


 VOLUME 6, ISSUE 6
MONDAY MAY 8TH 2006

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Meetings are held daily in Conference Room B at the United Nations Building from 9 to 10 am

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 the support of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)

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"WE THE PEOPLES" OR "WE THE MARKET"?

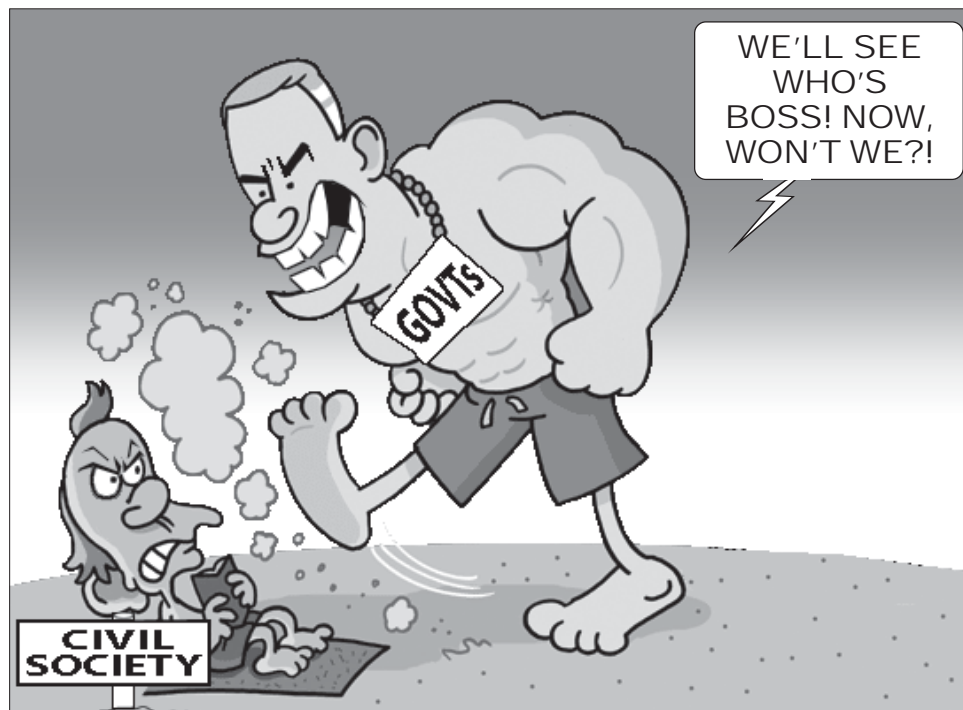
CIVIL SOCIETY'S ROLE IS BEING ERODED AT CSD

When the United States delegate last Wednesday under the multistakeholder dialogue introduced a senior employee from the multinational company of Pfizer International, a heavy weight on the global market, as the civil society adviser for the United States at CSD, many within civil society felt that basic values pertaining to democracy had been violated. Introducing the market as an advisor on civil society matters ridiculed them, they felt, and expressed disrespect for the civil society multistakeholder dialogue at CSD. And when a decision is understood in these contexts it always sends a demoralising message.

Any scholar or practitioner within the world polity will today subscribe to the tripartite division of this polity into; government, civil

society and the market. This division is found to be functional and mutually reinforcing when it is respected; many donors use it, OECD finds it functional. The players in the world polity have been given functional roles as well as specific subjects to deal with, - one of which may be said to be 'checks and balances' of power. Any blurring of these roles will eventually pave the way for power brokering, lack of stability and in the end open ways for corruption, to name but a few of the obvious ills that would be apparent in a demoralised system.

Under the inspired leadership of the United States, the UN Conference in San Francisco in 1945 wrote and decided unanimously to adopt the Charter of the United Nations. The UN Charter heralded a new era of global



democratic systems, a system where the abuses of power should be controlled. It may serve every UN conference well to remind itself of the content of this Charter. The first lines of the Charter is no small challenge to common decency and mutual respect for treaties and systems:

“We, - the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourges of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained and to promote progress and better standards of life in larger freedom....” All the members of the UN subscribe to these principles.

Those who laboured with writing the text of the Charter in San Francisco found much inspiration from world’s democratic tradition where the US has been a strong contributor. A quick research into the history of democracy, will give the motivated reader a number of thoughtful quotes. Time and again the reader will be reminded of the systems of checks and balances and of the tripartite division: civil society, the market and the government where ‘we the peoples’ always is in the centre.

One example: The US suffered one of the bloodiest internal wars in the history of humanity to safeguard democratic principles, principles which were well formulated in President Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address where he towards the end synthesised the fundamental principles of governing: “ - and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.” Civil society is the people, and people are civil society.

The United Nations through its many faceted system is building a global and interactive democratic system. CSD is perhaps one of the most interesting units in this context today. With 191 nations present in the UN system, the division of power is perhaps even more relevant to uphold than

ever before. Our common struggle to build a functional global democracy must rest on what through consensus has led to an acceptance of decisions, conventions, developed rules and functional precedence.

A number of the UN players have been given a legal place by the Charter itself, and the NGOs, the Non Governmental Organisations is one such actor. As the UN has developed and progressed through 60 years and the world has changed dramatically from the founding days at the end of World War II, new players have come to the global scene, and they too have been acknowledged and given roles.

“ the government
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Although not granted a legal position by the Charter on par with the NGOs, business has been given a strong role to play in the system. Business and finance has always been present within the financial and trade entities of the UN. With the introduction of the Major Groups concept in Rio in 1992, and with the Global Compact and similar initiatives, the formal role of business in the UN system was granted recognition within the world of sustainability as well.

But no role in the global system of democracy comes only with privileges. It comes with obligations as well: obligations to respect the system, obligations to understand when to let well alone, obligations not to violate values that are harnessed by the system and held in high esteem by the other players of the system. Thus when the employee from Pfizer was asked to become a civil society adviser for the US, he should have talked to people in civil society, read up on what the positions of the UN system is, and tactfully declined to take the position. He did not own up to that obligation, and is subject to as much criticism as the US has been among civil society talking in the corridors.

