



Taking Issue

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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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NO WATER, NO LIFE, NO WILL, NO ACTION

AN INTERACTIVELY DEVELOPED MESSAGE FOR ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS:

The NGO statement for the Major Groups Dialogue to be delivered during the afternoon session on Thursday was written in an interactive way. Staying true to their own demands on openness, participation and being accountable and responsible to the NGO constituency at CSD 13, the NGO Major Group followed the same modalities that were used in the run up to the Johannesburg WSSD in developing documents.

After the process was closed on Wednesday, close to a hundred persons had contributed to the statement with ideas. The Wednesday session then concentrated on sharpening the language and editing for length.

Taking Issue brings you here the final version of the statement that will of course carry the usual intro of a UN document: Please check against delivery.

"The Millennium Ecosystem Report has highlighted dangerous trends to water supply due to ecosystem degradation. Without effective IWRM and protection of ecosystem services, there will be no security of water supply, sanitation and human settlements.

The right to safe water, clean sanitation and adequate housing are fundamental human rights. NGOs firmly believe in a **rights-based, people-centered, pro-poor approach to sustainable development**. And we thank the Minister from Finland for supporting this. States have obligations to respect, protect and fulfill these rights and these must be enshrined in binding national and international laws.

Privatization of basic services and infrastructures emphasizes profit over social concerns. Our experiences on the ground in both developed and developing countries, affirm that equitable access to essential services cannot be delivered by involving transnational corporations. Community-based approaches to providing essential services are often the most effective and should be supported by governments.

Honorable Ministers, the role you play in government is therefore crucial. Without immediate **scaled up assistance**, many countries in Africa will only reach the water target in 50 years and the sanitation one in 85 years!

**No Water, No Life
No Sanitation, No Dignity
No Housing, No Security
No Deadlines, No Difference
No Will, No Action.**

Unconditional debt cancellation will free up domestic resources. Poor countries spend US\$100 million a day on debt repayment. Selling 15 percent of the IMF's gold reserves at US\$425 per ounce could raise US\$7 billion and write off 100 percent of the debt.

The **role of international financial institutions** is central. The WB and IMF should stop using

loan conditionalities to force developing countries to liberalize and deregulate their markets. The PRSPs they demand should take the environmental dimension into account. They should also uphold their own safeguard policies. The WB and IMF need to be accountable to the international community.

Fair trade would free US\$700 billion for development. Trade liberalization per se will not. What countries give in aid, they should not rob in trade! Instead, WTO's GATS adds to the pressure on countries to privatize basic services. Unfair trade practices like dumping and subsidies rob poor countries 14 times of the amount they get in aid.

The nominal increase in ODA is encouraging, but the figures have to be interpreted with caution. Adjusted for depreciation of the fast-falling dollar and worldwide price inflation, the 18.4% annual increase in ODA reported for 2003 relative to 2002 falls to around a quarter of the figure. While ODA has to be doubled, rich countries have not committed themselves to provide the additional US\$50 billion a year to meet the MDGs.

The MDG slum target has to be clarified and people-centered alternatives to new slum formation provided in order to arrest the growth of slum populations. Ensuring security of tenure is vital for any sustainable improvement of human settlements. Governments have to stop mass forced evictions now!

Without **monitoring and evaluation** of targets and plans, there cannot be long-term sustainability of water supply, sanitation and housing. NGOs favor a **UN-based follow up mechanism** that involves all Major Groups, is open, transparent and genuinely participatory. NGOs also believe in the importance of **education for sustainable development**. We look forward to working on programs in hygiene and sanitation and in raising awareness on sustainable use, conservation and efficiency in all sectors.

Those taking actions on the ground need to see water, sanitation and human settlements prioritized in national budgets and plans. These should contain targets that are monitored and progress should be reported on. Communities should have access to accurate and timely

information, and all stakeholders need to be involved in policy-and decision-making.

Honorable Ministers, the sense of urgency has been lacking at this meeting. Even as we have wrangled over texts, a child dies every 15 seconds from water-borne diseases. We must be ashamed of this, and of the reality that we share this world with women who are sexually harassed for defecating in public and where many women marry only because the man has access to a latrine.

Unless CSD 13 sets the pace for change in these areas, the rest of the MDGs will be jeopardized.

Honorable Ministers, you must muster the **political will** to turn words into action and ensure that rights are matched with resources. Together, we must ease the strain on the world's ecosystems and reach all global goals.

