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Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13) Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting

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Daily Meeting schedule

- 9.00 - 10.00 AM Strategy Session
10.00 - 11.00 AM Fresh Water Caucus
5.00 - 6.00 PM Fresh Water Caucus
6.30 - 8.30 PM Caucus Meeting

All meetings in Conference Room C

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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 C at the United Nations Building.

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Super Ambitious

Yesterday marked the official launch of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). And with people present like UNESCO Director-General Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, first lady of the UN, Mrs. Nane Anan and Prof. Steven Rockefeller, the audience seemed to never want to go home.

- We have to be super ambitious, stated Entrepreneur and representative from the private sector Gunter Pauli, and although followed by friendly laughter, the heads nodded in agreement. Sustainable development needs to be incorporated into every segment of society, and it needs to happen now. The first part of the launch consisted of an expert panel identifying key issues in the implementation of DESD. Following the expert statements, the people were so eager to ask questions that Prof. Rockefeller extended the time to make sure everybody who wanted to get to give

their comments or were allowed to ask their questions.

Alternative education and Youth

Representing the CSD Education Caucus and speaking as a member of the NGO community was Dr. Pamela Punttenney, who started by highlighting what she said were not huge and dramatic obstacles to the ESD, but yet crucial to the success of the decade:

- Language barriers between people from formal education and people outside of the formal education.



Mrs Nane Anan, Mr Koichiro Matsuura and Dr. Akito Arima.

- People outside of the education sector who don't recognize themselves as educators yet.

- Culture and negotiations, learning how to bridge these two areas, and finally,

- Identity. Bringing the community of educators together.

Puntenny also highlighted, as did many others with her, the powerful role of Youth as our future, and the fact that education is a critical agent for change.

Another point strongly made, by among others Pauli, was the importance of non-traditional

education – think outside the box -, and the fact that the education in question is not only related to school, but to all segments of life. Also repeated many times was the fact that partners in all sectors of society need to cooperate in the implementation of the DESD goals are they to be reached.

Hope and inspiration

The Decade was officially started in the second half of the launch by the UNESCO Director-General Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, and by his side Mrs Nane Anan, lawyer, artist and wife of UN Secretary General Kofi Anan. Mrs

Anan who has visited schools all over the world accompanying her husband on his travels, had brought with her artworks in which children expressed their hopes and wishes for the future.

Achieving sustainable development is a daunting task, but the launch gave both hope and inspiration to those present. Statements such as 'environmentally we're at the edge' although true, could not discourage the audience, the experts or the special guests who all responded to the vibe in Pauli's statement: super ambitious. ... ida/kk

Inspiration for Education

There was no doubt who lit up the fire during the official launch of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD): Entrepreneur Gunter Pauli mesmerized his audience from word one.

There was true passion in Pauli's statement; an ex-businessman who sold all of his five very successful businesses, to help save the world. And although he was

urging us to be dreaming and believing in things we can not imagine, he still made such sense: - If we only teach the children what we know, then they will do as badly as

we did. The future we are generating today does not give a lot of hope.

But his message did. A true optimist, Pauli inspired us all with images from nature. Why do we need batteries when we can get electricity from banana peel and eggshell? Why do we need detergents when forests smell so nice without ever having been cleaned? A bit far out maybe, but as Pauli pointed out: - If we want to inspire our children we need to inspire ourselves more! We have to put the fun back into sustainable development.

- I think we have to start dreaming again. But we have to start now. Because those who are not dreaming, are sleeping.

... ida/kk



Gunter Pauli: Put the fun back in sustainable development!

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005 – 2014)

In December 2002, resolution 57/254, the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. UNESCO was designated as lead agency for the promotion of the Decade and for developing a draft International Implementation Scheme.

The basic vision of the DESD is a world where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from education and learn the values, behavior and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and for positive societal transformation.

The aim of the DESD is to see Education for Sustainable Development, ESD, implemented in thousands of local situations on the ground, involving the integration of the principles of Sustainable Development into a multitude of different learning situations.

ESD is fundamentally about values, with respect at the centre: 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.

During the round table of experts on the major challenges and objectives for the implementation of the Decade that preceded the official launch, UNESCO



*Dr. Pamela Puntenney
and Prof. Steven Rockefeller.*

For more information:
<http://www.unesco.org/education/desd>

highlighted three major challenges that DESD is facing, followed by three contributions by UNESCO to help face these challenges.