Of course the US delegation can appoint whomever they want to be on their delegation. Many can be concerned but it is the privilege of a country to compose their own delegation. But when ‘whomever’ is presented to the public, as was the case in Conference room 4 on Wednesday, the context is changed, and the public has a right to react.

A few years ago a number of business companies tried to be accredited to the UN system, but were refused such recognition. Most civil society members present at this CSD feel that the Pfizer man is in the same category: he is business in the market, and not the business organisations such as the ICC or the WBCSD as a part of the Major Groups.

Democracy is about equality and equal opportunities. The UN tries to develop functional opportunities by developing level playing fields. When creating this, the various players in the field have been given designated roles, and their roles must also be respected. Blurring their roles, or changing them, even just a little, perhaps only to what may appear as a cosmetic change, will allow for the beginning of the erosion of the system. And the erosion of the system will create lack of stability, and an unstable system, no matter how small or large is not conducive to the interests of we the peoples. But an unstable system will never serve business in the long run either. In an unstable global system there is ultimately no civil society, no market and eventually no liberty.

We are all working to achieve a globally, safe, stable and sustainable society, and in so doing we need to have a deep and growing respect for established rules and values. Failing to do so, may lead us to jeopardise one of the ultimate goals of our endeavours: freedom and liberty for all. And no one expressed this perhaps better than Lord Acton from the UK: “Liberty is not a means to a higher political end. It is itself the highest political end.”

We would like to challenge the US to rethink its position on civil society and take up this gauntlet at the start of the last week of this CSD.

...jgs

ON TRACK, OFF TRACK, OR DISTRACTED: PUT YOUR ACTION WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS

The women major group made a strong intervention during Friday's interlinkages plenary. CSD insists on gender balance, but doesn't seem able to practice what they preach:

For more than 25 years global UN conferences have repeatedly recognized that effective sustainable resources management depends on the involvement of women in decision-making and on mainstreaming gender at all levels.

CSD-14 considers whether governments and other institutions have taken action that reflects the gender dimensions of energy, climate change and industrial development. Some countries have taken steps to integrate a gender perspective into their policies. Some global processes are supportive, while others seem to be obstacles to achieving global

benchmarks and objectives. The key question remains: Is implementation of the global commitments related to energy, climate change and industrial development and gender on track, off track, or distracted?

Good examples get good following. The panels of experts during the thematic sessions still feature mainly men and are not gender balanced - although CSD and governments have pledged to have women in decision-making and expert positions at every level numerous times.

This is a pity, since the Women Major Group organizers facilitated a list of

knowledgeable female experts from around the globe and sent it to the Bureau. So, no excuses like "we cannot find them" or "they are not there".

What's more: we all lose out when we don't have all perspectives to assist us in finding solutions for major problems.

We are happy to assist in getting you into contact with all those women experts out there.

We urge the Bureau and Member States to see to it that the panels during CSD 15 are gender balanced.

WHY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IS NOT LEADING TO POVERTY ERADICATION

NGO intervention during the Thematic Discussions on Thursday, May 4th.

By: Neth Dano, Third World Network

We note with irony that despite the unprecedented increases in the GDP of many countries due to industrial development, the number of poor people worldwide has also increased and the gap between the rich and the poor has in fact worsened over the past 40 years. The UN Report in 2005 on the "Inequality Predicament" has in fact noted that this gaping inequality has brought human insecurity and marginalization which in turn breed political and religious extremism. We believe that in order for industrial development to lead to poverty eradication, it has to be just, humane and environmentally sustainable.

The major macro constraints for industrial development to lead to poverty eradication are as follows:

1. Unfair international regime.

Despite international commitment in the Doha Round, the WTO remains as a vehicle for prying open the markets of the South while protecting the markets of developed countries through the AoA, SPS and now the NAMA. The little spaces painfully earned by the South in the multilateral arena are now being undermined by the unequal terms that are brought in bilateral and regional free trade agreements.

2. Restrictive IPR regime that impedes technological transfer and exchange.

This hampers the opportunities of developing countries to have access to appropriate technologies that they need to attain industrial development and to address the basic needs of the poor such as by providing affordable medicines.

3. Increasing privatization of basic services such as energy and water as a result of the GATS, structural adjustment programs and pressures from the international financial institutions.

The capacity of small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) to become competitive is greatly hampered by the monopoly positions enjoyed by big corporations in strategic services and utilities which are important to industrial production and meeting the basic needs of the people.

4. Debt burden.

The inability of developing countries to compete in the international market, the increasing dependence on imported goods and the assumption of losses incurred by corporations involved in basic utilities by governments are unduly adding to the debt burden. Debt repayments, which eat up as much as 50 percent of the national budgets in many developing

countries, are taking away scarce resources from providing basic services and supporting domestic industries.

5. Bad governance, both in the public sector and private corporations.

As important as the issues in public governance is the growing concern on corporate governance. Beyond ensuring corporate social responsibility, the world should also look into the criminal acts in the corporate sector ranging from tax evasion to outright bribery. We should not forget that corruption is never one-sided: there will be no takers if there are no givers.

We believe that the biggest obstacle for industrial development to lead to poverty eradication is the "one-size-fits-all" prescription being imposed on developing countries which does not take into account the specific socio-cultural, political and economic development of each country.

Governments must keep the policy space to decide on the specific approach in industrial development according to their particular level, rate and pacing of development based on their capacity and the needs of their people as priority.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

The Issues that Hit Us in the First Week of CSD-14

By: Neth Dano

The first week of CSD-14 is over, and many delegates and participants have had their weekend off to take in a breath of New York's famous polluted air. The exceptionally workaholic among us of course continued their meetings over the weekend... As we start this second week of, hopefully, dialogue and exchange, let's take a few minutes to look back on the week that was and mull over some of the contentious issues that emerged from the discussions in the first week. Sifting through the overwhelming obstacles, challenges and constraints to achieving the goals in energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change, and going through the wild jungle of rhetoric in the delegations' speeches, below are some of the important issues that were deliberated. Some of these issues will serve as the basis for discussions on policy options at CSD-15.