We have the opportunity to make this CSD an historic, precedent-setting one by **turning words into deeds**. It is incumbent on all of us to work together towards a safer and better world for present and future generations. "



WATERS FOR LIFE

Water as a human right is moving up on the churches' agenda

Water is an essential condition of life. The right to water has to be enshrined in international and national law as a human right. This conviction is shared by more and more churches and church related organizations around the globe.

Joint statement on right to water

Just a couple of weeks ago, the National Council of Churches in Brazil together with the Roman Catholic Conference of Bishops and the Federation of Swiss Churches affirmed the human right to water in a joint statement. The synod of Protestant churches in Germany has raised concerns regarding the commodification of resources essential to life, including water. These are just two examples of a growing number of churches raising their voice.

Increase in networking

At the same time, the momentum is increasing for networking among churches, church related development agencies and ecumenical organizations. The German Brot fuer die Welt, Church World Service, Kairos

Canada, Norwegian Church Aid and the World Council of Churches co-sponsored a side-event by the CSD 13 Ecumenical Team on the strength of community based initiatives as a real alternative to the failed privatization agenda, which has not and will not work for the vast majority of people.

Water Is sacred

Churches affirm the conviction of Indigenous Peoples that water is sacred and has an important spiritual and cultural dimension to it. On the basis of our spiritual traditions, it is inconceivable to think of a private property right on water resources or reducing it to a tradable commodity. Public democratic control of all water issues must be secured with accountability to those immediately concerned. Based on their experience with poor communities in all continents, church related development agencies

emphasize the importance of community-based initiatives. Peoples' participation, especially that of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples is critical for effective solutions to water problems. The Ecumenical Team shared encouraging examples during its side event.

Churches' agenda for the future

Church related development agencies with their combined annual budgets of more than 1 Billion US\$ contribute in a significant way to social and sustainable development. The human right to water will move further up on the churches' agenda in the near future. It will be an issue discussed at the forthcoming General Assembly of the World Council of Churches, gathering delegates of 348 member churches representing 500 Million members.

THE RIGHT TO WATER ENSHRINED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The South African water rights issue goes back to the struggle in days of the Apartheid struggle when one of the basic human needs namely access to “safe drinking water” was restricted to millions of South Africans by the apartheid regime in South Africa, while at the same time a minority of white South Africans enjoyed not only the privilege of safe drinking water, but also access to water for irrigation and industry.

By Brian Ashe

This changed with transformation of South Africa into a truly democratic country in 1994, this transformation saw the change in many aspects of South African life, for the new South Africa had a constitution that gave South Africans rights for the first time such as “(E) everyone has the right to have an access to sufficient food and water” (s.27(1)(b)) it gives further guidance “The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights.” (s27(2)). Furthermore, the state must respect, promote and fulfil this right (s7).

Water provided by law

It is against this background that the South African Government has provided the enabling environment for by legislating the 1997 Water Services Act, which says that everyone has the right of access to free basic water supply and basic Sanitation. This was taken forward in minimum standards set in 2001 giving everyone a basic supply of 25 lt of water per day per person or six kiloliters per month per household.

Enough water provided

This was as result of a combination of efforts starting in the lead up to a democratic South Africa by the release of Reconstruction and Development Programme strategy of the ANC 1994 to the 50 lt per day campaign of the late 1990’s by civil society. The 25 lt of water per day still falls short of what civil society in South Africa would like to see, but it is step in the challenge of eradicating poverty in South Africa. This is now part of concerted effort in South Africa by civil society organisations to challenge the government in the Free Basic Water allocations. At the same time, they look at solutions through sharing research and knowledge with the government of what is seen as the equitable share of water for millions of South Africans. Many cannot manage on the 25 lt of water per day person either due to special needs such being HIV/ AIDs or living in an extended household whose water consumption is well beyond the 6 kiloliters per month limit. This amount of Free Basic Water would also lighten the burden of women who are primarily the “water managers” of households in South African society. Women in rural and urban areas either fetch water from standpipes or

have to be responsible for careful management of household water.

Based on a UN decision

This 6 kiloliters per month is the source for current contentions between South African Civil Society and the state. It has in recent times led to cut offs of water in some areas or restrictors being placed in the pipes to reduce the water flow to 6 kiloliters, this has resulted in community activists taking the law into their own hands and reconnecting their water supply. Civil Society and government have realised that this is not a solution and there are serious discussions underway in South Africa on this issue.

UN General Comment No. 15

Looking at the at the issue of the right to water internationally South Africa is moving towards compliance with UN General Comment No 15, which emerged out of the 29 th session of the committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/2222/11) of November 2002. which says in brief that the State has an obligation to:



RESPECT: The government must refrain from interfering directly or indirectly with the enjoyment of the right to have access to water.

