



Taking Issue

The Sustainable Development Issues Network

Volume 5, Issue 4

Thursday 3 March, 2005

A Daily publication of the Sustainable Development Issues Network (SDIN)
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.

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)

UNIVERSAL RIGHTS TO HOUSING A MUST.

The Secretary General's Report on Human Settlements represents a good first step in addressing the immense challenges of achieving sustainable development in this field. However, we are disappointed that key points in the statement delivered during CSD-12 by the Human Settlements Caucus are not reflected in the implementation agenda proposed by the General Secretary (herein called the "Draft Report"). Today, we reiterate a few of these missing themes and urge the Secretary to include them in his Summary Report on this week's IPM session.

By Habitat International Coalition, HIC *

HUMAN RIGHTS FORGOTTEN

First, the Draft Report omits any reference to human rights. This is a glaring error which much be addressed. Sustainable human settlements, adequate shelter and basic services such as water and sanitation can only be achieved through progressive policies that realize the universal Right to Housing, access to land, secure tenure, and provision of infrastructure. States must be challenged to ensure these rights in national laws and regulations, implementation plans, adequate funding for social housing, and aggressive enforcement of housing and water rights. The Final CSD Report should add a separate section on human rights in each of the thematic areas, and add appropriate references in the remaining sections.

FIGHT ILLEGAL EVICTIONS

Second, illegal and forced evictions of more than 100,000 people each year are an obstacle to slum and squatter improvement. The impact of militarism and war on human settlements is

particularly destructive. Not only is the built infrastructure destroyed, but also vast resources are reallocated from basic human needs.

Governments and the private sector must stop mass forced evictions and the illegal destruction of houses. The Final Report must acknowledge this crisis and propose concrete measures to address it. CSD-13 must propose the redirection of resources spent on wars to build sustainable habitats for peace.

Governments and the private sector must stop mass forced evictions and the illegal destruction of houses

*Hic is the leading global network of more than 400 social movements, research centers and NGO's working on housing rights and human settlements issues.



STOP PRIVATIZATION

Third, privatization and deregulation of public or social housing and infrastructure creates shortages and displacement in many countries. The final report must address this problem and its manifestation in different regions and recognize that unchecked private sector investment is often the problem, not the solution, for sustainable development. The fundamental role of government investment and direct development aid to meet basic human needs cannot and should not be replaced by private capital investment or “public/private partnerships.”

THE MDGS NOT ENOUGH

The number of homeless and those inadequately housed continues to increase, deeply impacting the physical, mental and spiritual health

of more than a billion people. In the coming decade this trend will vastly outpace the Millennium Development Goal for slum improvement and eradication unless there is a radically increased commitment by governments, particularly from wealthier nations, which can best assemble the resources to address it.

In response to the expansion of urban slums, NGO's have long been providing programs for land registration and tenure, the social production of affordable housing and the empowerment of the world's poor, often with the most meager of resources. It is past time for governments and private sector institutions to support and legitimize the production of housing and community facilities and to work with independent community groups to define, plan, implement and fully fund

the actions required to implement the MDG's. While we applaud the language in the Draft Report heralding these NGO initiatives, the Final Report needs to balance this with more detailed calls for wealthier governments and institutions to do their fair share, lest the praise of self-help by the poor provides an excuse for the wealthy and powerful to do less.

REDIRECT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

We therefore applaud the recent initiative of the Government of the United Kingdom to increase its development aid to MDG target levels and to write off the debts of the poorest countries, particularly those hit by the recent tsunami and the poorest countries in Africa, and call on governments to redirect development assistance to balanced, people-centered development of human settlements, water and sanitation systems. The Final Report should challenge the other wealthy countries to follow suit.

We urge the Secretary to emphasize these themes in his Final Report on the IPM and to invite CSD participants to elaborate them in the April revisions to the CSD Reports.

**“When signs don't make sense”
from CSD 12**

Back by popular demand...



