



A Daily publication of the Sustainable Development Issues Network (SDIN)  
at the Twelfth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development

# Results from the New CSD: Arms Race Reduced to Fund Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements

**NGO Statement's Recommendation Captures the Attention of Governments at CSD-12. A World Fund on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements with money from military expenditure can be established. Costa Rica and NGOs to lead on a possible concrete result from the first week of the new CSD.**

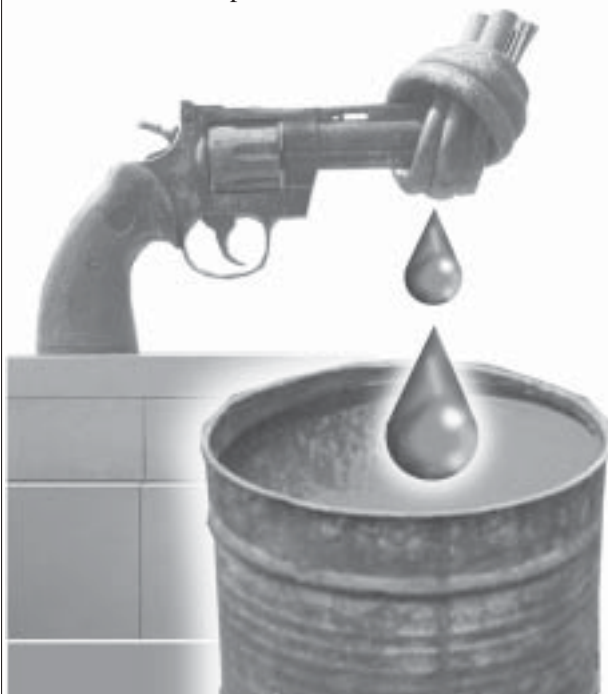
As many of you remember, NGOs working during last weekend put together a draft that was discussed among over one hundred NGOs attending CSD-12. One of its statements, on mobilizing resources for the implementation of sustainable development, reads: "With

respect to resources, NGOs request that a fraction of military expenditures be transferred to the implementation of poverty eradication and sustainable development."

Maria Arias-Zeballos, of the International Council of Women, who facilitated the draft and was selected by NGO consensus to read the NGO statement on Overall Review at the plenary on April 21<sup>st</sup>, also intervened during the afternoon interactive dialogue on Sanitation.

The intervention came as a response to a statement by Dr. Bernardo Monge, of Costa Rica, one of the experts on the panel on Sanitation. He said, among other things, that Costa Rica was a poor country but now developing with the indicators of a rich one thanks to having abstained from having an army

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### Meeting schedule

FRIDAY 23, APRIL 2004

- 9.00 - 10.00, NGO Organising Partners
- 10.00 - 11.00, NGO Steering Committee
- 11.00 - 12.00, Southern Africa
- 12.00 - 1.00, Human settlements
- 1.00 - 2.00, Indigenous Peoples
- 2.00 - 3.00, Youth
- 3.00 - 4.00, Africa
- 4.00 - 5.00, Sust. Product. & Consumpt
- 5.00 - 6.00, Energy
- 6.00 - 7.00, Trade Unions
- 6.30 - 8.30 Southern (Church Ctr 11th floor)
- 7.00 - 8.00, Caucus Coordination

All meetings in Conference Room B

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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.

Meetings are held in Conference Room B at the United Nations Building.

*Articles reflect the opinions of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SDIN Network*

*Taking Issue is published with financial support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and with logistical support of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)*

## STATEMENT BY FACS-SD TO THE CSD-12 MEETING ON THE REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE AFRICA REGION

The Forum of African Civil Society for Sustainable Development (FACS-SD) brings together civil society organisation from Africa to articulate the continent's agenda at the international level. FACS-SD has a strong presence at the CSD-12. In a moving statement, FACS-SD lamented the slow pace of development in the continent, the continued violation of human rights and displacement of persons due to civil wars and conflicts. They called on African governments to pull up their socks. Below is their full statement.

