

NETWORK 2015

ACHIM STEINER ELECTED NEW UNEP DIRECTOR



Achim Steiner,



STAKEHOLDER FORUM

The UN General Assembly on the 16th of March elected the new Executive Director of UNEP, the present Director-General of IUCN, Achim Steiner of Germany.

Mr. Steiner will take over as the fifth Executive Director of UNEP, his predecessors being Mr. Maurice Strong (Canada), Dr. Tolba (Egypt), Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell (Canada) and Dr. Toepfer (Germany).

Mr. Steiner, currently Director-General of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), is expected to take up his appointment on 15 June.

Dr. Toepfer described his successor as

“an outstanding individual among a field of outstanding candidates. I am delighted that Achim Steiner has accepted this important international post at an organization that has a key role in delivering sustainable development, fighting poverty, realizing social justice and achieving stability in the 21st century”

“I am convinced that choosing Achim Steiner will prove to be a great decision bringing youth, dynamism, intellect and a deeply held commitment to environment and sustainable development issues”

said Dr. Toepfer.

“In addition, his breadth of experience with intergovernmental organizations and negotiations, civil society, scientists and private business will build on UNEP’s evolving networks with and beyond governments,”

he added.

Dr. Toepfer also said:

“On a personal note, I would like to add that I have known Achim Steiner for many years and consider him a good and solid friend whose charm, sense of humour and warmth will stand him in good stead over the challenging years ahead.”

Dr. Toepfer steps down on 31 March after completing just over two four-year terms as UNEP Executive Director. Taking over until June will be his Deputy, Shafqat Kakakhel.

Stakeholder Forum Executive Director Felix Dodds welcomed the appointment of Mr. Steiner. He said,

“Achim will bring to the position an understanding of stakeholder engagement, particularly through his work with the Dams Commission. The challenge for an incoming Executive Director will be the balance between normative and non-normative work within

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UNEP. The present UN General Assembly discussion on the possibility of a United Nations Environment Organization may of course mean he is the last Executive Director of UNEP and the first Executive Director of a UNEO."

Mr. Steiner has worked both at grassroots level and at the highest levels of international policy-making to address the interface between environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic development.

His professional career has included assignments with governmental, nongovernmental, and international organizations in different parts of the world. In Washington, D.C., where he was Senior Policy Advisor of IUCN's Global Policy Unit, he led the development of new partnerships between the environment community and the World Bank and United Nations system. In Southeast Asia he worked as Chief Technical Advisor on a programme for sustainable management of the Mekong River watersheds and community-based natural resources management. In 1998 he was appointed Secretary-General of the World Commission on Dams, based in South Africa where he managed a global programme of work to bring together the public sector, civil society, and the private sector in a global policy process on dams and development.

In 2001 he was appointed as Director-General of the World Conservation Union, widely regarded as one of the most influential and highly respected organizations in the field of conservation, environment, and natural resources management. As Chief Executive he has held responsibility for the management and oversight of 1,000 staff located in 42 countries implementing the Union's global work programme.

About 20 poets from 2-3 surrounding districts recited wonderful poetry on wide-ranging subjects of human sufferings, tribal struggles and love. The zest and melody shared that evening was truly remarkable. In these days of global culture and Bollywood, it is amazing to learn that such talent and creativity still exists in such remote corners of our civilisation, largely unheard and mostly unsung.

You might occasionally wonder that visiting dignitaries from abroad always make calls on some 'charitable' institution. Recently, Ms. Laura Bush (wife of the President of USA) and Queen of Jordan paid such visits in our backyard. Visits to local 'charities' working with juvenile criminals and another working with slum girls were respectively organised as part of the official program of the ladies. Since such high profile visits are accompanied by massive media publicity, a certain type of 'charitable' activity gets visibility in the public domain. I wonder if such visits advance our collective causes? Such visits also suggest that we all should have a 'charity' site from our programs within a short distance from the capitals, so that they could be included in the itinerary of such dignitaries.

While a lot has been written about President Bush's visit to India, a particular phenomenon seems to have gone unnoticed. Anti-Bush demonstrations in different parts of the country brought 'strange bedfellows' together. His visit to Hyderabad catalysed a new coalition between Marxists and Mullahs, protesting against Iraq, cartoons, and everything America represents. In the national context, Marxists have been fighting against sectarian and fundamentalist politics of Hindu and Islamic varieties. But against Bush, they came together. Are there some lessons for those of us trying to build broad coalitions to advance our causes?