Renewable energy

At the center of the discussions in access to energy and energy efficiency is renewable energy. Despite the tantrums of the rich oil states over the interest of the rest of the world on renewables, there is clear consensus that the only way to achieve energy security is through the development of renewable energy technologies and sources. The future is in Renewables – that's the clear message from the floor. However, the contentions are on HOW, especially with the relatively high upfront costs involved, high investments involved, lack of incentives, unequal playing field in the energy sector, and the issues in access to technology.

There are already a number of inspiring examples in mainstreaming

renewable energy at the national level, both in the South such as Brazil's bio-ethanol, Barbados' solar energy for heating, and in the North. The debate is how to replicate and mainstream these experiences and technologies, in view of the financial, technological and regulatory constraints.

Access to efficient and clean technology

There is no doubt on the resounding consensus on the importance of technology transfer to efficient, clean and sustainable energy technologies. Calls for South-South technology transfer/sharing reverberated in the walls of Conference Rooms 2 and 4, in view of the proprietary interests over efficient and clean energy technologies that are protected by restrictive intellectual property rights (IPR) regimes which has made these technologies inaccessible and unaffordable.

The current standardization of IPR laws consistent with the provisions of the TRIPS and the proliferation of bilateral and regional free trade agreements (FTAs) that push for even more TRIPS-plus requirements such as Data Exclusivity and limited compulsory licensing, pose a great challenge to these calls for making clean and efficient technologies available and accessible to the South. It is the task of governments to recommend policy options to go around this serious obstacle at CSD-15.

Leveling the playing field

With the exception of the rich oil states that benefited from windfall profits resulting from the recent historic fuel price increases, every state represented at CSD-14 is feeling the pains of dependence on imported oil. The blow is unimaginably painful for poor countries that have to bear the strain in their foreign exchange and add on to the burden of massive external debts that take away resources for basic services. No wonder, the strongest calls for shifting away from oil dependence came from the South.

But then, everybody knows that the journey ahead for this shift will not be smooth especially with the big road blocks along the way. A major obstacle is the subsidies and incentives extended by many governments for fossil fuel production and distribution. With well-entrenched lobby from the big oil industry, shifting these subsidies to renewable energy technologies will not come easy. It will take massive amounts of political will on the part of governments to provide incentives and conducive legal framework and regulatory environment to mainstream alternative energy sources. As some countries have managed to do that, why can't others?

Financing

As in other CSDs, the most frequently repeated words whenever Delegations take the floor are "financing" and "funds". Yes, we know what to do, but we need the funds, is the typical message among developing countries in the sessions in all the themes. The response of donor-countries is: partnerships, which has become a mantra since WSSD. The interventions of many donor countries, led by the US, at CSD14 would not be complete without them brandishing about their much-vaunted multi-stakeholder partnerships. Listening from the floor, it is obvious however that many countries in the South are not as gung-ho about the results of this mantra.

Have partnerships really delivered the goods promised at WSSD? Even the SG Report on Partnerships for CSD-14 does not sound promising about the hundreds of partnerships that they have been touting, the bulk of which actually mushroomed in the midst of WSSD and have since then fizzled out. The partnership honeymoon seems to be over, and it is high time to review the actual benefits – beyond the propaganda points. Partnerships need to be assessed to avoid high expectations that ultimately lead to frustrations.

As pointed out sharply by one Panelist on energy efficiency in transport, funding is not the most important obstacle to ensuring energy efficiency, political will is. Buckling to pressures from donor-governments and international financial institutions, add to that the well-oiled lobby of corporate interests, governments in developing countries adopt so-called energy efficiency programs which are not appropriate, costly to maintain and further add up to their external debts. As we all know, worse than oil, the most scarce resource in this world is political will.

Governance

Governance – both public and corporate – has become a buzz word in the halls of CSD-14. While some governments, especially those that host the world's most powerful corporations, limited their interventions to “good governance” and the importance of combating corruption in developing countries to ensure access to energy services, energy efficiency and industrial development, many countries have spoken about corporate governance. Some have however chosen to be more modest by using the more tame “corporate social responsibility”.

It is clear to many Delegates that there is no way to avoid discussing the obstacles posed by bad governance and corruption without tackling the realities in the corporate sector. After all, there will be no takers if there are no givers, right? This is especially unavoidable in the energy industry whose profits have shot past the roof with the soaring fuel prices since last year, plus the scandalous compensations given by huge oil companies to their executives. All this while the world's poor suffer from fuel costs whether or not they have access to modern energy services.

Time-bound targets

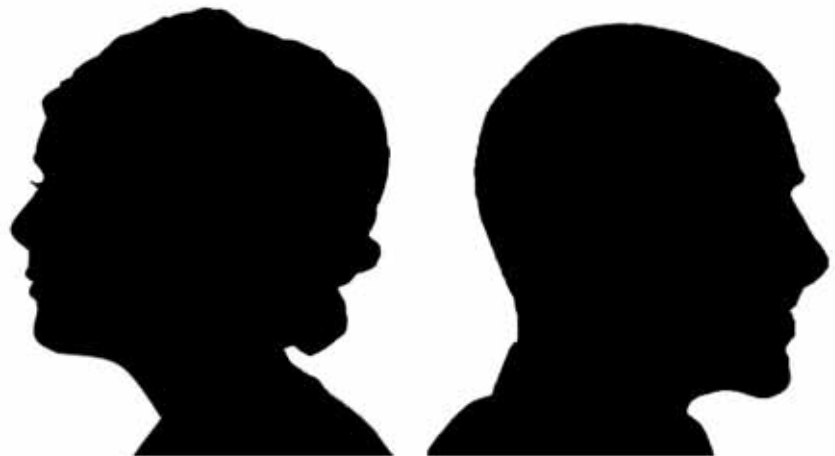
While CSD-14 is all about REVIEW, focusing on the challenges, constraints and lessons of countries in implementing programs and commitments in the four

thematic areas, some delegations have flagged up the need to have time-bound and clear targets in the policy year based on this year's discussions of experiences. Not to be outdone, the US has incessantly reminded the rest of us about the “beauty” of having no time bound targets, and sang praises to the flexibilities offered by the Matrix (not the movie, but John Ashe's from CSD-12/13!) where countries can just showcase their best practices, experiences and lessons. We will see how this showdown will end up at CSD-15.