The Forum of African Civil Society for Sustainable Development (FACS-SD) observes with concern the slow pace in which implementation of the MDGs and the JPOI (water, sanitation and human settlements) is taking place in Africa and further notes the following as challenges that contribute to inhibit development and growth in the Region.

- Africa's development paradigm is hampered by bureaucratic and other processes that retard socio-economic progress and growth,
- The negative Effects of globalisation – not merely on the economic sphere but also politically, socially and culturally, as well as the imposition of neo-liberal policies (and others) continue to impoverish the African people,
- The continued degradation of the environment, plundering of natural resources as well as lack of social responsibility and corporate accountability has an adverse impact on achieving sustainable development in the Region;
- Human rights violations, civil wars and conflicts displace and divide families [especially] women and children, deteriorating health conditions and poverty that continue to bring misery to the Region need special attention by African leaders, for the Region to advance its quest for sustainable development.

FACS-SD delegates attending this CSD-12 session, along with other

delegates take cognisance of the current situation; the successes, the constraints, the failures, and lessons learnt with respect to the achievement of the MDGs and the JPOI targets for water, sanitation and human settlements, in Africa. While we commend those African Governments that have registered achievements in the MDGs and JPOI, we call for the prevalence of political will and proactive leadership to prevail among those who have yet to register significant progress. Adequate resources should be allocated to where they are mostly needed through appropriate institutions. Genuine partnerships should be established to accelerate the implementation and transfer of appropriate technology.

We therefore urge our governments to consider the following in the course of promoting sustainable development in the domains of water, sanitation and human settlements, and to this respect:

- Recognize and promote peace as a pre-requisite for sustainable development, including integrated water resources management (IWRM);
- Appreciate the vital role of water resources in food production and security, the alleviation of poverty and the enhancement of peoples health;
- Protect watersheds, forests among others;
- Better manage knowledge, including the mainstreaming of indigenous knowledge in the present-day decision making process;
- Acknowledge the role of science and technology in integrated water

resources management; sanitation and human settlements,

- Enhance the role of women in water, sanitation and human settlements management by adequately empowering them;
- Establishing and making available to users for purposes of decision making reliable water resources data base at national, sub-regional and regional levels;
- Integrate and harmonize national policies on water and set up regulatory frameworks to govern water use and address the problems of unsustainable water supply;
- Put in place sub-regional water resources facilities that can be used to assist in the integrated management of national water resources;
- Introduce innovative incentives to promote corporate social responsibility and good practices in production/business, as well as establish enforcement mechanisms (polluter pays mechanisms) in water supply, sanitation and human settlements;
- Build capacity across the board including training and technology development in IWRM, sanitation and human settlements;
- Give recognition to the rights that minorities have to water and ensure their involvement in decision making processes in pursuance of the Ouagadougou outcome;
- Put in place the necessary and appropriate infrastructure for water

resource management, access; and sanitation coverage;

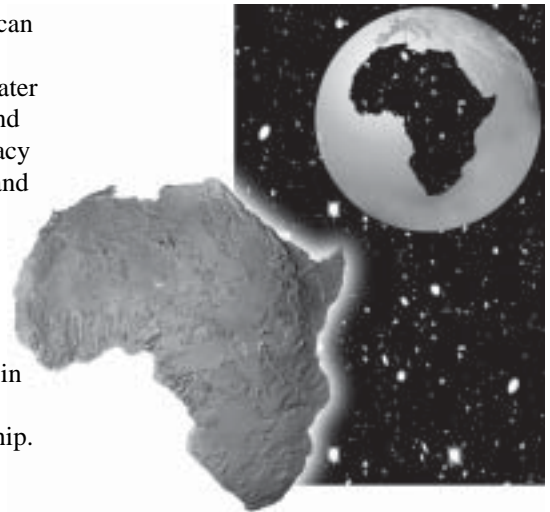
- Strengthen coordination and cooperation for the mobilization of both internal and external resources and the wise use of such resources as well as make increased effort to make more national budget allocations for water resources, sanitation and human settlements and urge donor governments and organizations to honor their financial and other commitments;
- Promote enhanced urban governance through land use planning and mechanisms to deal with informal urban settlements in a manner that will facilitate improvements in the quantity and quality of urban water supply.