PROTECT: The government must prevent third parties (e.g. Individuals, groups, corporations etc) from interfering in anyway with the enjoyment of this water right.

PROMOTE: The government must take steps to increase awareness and respect (e.g. through education) for this water right. "The obligation to promote obliges the state party to take steps to ensure that there is appropriate education concerning the hygienic use of water, protection of water sources and methods to minimize water wastage" (UN GC No15 Para 15)

FULFIL: The government must adopt the necessary measures directed towards the full realisation of this water right.

Capacity to provide

The last issue from the UN General Comment No. 15 is what is being discussed at the current session of the 13 th session of the CSD is why governments are afraid of the concept of a "right to water". Some governments feel that they don't have the capacity to implement free water or demands, while others are adamant that there is NO Free Water and pander to the unholy dollar of cost recovery. This is far from the the truth is that Governments are rather obliged to create an "enabling environment" to facilitate people's access to these rights.

This did not happen overnight in South Africa, it was aprocess that started in 1994 with our constitution and with milestones such as the Water Services Act 1997 and the National Water Act of 1998. It has been a process of "learning by doing" so that South Africans can enjoy the rights enshrined in our constitution. The process of reviewing

elements of this policy is ongoing for South Africans through an ongoing dialogue between Civil Society and Government.

USEFUL READING: Water Handbook For South African Activists and Decision Makers in Urban Areas. Published by the Environmental Monitoring Monitoring Group, Cape Town South Africa e-mail info@emg.org.za
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under campaigns and water

BELGIUM ADOPTS 'ACCESS TO WATER FOR ALL'

While the right to water is under attack at the CSD, the Belgium Parliament adopted a resolution on April 14, 2005 entitled 'Access to Water for All.

In the resolution reference is made to the fact that fulfilling the right to access to safe water (MDG 7) and sanitation services (Johannesburg) is an important contribution to the eradication of poverty (MDG1), the improvement of public health (MDG6) and reducing child and maternal mortality (MDG 4 and 5) and even to increased participation in education (MDG 2).

And, as can be seen with this resolution, the Belgian Parliament has in fact addressed 6 of the 8 MDGs.

Hear our voice:

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE HERE TO STAY

Jean-Pierre Elong-Mbassi is part of the Local Governments Major Group and here to push ministers to hear the voices of local governments on issues involving decentralization of MDGs. Taking Issue talked with him about the work he is doing for localizing MDGs and policies agreed at CSD.

Jean-Pierre Elong-Mbassi is Secretary General of Municipal Development Partnership, an institutional and technical agency for local governments in Africa. He is one of the instigators of the worldwide Declaration of Mayors in 1996, as part of the framework for HABITAT 2, Istanbul.

It is too easy to say local governments should implement MDGs. How easy is it for local governments to actually deliver, especially in Africa. They are in the process of becoming more decentralized, but what do they need and what do they need to know to make this more effective. This was highlighted when local government officials met with Kofi Annan, in August 2004. He said, that 'we need your commitment', as almost 70% of the MDGs targets fall under the responsibility of local governments for implementation.

Tools to make their voices heard

The number one mission in Africa is to get the voices of local governments heard by state governments, other stakeholders and donors. A mechanism has been created of structured dialogue from the local to the state, to the continent wide level, through a platform of dialogue. This accumulates in an AfriCities Summit, an African wide meeting of local governments, every two years.

A number of tools have been created by the MDP to help local governments project their voice:

The EcoLoc Approach deals with the local economy. It recognizes that local governments need to understand and talk in the language of macroeconomics like the level of state governments. Therefore a mechanism has been created to calculate the GDP of a local area; The Institute of Advanced Municipal Studies was set up to train the staff of local governments throughout Africa; All member associations were given access to the internet; The promotion of partnerships between different local governments in Africa was developed, to share experiences and friendships.

What the ministers need to know

This is why Jean-Pierre is here, to bring the voices of local governments in Africa to the CSD and to take the outcomes of CSD and present them to local governments so they can translate them into action. One of his concerns is that their legitimacy could be questioned if they don't deliver, because their role has not been recognized fully by state governments.

Amos Masondo, Executive Mayor of Johannesburg and Chairperson of ICLEI will present the local government's message to the ministers in the High Level Segment.