The first challenge is that the focus should remain on education, not just on sustainable development. Education is the most resistant institute in terms of change. The challenge is that we learn our way out of where we are now.

Due to the fact that it is a lot easier to work on one issue at a time, the second challenge DESD faces is the challenge of truly integrating all three pillars of sustainable development. The third challenge that was highlighted was the question on how we are actually going to make it happen. How do we bring about the change that is needed? We can't just tell educators they have to change.

UNESCO said that it will bring in the values and principles that need to be put in place and practiced all the time everywhere. They also emphasized the recognition of the importance of partnerships, admitting that this is too big, even for the UN, to do on its own. Finally, UNESCO has been given the leadership role in the coming ten years of the DESD. Leadership can be defined in many ways, but UNESCO sees its leadership as being a shepherd in this context.

NEW TOOLS FOR COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

Online discussion forum:

An online discussion forum is available at www.sdissues.net to post comments and initiate discussions on issues of interest to NGOs regarding CSD. This is an excellent way for those unable to attend CSD to substantively engage with the issues and offer input during CSD events.

SDIN Info announcements list:

This listserve is dedicated to announcements, news and other information about the CSD and sustainable development, especially of interest to the NGO community. To receive notices or send news to the list, you can subscribe by visiting SDIN's website.

The SDIN website is available at www.sdissues.net

The Italian Coordinator

Taking Issue ‘picks the brain’ of the CSD Major Groups Programme Coordinator Federica Pietracci.

Federica Pietracci did not necessarily dream about working for the UN when she was a little girl. And yet growing up in Venice in Italy, travelling was always on her mind. Eight years of music studies almost lead to a career as a flutist, but in her last year of University studying political science and international affairs, the dream of the UN entered her life. A six-month internship followed, and a year and a half after that she was appointed as associate expert in the CSD secretariat. 8 CSD conferences later, Federica is now running the show for the major groups as Major Groups Programme Coordinator for CSD. So then:



- What is the difference between the ‘old’ CSD and the ‘new’ reformed CSD?

- I would say that the new CSD first of all takes into account the JPOI recommendations designed to be much more geared toward implementation. They have a more focused and innovative approach to achieving more defined goals and targets. A major difference is also of course the new two-year cycle, with the first year being a review of the problems. We will see this year if this is an effective and efficient way of achieving implementation. But we shouldn’t forget the added value of 10 years of CSDs.

- Have we lost anything along the way to the new CSD?

- From the perspective of Major Groups we have not observed anything but improvements. This is a new up-scaled phase, that’s how I see it. But we shouldn’t take anything for granted. It is the responsibility of the Major Groups to push for the same extent of participation to be granted within this body.

- Many people, both inside and outside the UN system, have said that the CSD process is by far the most interesting inter-governmental experiment on good governance. What is your comment to that?

- Yes. When it comes to functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, I think the CSD is the most dynamic and participatory body, where we experience year after year innovative modes of participation.

-What is your ultimate advice for NGOs trying to make an impact?

- My goodness! You’ll make me sound patronizing for sure...

- No, no, don’t worry...

- Well, I think there are possibly a few dimensions when it comes to effectiveness in this new way of the CSD work programme, that Major Groups have yet to fully internalise. This is being done at several levels already, but both governments and major groups are still trying to come to terms with the new way of operating. I guess they should read documents and information more carefully, listen more attentively and think a bit more outside the box. Another opportunity to explore further is to take advantage of the regional processes in the lead up to a CSD review session.

- And once they’re here?

- Do I need to repeat the ABC? The lobbying, the mingling, the meetings with Bureau members, any meetings among themselves to find common ground... Another specific possible action is to try and reflect what government or Bureau members have been asking from you and convey them in your perspectives and policies.

- How should the NGOs prepare for the session in April?

- I think that indeed they should study carefully the Chair’s summary and work on identifying issues that overlap with their own agenda and make sure that issues that do not will be shared by other implementing actors.

- Do you ever get sick and tired of being pulled in all directions by NGOs and other major group members asking you ten thousand questions?