It was a pretty interesting week. Delegates have tackled the most ticklish issues and hurdles in the interconnected areas of energy, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. To newcomers at the CSD, those may just be speeches that bored one to tears, but they are the bone and meat of the non-negotiated text from CSD-14 which will be the basis of the negotiations at CSD-15.

Let's see what happens this week, when CEOs and Ministers come in. We may be in for some interesting times.

WANTED YOUTH DELEGATES



REWARD

GIVE 2.8 BILLION YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE

DIVERSE, DYNAMIC PERSPECTIVES

A COMPLETE DELEGATION

Time for a Turning Point

We are all in the same boat here. Yet it seems some of us think they can go on living elsewhere in the universe when this planet doesn't work anymore. It's high time to wake up and start dealing with this, all of us, individually and together.

By: Marijke van Duin, European Christian Environmental Network (www.ecen.org)

Where to go with the global energy situation? This CSD review session offers us the rare possibility to exchange thoughts without negotiating pressure. But do we do that? Do we really take advantage of this opportunity? Do we really listen to each other, do we really hear each other? Isn't it about time we become aware of the fact that we are all in the same boat? To collectively use our common sense and start to work together? To think inclusive, rather than black and white? Because in the end there are only two major issues at stake: the survival of planet Earth as a human and non-human habitat, and justice between the peoples that inhabit it. Climate change is imposing both on us. Yet, in the CSD (and climate) process there still seems to be completely different positions, as if some of us have the ability to go on living elsewhere in the universe, if things turn nasty. Or turn our faces away at gross human injustice and still be happy. It is high time to accept the common ground that binds us all! It is high time to break through the pat-situation.

Double justice

Identifying the tasks at hand, climate change leaves us only a narrow corridor to operate. On the one hand we need to decarbonise our (developed) economies, on the other hand billions of people are craving for economic and social development. How to combine these two? Keeping in mind that the adverse effects of climate change affect the poor in the South most of all, we face a matter of double justice. We in the North not only need to do our bit in order to mitigate climate change, we are also called to help the South adapt to its adverse effects, and give developing space to the South, and help this

"Do we really listen to each other, do we really hear each other?"

development take place. That is precisely why we are here together at CSD 14.

Invest in the renewables!

Decarbonising is an important part of the answer, but how to get there? How to decrease the fossil energy share, increase renewables and still meet rising global energy demands? Several delegates already mentioned it in previous days: we desperately need financial mechanisms. Sustainable renewable forms of energy need to become competitive as soon as possible - if we can't avoid market rules, let's use them. So let's start phasing out (hidden) harmful subsidies on fossil energies rather today than tomorrow. Let's invest firmly in

"In the end there are only two major issues at stake: the survival of planet Earth as a human and non-human habitat, and justice between the peoples that inhabit it."

energy saving, let's install taxes, levies, subsidies, feed-in tariffs and other incentives, and let's set up a huge international sustainable energy fund in order to begin and boost this desperately needed renewable energy era! And let's spread renewable energies and technologies to developing countries fast - it's the safest way to economic development. There's nothing new under the sun: most of these energies, their sources and technologies already exist, it's just a matter of further development, fine tuning and market steering. Does this include nuclear? Not in my book. Mankind is simply not wise enough to handle the long-term risks.

Act! Now.

What is holding us back then? In short: money concentrations. Money concentrations as in world power, as in self-defined 'rights' that stem from strangling corporate and political traditions. But is money more important than life? More important than justice? What happened to the origin of money, being a means to an end? What about creative thinking and the creative use of money, as in identifying new horizons and setting up new jobs, partly for old ones? That's precisely the challenge. And it calls for a strong sense of unity and common direction, courage, commitment and (re)new(able) thinking: Thinking about how we have set up our economies, how we can make our financial resources work more effectively and to the greater benefit of all. It's a matter of justice and survival with no time to waste. So, governments: take up your responsibility! Business and industry: take up your responsibility! Consumers: take up your responsibility! That is what common but differentiated responsibility is all about. We have to act together. Now.

Tom Goldtooth and Lucy Mulenkei, Major Group Coordinators, Indigenous Peoples

"WE ARE NOT READY TO COMPROMISE OUR DIGNITY, VALUES AND RESPECT"

About being affected by climate change, the lack of dialogue and a Chair at CSD 14, and seeing things differently from business and industry.

What is your take on the nine major groups - do they help or confuse the process?

The major groups help the process. They are the consciousness of civil society in addressing the thematic issues of the CSD. Our perspectives come from the communities.

What is the biggest challenge for you in relation to your constituency?

The biggest challenge facing the Indigenous Peoples is that we are not provided with sufficient space in the CSD sessions for constructive open discussions with the delegates. We were hoping that the one and a half hours we had on Wednesday during the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Session would be adequate. But this was not sufficient. As Indigenous Peoples, we are a population most directly impacted by the themes at the CSD. Yet no one talks or thinks about us and very few Governments ever mention us.

Does your constituency feel represented at the CSD?

It has been very difficult to get adequate Indigenous Peoples representation from the various regions of the world due to financial problems. The Indigenous Peoples' Caucus has very few people, but we are expecting more this week. Those that are already here are representing communities back home where they come from. We hope that things will improve. We plan to increase our participation at CSD-15 to ten times the number we currently have at CSD-14.

Is the constituency interested in the process, the issues?