Ministers are urged to recognize the responsibility that local governments have in implementing MDGs and to ensure that money needed for this is made available for expenditure at the local level. Ministers need to consider how

to do this; how to channel funds to the local level. It seems that funds stay at the top, regional and national level but rarely get down to the people that need it the most.

There is a need for local governments to be capacitated and empowered to regulate delivery of services at the local level and master skills such as contract management with the private sector.

There is a need for all stakeholders to implement MDGs or the goals will not be reached. To do this, participatory approaches must be strengthened and made more effective. The ministers must recognize the value of decentralized cooperation. If 20% of the ODA was channeled directly to local level through decentralized cooperation mechanisms, it would be much more effective to serve the people on the ground.

Local governments have a responsibility too...

Local governments need to change the way they do things now. They must learn that partnerships are important with civil society and private sector. They need to develop local policies that are inclusive and non-discriminatory.

The way ahead

The next AfriCities Summit will be held in Nairobi in September 2006. The theme will be building coalitions for effective implementation of MDGs at the local level. The local governments need to translate international policies and strategies into their own context, translate what MDGs are to them and how to apply them at the local level.

That is why, before local governments come to the Summit, they already must localize MDGs. Other stakeholders have also been invited to the summit to create coalitions with the local governments. With this, they will move forward to implement MDGs.

HJ



Jean-Pierre Elong-Mbassi

RESPECT AT THE CENTRE

The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Education for Sustainable Development is fundamentally about values, with respect at the center: respect for others, including those of present and future generations, for difference and diversity, for the environment, for the resources of the planet we inhabit.

At a well-attended luncheon Side Event, organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the government of Japan and Unesco, in cooperation with Canada, Sweden and the CSD Education Caucus, that took place on Wednesday, a panel of distinguished people from various parts of the world shared their thoughts, views, experiences and opinions on how to shape the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Taking Issue was there and brings you the highlights.

Background

Since the Earth Summit in 1992, sustainable development has been high on the political agenda. However education was not well reflected in the strategies towards sustainable development, and the educational

community was not defined as one of the major groups. During the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, education and educators were recognized as essential elements of the progress towards sustainable development. The United Nations General Assembly, at its 57th Session, adopted the resolution to start the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development beginning in January 2005, in accordance with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Awareness and attitudes

Ms. Agneta Karlsson State Secretary of the Ministry of Education in Sweden said that for her sustainable development is a question of awareness and attitudes, about basic human values and respect for each other and care for future generations. Presenting Sweden's efforts to strengthen

education for sustainable development, she highlighted the importance of:

- **The quality of education**
- The start of education at an early age
- Participation and commitment of all those that take part
- Involvement of the private sector
- International and regional cooperation

Lifestyle changes must be achieved

Mr. Shaun Vorster who is an adviser to the ministry of Environment and Tourism in South Africa, mentioned that education for sustainable development is about achieving real changes in lifestyles. In South Africa, it is the media that is the main partner for advocating this change of lifestyle.

Education is the key cross-cutting issue

Mr. Luis Daville Ortega, the associate Director of the Global Youth Action Network stressed the fact that young people recognize education as a key cross-cutting issue of sustainable development. He also highlighted the important role youth can play in formal as well as non-formal education and that education needs to be the key point in all the negotiations.

Inclusive approach

Ms. Brigitta Schmögnerová, the ECE Executive Secretary stressed that education for sustainable development must be based on an inclusive approach, an approach that goes beyond including teachers and students and also includes all relevant stakeholders. She also identified the need for leadership by heads of governments and a strong



“Our biggest challenge in this new century is to take an idea that seems abstract ... Sustainable Development ... and turn it into a reality for all the world’s people.”

Kofi Annan, 2001

commitment of political leaders to the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

The need for Regional Centers

Mr. Zakri, the Director of the United Nations University explained that education for sustainable development is not a topic that can be taught in a few weeks or at a certain age. Rather, it should be given attention in all sectors and at all levels of education in relation to relevant, already existing, subjects in an integrated manner. In order for this to happen, an enabling environment needs to be created in the form of Regional Centers of Expertise. These Centers would serve, through close cooperation between different institutions, as the major engines for exchange of knowledge and information as well as joint development of innovative programmes towards Education for Sustainable Development.

Voices from the floor

Besides the panel of distinguished persons that shared their views, ample time was given for input from the floor. Among the main issues raised by the audience were the following:

- The relevance of education needs to be highlighted; educational programs need to be adapted to the local realities.
- The enormous potential of technology to play a role in education for sustainable development

- The deprivation of skills from developing countries, the so-called brain drain
- The difficulty of integrating sustainable development in curricula that question the concept of sustainable development, such as for example law faculties.