RANDOM REFLECTIONS XXIV

It is beginning to get warm out here in India. Hope you all are well. Another set for your perusal:

It is that time of the year here when educational campuses are abuzz with placement interviews. And newspapers report galloping salaries being offered to new professionals. Some of these professionals are now receiving starting salaries in their careers which our generation did not even imagine receiving at the retiring stage of our careers. More interestingly, these engineers, scientists, doctors, managers and IT professionals are also being lauded in the media for "rejecting" offers of multinationals to 'serve the motherland'. It reminded me of the time thirty and more years ago when several of us left our professionally determined career paths to work in the civil society. Were there any media reports then?

During a recent celebration of silver jubilee of tribal struggles in a remote part of Jharkhand in eastern India, an evening of poetry reading (Mushaira as it is called in Urdu) was held.

First quarter of each year is the season of Awards. From state-sponsored Awards to a wide range of Awards from corporate world, nearly 20 Awards ceremonies have been organised in India during this period. Typically, a trade association partners with 2-3 big business houses in that industry and 1-2 media establishments to announce these Awards. Big advertisements (in print & electronic media) are taken out to announce the Awards and invite applications. Then an Award distributing ceremony is announced through advertisements. Then a gala ceremony, with appropriate selection of political and celebrity heavy-weights present, is held in a big hotel/conference center to distribute these Awards. A rough estimation of cost of organising and publicity of the Awards and actual Award money distributed would indicate a highly skewed ratio in favour of the former. It occurred to me that civil society in most of our countries does not organise such Awards for its own fraternity. But, if it did so in the manner described above, what will be its credibility in the eyes of general public? Extravaganza?

*All the best
Sincerely*

Rajesh Tandon

BUSINESS ACTION FOR ENERGY - CSD-14



By Rochelle Chetty (*Business Action for Energy*)

A growing component of the energy debate concerns the sustainability of the future energy system. Providing energy to foster growth and lift countries out of poverty while avoiding climate impacts is a goal society needs to address. Where there is access to energy, security of supply, environmental constraints and growing demand will necessitate continuous improvement of energy efficiency and technologies on both the demand and supply sides. This is achievable, but the challenges are huge and need to be tackled urgently. All concerned parties have done much to contribute towards the delivery of sustainable energy but the results still fall short of the global challenge at hand. Addressing this shortfall cannot be done by any single party. Business is an indispensable participant in the process alongside governments and civil society, and can contribute to defining a long-term strategy on sustainable energy.

This is the background to Business Action for Energy (BAE), a temporary platform of international and multi-sectoral business organizations, designed to facilitate business input to CSD-14 and 15 on energy-related issues, and to other important fora in that timeframe. The initiative aims to galvanize international business's input, to deliver common views among BAE participants and to complement individual, corporate, sector and other business contributions to CSD-14 and CSD-15.

Founding organizations of BAE are the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Energy Council (WEC). Participating organizations of BAE, to date, are the International Aluminium Institute (IAI), International Emission Trading Association (IETA), International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), Union of the Electricity Industry (EURELECTRIC), World Coal Institute (WCI), World LP Gas Association (WLPGA), the World Nuclear Association (WNA) and the International Hydropower Association (IHA).

More details on BAE can be found at www.businessaction.org.

BAE AND CSD-14

Business is a willing partner and can contribute to defining a long-term strategy on sustainable energy through the provision of resources, the development and deployment of technologies, etc. Thus business and industry, in particular BAE, hope to see the following outcomes from the upcoming CSD-14 process, including:

- Recognition of the role that business plays in contributing towards sustainable development
- A process that looks to learn from success stories, e.g. South Africa's Electrification Programme
- Partnerships between business and funding agencies, namely, flagship projects/partnerships with adequate funding
- A process to leverage business and development agency funding
- Incorporation of the BAE key energy messages into political and policy-related outcomes.
- Identification of the priority policy and implementation gaps for CSD-15

BAE KEY ENERGY MESSAGES

BAE believes that the following key principles apply when dealing with the themes CSD is tackling in order to move the energy debate forward:

1. Enabling Framework

Business and industry can make the best contribution to meeting energy-related needs when working within proper enabling framework conditions, including transparent and stable economic systems, enforced regulatory systems, financing mechanisms, free markets and fair competition.