SLUM-DWELLERS DO IT IN THE SLUM

Ms. Ann Wanjiru is a member of GROOTS Kenya. Born and brought up in the Mathare Slums in Nairobi, Kenya, she has witnessed the deterioration of the slums. Now, she has devoted her servicing to GROOTS Kenya, and delivered a powerful statement on behalf of the Women Major Group during the debate on policies for Human Settlements and the Creation of jobs.

Wanjiru truly gave an action oriented story rife with concrete examples of how the agenda's of HABITAT, the Millennium Development Goals and Beijing+10 are at the moment being implemented at the community level. She showed that it is actually possible to move beyond the fancy words that are being repeated time and time again by the government delegations. Here are a few examples highlighting her presentation:

In the context of the HABITAT agenda, the Millennium Development Goals and Beijing+10 the GROOTS women of the Mathare slums have made a successful effort to improve the life of people in the slums, especially for women as they make up the majority in the community. They take care of the sick people and the orphans in the community. With minimal resources they are able to make improvements in several areas:

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The women in the community come together and make a small personal financial contribution. This money is topped off by GROOTS Kenya. The money that is collected is given to their members as micro loans that enable the women to upscale their businesses. The up-scaling of these businesses helps to create further employment opportunities. The creation of these job opportunities even reaches women outside their own community. The women also try to save some of the generated money so that one day they can move out of the slums

EDUCATION

Primary Education in Kenya is free. However, you cannot go to school without the necessary materials and a uniform. Therefore another purpose of the money being generated is to provide the orphans in the community with the materials and a uniform so that they can go to school. As secondary education does cost money, funds are also provided to ensure

secondary education for the orphans. Furthermore the orphans get vocational training.

In the community, the young orphan girls are trained in knitting. One of the women in the community contributed her knitting



Ann Wanjiru, GROOTS, Kenya

machine to this purpose. The young girls being trained have lost their parents as a result of HIV/AIDS and used to roam around the community. The training gives them a purpose and enhances the employment opportunities of these young girls.

HEALTH

GROOTS provides training for home based care givers in the Mathare slums, especially tailored to providing for women that are infected with HIV/AIDS. The result of the care that is provided to the sick women is that their condition improved in such a way that they are now capable of taking care of their own children and other family members.

WATER AND SANITATION

The Mathare women have rehabilitated the sanitary facilities in the community, as the facilities were so dirty that they could not be used. The women now charge a small fee for the use of the sanitary facilities, which in itself creates job opportunities as the facilities need to be maintained and the fees have to be collected.

Based on the successful experiences in her own community, Ms Ann Wanjiru had a clear message to the government delegations:

-Improve the livelihood in the slums by means of providing micro financing!

The communities are the ones implementing the agenda's of HABITAT, the MDGs and Beijing +10 without resources, while the governments are the ones that have committed themselves. If the communities could get the resources that governments have for implementing the agenda's then the women in the communities can further the implementation and achieve all the goals in targets sets in that the governments have committed themselves to in the different agenda's.

BACKGROUND

GROOTS Kenya is a network of grassroots women self-help groups and community organizations across ethnic and regional groups in Kenya. It is non thematic and it strives to add value to the work of grassroots communities by serving as a platform for women groups and individuals. Its mission is to facilitate grassroots women and their communities to effectively participate directly in development processes. GROOTS Kenya is a member of the Huairou Commission, which is a network driven by grassroots women's organizations from around the world that partners with individuals and organizations who support the belief that it is in the best interest of local and international communities for grassroots women to be full partners in sustainable development.

PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND MAJOR GROUPS

Priorities for Action and Examples of Good Practice

By: Rosalie Callway, Local Government International Bureau (LGIB),
and Ruth Tregale, Local Governments for Sustainability, (ICLEI)

A key aspect of effective implementation of water, sanitation and human settlements initiatives is the facilitation role that Local Authorities can play at the local level in working with other stakeholders. Local Authorities – even with the support of national governments – cannot achieve progress on the ground without the active and participatory engagement of community based organisations, women’s groups, indigenous peoples, youth, local businesses, workers unions, and most especially the urban poor.