No hidden pool of money

The issue of finances was raised several times throughout the event. Is there any money available to implement all the ambitious plans that exist for the implementation of education for sustainable development? It was stated that the programme of action for the decade still needs to be build and that so far there is no “hidden pool of money to finance the decade”. The programme of action therefore needs to integrate the donors.

Many challenges remain

At the end of the side event, moderator Chuck Hopkins, UNESCO Chair for Reorienting Teacher Education to Address Sustainability, stated that still many challenges. Among the challenges he highlighted were:

- There are many places on earth where people lack access to even basic education, it is hard to have education for sustainable development where there is no education at all.

AIM OF THE DECADE

The outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit and the establishment of a Decade of Education for Sustainable Development affirm the need to integrate sustainable development into education systems at all levels in order for education to be a key agent for change. The Decade aims to promote education as the basis for a sustainable human society and to strengthen international cooperation toward the development of innovative policies, programmes and practices of education for sustainable development.

WHAT IS EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Chapter 36 of Agenda 21 identified four major thrusts of ESD:

1. The Promotion and Improvement of Basic Education
2. Reorienting Existing Education at all Levels to Address Sustainable Development
3. Developing Public Understanding and Awareness of Sustainability
4. Training

- One needs to realize that it is those countries that are the best educated that leave the biggest ecological footprint.
- Public awareness is needed to put pressure on the private sector
- Educators, communicators and trainers themselves must recognize that they have a role to play
- Ministries of education in many countries do not see that they have a role to play in sustainable development. They feel that sustainable development is a matter for the ministry of environment
- Education, public awareness and training cannot achieve sustainable development on its own. Without these three tools however, the achievement of sustainability is impossible.

He concluded by stating that there is a need for a “strength model”, none of us can do it alone, but each one of us can contribute something.

- kk

For more information:

www.unesco.org/education



FINANCING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The issue of financing has been an emotive feature at CSD-13. While all agree on the importance of increased financing for development projects in the water, sanitation and human settlements sectors, the means of funding is still a contentious issue.

- By Samuel Waweru

As the CSD-13 comes to a close at the end of week, uppermost in the minds of all who participated will be how to get the necessary finances to implement the policies they have outlined in two years of intense negotiations. Views on project funding have been many and divergent. Major Groups and governments hold different views on how to source development funds. There have been calls to provide more resources in terms of direct Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries for project funding. But this view has been frowned upon by dissenting voices who say that years of pumping development aid into developing countries has not yielded any tangible development and is therefore a bad model of achieving development goals. This latter school of thought, which mainly includes government, sees more foreign direct investments in developing countries by companies from the north as the best alternative to deliver services in water, sanitation and human settlements. A view that has elicited widespread criticism from civil society.

Panel discussion session

Perhaps to register just how seriously financing was treated at CSD-13, an interactive panel discussion session with Finance and Cooperation Ministers and experts of member countries was held on Monday afternoon to discuss financing of development projects, especially in

regard to water, sanitation and human settlements. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan graced the panel and in his address proposed an International Finance Facility to establish timetables to achieve the target of 0.7 percent of gross national income in development assistance. Noting that the issues on CSD-13's agenda are central to delivering the MDGs, he pointed out that finance ministers and other participants have a crucial role to play in reaching a global deal to promote development, security and human rights for all people.

Speaking at the same occasion, Deputy UN Secretary General in charge of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Carlos Fortin, dwelt on efforts to privatize, to market and to profit from provision of water. He suggested that since only five percent of water in developing countries is supplied by the private sector, priority should be given to strengthening government water programmes and then later follow up by exploring the role of public/private partnerships.

Public-private partnerships opposed

Most Major Groups at CSD-13 are particularly opposed to the emphasis on public/private partnerships in financing services in the water sector, unless such partnerships are made with indigenous home-based private sector players. They believe that if this is not clarified, western corporations could take advantage of the fragile infrastructures

in developing countries and push water, which is a basic human need, out of reach of the majority of the people. They insist that water can never be treated as a trade commodity. They are proposing that priority be given to stimulating domestic funding through micro-credit facilities for community projects and supporting women and youth enterprises.