2. Open Markets and Innovative Financing

Open markets provide the best conditions for investment and provision of energy. Governments should also promote and enable investments in energy by leveraging official development assistance, promoting technological cooperation and exploring other innovative financing arrangements that would prioritize and support energy for sustainable development.

3. Integrated Policies

Energy challenges should be addressed through Integrated policies that also take into account development priorities and needs; social conditions and aspirations; trade rules; environmental policies

Including climate change, air/atmospheric pollution policies; adaptation options; vulnerability priorities; innovation opportunities; and technology transfer policies.

4. Research, Development and Technology Innovation

Ongoing technological innovation may provide solutions to current and future challenges. All relevant stakeholders should allocate resources to the research and development of new technologies. Businesses already dedicate substantial resources to technology advancement and the development of innovation.

5. Market-Based Mechanisms

Market-oriented policies are a useful complement to other regulatory and policy approaches. Subsidies should be avoided, and where applied, should not distort markets and enable access to energy for sustainable development. "Getting prices right" is a complex concept which should, in theory, encompass and reflect social, environmental and economic aspects.

5. Managing and Reducing Environmental Impacts

The environmental impacts of energy use and production should be addressed in the context of other urgent priorities including energy security, energy efficiency, economic development, climate change, quality of life, job creation and other environmental impacts.

6. Energy for Economic Growth and Development

The provision of adequate supplies of reliable, affordable energy is fundamental to economic growth and development.

7. Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency is critical to any comprehensive sustainable energy strategy. Joint efforts by governments and businesses are key to continuing the promotion and enhancement of energy efficiency along the value chain. In particular, energy efficiency decreases the consumption rate of energy, thereby improving energy security and reducing the negative impacts in the supply and use of energy.

8. Energy Security

Long-term energy security of supply is needed to ensure that energy can foster sustainable growth. This is especially crucial considering the increase

foreseen in energy demand.

9. Large Investment Base and Infrastructure

Maintaining and growing the energy supply required to meet future demand will require significant investments. Changes in energy systems can only happen slowly due to the large investment and infrastructure base, long lifetime of installed capacity and the massive investments in equipment and infrastructure required to maintain and grow capacity.

10. All Energy Sources

All energy sources should be considered in meeting the increasing energy demand. They should be evaluated based on their merits and relative attributes recognizing that each presents opportunities, issues, and barriers.

11. Partnerships

Governments, businesses, and other key stakeholders need to work in partnership for a sustainable energy future. Business will continue to play an important role in energy solutions, within its sphere of responsibility, in partnership with other stakeholders.

12. Consumer Behaviour

Consumer understanding and reaction are key factors to success in addressing the energy challenge.

BAE PLANS FOR CSD-14

As part of its various contributions, BAE is co-hosting with other business and industry associations a "Day of Business and Industry." The event will bring together and engage businesses, governments, and civil society in a constructive dialogue on energy-related topics, thereby contributing effectively to the review process of CSD-14. This event will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday, 9 May 2006. Details will be made available shortly on the BAE website.

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LOCAL AUTHORITIES - MAJOR GROUP ENGAGED AT CSD-14

By Tanya Imola., International Media Coordinator, ICL

Local authorities, as key stakeholders in the implementation of Local Agenda 21 and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, will be actively engaged at the 14th Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development.

Within the context of sustainable development, local governments play a critical role in energy management, industrial development, air quality, climate change action, and public procurement. There are many factors that position local governments as key stakeholders in energy, air and climate issues, as the decentralization of power of authority from national to local levels of government is expanding rapidly worldwide. First and foremost, local governments own and operate power plants and have the choice of energy sources in their hands. Local governments also own and operate buildings, vehicles and facilities, such as street lighting and water treatment, which consume large quantities of fuel and electricity. Local governments also control land use policies. They also determine where buildings and developments should be located, the ensuing mobility needs and the mix of uses that are allowed, which also in turn affect energy use. Local governments make or exert influence on decisions and investments regarding road, transportation and transit systems. Local governments often have regulatory influence over or responsibility for building codes, which determine the energy efficiency of building stock. And finally, local governments manage and regulate vehicle parking, traffic flow and transit systems, thereby influencing the choice of travel mode and length of trip, which are significant determiners of transportation energy use.