- No. Well... What may bother me, is if NGOs are nagging for their own personal cause rather than a more general and common cause. It happens sometimes. Not as yet in these two past days though. But this is unfortunately part of human nature.

- Finally, do you have a favourite CSD?

- (Laughs) Last year was certainly a very interesting and challenging experience for me. It was the first one where I was responsible for the coordination of the major groups. If I’m able to facilitate without many bumps, then that’s what determines my favourite. Last year was a good example of that. But so far so good as far as this one is concerned. And I really hope this integrated participation will be sustained in April.

... ida

So, it's your first time at CSD... - How are you finding it so far?

Cayetana Carrion, Peru

WEDO – Women's Environmental Development Organization

I feel it's very early to say yet, I'm still discovering the process. What I can say is that I'm very happy that they dedicate time to civil society and major groups. But it will be interesting to see how it will come out in the summary session, to see what they've taken into account, Oh, and the organization has been very good! All the documents on the web site, and the meeting with the bureau...they've done a good job organizing it.



Stephen Ng'ang'a, Kenya

ELCI – Environmental Liaison Center International

It's complicated, that's the one word that I have for it. You have the benefit of having all the papers beforehand, but the process itself is difficult to understand. You have major groups, caucuses, a CSD secretariat, it is difficult to grasp all these things. Another frustration is the enormous amount of acronyms that are being used in all the meetings. It is just too difficult to understand what the people are saying when they use an acronym for everything. 'what we need are interpreters, not for the different languages that are spoken, but just to translate the acronyms' I truly hope that by Friday my understanding of the whole process has improved.



David Redhouse, United Kingdom

WaterAID

On the one hand it is very confusing, there is so much going on that it is difficult to understand the process. On the other hand it is really good to have the opportunity to contribute to the process. I do feel that it's worthwhile that I came, and I've had the opportunity to make two interventions already. However I still have concerns about how productive this meeting is, how much difference it's actually going to make. This meeting is the ultimate test for whether or not we are going to make a real difference for a farmer in Ethiopia or someone on the ground in Bangladesh.



Fresh water priorities for action towards CSD-13

The following policy recommendations (abridged) were developed by Freshwater Caucus Coordinators in consultation with several CSOs and NGO networks worldwide.

(this text overrides that of yesterdays issue as that one contained a number of mistakes. ed.)

I. Implementation and Monitoring of Policy Actions

1. A **UN focal point (such as UN-Water or UN DESA)** should be established for tracking and monitoring IWRMs.
2. Policy actions agreed upon at CSD-13 should consider **all the cross-cutting issues** established at CSD 11 as well as **good governance**, as it is critical for effective implementation.

II. Providing Safe Drinking Water to All

3. Governments should protect, respect and fulfill their **obligations relating to the right to water**. Water security is a key to **poverty alleviation**. Water resources development, management and allocation decisions should address the traditional difficulties that vulnerable groups in society have in exercising their rights.

Access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation should be prioritized in national **constitutions, water legislations** and sustainable development strategies that ensure that:

- a. water is **protected as a common**;
- b. people have a **human right to water of good quality and affordable water services** in a locally sustainable manner to meet their basic needs (including at least drinking and cooking, washing and subsistence farming) and **c. minimum reserve is maintained** for meeting the environmental needs of water ecosystems. These should be backed by specific measurable plans for implementation.

- d. Implementation takes place at the national, regional and local levels.
4. All Governments should make **public financing** a priority for providing safe drinking water **to all to meet their basic needs**; above that gradually increasing block tariff structures should be put in place to encourage conservation practices (e.g., South Africa). Contributions “in kind” should be recognized and be part of this tariff regulations so to make water consumption affordable even for the poor.
5. Conditions to involve marginal groups in the planning and implementation of projects to ensure **gender and culturally sensitive sanitation** in safe surroundings, should be part of the terms of reference for awarding projects and financing.
6. National Governments need to build **stronger managerial capabilities within the public utilities** themselves where currently they are unable to meet the needs of the public.’
7. **Public participation** (such as the Uruguay’s recent national referendum on water privatization) should take place in advance of any consideration of private sector participation and minimum criteria and conditions regarding access, affordability and quality should be met, preferably on the basis of national legislation.