‘C 3’ initiative: Many Local Governments still require additional capacity building to adopt effective participatory approaches, ensuring the engagement of stakeholders, service users and local citizens. The City-Community-Challenge or ‘C 3’ initiative is an example supported by UN-HABITAT in Tanzania and Uganda, which aims to strengthen the Local Government capacity to work directly with local communities in developing urban plans. The national governments in Tanzania and Uganda

support the local activities through capacity building of Local Authorities and providing funds.

Funding: Decentralisation of regulatory powers and resources can also improve the access to finance for local community groups. A World Bank study indicates that national support for financial decentralisation can enable greater overall efficiency (reflecting local priority needs), accountability (to local service users) and manageability (encouraging greater innovation and competition between service providers at the local level). Allocating local NGOs a role in the allocation of funds is also a key part of this process. A slum relocation project in Mumbai, India, was delayed by almost five years due to bureaucratic hurdles. Finally, with funding from the World Bank, more than 11,000 families were moved to either permanent homes procured by the state, or into transitional houses. The process was managed under the supervision of an Indian NGO and in partnership with the city of Mumbai.

Clean water in Jinja: The principles of “good urban governance”, as defined by

UN-HABITAT, are sustainability, subsidiarity, equity, efficiency, transparency and accountability, civic engagement and security. Over 6,400 cities have drawn up Local Agenda 21 plans throughout the world, an excellent example of the success of local participatory processes contributing to good governance and sustainability. In a specific case in Jinja, Uganda, marginalised women’s groups became the official custodians of the wetlands and developed by-laws which were then adopted by local government. New standpipes and self-sustaining water kiosks were developed, and access to clean water within the community increased to 95%.

Involve the poor: Involving the poorest as partners in urban development is a priority for tackling informal slum areas – recognising the right of all to a good standard of living. One example is in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where informal settlements are being integrated into new neighbourhood development by project teams that involve both city local government workers in partnership with the local residents.

Local Government encouraged internationally: This article highlights just a few examples of working together at the local level. Similar Local Government stakeholder partnerships need to be encouraged internationally. This will require much greater support and recognition from national governments and international agencies for programmes such as UN-HABITAT’s Sustainable Cities programme, and the new international partnership initiative on ‘Localising the MDGs’.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES want action from CSD 13

Indigenous Peoples regard water as sacred. We have protected our water sources for many years. Yet as we remain the poorest in the world, access to water has become minimal. It is time for action.

By: Lucy Mulenkei

The traditional ecological knowledge of the sacred nature of water has motivated Indigenous Peoples from many regions of the world to ensure protection and preservation of water. Governments need to recognize the Indigenous rights over water resources, including customary use traditionally held by Indigenous Peoples. **They need to ensure that Indigenous Peoples rights are enshrined in State legislation and policy.**

Indigenous Peoples must be given options to control and manage our own water and sanitation system. It is therefore important that Indigenous Peoples interests and rights be respected when making international agreements on trade and investments. Water and water services must be kept distinct from the negotiation of the general agreements on trade services, the WTO and other multilateral and regional trade agreements. **Water services must remain in local control.**

Indigenous Peoples and local communities **must be active participants in the implementation** of the targets set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) as well as in the implementation of effective Integrated Water Resources Management plans (IWRM).

Water, sanitation and human settlement cannot be separated. All these are human rights and needs that

we all must have access to. Unfortunately, among many Indigenous Peoples, access to clean and safe water and sanitation are some of the critical problems our communities face, in the North and South, and especially in our developing countries. Lack of safe water and sanitation for both rural and urban

“Indigenous Peoples regard water as sacred.”

poor must be fully discussed, strategies must be developed and a need to strengthen clear policies, financial mechanisms and institutional frameworks to improve these services and ensure that Indigenous Peoples have access to safe and adequate water and sanitation.