Since 1992, more than 6,000 local authorities and their partners have embraced Local Agenda 21 as a framework for good governance, and through that framework, are acting



to achieve sustainable development in all areas of their authority. Local governments have recognized the value of cooperation and the sharing of ideas and knowledge with their counterparts. Within their own communities they have successfully expressed the many benefits – financial, social and environmental – of climate and air quality action within their own operations and those in their community.

LESSONS LEARNED

Energy for Sustainable Development

- Local authorities have a significant influence on energy and transportation demand. Helsinki (Finland) for example, has an efficient and economical district heating system and uses combined heat and power generation.
- Local authorities can reduce energy demand and improve efficiency through their regulatory powers. Kyoto (Japan) enacted in 2005 the first global warming ordinance in Japan, which will frame all future city policy and institutional frameworks.

Industrial Development

- Local authorities' standards on air pollutants and carbon emissions promote clean electricity generation and production.
- When renewable energy is encouraged as an energy source, the energy supply is secured and new industrial development is attracted to the area. In Tamil Nadu (India), a state-run program to develop renewable energy has boosted wind energy, bringing in new local enterprises.

Climate Change and Air Pollution

- Globally, local authorities are using the tools and knowledge gained through networks of co-operation and mutual support to contribute directly to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

- Improvements in vehicle efficiency standards and investments in alternative fuels and vehicles are reducing greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollutants. For example, Brisbane (Australia) has reduced a range of air toxins by 80% by switching to natural gas buses and switching diesel buses to ultra-low sulfur fuels.
- Local authorities benefit from participating in the Kyoto Mechanisms. For example, a landfill gas recovery project in Olavarría (Argentina) will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by over 140,000 tons, and has signaled the vast potential of landfill gas recovery projects.
- In developing countries, communities without access to sustainable, formalized energy systems may be forced to rely on unsustainable sources of energy.



Despite those achievements, many challenges remain in each of those areas. Local governments are concerned about the lack of recognition and support for their role in achieving renewable energy supplies, sound development, clean air and climate stability. It is estimated that in less than 25 years, over 60 per cent of the world's population will reside in urban areas and over three-quarters of the largest cities will be situated in coastal areas. Local governments still face many challenges in the area of energy, industrial development, air and climate that must be resolved if the principles and goals of sustainable development are to be achieved and the dire alternatives of inaction are to be avoided.

IDENTIFICATION OF OBSTACLES AND CONSTRAINTS

Energy for Sustainable Development

- Local authorities are constrained by national energy policies, and in the developing world, it is difficult for local authorities to develop effective, local urban energy and transportation management in the context of rapid development and large-scale investments.



Industrial Development

- Local authorities are under pressure to attract investment and industrial development, and while sustainable energy systems are economically advantageous in the long run, their initial development requires a large influx of resources.
- While local authorities could attract local industry, this ability is often undermined by national policies.

Climate Change and Air Pollution

- Local authorities lack the financial capacity to address the interrelationships between energy, air, climate and sustainable development.
- Many local authorities lack the technical capacity to manage and measure climate and air quality issues as it is traditionally not their area of expertise.
- The long-term nature of the challenges of climate change and sustainable development defy the limited political mandate of most local governments.
- Emissions from vehicles have a significant impact on local air quality, yet local authorities are unable to effect vehicle efficiency policies, which are traditionally established at the national level.

Local governments are making substantial contributions to sustainable development and energy management, industrial development, air quality and climate change. As one of the Major Groups, Local Authorities will share their experience and expertise to identify barriers and constraints in implementation of sustainable development, as well as lessons learned and best practices in relation the three thematic clusters of air pollution/atmosphere, climate change, and energy and industrial development.

THE NETWORK OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - CSD-14



*By Ernst-Christoph Stolper,
Ministry of the Environment and Nature
Conservation, Agriculture and Consumer
Protection of the State of North Rhine-
Westphalia, on behalf of the nrg4SD.*

The Network of Regional for Sustainable Development-nrg4SD was formed at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development by a group of regions committed to policies of sustainable development. The basic objectives of nrg4SD are:

- to represent Regional Governments at a global level,
- to promote Sustainable Development at the Regional Government level throughout the world,
- to share information and experience concerning Sustainable Development policies with Regional Governments,
- to promote understanding, collaboration and association between its members.