Support for Direct Foreign Investment

However, to governments in developing countries are taking an entirely different view, expressing support for increased foreign direct investments (FDI). The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Council for instance, has already asked the international community to stop offering direct aid to Africa saying this was not a solution to the continent's poverty. Instead, NEPAD is calling for their support in increasing investments through their firms in Africa, which will help to create employment. Council President, Dr. Birahim Seck says massive flow of aid to Africa over the last 50 years has not made any impact on the poverty situation on the continent. He is urging African leaders to come up with workable strategies that can attract investment in key sectors such as information and communications technology (ICT). He says the amount of aid to Africa does not correspond to development, as there is now more poverty, more diseases and high

illiteracy levels. Seck says the existing gap between Europe, North America and Asia on one hand and Africa on the other can only be narrowed through the involvement of private sector and promotion of public/private partnerships.

Seck's views have been echoed by Kenya's Finance Minister, David Mwiraria, who admits that despite the huge injection of donor funds into Kenya, no meaningful development has been realized. He says whereas gross Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) inflows into Kenya increased from an annual average of US\$582 million (Sh44 billion) in the 1970s, to above \$1 billion (Sh80 billion) in the late 1990s, this has not been translated into better economic performance. Despite the huge injection of donor funds, GDP growth declined from an annual average of about 6-7 per cent in the first decade of independence to below 2 per cent two years ago. The overall national estimated levels of poverty increased from an average of 40

per cent in the 1970s to the current high levels of 56 per cent.

Major Groups are however, urging governments to tread cautiously on the issue of FDI's. They warn that private sector players are most likely to concentrate on making profits and only those who can afford to pay for the services would have access to vital resources. Considering that most people in developing countries live in deplorable poverty, earning less than a dollar a day, they are calling on governments not to abdicate their responsibility in ensuring that this group is not marginalized. The situation is bound to get worse if foreign companies are left to control critical sectors such as water, which is at the core of any country's sovereignty.

Pursue self-sufficiency

There are also those like Mr. Philippe Carette of the African Reference Group on Water (ARGOW), a water and sanitation advocacy Non Governmental Organization who believe that the solution to attaining

the MDGs in developing countries lies in adopting self-sustainability in all development work. He cautions that both ODA and FDI models of financing can not contribute any meaningful development as the control is in the hands of foreign interests who may have an entirely different agenda from that of the benefit country. Self-sustainability could be achieved by channeling more government funds to service water, sanitation and housing in both rural and urban areas instead of concentrating resources on non-critical sectors of the economy such as defense and building political institutions.

The jury is still out on the best model of providing finances for development. The recommendations coming out of CSD-13 are well meaning and it is now upon the governments to harmonize the various interests and views to reach a common ground and focus on achieving the millennium development goals and targets for the three thematic sectors.

"Excrement kills. It kills by the million. Lack of safe sanitation is the world's biggest cause of infection. It is the number one enemy of world health."

Gourisankar Gosh, Executive Director WSSCC (Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council)

Did you know that...

- At any one time, more than half the poor of the developing world are ill from causes related to hygiene, sanitation and water supply. Diarrhoeal disease alone kills six thousand children every day.
- The majority of illness in the world is caused by faecal matter.
- A billion people live a life without safe, plentiful water – to drink, to wash hands, face and body, to wash and rinse clothes, to brush teeth, to cook food, to clean homes and kitchens.
- Two and a half billion people live a life without a clean, private place to defecate and urinate. Instead they use fields, streams, rivers, railway lines, canal banks, roadsides, plastic bags, waste-paper, or squalid, foul-smelling, disease-breeding buckets and insanitary latrines.
- One gram of faeces can contain 10 million viruses, 1 million bacteria, 1 thousand parasite cysts, and a hundred worm eggs.
- In most developing countries only about 1% or 2% of government spending goes to low cost water and sanitation. More is spent on high-cost services for the few than on low-cost services for the many.
- Public squalor and disease undermine productivity and economic growth, costs billions of working days every year, and are a major deterrent to investment and tourism. According to the World Health Organization, every \$1 invested in water and sanitation would yield an economic return of between \$3 to \$34, depending on the region.
- Although the world is on track towards meeting the MDG for access to safe drinking water, according to WHO and UNICEF, the global sanitation target will be missed by half a billion people, most of them in rural Africa and Asia.

(Source: Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council: WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all – campaign, "A guide to investigating one of the biggest scandals of the last 50 years".)

STILL GOING STRONG

Zena Daysh, is 90 years old. If I hadn't just told you, you wouldn't have known. Unless you're also a long standing regular at the various environmental and policy conferences at the UN.