Governments must regulate and oversee any involvement of private sector in water service delivery to

assure the respect, protection, and fulfillment of their human rights obligations toward civil society.

III. Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

8. In developing IWRM plans, governments should ensure the following:
 - All relevant Ministries should be directly involved through **permanent inter-ministerial committees** dedicated to IWRM plans.
 - IWRM processes should evaluate the **allocation of water to agricultural production** and follow **Ecologically Sustainable Water Management** to ensure adequate ecosystem flow needs.
 - An **Environmental Impact Assessment** and **Socio-Economic Cultural & Gender Impact Assessment** should be done as standard policy and practice before undertaking any project (public or private) which involves water diversion or water re-allocation.
 - An **inventory of surface and ground water resources**, creating baseline data and identifying water “hot spots” should be performed with the help of educational and scientific institutions.
9. Governments should enact laws and establish **regulatory frameworks** (with bark and bite) to ensure that **ground water use** is monitored stringently.

10. Citizens should be educated on the hydrological cycle and the need for sustainable management of water resources. The right to water includes the **role of education** for present and future generations concerning hygienic use of water and sanitation.
11. Considering that agriculture accounts for 70% of total water use, we need to improve **water use efficiency** in such a way that rural livelihood systems are not threatened. Governments should recognize the value of home gardens in providing basic nutrition to families and some income for women. Financial allocation for research on traditional dry land livelihood systems needs to be increased. **Precautionary Principles** should be applied in adopting biotechnology; independent funding should be made available for peer-reviewed research.
12. **Subsidies** that encourage increased fertilizer and pesticide use and increased water consumption need to be removed. The full cost of production, including that of water use and subsidized food crops, should be paid for by commercial agriculture and agri-food industry and incorporated into food prices.
13. The **Polluter Pays Principle** should be applied to both industries and industrial agriculture to reduce the burden of wastewater treatment on public finances in urban areas and to maintain the quality of water in rural environments.
14. Governments should fulfill their obligations under **Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, in water allocation decisions. They should also ensure the rights of vulnerable groups, including migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, to their livelihood.
15. Sanitation and water programs should provide public information on the **management of waste** of all kinds, including human, household, industrial, and agricultural waste.
16. Water and water services must be kept out of **GATS**, the **WTO** and other multi-lateral and regional trade agreements.
17. IFIs should stop imposing water privatization or 'full cost recovery' as a condition for grants, new loans and renewal of loans of developing countries. They should ensure that projects do not violate the **riparian rights of farmers and ancient water rights of communities**.
18. The recommendations of the **World Commission on Dams** should always be incorporated into water and energy planning processes, including reparations.
19. All the recommendations of the **World Bank Extractive Industries Review** should be implemented.
20. The right to water transcends national boundaries, and developed nations have a duty to **assist developing nations**. The donor governments need to step up their effort towards the achievement of the **0.7% target of GDP for ODA**.

Sustainable management of water resources is fundamental to our future, and it needs increased public funding commitments not only to water and sanitation but also to Integrated Water Resources Management. This should be the top priority of all governments.



Howdy Partner(ship)



Partnerships for sustainable development — voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives aimed at implementing sustainable development — turned out to be important complementary outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Susanne Schmidt and Joakim Harlin from the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, were at the IPM promoting UNDP's Water Strategy called Effective Water Governance Based on Partnerships. Schmidt and Harlin both work at UNDP's Energy and Environment Group. And they explained that; *Water Governance describes the political, economic and social processes and institutions by which the public sector, civil society and the private sector take decisions on how best to use, develop and manage water resources.*

At its 11th Session in May 2003, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) reaffirmed that partnerships contribute to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments, recognizing that partnerships are a complement to, not a substitute for, intergovernmental commitments. Currently over three hundred partnerships have been registered.

The Partnerships Fair at the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) provides a venue for partnerships for sustainable development to network, identify partners, create synergies between partnerships and learn from each other's experiences. The Partnerships Fair is part of the official programme of the CSD.

More information can be found on: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships_fair.htm

SPEAKING OF SANITATION ...



MWANGI 05: *Cartoon inspired by Ida Bergstrom and Kirsten Kossen*

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SDIN Facilitating Organisations:

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TWN, Third World Network

ELCI, Environment Liaison Centre International

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