The Network is discussing and addressing current international items and has since its creation, agreed inter alia on the following position papers (see also website of the Network: www.nrg4sd.net):

- Water
- Fair Trade
- Sustainable Tourism
- Forest Management
- Sustainable Energy and Renewables
- Minority and Endangered Languages

One of the four major themes of the Work Programme 2005-2008 of nrg4SD—in line with the multi-year Programme of Work of the CSD—is dedicated to Energy for Sustainable Development. In fact, in the frame of **CSD-14**, nrg4SD activities are focusing on the process of the promotion and expansion of renewable energies. Even though it is the responsibility of national governments to create the necessary framework conditions, regional governments have a central role to promote changes in the energy supply system. They are much closer to the problems around energy use and supply than the national authorities. This fact underlines the special role of regions to implement measures and policies.

In the policy paper, "Sustainable Energy and Renewables," nrg4SD developed guidelines for regional strategies to promote renewable energy technologies. It also addressed a number of specific instruments to induce new technical development and support renewable energy technologies.

Regional participation and co-operation on the international level is, from a regional point of view, essential to bring in their expertise and experience into the international political process. In this context it is important to stress that regions bring forward concrete co-operations and common projects.

North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) acts as responsible region for the Network on renewable energy issues. In this function, NRW represents the Network in the Steering Committee of the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, **REN21**. REN21 (<http://www.ren21.net>) is a global policy network open to a wide variety of dedicated stakeholders that provides a forum for international leadership on renewable energy. Its goal is to bolster policy development for the rapid expansion of renewable energies in developing and industrialised economies.

In this context, North Rhine-Westphalia has created an internet portal on renewable energies for regional governments, experts and institutions in order to further extend the worldwide networking among experts and decision-makers on a regional level (www.regional-renewables.org). The first results of this exercise will be presented at the CSD-14 within the Partnerships Fair, in the event organized by the Network nrg4SD.

Following the agenda of CSD-14, the Network will actively contribute to the reviewing process in the following fields of implementation: Energy for Sustainable Development, Air Pollution/Atmosphere and Climate Change. Therefore, nrg4SD will focus the participation at the Partnerships Fair on practical experience and information exchange between regions in the field of renewable energies.

Renewable Energies – Policies, Projects and Challenges for Regions

Time: 5th of May 2006, 10:45-11:25 am

Place: Partnerships Fair room, Conference Room 6, located near the Vienna Café in the first basement of the Conference Building at UNHQ

Program execution: The session will start with a presentation on the major results of the "Renewables 2005 Global Status Report" prepared by the World Watch Institute. This presentation will be followed by an overview of best practice examples of regions from different continents of the world in energy fields such as solar energy, biomass, biofuels or wind energy. Afterwards, a representative of UNITAR will give an overview on the role of economic involvement in this context and how regions can support the international process. At the end a guest speaker of California will present the current development/transition from an oil or fossil-depending energy supply system to an energy supply system based on renewable energies to discuss its work.

THE 6TH WORLD SOCIAL FORUM, CARACAS, VENEZUELA

A FEW REFLECTIONS

*By Fabrina Furtado,
from www.rbrasil.br.org*

To carry out an evaluation of the 2006 World Social Forum that took place between the 24th and 29th of January 2006 in the city of Caracas, Venezuela, it is important to realize that there are two distinct processes – first there is the World Social Forum (held in Venezuela) and secondly the Venezuelan revolutionary process. I say this because we have often confused the two.

The Venezuelan process had a strong impact on the participants – for example the strong idealization of Chavez through the selling of many products such as dolls, photos and t-shirts, the strong presence of the military, his constant relation to Christ and Christian socialism and issues of gender. However, there are external factors which need to be considered. Venezuela has around 10% of world oil reserves, a strategic resource which accounts for 75% of Venezuelan exports, and it supplies around 15% of the oil bought by the USA. In this respects, Venezuela is threatened by US aggression. Chavez realized that he could not resist economically, let alone militarily. He realized that to resist imperialism he would have to do it politically together with other country. Thus, the World Social Forum was a very important opportunity for Chavez to gain social support. These are external factors which affect the whole region – there are military bases in almost every country in Latin America.