The issues discussed at CSD-14 are extremely important to our constituency and they are very much interested. In the US and Canada, climate change is affecting traditional food systems. We are also unable to practice our traditions. Animals are migrating from our land. We are experiencing the effects of climate change first hand. Industrial development is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it is

providing jobs and contributing to economic well-being. But on the other hand it has destroyed indigenous economies. It brings about the negative aspects of globalization. Unfair and free trade has been unfavorable to local economies. Urbanization has been pushing indigenous tribes from their lands.

How do the different groups work together?

We believe in building coalitions and consensus around issues. Civil Society has been disempowered by big corporations and need to find strength in unity. We have been working with other Major Groups at the CSD to find common grounds. Indigenous Peoples have been consulting with the Trade Unions, Women, NGOs and Youth. We also see great value in working with Science and Technology. We have found common ground with Trade Unions at this CSD in regard to energy because many of the energy generating facilities are located on our community lands. We share common concerns as the workers in these factories are our people and when their health is affected, it is no longer a trade union issue but a concern for us all.



Lucy Mulenkei



Tom Goldtooth

Do you think that the major groups should speak with one voice?

This depends on the various thematic issues at any given CSD. In the past we have found issues where we could speak with one voice, especially at the last two CSD sessions. At CSD-14, we realize there could be divergent views. Indigenous Peoples have serious concerns over climate change and unsustainable energy sources and may not see things in the same way as Business and Industry. As Indigenous Peoples, there's need to have a dialogue with them but we are not ready to compromise our dignity, values and respect.

How do you approach the review session as opposed to the policy session?

We see the review session as an opportunity to create dialogue. Unfortunately, this is not happening during the policy sessions. Instead government delegates at the policy sessions end up presenting policy positions from their countries. Although Major Groups are ready and willing to be engaged, things are not going well.

If you could change something about the CSD process, what would it be?

There's need to have strong leadership at the CSD Secretariat. The Chair must be present at all times. It is sad that we have gone a whole week without a chair. Why would anyone accept to become the chair of such an important committee if they cannot be present to steer discussions?

Make a statement:

It is sad that the impact of industrialization on our resources is not being addressed at CSD-14. Industrialization leads to consumption of vast amounts of energy and water. It is impacting on quantity and quality of water and introducing privatization of water as a tool for industrial development. Unfortunately, at this CSD, countries that are dependent on fossil fuels are very aggressive. They have not been open to making the transition to low carbon economies. They are busy advocating for cleaner technologies but are not keen on cutting the use of fossil fuels. There is need for drastic reduction in carbon emissions. We must shut off the valve.

AS GREEN AS IT GETS

Once Steve Sawyer got into environmental work when he joined Greenpeace in 1978, he was unstoppable. From crazy boat missions to climate conferences, Steve will do anything and everything, to leave a better planet behind for his kids.

Getting into it:

Steve Sawyer was not an environmentalist as a child. "Environment was work", he says. "Raking leaves, trimming trees, picking apples..." Growing up in the woods outside New Hampshire in the 60ties, environment was a part of coping with life and not something to think about.

Two experiences were to change the way Steve felt about the environment though: "My father died when I was 16 and being a pretentious young lad I attempted to be the man in the family and attend to the business." Attending to business meant dealing with the family's bills, and one in particular caught Steve's attention: "On our electric bill there were 'work in progress' charges for the Seabrook Nuclear Movement. A kid of my generation I loved science fiction, a hydro power future, and I thought the space program was the greatest thing in the universe. I never thought power was something on the downside."

But Steve decided to look into the 'nuclear charge' on his bills, and he didn't like what he found. "I realized that we were financing this thing in advance. The budget projections then were around 2 billion dollars for two reactors. In the end they only built one and it cost 9 billion dollars. That meant 2000 dollars per woman, man and child in the state of New Hampshire. On top of that, the company was going to sell the power to Massachusetts. I didn't like that."

Digging into the Seabrook nuclear power plants turned Steve into an anti nuclear activist, but he wasn't completely sold yet. The second experience happened during college years in Philadelphia. The country boy arrived in the big city and realized that something was

wrong. "I was uncomfortable. The water that came out of the tap was hard and it made my long hair bad and my skin dry. There was also a fair amount of air pollution and it was never quiet at night. People would make fun of me, the country boy who complained about the water."

But on his drives back to New Hampshire over the weekends, Steve would pass a chemical dumping spot, just as he crossed over to New Jersey from Manhattan on high 95. "This was in the middle of the night and they used to flair all the chemicals and there were weird yellow glaring sulphurous lights and a horrible stench. A massive collection of chemical factories were belching shit there. I didn't like that."

Steve didn't have any career ambitions, he says, besides not going to law school. Arriving in Boston after he got out of college, he bought a guitar and signed up for an apprentice program to become a welder on an oil rig in Mexico. "You would work hard for 2-3 weeks at a time and make shitloads of money and they would fly you back to wherever you were from."

Steve was accepted to the program and was just waiting for his spot when he ran into some friends who had just got in touch with this new organization that had just started up in Boston

called Greenpeace. "I was kinda curious and went down." After a couple of weeks, Steve was hooked. "It clicked and it felt right. And I've been doing it for the last 28 years."

Being a 'crazy' activist:

Steve Sawyer could go on and on about his crazy adventures on different boats as an environmental activist with Greenpeace. Not because he talks a lot, but because he's been on so many. "Trying to blockade gravel barges in kayaks in the Arctic Ocean in 1980... Floating around in an inflatable with a compass that didn't work, in the middle of the night in the south pacific as part of a campaign against nuclear testing. If you miss land out there, the odds of you finding land before you hit Antarctica would be very small, and you would be dead long, long before that... It didn't seem crazy at the time, but in retrospect it was... Heading off into the ice in a 30 year old fishing boat protesting the Canadian seal hunt... It was a bit crazy to go into the ice with that boat. I wouldn't do that again. But it was a good boat, very strongly built...I've been in the same 30 year old fishing boat in a hurricane off the coast of the Irish sea. Ships were sinking all around us and we were all convinced we were going to die..."