## IN CONCLUSION

FACS-SD does not want to lament on the constraints and failures. Instead we want to situate ourselves on the way forward at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels. We call upon African governments and other partners to recognize the role that civil society can play in capacity building and in the implementation and scaling up of water resources management, sanitation and human settlements programs, advocacy and awareness raising at all levels, and with respect to all other related development issues.

The Forum of African Civil Society for Sustainable Development is committed to effectively participate in Africa's sustainable development activities in a true spirit of partnership. We take note of the willingness of

governments and UN institutions to engage civil society representatives at all levels. We commend African governments in their efforts to put in place the necessary institutions for the advancement of Sustainable Development.



### ... Continued from page 1

and thus military expenditures. In the intervention Ms Arias invited Costa Rica to lead an initiative to fulfill the NGO statement on mobilizing resources.

Dr. Monge kindly accepted the invitation of NGOs to attend the NGO Friday morning meeting where he confirmed the possibility of Costa Rica leading an initiative to create a world fund to mobilize resources for water, sanitation and human settlements. The idea is that the fund, to benefit the most poor living in the Developing and the Least Developed Countries, will be financed with a fraction of the world's military expenditures. Dr. Monge stated that he had the initial approval of his Ambassador, Mr. Bruno Stagno. However, further consultations with his capital and other ministries were needed in order to build up consensus and consolidate this position in his country.

In addition, and in the context of his presentation, Dr. Monge explained that Costa Rica has many valuable experiences to share with the world; one of them is in the area of human and environmental education. In a collaborative effort with the Ministry of Health, donor governments and NGOs, a website was set up: [www.netsalud.sa.cr/link:ciudadeslimpias](http://www.netsalud.sa.cr/link:ciudadeslimpias) which is being used as a core reference in primary, public schools throughout the country. Four hundred thousand children are studying different subjects: science, geography, mathematics, and writing composition, through this educational tool. He invited everyone to take advantage of this program, which could be translated to other languages and is easily accessible and can be used without the need of further permission.

Next step is "planting the seed." In this sense, and in the context of this CSD Review session the best we can expect is to have the initiative introduced and acknowledged in the Chair's Summary. If this can be the case, then with other countries and NGOs ongoing support up to CSD 2005, the world fund for water,

sanitation and human settlements -to benefit the most poor- will take on a life of its own. NGOs are very appreciative of the efforts of Costa Rica leading the world towards the creation of such a fund.

*By Maria Arias-Zeballos*



## PARTNERSHIPS REVISITED

Perhaps, the most prominent feature of CSD 12 to date is that the Partnerships Fairs have significantly captured the space that was once the prerogative of inter-governmental policy discussions.

**J**ust walk by the “neck area” of the 1<sup>st</sup> basement for all the visual promotions or stop by at CR 6 anytime between 10 am and 6 pm for well choreographed presentations.

How are Governments viewing this development? What are the implications for NGOs as a sector? How should NGOs respond? What policy framework should be proposed on these Partnerships for CSD-13?

Government concerns  
Judging from corridor chatter and some muted criticism from the interactive exchanges, governments are displaying a level of confusion mixed in with a degree of apprehension concerning this matter. The confusion stems from not knowing how these fairly new collaborative arrangements differ

from the technical/development cooperation exercises they have become accustomed to. The apprehension, on the other hand, arises from the scale and speed of proliferation of partnerships as well as the nagging suspicion that they are somehow diverting resources that were once channeled through governments. Some governments have also expressed concerns over the collaborative role of UN Agencies acting outside their mandates as ‘partners’.

Implications for NGOs  
From the perspective of NGOs, especially those not actively participating or overly enthusiastic about these Type 11s, the situation is quite disconcerting. First, the Partnership track for implementation appears to have divided the NGO community into self-styled ‘doers’

and the traditional ‘talkers’. The former viewed as championing implementation while the latter stifling the same. Second, it has undercut the advocacy/lobby role of some NGOs. Where is the space to lobby, who to lobby on what issue to lobby? Thirdly, at a much broader level, the rising role of partnerships is a further indication of waning multilateralism and lack of confidence in an already battered body. This again considerably affects NGO interaction at the international level.