Therefore, the positive impacts have to be considered in this context. The discourse of the Venezuelan government is aimed at the poor population, most of which is black. So it is not surprising that a couple of days before the Forum there was a march of around 30 thousand people who oppose Chavez, majority white ladies and sirs in their checked hats, Nike trainers, Gucci sunglasses and poodles. This is a population that has traditionally benefited from the sub-soil Venezuelan resources and that today are in direct conflict with the rest of the population and the government, not only over power but also in terms of paradigm, in terms of whom the Venezuelan State should serve.

There have, however, been advances for the poor population – UNESCO recently declared Venezuela a territory free of illiteracy, agrarian reform is taking place and communitarian clinics with Cuban doctors are being implemented. That is why we should review the concept of populism, which is used in a generally pejorative manner, when in this case it can be translated into policies aimed at the poor.

Venezuela is a state which pronounces itself against imperialism, against the United States' policies. This is big



progress, since even in this context no government in the region has been able to effectively stand up to the USA's mission of dominating Latin America, and the world. Of course this was influenced by a social movement that gave Chavez the political fuel to take the opportunity of the oil prices and face the empire. This was very obvious throughout the whole Forum – if there is an issue that unites world social movements, apart from the struggle against neoliberalism, it is the fight against imperialism and militarization.

It is in this context that the decision was made in the 2005 Social Forum in Porto Alegre that the 2006 Forum would be in Venezuela, mainly to support the Venezuelan process. As such it is very difficult not to associate one thing to the other.

As for the World Social Forum, it was important that it was held in a country that better shows the inequalities of the Latin American region and the contradictions that we are currently living. Although there were many disputes in the organization of the Forum related to the fear of a governmental control of the Forum, in terms of agenda, this did not occur as much as feared. The Venezuelan government supplied a lot of support in terms of infrastructure, such as free metro for participants, free water and lunch and also did not charge airport tax. Yes, there were many governmental members participating, and yes, Chavez gave his speeches, but this was a demand of the social movements and was not imposed by Chavez himself. The Brazilian government, on the other hand, sent over 100 official representatives, had a Brazil tent with propaganda of the government and gave out free bags with the Brazilian flags containing material on governmental programs. For us Brazilians, the government started its election (to be held in the end of 2006) campaign in Caracas.

In terms of agenda and methodology, it seemed as if there were two forums – one with macro issues such as socialism, imperialism, integration and development, and

another one on issues of gender, race, ethnicity, and environment. These two forums need to meet more often! Perhaps we need to be able to create greater dialogue in order to propose new debates and more proactive decision-making so that the collective debates which the Forum has managed to do so well can be translated into collective actors implementing collective alternative actions. On the other hand, issues related to the fight against imperialism, militarization and neoliberalism unite the struggles and the elaboration of collective alternatives.

The contradictions existing within our leftist governments were very clear within the Forum. The main contradiction is related to the large infrastructure projects (such as huge gas pipes cutting the Amazon and putting in large dams) planned and led by Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, the president of Brazil, Chavez and Nestor Kirchner of Argentina. These are projects that will not lead to the integration of the people or take energy to those who need it, but rather benefit national and international corporations by turning the region into a platform for exports. These are projects that will displace millions of people and have negative impacts on the environment, through gas spillages and deforestation. While many participants were chanting "a new Latin America is in progress" with Lula, Kirchner, Tabaré Vasquez (Uruguay), Chavez, Michelle Bachelet (Chile) and Evo Morales (the indigenous leader that recently won the election in Bolivia), others fear a reproduction of the old predatory capitalist model.

Perhaps one of the most positive characteristics of this Forum was the presence of the indigenous movement, much more expressive than in other forums. This is probably related to the "new" context in the region where the indigenous movement is one of the protagonists in political changes, not only in Bolivia, but also in Venezuela and Ecuador. In Brazil, for example, the indigenous movement split with the government as early as 2003, the first year of government.