The craziest boat experience however, happened on Steve's 29th birthday. While docking in a harbour in Auckland, New Zealand, on a mission to protest against French nuclear testing sites, the famous Greenpeace boat 'the Rainbow Warrior' was blown up by the French government. Steve was fine, but a photographer was killed in the attack.

After the bombing, Steve got 'kicked upstairs', as he puts it himself. Becoming the Executive Director of Greenpeace, USA didn't leave much time for going off on boats. 1988 was a



'momentous' year for Steve, as he became a father to his now 18 year old daughter, got married, bought a house in Washington, and then decided to move to Europe to accept the job of Executive Director for Greenpeace international. A job he says he 'escaped' in 1993. "It's a terrible job! Nobody ever calls you with good news. Nobody ever stops by to tell you what a wonderful job you're doing. It's always quite exactly the opposite. Trying to manage an organization that has so many fundamental anarchic tendencies, having to spend time raising money, making sure the accounting is done correctly, meeting with accountants and lawyers, figuring out how to develop corporate structures so your assets aren't seized by Margaret Thatcher... It's not my idea of a good time. It has to be done. But if I was into being a powerful corporate executive then I wouldn't choose Greenpeace. I'd be in the private sector."

The tenth anniversary of the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior became Steve's next boat mission. If Chirac was elected president during the French elections that year (1995), he would go back to nuclear power, and Greenpeace was getting organized. They wanted a member of the original crew to be part of the mission, and Steve's wife was somehow persuaded to let him go. With that as a precedent, Steve was then asked to go back to Alaska. "I love Alaska anyway, and so commuted from Anchorage to Amsterdam for four years, which was kind of a drag." Steve's daughter didn't like for her dad to be away so much though, she started getting scared of the dark. "Boy did I feel terribly guilty", he remembers. "After I stopped doing that it all went away, abruptly." And his two kids, a son was added to the family 13 years ago, mostly encourage Steve in his work. "They encourage me, and they hold me accountable. When I came back from the Climate COP, they asked me 'well, did you win or lose?'. 'What kind of world are you going to leave for me anyway?'"

Steve hasn't done any boat related stuff since 2000, and he seems to be fine leaving it at that. "I have my big birthday coming up this year, the big five zero, so I leave the bobbing around in rubber boats to the younger folks."

Conference life:

"I miss going to sea, to the ocean in particular", says Steve. "But I'm just very committed to these issues and my objective is to be where I can make the biggest contribution. For the time being, that seems to be walking around in a suit and give power point presentations."

Steve has been known to be a bit critical of the CSD, but isn't quite sure he agrees with this assessment himself. "Am I critical of the CSD... No, I'm critical of the way it sits within the UN system as the only follow up to Rio. These discussions used to take place more centrally located, but this was the way it was set up and we can't blame it for that. Some of the processes surrounding it, the proceedings, are old encrusted things that maybe made sense when they were introduced in 93 but...I'd rather not get specific."

Calling the CSD more of a 'talking shop', Steve says it's a good place to establish contacts, re-establish contacts, and network with NGOs and different sectors like women and indigenous peoples. "The CSD itself is not going to change the world, but it is a place to set the stage, to do some groundwork. Language and discussion will allow us to move forward in other arenas."

Steve doesn't think there necessarily is coherence between the many conferences on climate change and sustainable development, but rather calls it an 'accumulative building process'. "We and the governments put an awful lot of time and effort and blood and sweat and tears into the WSSD, and in the end the US and the Saudis said niet. You're not getting anything out of it. It was pretty devastating to a lot of parties, to me. We had to step back and think about how to move forward. In the meantime, because of efforts domestically and regionally, because of governments pushing this, the renewable energy has grown a lot, it's spreading. We always want more, but if you'd seen Jo-burg 2002 to Bonn, you'd say 'that's pretty good'. One of the interesting things was China engaging in a big way, not just being a large naysayer in the G77. We played some small part in that and are very proud of it. Bonn didn't deliver everything by any means, no formal negotiations or treaties, but there were positive commitments, and a fair number have been followed through – not just by the usual suspects, a few northern European greenies, but by Pakistan, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico etc."

From serious boat action to suits and conferences, Steve has never had a problem finding motivation for the work he does. "I believe this is the most important, fundamental issue that the species has ever confronted. 30 years ago, we were considered fringe nutballs, now the debate is a central focus of political and economic debate and discussion. So we've succeeded in getting the debate where it should be, but we haven't turned the ship around. I think my obligation as a citizen of planet earth is to do anything in my power to ensure that the earth that my kids inherit will be better than the one I inherited. I'm not sure I'll be able to do that though."

He might not be sure, but he certainly is hopeful. "If I wasn't hopeful I sure as hell wouldn't be doing this! You've got to be hopeful and optimistic. Or it would be impossible to continue. I know a lot of people who have given up because they say I don't believe we can change anything and I don't want to go to work and be despaired every day. You never know what's going to change, but it's not going to be smooth and linear. Things don't happen that way. There are tipping points, and then you're able to catalyse certain things."

According to Steve, the biggest impediment to getting from where we are to where we need to go, is the US governments abandonment of multilateralism over the last decade. Also, while most countries are saying that climate change is here and it's happening, a few are still in denial, 'like my native land', he says. "They're not in denial actually, they're just being criminally irresponsible with the future of the planet." But change is on the way, the Greenpeace veteran predicts. "I think the pendulum has reached the end and it's coming back. But it's going to take five years. Then you never know, sometimes these things happen faster. Katrina made such a big difference. And Iraq made such a big difference. People now know they were lied to. It's like with Nixon. Eventually it comes back, and it's coming back with a vengeance."

As for Steve Sawyer, we can count on him to be in it till the end. And if he thought he could make a bigger impact by doing 'ship stuff' again – "I would figure out a way to do that."

...ida

Kyoto City presents The World Mayors Council on Climate Change

Kyoto City again at the forefront of resolving climate change issues.