Zena Daysh is wearing blue eye shadow and red lipstick. Her white hair has been rolled on curlers to give it volume, and her outfit for the day is as fashionable as ever. A long skirt, matching blouse, and a trendy scarf tied around her neck. This is not Zena's first CSD. She hasn't missed a single one since they started. In fact, she usually goes to at least two UN conferences a year. And she's been doing it since 1972. – We were the first Commonwealth organization to be accredited to the UN, remembers Zena. – They used to look at me as I was filling in the forms saying 'ah, they're joining, they're joining!' But you know, coming from New Zealand, I knew that we couldn't just sit over there on our own. We needed the global perspective!

Always the Commonwealth

Born in 1914 in New Zealand, Zena claims she was born into the

Commonwealth. – It's been there forever, all my life!

Zena's father, the mayor of their city, spent 6 weeks in 1920 travelling to England. – He said to the British, New Zealand must have aeroplanes. And they gave him a promise that they'd send out the aeroplane to his city in 1920 with the First World War hero. Tragically when flying with the war hero, the plane crashed and killed them both.

- But right before he died, my father said to mother 'these girls must be taken to England'. I was six, my sister was ten. You can imagine! I've always thought of the empire.

Individually strong

Zena's mother didn't take the girls to England straight away, but at the age of 17 Zena finally arrived. – We were taken to be shown how the bloody British Empire worked, she recalls. - We were

brought straight into the aristocracy. Zena was 22 when she first got married. She met her husband in New Zealand, got married, and then the war broke out. - He was a Royal Navy Volunteer, and he set off with a flotilla of boats to the Caribbean. He was gone for five years and became the boyfriend.

When Zena finally met her husband again post war, they shook hands as if they didn't know each other, and were soon separated. He later married the minister from Barbados. Zena however, never married again. – But I had some interesting opportunities. The attorney general of America was chasing after me for a while. But I'm true to my culture and an American wasn't going to suit me any more than a farmer up in the north.

New Zealand inspires

Being a physiotherapist and nutritionist, it was through the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine that Zena played a wider role in the Commonwealth for the first time. She was the prime leader with the Dean to set up a Committee on Nutrition in the Commonwealth.

Part of the inspiration for her work came from, and still comes from New Zealand – the most beautiful country in the world, according to Zena. – It is a perfect little paradise of democracy and integration. But they can't export it. It's always been a source of inspiration for keeping up the work

though, so that maybe one day the whole world can experience it.

An Ayurvedic ecologist

In 1959 Zena and a number of scientists set up CHEC – Commonwealth Human Ecology Council – as a follow up to the Nutrition Committee, and Human Ecology – Zena’s favourite topic of conversation – was born. Explaining the meaning of Human Ecology is not that easy, but according to Zena it has to do with the Commonwealths 1000 years of history, Indian Ayurvedic medicine, and the Buddhist principle of energy: Energy is indestructible. – Human Ecology is the cosmological depth of human history. It’s the connectiveness of life. The theory of relativity leads one to human ecology. It’s the heartbeat of mankind. It’s unity based, like Ayurvedic. And the more you mix up with Ayurvedic, the more you clear out the rubbish of today. - You know I met Indira Gandhi a number of times. I’ve had many visits to India. Many, many. Anyways, she said: Human Ecology is responsibility. I’d never heard it explained in one word before.

And apparently, Ayurvedic medicine applies to the Commonwealth as well: - The Commonwealth is realizing that they have to go back to history and clear out, like the Ayurvedic. If the members can have enough awareness to come out and show their bonding, their emotional ties, and become an open global, then they can be an example of best practice of the world.

The secret of Human Ecology

And within the secret of Human Ecology, Ayurvedic medicine and Buddhism lies also the secret to Zena’s health and appearance. Especially the Ayurvedic medicine, a remedy she can’t praise enough. – Ayurvedic teaches you to throw away the nonsense and go back to the beginning. I’ve got a huge acceptance that I never had before. It’s a purification.

Another secret is fasting. – I had periods of years when I fasted a lot. It started because they wanted to take my tonsils out. If anything is wrong with you, fasting is the way. The body will deal with anything if you know how to give it back the right background.

- It’s easier for me now to be like an elephant and eat once a day!!

With the Habitat Scroll of Honour

Then there’s the travelling. Round and round and round the world! I’ve visited most of the Commonwealth countries. And I’ve been going back and forth between Nairobi and New York since 1976. I spent five years coming and going to Malta, you know they call themselves a Human Ecology Island. And I’ve been to 17 bi-annual CHOGLMs - the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings - who meet in a different place each time.