In general, I believe we need to seriously think about social control and the autonomy and independence of social movements (and civil society in general) from governments. We need to rethink this participation of governments in a space created by and for civil society. This is a new reality we are faced with because of the new progressive governments, but which is also an obstacle that needs to be overcome in order for real change to be implemented. The best thing we can do for revolutionary processes is, while recognizing real changes that are occurring, is to be the first critics. Nevertheless, whatever the analysis may be, the fact is that if real social change is to take place in the world, it will pass through Latin America, a region which once again speaks of socialism while other regions are still reluctant to do so; a region that is going through revolutionary change, and we need to keep struggling and facing the risks and threats of this so that another world can be possible.

SF BOOKS

HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY - AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE

This book is edited by **Felix Dodds of Stakeholder Forum and Tim Pippard of Jane's Information Group** and came out for the MDG Summit as a contribution from Stakeholder Forum to the debate around the report to the Secretary General – Challenges, Threats and Change.

The contributors to the book are:

Foreword - **Celso Amorim** Foreign Minister Brazil

Introduction - **Klaus Toepfer** Executive Director UNEP

Section 1 Peace and Security

1. Peace and Conflict: New Threats and Challenges - **Lord David Hannay**: Member of the Secretary General's Panel on Challenges, Threats and Change; 2. Human Security and the War on Terror - **Oliver Richmond**; 3. Achieving Nuclear Non-Proliferation - **Marian Hobbs** Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control New Zealand; 4. Peace building Commission - **Anders Liden**; 5. Gender and Human Security - **Norleen Heyzer**: Director of UNIFEM.

Section 2 Sustainable Human Development

6. Human Security for the Poor - **Jan Pronk**: Former Minister of Environment and Development in the Government of the Netherlands; 7. Trade and Security in an Interconnected World - **Hilary Benn**: Secretary of State for Overseas Development UK; 8. Securing a Healthier World - **Dr Christine Durbak, Dr Claudia Strauss**; 9. Migration and Development - **Devyani Gupta**; 10. Protecting our Biodiversity - **Jeff McNeely**: IUCN Chief Scientist; 11. Food Security - **Henrique Cavalcanti**: former Chair of the UNCSO (1995) and Brazilian Minister of the Environment; 12. Water for All - **Patricia Wouters**; 13. Climate Change: Impacts and Security - **Melinda Kimble**: Vice President UN Foundation; 14. Human Security for Human Settlements - **Anna Tibaijuka**: Executive Director UN Habitat.

Section 3 Global Governance

15. Changing role of the State and the emergence of Regional Governance - **Sabin Mendibil Intxaurreaga**: former Minister of Environment Government of the Basque Country; 16. Human and Environmental Rights: A need for Corporate Accountability - **Hannah Griffiths**: Friends of the Earth; 17. Democracy in Trouble - **Felix Dodds**: Stakeholder Forum; 18. Reforming Environmental Governance - **Serge Lepeltier**: French Minister of the Environment; 19. America as Empire - **Jim Garrison**: President of State of the World Forum.

Order it at

www.stakeholderforum.org

Or email odavies@stakeholderforum.org

CIVIL SOCIETY MEETS IN MOSCOW TO DISCUSS G8 ISSUES



By Felix Dodds is a member of the Civil G8 International Advisory Group and the Montreal International Forum Board

In March over 200 members of civil society organizations from around the world met in Moscow as part of the G8process in preparation for the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg. The Civil G8 process builds on the work started by the Montreal International Forum under the Canadian Presidency.

The meeting dealt with the issues on the G8 agenda such as Energy Security, Education and Contagious Diseases. It also looked at trade finance for development and Africa.

The outcomes were presented to the G8 sherpas and, for the first time, the United States' sherpa took part in the discourse.

The civil society organizations attending declared that the G8 needs to ensure that trade rules and financial development serve sustainable development and protect, fulfill and respect environmental, social and human rights.

Trade

The meeting delegates heard that the present approach to trade liberalization and financing for development undermines human rights and increases the unsustainable consumption and pollution of natural resources. They endorsed a 'trade justice' approach to the setting of trade rules in order to put people and the planet first.

Also, developing countries must have the right to determine their own economic and public policies, and be given sufficient flexibility and policy space to meet development needs and national interests—i.e the protection of small farmers, infant industries and delivery of basic services.