By: Tanya Imola, ICLEI

A delegation of local government officials from Kyoto City, Japan, led by the distinguished Vice Mayor Tsutomu Uehera, were specifically invited by the Commission for Sustainable Development to present the World Mayors Council on Climate Change at the Commission's 14th session at the United Nations on Friday.

The World Mayors Council was launched in 2005 by Mayor Yorikane Masumoto of Kyoto City, Japan to provide global leadership at the mayoral level on climate change. The purpose of the World Mayors Council is to politically promote climate protection policies at the local level, to foster international cooperation of municipal leaders, and to help, through advocacy, to make the multilateral mechanisms for global climate protection effective. There are presently 15 Council members representing cities from all regions of the world.

Vice Mayor Uehera spoke of the upcoming 2nd meeting of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change that Kyoto City will be hosting in February 2007. "As the birthplace

of the Kyoto Protocol, it is very significant to hold the meeting in Kyoto, to resolve climate change issues," he said, inviting local government leaders to join the Council and attend this meeting: "At the meeting, they will enhance mutual understanding, and promote international cooperation and networking at the local level".

The Vice Mayor also took this opportunity to share his thoughts on the role of local authorities in the CSD process: "Together with developed and developing countries, it is very significant to present our city's policies, to learn from each other, and to influence opinions that will result in a harmonized society, a sustainable society."

Vice Mayor Uehera commented further that, "As a representative of local authorities, through our



Left to right: Mr Tempei Goto, Mr. Suganuma Makoto, Vice Mayor Tsutomu Uehera, Chair of ICLEI's Japan office and Professor Hironori Hamanaka

presentation and introduction of Kyoto City's climate change strategy, Kyoto City would like to contribute to the resolution of national and global problems."

For more information on the World Mayors Council on Climate Change, please visit www.iclei.org/worldmayorscouncil

HOP ON TOP OF THE COP MOP

Mayors' pledge: we will meet or beat the Kyoto targets

While the Kyoto protocol finally entered into force in February 2005, world mayors and municipal leaders came up with a remarkable declaration on climate change at their summit in Montreal last December. Municipal leaders have the extraordinary ability to change the current trend of global warming, they insist. The Conference of Parties and the national governments should recognize that and engage and partner with them on climate change issues!

Cities and municipalities experience the effects of climate change directly: floods, air pollution, water availability and quality, extreme heat. Many rural people, affected in their livelihood by climate change, pour into the cities. This year has seen a turning point-for the first time in history, more people are living in cities as compared to rural areas. Local policies and action have a major impact when it comes to poverty alleviation and

mitigating climate change. The buying power of local government can accelerate the use of clean technologies and renewable energy options.

As stewards of the earth, mayors and municipal leaders have committed themselves in their declaration to

achieve emission reduction targets in their communities of 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 based on 1990 levels.

establish a uniform mechanism to measure reductions and to report annually in detail to the COP/MOP to account for their commitment.

by improving energy efficiency and encouraging public transport, to make their communities less dependent on fossil fuel advance and improve the exchange of skills, technologies, data monitoring and experiences to achieve emission reduction, with special reference to developing countries.

(World Mayors and Municipal Leaders Declaration on Climate Change, full text available at www.iclei.org/documents/Japan/Sengene.pdf)

The movement of mayors is gaining momentum. Some go further than their national governments: "Our water is literally disappearing while the White House waits and wonders. The science is clear and the time to act is now. Across the United States, 188 mayors representing over 40 million Americans have joined me in pledging to cut greenhouse gasses", Greg Nickels, Mayor of Seattle. Local leaders commit themselves to "beat or meet the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities."

*COP – The Conference of Parties is the supreme body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
MOP – Meeting Of Parties*

INCLUDE AND INVOLVE THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES!

Who will invest in solar power for the indigenous woman who walks miles every day to fetch firewood? It's time for economic growth to go hand in hand with social concerns.

By: Lucy Mulenkei, Indigenous Information Network

As I've sat keenly in the sessions in CSD 14, listening to Governments giving statements of their successes and ideas of renewable energy hydro power, industrial development, air pollution, effect of climate change, solar heaters etc, I wonder slowly if it really will be a reality for the poor indigenous and rural communities I work for? Indigenous peoples are often among the poorest in society, their levels of living are considered to be sub-standard in many respects. Studies have shown high levels of infant mortality, lower than average nutritional levels, lack of public services, difficulty of access to social welfare institutions, inadequate housing and shelter and other indicators associated with the idea of human development.

We need an alternative

I come from a region where we have been hit hard by climate change this past year. We have had prolonged droughts that have caused the loss of lives and livestock. These droughts were mainly caused by the destruction of the environment by cutting down trees and vegetation at water catchments areas, wetland destruction and of course the effects of industrial activities that have affected the ozone layer and global warming. Cutting down trees for charcoal burning and fuel wood, commonly used by many in rural areas and to a large extent by urban poor, is destructive. Yet it is hard to stop as long as you do not have alternatives. Wild fruits and plants are of great value to Indigenous communities in terms of medicine and food. By destroying the biodiversity, this resource is depleted. Lack of infrastructure has been another setback due to poor governance and policies in many of our countries that do not recognize the majority poor.

A human rights approach

Among the Nomadic Pastoralists in Kenya women still walk long distances to look for water and firewood. The workload of the Indigenous women is increasing instead of decreasing, as these resources are getting scarce. Is there an alternative for them that we could bring to the table? We have possibilities that could solve these problems, for instance solar power, but who thinks of

going to invest there? Experiences have shown that economic growth must go hand in hand with social concerns if the results are to be effective and make a difference in the lives of individuals and communities. We must give this process a human rights approach if we want to succeed in sustainable development. Unless development can be shown to improve the livelihood of people within the framework of respect for human rights, it will not produce the desired results. This approach is of particular importance for indigenous peoples whose human rights have frequently been neglected. We cannot meet the target set unless and until we involve these communities in policy formulation and implementation. National legislations on environment have to be changed to recognize and respect the dynamic of poor communities. Lack of transparency in planning processes by developed and developing countries and lack of a mechanism that would assure prior and informed consent continue to make the Indigenous communities feel isolated in the development processes.