Zena has been awarded a number of awards throughout her years of dedication to Human Ecology and the Commonwealth. She was awarded the honour of CNZM – Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit – by the Queen of England, for her lifetime commitment to the Commonwealth. And in 2003, she was awarded the international “Habitat Scroll of Honour. A Life Time of Commitment to the Cause of Shelter for all”. She may be 90 years old, but the commitment hasn’t faded. Neither have the looks or the health. Zena is still going strong, and is still enjoying playing the game. For many more years to come, it seems.

- ida

WHAT DO THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS HAVE IN COMMON WITH TRAVELLING TO MARS?

Both require a functional system for collecting and recycling household wastes in order to reuse water and nutrients.

The NASA expedition to Mars planned in year 2013 will include a crew of seven people. The journey will take 180 days one way and the astronauts will additionally spend 500 days on Mars before returning to Earth. In order to succeed on the mission, all water, oxygen and nutrients that are essential for the humans and their food production must be on board

the space ship and there it has to be recycled. The astronauts will become vegetarians and advanced “eco-farmers” that use their own excreta in order to generate soil and nutrients for growing food. All wastewater will have to be treated and reused and new oxygen must be produced from carbon dioxide. A small biosphere will have to be created and moved to Mars and back.

NASA is using the principle of “closed loop” for the voyage “Man to Mars” in 2013. In a

similar way, the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, a leading institution within ecological sanitation, utilizes environmental loops in its contribution towards the UN Millennium Development Target 10: “To halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.”.

(Source: *The Norwegian University of Life Sciences*)

QUESTION OF THE DAY



There are over 100 ministers here at the UN now. Can they save the rights based approach in the text?

Kim Jawanda, Terra Housing

They can only save it if they agree on a definition. The disagreement is with what rights actually mean, as it depends on the location and the context. We need a common definition, then all of us will not only agree but save it.



Camilla Kinch, Danish 92 Group Forum for Sustainable Development

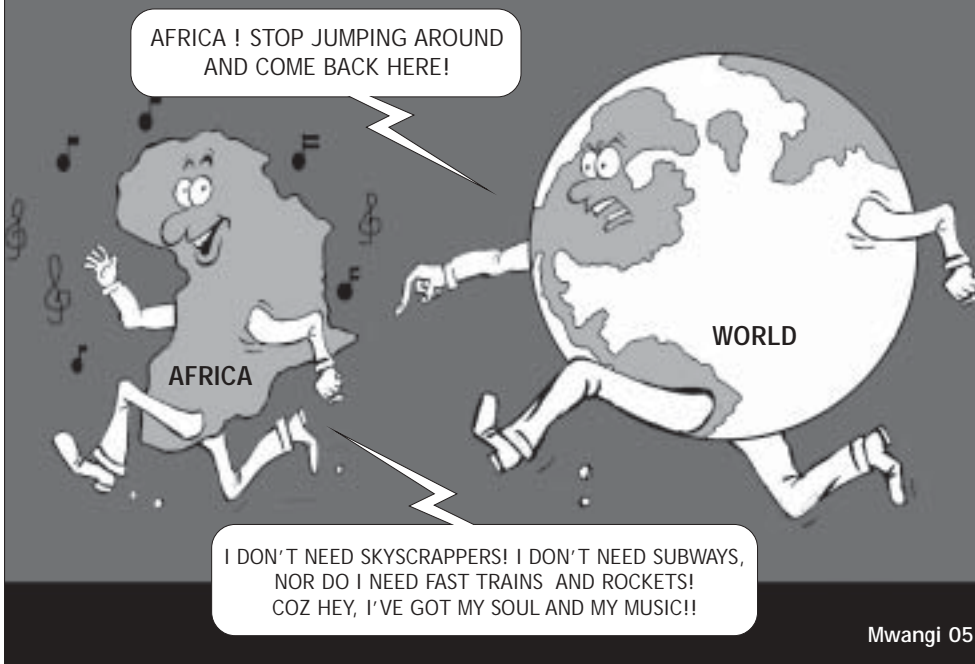
I think they will save it. But this is difficult to answer as there is a need for the CSD process to be relevant and gain credibility and significance through political will. However, this process has been very odd and the way it's been progressing up till now is a waste of resources. It will take a lot of political will to save it. These resources are humans out there. I don't know if this CSD will produce the political will, I hope so!



Moses Zabon Tucker, Society against Environment Degradation

It all depends on individual interests. Because if you take G77, most of the policies debated in the text, only a small amount of members of G77 agreed to these policies, for example of taking away rights based approach. Why? Is it for selfish reasons or because they want an open market system to maximize their profits? It is very frustrating.

The Right to Dance ...



Mwangi 05

Contribute to Taking Issue

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