Role of the CSD Secretariat

The Secretariat paper on Partnerships (E/CN.17/2004/16) characterizes Type 11s as still being in “organizational phase” after the majority of them were launched at WSSD in Johannesburg

in September 2002. Of the 266 registered with the CSD only half have been duly reporting. Most Partnerships in the water area, said to number around 36, are of three year duration- a time frame hopelessly inadequate to see viable programs through. A mere 36% of the total number of partnerships have secured funding; 8% have yet to raise monies. 72% are funded by governments, 18% by IOs and 6% by NGOs. Half are global, only 4% national. At such a rate how much value are they adding to 'implementation'?

While the Secretariat has ably pulled together an online database, it appears to lack the capacity to provide any in-depth analysis or assessments. More seriously, it lacks the power to enforce the Bali Guide-lines and CSD 11 Criteria that were so strenuously negotiated and agreed upon only after much acrimonious debate and refined reflection.

( It will be recalled that CSD 11 in 2003 reaffirmed the 12 Bali Principles that partnerships should be new, voluntary, contribute to implementation, complement government commitment, add value, have predictable sustained resources, have sectoral and geographical balance, be transparent and accountable, be consistent with national law, UN mandates and should not lead to a diversion of resources otherwise allocated for mandated programs.)

What then do we do about these Partnerships? In the immediate term, NGOs would be well advised to stand firm and take a united stand through good inter-Caucus coordination and

ensure their viewpoints are reflected in the Chairs Summary 1 due on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April. NGOs must reiterate that a much clearer policy framework should be stipulated and that the Partnerships recognize as fundamental the rights-based approach and not treat water as only a commodity regulated by the market place.

In this regard, General Comment 15 of the UNCESC Rights (E/C.12/2002/11) can be invoked so that States parties ensure, inter alia, that there is adequate access to water for subsistence farming and for securing the livelihoods of all peoples with particular reference to indigenous peoples.

It is also incumbent upon all parties to undertake in-depth evaluation of the contributions or otherwise of partnerships towards implementing agreed goals and targets. It is here that NGOs could consider setting up a "Watch Dog Committee" to monitor Partnerships. It is vital too that NGOs work more closely with the Secretariat on this issue and that they stay engaged in the process throughout the year and not just respond to developments during CSD sessions. Better inter- Caucus coordination and effective cooperation with the Secretariat will make this possible.

More specifically, NGOs can begin to brainstorm and seek specific details regarding who is who in partnerships, who is funding the venture, how, if at all, it is benefiting local communities, who exactly are the stake-holders being engaged and how are they chosen etc??

The present state of affairs is crying for evaluation and monitoring.

Statements to the effect that 'this is a marathon not a sprint' to justify lack of progress in implementation from partnerships are not acceptable. The argument that people in Partnerships are too busy implementing to be able to spend time reporting is actually an admission that we have a long way to go in ironing out the wrinkles in the partnership bureaucracy before we see results from them.

In the future though, there is every likelihood that Partnerships will be pushed more vigorously perhaps through bilateral and/or regional trade and aid agreements and other programs. They may soon be touted as the only successful outcomes of the WSSD and they may well pave the way for further privatization of human services and create a nice niche for big businesses to step into the fray.

It is crunch time and it is the moment when NGOs must act together to ensure that Partnerships are well monitored and evaluated and that they are in fact in tune with Agenda 21 and JPOI goals and targets especially as they relate to water, sanitation and human settlements. It is crucial that the assessment of partnerships is reflected in the agenda for CSD 13.

If NGOs let this opportunity pass they will only have themselves to blame for allowing partnerships to become the 'action heroes of sustainable development.'