Governments must recognize that in many Indigenous cultures, women are mostly the caretakers and users of traditional water resources systems. They are the most vulnerable and are many times at security risk due to lack of good and safe sanitation

“Indigenous Peoples must be given options to control and manage our own water and sanitation system.”

and shelter. There is **need to ensure the mainstreaming of gender perspective** in integrated water resource management, sanitation and human settlement management planning, implementation and monitoring for poverty reduction, ecosystem protection and sustainable growth. And, we must mention **the importance of mechanisms for the youth**, our next generation, to have input in these deliberations.

Capacity building and appropriate technological transfer initiatives that recognize Indigenous traditional practices of water management which are dynamically regulated must be implemented. Capacity building which includes developing educational programmes on indigenous traditional ecological knowledge on water systems is very important.

On finances, we recommend that financial contributions be increased from all major donors, multilateral financing institutions, commercial lenders, private investors, voluntary donations and others sources, and that this is made available to reach countries and those local communities who are willing to build local services to address water supply and sanitation infrastructures and develop answers to human settlement issues.

At CSD 13, Indigenous Peoples want to see Governments come out clearly with their commitment and ensure participation for all.

GLOBAL WASH FORUM AND ROADMAP FROM DAKAR: START TALKING ABOUT SHIT!

It is very comfortable to talk about water. Not so maybe about excrements. The Dakar Roadmap may not be as explicit as some of its creators may have wished. Even so, they say the intention is there. It is time we all start talking about the shit.

- I was offered five bucks if I would say 'shit' in there, says Hans Olav Ibrekk from NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation), and nods his head towards a conference room. He didn't say shit. At least not today. But he does think we should say it. Shit, excrement, menstruation, parasites, all the seemingly dirty things that have to do with the important issues of hygiene and sanitation. - I gave the NGOs a hard time this morning. They're not even there beating the drum. We are talking about water because then we're on safe ground. The nuts and balls are not being discussed!

- Does the Dakar Roadmap talk about shit then? Does it bang the drum for the nuts and balls?

A frank answer: - No, probably not. That's a fair criticism. But the council has done an excellent job in making this advocacy document. It really is very strong and forceful material.

EVERY NO MUST BECOME YES
The Dakar Roadmap emerged from the Global WASH Forum held in Dakar, Senegal between the 29th of November and 3rd of December 2004. The aim of the roadmap is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on Sanitation and Water. Sanitation being deliberately put before water. A set of questions require an answer, yes or no. However: "Every no' must be worked on until it becomes a 'yes'." - This is a tool or a guide for all stakeholders of civil society and government, explains Hans Olav, who was the team leader for the roadmap during the WASH forum in Dakar. But every country should make their own roadmap. - The questions are intended to stimulate thinking, the document shouldn't be used as a blueprint. Answer the question and develop your own course of action. And be honest. Are you really willing to rise to the challenge? Don't beat around the bush.

UNDERSTAND WHY THEY ARE DYING
"Sanitation is not a dirty word". The slogan was developed for the Johannesburg conference by Eirah Gorre-Dale, Global WASH Forum organizer and Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Councils (WSSCC) representative to the UN in New York. - A lot of countries don't understand the inter-linkages between hygiene, water and sanitation. 6000 children die every day from preventable diseases that come from lack of sanitation and proper hygiene, says Eirah. Hans Olav half sighs and exclaims: - How many times has a decision maker heard this? He couldn't care less!

- Yes but, why are they dying? They need to understand why they are dying, Eirah insists and Hans Olav gives in a little: - They can not afford for this to continue. It makes sense economically to invest in these issues.

The women's perspective is also important in the discussion. Says Eirah: - Girls walk 6-8 km a day to fetch water and carry 20 pounds of it back with them. It affects their nutritional state. And what do you do when you get your menstruation and there are no facilities at your school?

- There is a tendency in the different governments and UN agencies not to talk about sanitation. Many ministers are very happy to cut a ribbon for a new waterpump in the village. Very few will want to cut the ribbon for a new latrine. This needs to change.