Producers of solutions

Indigenous and local communities have a significant contribution to make in policy development and implementation. It should be noted that these communities are not only victims but also producers of development solutions that fit them in their environment. If consulted, they have solutions to energy and climate change problems which they tackle by using their traditional knowledge with modern techniques.

Capacity building, financial assistance and access to information are but a few important recommendations that are critical for the success of the implementation process. Any dialogue with Indigenous peoples and local communities on issues of energy and sustainable development, industrial development, pollution and climate change must be based on recognition and protection of and respect of their rights to self determination; their basic precondition to guaranteeing their ownership, control and

management of their land and natural resources. Climate change solutions cannot and should not be separated from social and environmental justice.

Include, consider, involve

Countries that depend on fossil fuels for energy must take action to reduce this dependence. They must accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technology that would be environmentally friendly and beneficial to the poor. Indigenous Peoples have demonstrated the need for planning processes to include an understanding of economic and cultural needs of the community. Renewable energy will be of interest to the communities if it meets their needs, so their needs must be considered and their involvement is crucial.

The Indigenous Peoples Plan of Implantation on Sustainable Development addresses energy and climate change. This plan was collectively discussed and agreed on by over 100 indigenous peoples from different parts of the world in Kimberly, South Africa, in preparation for the WSSD in Johannesburg. The plan has remained a guide to the work of Indigenous Peoples in sustainable development. In Johannesburg the governments in their political declaration reaffirmed the role played by Indigenous peoples in sustainable development. It is important for all of us to remember the past, the present, and the future as we review the work and process of this phase of the Commission on Sustainable Development.



Question of the day

The youth are running an inspired campaign at this years CSD. Why aren't other major groups doing more to have their voices heard?



David Boys, Public Services International (PSI)

"I hand it to them, the youth, for their initiative and the use of non traditional methods to increase their profile and get their voices out there. That's what youth are for. In defence, we at the trade union major group have handed out a country profile to each country delegation that has been painstakingly developed over the last five years with specific goals for sustainable development within their country. It's not quite as innovative and sexy as the youths campaign, but we never said we were sexy. The trade unions have also challenged the major groups to identify common platforms to influence this process and have organized a meeting over the weekend. Again, it's not sexy, but nonetheless..."



Ibrahim Togola, MFC - Energy and Environment, Mali

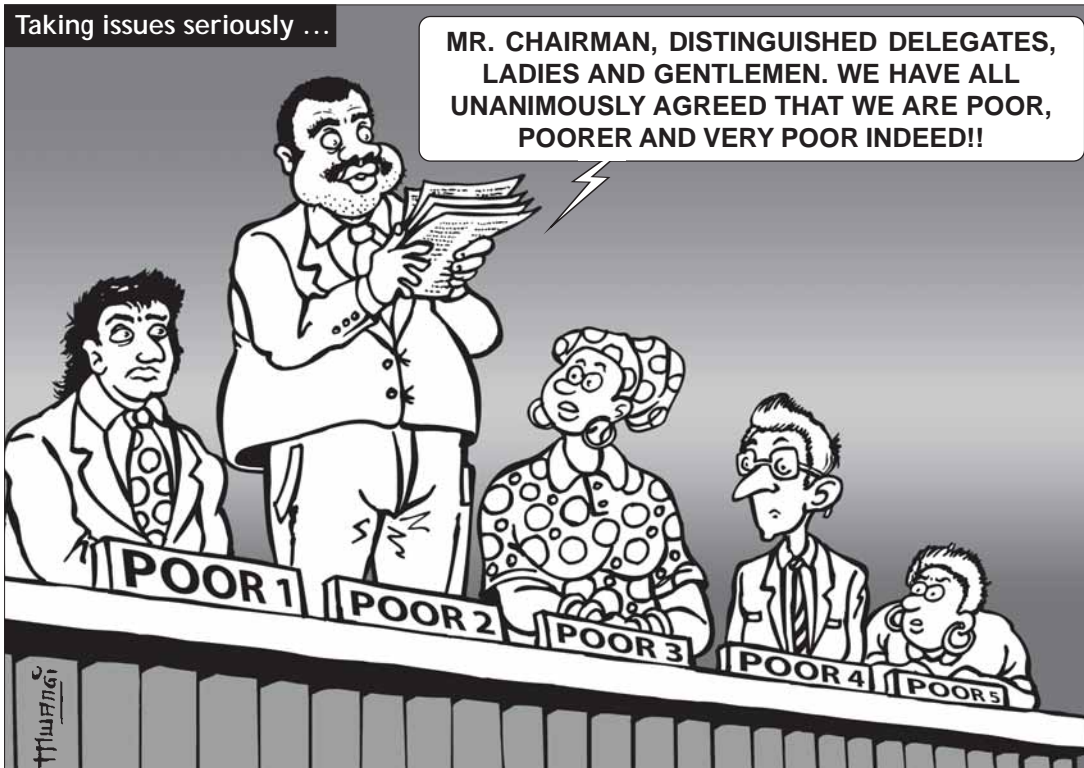
"I think that here we are in an arena where there are NGOs and countries, all with their own agendas. The countries all come well prepared in where their countries stand, but for NGOs, even when we are in networks, we only start working together here. We should strategise more and see how we can make our things more visible, like the youth. We need to make sure that the countries remember our messages. In that sense I think we definitely have to learn from the youth, and organize ourselves better. We need to be visible in the plenaries, but also outside them."



Sheila Oparaocha, coordinator ENERGIA, organizing partner of the women major group

"I think certainly it adds value to have a variety of approaches to get our message across, but we're a bit restricted by the rules and regulations at the UN. There has been a lot of security after September 11th, and you don't want to be kicked out, so we tend to be a bit more careful. Young people are also more extrovert and more courageous than 'older' people. We've maybe faced too many setbacks and met too many restrictions. We're still trying in our own way though."

Taking issues seriously ...



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