interactive dialogue during the High-Level Segments, taking into account paragraphs 139(g) and 149(c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- (b) Making multi-stakeholder dialogues more action and implementation-oriented;
- (c) Enhancing participation and effective involvement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as promoting transparency and broad public participation;
- (d) Striving for a better balance and better representation of major groups from all regions at the Commission;
- (e) Active involvement in partnership-related and capacity building activities at all levels including the partnerships fairs and the learning centres, organized as part of the meetings of the Commission.



Habitat International Coalition Proposes Text to “Translate Rights into Action”

The recent horrific tsunami in Asia, and continued disruptions caused by armed conflicts, ethnic cleansing, and population transfer in Africa and elsewhere, have focused the world’s attention on environmental and development needs as never before.

The recent horrific tsunami in Asia, and continued disruptions caused by armed conflicts, ethnic cleansing, and population transfer in Africa and elsewhere, have focused the world’s attention on environmental and development needs as never before. The CSD and MDG+5 meetings, and recent proposals to restructure core UN institutions, offer a unique opportunity for governments and international aid institutions to redirect resources to match an unprecedented mobilization by people and civil society organizations toward a livable planet for all.

For CSD-13, HIC has proposed alternative text to the Chair’s Summary to call for a dramatic increase in the MDG goal for slum improvement and for aid to developing countries; to reorient the CSD discourse away from expert-driven “needs” analysis to a people-driven “rights” approach; and to caution that privatization and deregulation are often the problem, not the solution, to sustainable development for water, sanitation and human settlement issues. HIC’s proposals are designed to address the widely observed underdevelopment of the Human Settlements section of the Chair’s IPM Summary, in comparison with the Water and Sanitation components.

Revise MDG Slum Improvement Goal. Last week, the Executive Director of UN Habitat, Anna Tibaijuka, made an important speech in Nairobi noting that the increase in the number of slum dwellers continues to vastly outpace the MDG-7, Target 11 goal for slum improvement (for 100 million people) by a rate of five to one. HIC strongly endorses Ms. Tibaijuka’s proposal to at least reduce by half the proportion of slum dwellers in the urban population between 1990 and 2020, and to apply this Target to each country based on an assessment of substandard or slum housing in their territory. The revised Target 11 should be used as a benchmark toward progressive realization of the universal human right to a guaranteed minimum standard of living for every person, including the right to adequate shelter, water, sanitation and basic services

HIC’s proposed language also commends the recent initiatives of the Government of the United Kingdom to increase its development aid to MDG target levels and to write off the debts of the poorest countries, particularly those hit by the recent tsunami and the poorest countries in Africa, and urges other wealthy countries to follow suit.

Translate Rights into Action. Regarding human rights, the Chair’s IPM Summary Text does recommend “shifting gears from a needs based approach to a rights-based approach” in progressively realizing the human right to water. To emphasize the over-riding importance of this approach, HIC recommends that the final CSD report extend this language to the right to adequate shelter and sanitation as well, and to move this section to the front of the document.

HIC’s proposed text notes that militarism, armed conflict and war and the related problem of massive forced evictions are particularly destructive of sustainable development of human settlements. In the Chair’s section on Human Settlements, HIC proposes concrete measures to secure people’s right to housing and basic services and to strengthen UN and civil society institutions protecting people’s rights to security of tenure and the right to organize free of government and corporate harassment.

Build Social Capital, Fight Privatization. To strengthen the Human Settlements section, HIC also proposes several detailed paragraphs to combat the privatization, commercialization and

deregulation of housing and infrastructure, which has created shortages, displacement and social exclusion in many countries. While the pattern varies by region, unchecked private sector investment is often the problem, not the solution, for sustainable development. HIC’s recommendations address the targeting and use of government investment and aid, the protection of socially owned or produced housing, utilities and land, and protection of public participatory planning and management functions.

HIC also proposes detailed measures to regularize informal settlements and to ensure participation by women, the poor and marginalized groups in the decisions that affect their lives.

During CSD, HIC is distributing a Background Paper addressing these and related rights-based themes currently underrepresented in the Chair’s IPM Summary. The issues will also be presented at a HIC-sponsored Side Event in Conference Room C on Thursday, April 14 at 1:15. Interested delegates, Major Group and NGO representatives can obtain an electronic or hard copy of HIC’s detailed recommendations by contacting HIC General Secretary Ana Sugranyes or Board Member Michael Kane at 617-233-1885.

The Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is the leading global network of more than 400 social movements, research centers and NGO’s working on housing rights and human settlement issues.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CSD Education Caucus Welcomes all to:

“ Interlinkages: Engaging People in Sustainability”

Tuesday 12 April 2005
1:15 pm - 2:45 pm

At the Uganda House Conference Room on 45th street and 1st Avenue (across the street from the UN visitors entrance)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Do as John Ashe, come to Wednesday’s NGO morning meeting!

John Ashe, CSD Chair will attend Wednesday’s SDIN morning meeting.

(SDIN morning meetings take place daily from 9:00 - 10:00 in conference room B)

Knowledge in your neighbourhood: educating the young

As young people involved in the CSD-process, we believe that there are several policy-options related to human settlements that could improve the lives of young people in urban areas.

The circumstances in which young people grow up, define the manner in which they can contribute to their society today and as adults in the future. Especially youth living in slums are vulnerable and have less chance to survive. We therefore suggest the following policy-options to improve the lives of young people in urban areas:

- **Peer-to-peer education is a useful tool for capacity building.**

In interacting with one another, be it at school, or during after school activities, young people talk to each other about the issues that are important in their lives. They talk about their experiences, about how they feel about certain topics.

A young person is more likely to listen to somebody of his own age, dealing with the same issues as he is. This form of education has proven to be successful in the north as well as in the south.

For instance, big cities in the Netherlands have launched "jongerentoezichtteams",



this is the Dutch term for teams of young people that watch their own (problem) neighbourhood. They keep an eye on the youth in the neighbourhood and, if necessary, correct those who are out of line. Where some of these youngsters normally do not listen to the police, they are likely to take the judgment of their peers more seriously.

Another example are the successful projects set up in Sub-Saharan Africa in the battle against HIV/AIDS. On sensitive subjects such as safe sex, youth would rather talk to somebody of their own age, with whom they feel more comfortable.

- **Youth-targeted micro-credit schemes.** Youth unemployment is a big problem in urban areas in the north as well as the south. Unemployed youth feel excluded from society and are therefore more likely to resort to criminal activities. If a young person has a job, he or she is an active participant to society, which will stimulate him or her to improve their living situation in other areas as well (such as housing and hygiene topics).

The micro-credit system is an excellent tool for those youngsters that are willing to take ownership of their own situation, especially because in traditional loaning systems, young people do not qualify for loans. If they have the money to set up their own businesses, they have an income of their own and can thus provide for themselves, and will be able to pay back the loan. This way their success trickles down and contributes to a safer and healthier environment for their families and subsequently will lead to a sustainable livelihood.

Anne-Marie Frissen and Gabi Spitz
Youth Delegates, The Netherlands

"THE CONNECTION BETWEEN WAR, MILITARY AND ENVIRONMENT"

Tuesday April 12th 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm
Church Center, 12th Floor, 777 UN Plaza

Michael Renner, Senior Researcher at World Watch Institute

Edel Havin Beukes, Women's International
League for Peace and Freedom

And ForUM Norway

Sponsored by WILPF and ForUM

MAKING EVERY DROP COUNT

Five keys to more and better financing for the water and sanitation MDGs

The water sector needs to deliver much more and more quickly if the poverty reduction benefits of access to safe water and sanitation are to be secured by the target deadline of 2015.

On Monday afternoon, the side event 'Making every drop count' presented by WaterAid, Tearfund and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council highlighted how governments can meet their water and sanitation targets for the Millennium Development Goals. They presented 5 keys with recommendations to more and better financing for the water and sanitation MDG:

"Assessments from our country reports have exposed the brutal inadequacies in the performance of national water sectors across Africa and South Asia. This report brings to light the financial waste and underinvestment which are leaving billions of people trapped in poverty"

David Redhouse, WaterAid Policy Officer and author of the report Getting to Boiling Point

Key 1: Fiscal decentralization

From 2006/7 developing country governments need to devolve budgets to local governments with responsibility for water and sanitation

Donor governments need to ensure that they do not undermine this decentralization with economic policy conditions, which prevent the right numbers of staff being recruited and retained

Key 2: Sector coordination

By the end of 2005 developing country governments need to produce an investment and delivery plan for achieving their water and sanitation targets.