*By Saradha Iyer,  
Third World Network*

SIDE EVENTS

## WATER THROUGH WOMEN'S EYES The Gender, Water and Poverty Connections



**Monday, April 26th, 2004**  
**1:15 - 2:45pm, Conference Room D**

**CHAIR: IRENE DANKELMAN**  
WEDO and University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands

**SPEAKERS: ETHNE DAVEY**  
*Gender and Water Alliance- South Africa*

**Elizabeth Peredo** *Fundacion Solon - Bolivia*

**Svetlana Slesarenok**, *Mama-86 - Ukraine*

For more information contact: Marcela Tovar ([marcela@wedo.org](mailto:marcela@wedo.org))

**CO-ORGANIZED BY:**

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) [www.wedo.org](http://www.wedo.org)  
Heinrich Böll Foundation - [www.boell.org](http://www.boell.org), World Resources Institute - [www.wri.org](http://www.wri.org)  
Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy - [www.iatp.org](http://www.iatp.org)



— SIDE EVENTS —

# “Unheard Voices of Women at CSD-12”

**Monday at 1:15 p.m.**

Under Secretary General of the UN and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat **MS. ANNA KAJUMULO TIBAIJUKA**, will focus on the “Unheard Voices of Women” at CSD-12.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals for Water and Sanitation, “Unheard Voices of Women” are expressing their aspirations, priorities and daily struggles of women in accessing safe water and basic sanitation.

The programme includes a panel discussion with Eminent Persons. The panel discussion will be facilitated by **MS. ANNA KAJUMULO TIBAIJUKA**, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT.

The other panelists are:

- HON. NESREEN BERWARI, *Minister for Municipalities and Public Works, Iraq*
- MS. MARGARET CATLEY-CARLSON, *Chair, Global Water Partnership*
- MS. KAMLA CHOWDHRY, *Vikram Sarabhai Foundation, India*
- MS. BIENCE GAWANAS, *COMMISSIONER, African Union, Addis Ababa*
- HON. MARIA MUTAGAMBA, *Minister for Water, Uganda*
- MS. DIANA NEGROPONTE, *Expert on Slum Upgrading, USA*

Organized by UN-HABITAT

**Monday, 26 April 2004, 1:15 to 2:45 p.m. Conference Room No.1**

## US COALITION FOR A DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### RECEPTION AND MEETING

A great opportunity to get involved in the push for the Decade

When: Monday 26 April, 2004

Where: UN Church Center (777 UN Plaza, E 44<sup>th</sup> St./ 1 Ave.)

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Organized by: SustainUS

## WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES *a forgotten group?*

The WFFP represents the traditional fisher people in the World. We depend on fishing for our livelihood. We live at the coast, at river estuaries and along rivers. 90-95% of us have no toilets, no drinking water and no shelter. Our toilets are the Oceans and Rivers. The nature has given us fresh water in the coast itself. Our thatched huts are good for us climatically.

All countries are saying that they are doing wonderful things in solving the problems; solving the lack of drinking water, solving the lack of sanitation and solving the lack of human settlements. And yet the whole World knows that these problems are increasing. What is the role of the international community? What are we going to do?

Even if you do not give us toilets, houses and drinking water, please do not take away what we have in the name of DEVELOPMENT. Please do not privatize

our beaches, our shores in the name of Tourism. All these are being taken away by the Multinational Companies. Stop polluting water bodies in the name of industrialization. Stop militarization where resources are spent for killing, but redeem all the nations from debt traps so that the resources are released for life.

It is alarming to hear that the MNCS and TNCS are trying to control the water resources of the planet by using the UN system through the BACK DOOR, in the form of so called advisory boards etc. Beware of these moves as part of GLOBALIZATION AND PRIVATIZATION machinations. All NGOs, Trade Unions and Mass movements, and the Government Delegations should come together to oppose this move.



THIS STATEMENT WAS WRITTEN BY:

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### 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.

**SDIN Facilitating Organisations:**

- ANPED, The Northern Alliance for Sustainability
- TWN, Third World Network
- ELCI, Environment Liaison Centre International

**Or send an e-mail to:**  
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*The editors reserve the right to refuse articles or edit for length and clarity*