Sanitation was a separate issue for the first time at CSD-12. And, stress Hans Olav and Eirah, it is important for sanitation to be a separate issue in order to get the attention it deserves. - We will never forget water. But sanitation will be forgotten unless we try to put it on the agenda.

...ida



Hans Olav Ibrekk and Eirah Gorre-Dale.

So, you're a true CSD Veteran... ...any progress?

**Felix Dodds, United Kingdom
Stakeholder Forum for our Common
Future**

Felix Dodds has been around since 1993 and has not missed a session since.

- Each of the 5 year cycles in the past has had its successes and failures. The present cycle represents the end of the first two year programme. The problem is that we have no mechanisms in place yet for monitoring the outcomes. The present topics will not be revisited for another 10 years. This is a serious problem as the present work programme

has no review mechanism for the whole programme. It is something that needs to be discussed this CSD. The CSD decision of 2003 allowed us to revisit the programme after the first cycle, we should take that opportunity. A positive thing is the promotion of partnerships by the Johannesburg Declaration. However this positive outcome still suffers from the lack of a review and monitoring system and a lack of funding opportunities tied to delivering the goals of WSSF effectively. To ensure more generation of success at the local and the national level, targeted resources need to be made available to both governments and stakeholders.



**Irene Dankelman, the Netherlands
WEDO, Women's Environment And
Development Organisation**

Irene Dankelman has been around since 1992. She missed a few CSD's in between, but has been to at least 8 or 9.

- I am very happy that the youth are vocal. The young generation is really becoming a leader in the NGO world. There seems to be a fluctuation as there are both

veterans and a lot of new people at CSD. We need to build capacity amongst ourselves. Compared to 1992, it is now more normal for Major Groups to speak out. If you look at the Global Civil Society Forum this is somewhat different, they still have to learn. UNEP is learning lessons from CSD though. This year was the best Global Civil Society Forum so far. This is an achievement in the heart of its organization, as it adds dynamics and contents to its work.



**Catherine Kamping, Philippines
Coordinator Youth Caucus**

Catherine is a Youth veteran; she started her 'CSD career' at the Bali Prepcom in 2002 and has been to every following session.

- It is very frustrating that we keep on hearing the same things over and over again. Another frustrating fact is that what Youth and what they have to say is still not recognised enough. Another problem is the lack of capacity of the young people and the difficulties they have in accessing the required funding. Within the Youth caucus there has also been progress though. The caucus has

improved its structure and the Youth have become strengthened. We started to look back at the materials since 1992 to see what positions were taken by the Youth caucus then, to document the best practices and lessons learned and to see how all these things would benefit future generations. Regarding progress in the process, I feel that the thematic focus in each cycle is a good thing. This helps to identify the right person to be at the right place. It is always a difficult task to represent Youth as they have very powerful positions to take things forward. We want governments not to be afraid to take big steps, Youth is not afraid! Youth should be more involved in the process. Few of us are here, but a lot of us are working on the ground!



Youth: Concern about civil society involvement at Millennium+5



The Youth Major Group is very concerned about the coming Review of the Millennium Development Declaration and the ensuing goals (Millennium + 5).

There is a possibility that Major Groups and civil society will not be able to participate in the review due to the nature of the session.

We do not think this is a good development. Civil society is directly affected by the outcome of the

review, since the MDG's are often an integral part of working methods of for instance NGO's. NGO's can make a valuable contribution to the process of implementation of the MDG's and should therefore be consulted in the review as stakeholders. They know where the obstacles lie, what the best practices are.

Having experts with field experience at sessions of this kind, makes the exchange of information easier and more to the point, contributing to the success of the summit.

We call upon NGO's to commit to take action to ensure full involvement of civil society in the Millennium + 5 event.

We urge delegations to think about the impact the absence of civil society would have, and hope they will consider the option of an open session.

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



MWANGI 05:

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