From 2006/7 governments giving aid need to align their water supply and sanitation support with this developing country government-led sector investment and delivery plan

Key 3: Sector financing

The sector investment and delivery plans drawn up by the end of 2005 need to include proposals for developing country governments and governments giving aid jointly to close financing gaps

From 2006/7 governments giving aid need to reverse the paradoxical declines in their aid for water and target it better so that the countries with greatest needs receive 70% of it by 2008

Governments giving aid also need to ensure that developing countries' overall fiscal positions are not compromised by unpayable debts

Key 4: Sanitation prioritized

Governments should immediately allocate earmarked funds for sanitation in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, particularly for hygiene promotion and training

Sanitation should have an institutional home in every country by 2006/7. The designated ministry should coordinate with other ministries, donors, civil society and the private sector around the sector plan, and they should monitor progress of the sanitation/hygiene component

Key 5: Low cost technologies – recommendations

Donors and NGOs should support local government to promote locally appropriate and affordable technologies and this should be reflected in the sector plans to be formulated by 2005

Local government, donors and NGOs should support communities in addressing O and M issues, and encourage a local market for spare parts.

Some food for thought

Bearing in mind these recommendations, how can CSD 13 make a difference on financing sustainable access to water and sanitation to people on the ground?

For more information please refer to: www.tearfund.org, www.wateraid.org



At the End of the Pipe?

The visions below have been expressed during expert meetings held in the Netherlands (2005) with invitees from India, the Philippines, China, South Africa, Kenya, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands in which the need for a shift in the sanitation paradigm to meet the ambitious targets presented by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was discussed.

By WASTE - The Netherlands

SANITATION PRACTICES TODAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXHAUSTION OF:

Water resources

Sewage and sewage treatment methods use large amounts of water in the transportation and treatment of human excreta. Water is required to ensure good hygiene, but not necessarily good sanitation. Alternative practices that do demand large volumes of water are therefore very valuable for water stressed regions and regions with vulnerable water resources.

Nutrient resources

Current sanitation practices lead to the loss and destruction of nutrients that are necessary for food production, in particular phosphorus. Alternative sanitation practices provide opportunities to 'close the loop' returning nutrients back into the soil.

Energy resources

Conventional sanitation practices involve high levels of energy consumption in wastewater transportation and treatment. Alternative sanitation practices do not rely on high-energy consumption for the treatment of human excreta.

MOST SANITATION PRACTICES THREATEN:

Public health and the environment

Two-fifths of the world's population (2.4 billion people) still doesn't have access to improved sanitation. The direct discharge of sewage into water bodies and the discharge of poorly treated effluent from wastewater treatment plants mean that potentially lethal chemicals, hormones and traces of medicines are released into surface water. In addition, leaking sewers and latrines cause widespread ground water pollution.

The question is whether the current sanitation practices adequately deal with the problem of handling human excreta. Are the dominant end-of the pipeline or down the pit sanitation options still the best and only options available to us?

A sustainable sanitation approach will benefit from the following recommendations:

- Give equal importance to waste and excreta management as water supply and treatment. Decision makers need to demonstrate leadership in this discussion.
- Allow for resource recovery from human waste through the development of appropriate national and international sanitation regulations and guidelines
- Farmers are potential 'consumers' and the agricultural sector provides a 'market' for nutrient rich products recovered from human excreta.
- Avoid waste mixing and sewage generation as far as possible. Strive to use the shortest material cycles based on an understanding of water, nutrient and pathogen cycles.
- Demonstrate new approaches and technologies now. Valuable time will be wasted if we wait until the private sector is forced to deal with the mounting problems resulting from traditional sanitation practices. We can anticipate these problems

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them"

based on Albert Einstein

and highlight economic opportunities of alternative sanitation options.

- Demonstrate the relationship between sanitation and the challenge of food security through awareness raising with key stakeholders.
- Recognize and promote new viable sanitation options and anchor these within institutions and institutional memory. The implementation of these options should not depend on the participation of specific individuals and should move beyond the limits of individual organizations and their responsibilities.

Proceedings of these meetings can be found on www.waste.nl or requested from office@waste.nl

Citizens' action – consumer voice for water and sanitation





A call to enable citizens to make their voices heard through closer links with government and service providers



www.wateraid.org

Find out more and how to get involved

Tuesday 12 April
18.15 – 19.45
Conference room 2



www.wsp.org



WHICH WAY AFRICA?

Priorities for Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements

As the world gathers in New York to formulate policies on water, sanitation and human settlements, African delegates to the CSD-13 conference must come up with practical strategies to address the triple issues if their participation is to have relevance for the majority of the people in the continent.

By Samuel Waweru

If Africa is to meet the priorities set out in the Millennium Development Goals, there is need to prioritise certain critical areas. Key among them are access to safe drinking water for urban and rural areas, increased investment in infrastructure for water, mainstreaming water as a poverty reduction issue and provision of hygienic housing for the urban poor who currently live in deplorable slum settlements.

Shocking numbers

Available statistics reveal that over 250 million people in Africa have no access to safe drinking water while over 300 million lack adequate sanitation. If this is not addressed, there are real fears that this could shoot to 500 million by the year 2020 given the current rate of population growth. Water resources are dwindling at a very high rate and this is likely to constrain food production, leading to environmental degradation and human conflict. For instance, Lake Chad in central Africa has shrunk in size from 25,000 square kilometres in the 1960s to about 3,000 square kilometres today affecting more than 20 million people who depend on it. Although Africa is blessed with 17 rivers and about 160 major lakes, only about 4 % of the continent's water is put to practical use to serve agriculture, industry and domestic purposes. A lot of the water goes to waste because of lack of investment in better water harvesting technologies and failure to embrace water and soil conservation measures. African economies are also shrinking, leading to serious competition for public resources. The first priority for governments and development agencies should be to make water readily available where it is most needed but do this through affordable and efficient means.

Misplaced priorities

African economies are also shrinking, leading to serious competition for public resources. In the face of such competition, governments have prioritised other sectors which they consider to be critical to their economies such as education, health and security, allocating only less than 10% of their annual budgets to water and sanitation. This low spending has affected formulation of proper policies and strategies, and by extension investment in appropriate infrastructure for water and sanitation. Even where well-meaning

infrastructure has been put up, poor maintenance has led to their eventual collapse. Yet water is central to poverty reduction, economic growth, food security and environmental protection. As most African economies are agriculturally based, increased investment in water infrastructure to support irrigation should be prioritized. More resources should be allocated to water and sanitation sectors. There is need to mainstream the water and sanitation agenda in national development strategies such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and the National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS).

Trans-boundary issues

Africa must also address the issue of trans-boundary water resources, as these are a potential source of conflict. For instance, countries in the Nile Basin such as Kenya, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda need to prioritise the formulation of joint management strategies to ensure equitable and just distribution and use of the Nile waters. There have been voices from some East African countries suggesting that Egypt should pay for use of the Nile waters. With Eastern Africa, especially Sudan becoming more stable politically, increased use of the Nile waters is envisaged and this competition for water could become a potential area of conflict. It is gratifying though, that these issues are being discussed under the Nile Basin Initiative. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is another initiative that aims at developing strategies at the regional level for addressing Africa's developmental issues.

Partnerships

There is a need to explore the issue of building partnerships for water supply and sanitation services. Governments should prioritise partnerships with the private sector and civil society as these too are critical players in the delivery of water. The strategy should build on the capacity of community-based organizations who have a wealth of experience in water supply at their level. African Governments should tap into their rich indigenous knowledge, especially in water management. However, care must be taken to ensure that water and sanitation services are not put in the hands of profit-making concerns. This would make water increasingly unavailable to a majority of the people, who would not afford the high prices likely to be charged. Currently, Africa has 26% of the total type two partnerships that have been negotiated since WSSD. This is only exceeded by Asia and the Pacific (with 38%).

Despite all these partnerships, however, water and sanitation realities on the ground have not recorded marked improvement. Governments need to establish what is causing this sorry state of affairs.

Need for action

Policy makers in African Governments must move from rhetoric and politicking into action. They must now meet the numerous commitments they have pledged to their people. The Millennium Development targets for 2015 can be met if governments get their priorities right and engage in less politicking. Top on this priority list should be provision of water, sanitation and settlement services. Water especially must be prioritized as a basic human right to be readily enjoyed by all.

Urban slum settlements

In regard to human settlements, Governments need to invest in adequate affordable housing, infrastructure and public service to the urban poor. Today, slums are perceived as illegal structures and hence no benefits are provided to them. Yet slums host most of the urban population. For example, in Nairobi Kenya, 60% of the population lives in the slums, which occupy only 5% of the entire city's land. This case is reflected in many parts of Africa. Slum modernisation programmes being pushed by the governments have been opposed largely because they are perceived as being bent on permanently displacing the original residents. Also residents cite the fact that the modernisation does not take into consideration, the numerous community water and sanitation projects that the slum dwellers have initiated at great cost. Priority should thus be placed on negotiating agreeable settlement plans for the urban informal settlements.

During the twentieth session of the Governing Council of the UN Human Settlements meeting held between 4th - 8th April 2005, the Chair of the session noted that the draft proposal to reset the Millennium Declaration on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers did not fully reflect the complexity of the problem. Failure by governments and their development partners to address the underlying issues that cause slums to develop and flourish, especially that of insecure land tenure, will continue to result in the collapse of expensive government and donor initiated slum upgrading programmes.

QUESTION OF THE DAY



“Civil society is being barred from entering the plenary sessions and prevented from interacting with delegates for security reasons. What is your reaction?”

Rol Reiland Luxembourg
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for Development Cooperation
Head of Mission, desk for multilateral cooperation

- It's not acceptable. It really is not ok. Civil society should have access and the right to speak. The EU has always expressed itself in favor of Civil Society participation. This is not ok.



Mimidoo Achakpa
Women's Right to Education Programme, Nigeria

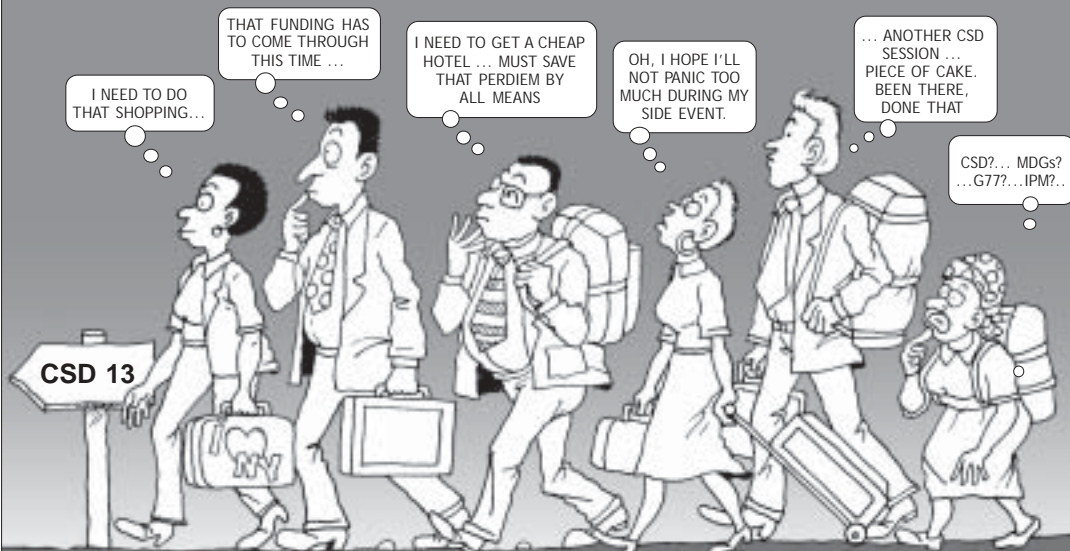
- Even from the country where I come from, it is usual for the government to do this. They don't consult us before they make their decisions, then they pass it on to civil society to adopt. So I am not surprised. I'm used to it. But what kind of security threat are they talking about? We're not armed, what are they scared of? If you're deciding on things that affect all of us, you should carry people along. Civil society should have representatives inside.



Philo Morris
Medical Mission Sisters and Chair of NGO working group of FFD, USA

- I was shocked and surprised when the security guards stopped us from walking in, and told us we were only allowed in the gallery. I've been following CSD for many years, and have always walked in and out of the conference rooms as I've wanted to. NGOs are always told how valued civil society is, but the UN is experiencing a backlash when it comes to access. We're scared of going back to the way it was in the 80s, when we had no access, we want to do whatever we can to keep the space open.

On a truthful Note



Mwangi 05

Contribute to Taking Issue

To publish articles in this newsletter, please submit your text before 5.00 p.m. to one of the SDIN facilitating organisations' staff. Or, send an email to: kirstenkossen@yahoo.com, or phone us on: +47 47 01 83 37

SDIN Facilitating Organisations:

ANPED, The Northern Alliance for Sustainability

TWN, Third World Network

ELCI, Environment Liaison Centre International

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 SDIN-Info@sdissues.net, for general news and announcements about SDIN-related events and other important items.

The editors reserve the right to refuse articles or edit for length and clarity