As expressed in previous issues of Network, there was a strong call for the democratic deficit in WTO to be addressed immediately by the G8. This would include a proper democratic review of trade agreements by parliaments and increasing the capacity and participation of developing countries and economies-in-transition in trade negotiations.

Underlining the positive role that civil society enjoys in other forums, such as the UN, those present called for similar participation in WTO.

The meeting emphasized that basic services (health care, education, water and electricity) should not be dealt with by the WTO.

Africa

There was a strong expression that some of the positive commitments made in the G8 Action Plan for Africa made at the Gleneagles Summit should be honored.

There should also be a continued focus on Africa, as taken by previous G8 meetings, and that as Russia co-chairs the Africa Partnership Forum (APF) High-Level meetings this year, it was strongly supported that this should be at Ministerial level.

Debt Cancellation

Debt cancellation was seen as an essential foundation for trade justice. A clear message was given that the HIPC initiative must be deepened (at present, beneficiaries are not achieving debt sustainability) and broadened to include more countries handicapped by debt, including some of the former USSR countries. Moreover, resources for debt cancellation should be additional funding, not a replacement, to official development assistance (ODA) currently allocated for these countries. Finally, it was said that debt relief/cancellation should not carry policy conditions, particularly those related to the human rights obligations of countries, e.g., promotion of sustainable development, food security and the delivery of basic services, such as health care, education, water and electricity.

Innovative Finance

On the issue of aid the St. Petersburg G8 summit should:

- Support initiatives for innovative financing such as the IFF, the tax on the air tickets and the regulation of money transfer agencies
- Support infrastructure development that promotes south-south trading
- Support re-imburement of the commission and tax on remittance payment and regulation
- Review progress to meet the aid target of an extra \$50 billion by 2010, confirm that all G8 countries are on track to meet the 2010 target, and announce that those G8 countries that have yet to agree a binding timetable to reach 0.7% GNI on development assistance will now do so
- Review progress on the commitments to give half of all ODA increases to Sub-Saharan Africa

The G8 should also take firm steps to implement mandatory codes of conduct that ensure the responsibility of private

enterprise. At the same time, good governance is an important aspect to the building of stable and secure societies.

Energy Security

Civil society underlined the need to change the prevailing energy paradigm, and to transfer to stable energy development in order to ensure global energy safety by the efficient use of new and renewable sources of fuel and power. The priority, they said, should be given to technologies that convert energy from biomass to clean coal technologies of power generation, such as coal gasification, wind, solar, tidal, geothermal power plants, dam-free hydroelectric power stations, hydrogen energy, etc.

For decades, notable scientists and non-government organisations have been insisting on a change in the energy policy in the leading countries of the world, but so far, little or nothing has been done in this sphere. Now is the time for decisive actions. The proposal of energy security issues for the agenda of the G8 leaders meeting in 2006 in St. Petersburg demonstrates a shift in understanding this key problem of the modern world.

Civil Society advocated that to achieve global energy security and sustainable development for mankind, the leading industrial countries of the world and, first of all, the G8 countries, have to undertake coordinated efforts in order to achieve the following long-term goals:

Goal 1. Reduction (as compared to the present) of damages to the environment and human living conditions; decrease in risks of such damages which occur during the production, transportation, processing and use of conventional energy resources of the twentieth century; and storage and disposal of waste produced at all stages of their live cycle

Goal 2. By the middle (optional end) of the twenty-first century, transition to the use of new and renewable energy sources located as close as possible to the final consumers and make them available for most inhabitants of the planet.

Nuclear Power

The meeting reminded the sherpas that this year is the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe, and they suggested phasing out programs for the construction of new units and ending the operation of the working nuclear energy units, as well as stop state subsidies of any type into nuclear energy in G8 countries. Exceptions could be made for subsidies to ensure nuclear facilities safety, the unloading and burying of nuclear fuel wastes and other nuclear wastes, and the dismantling and disposal of the corresponding nuclear equipment. In spite of different points of view, most participants believe that nuclear energy is not a stable way of energy development, and insist on abandoning nuclear energy use and suggest the introduction of prohibition of trans-border circulation of nuclear wastes, including nuclear

fuels waste.

Many attending the meeting felt that the effort taken by the Russian Government in consultation with their civil society was an important step in building an ongoing relationship between civil society and the G8. Ella Pamfilova, the coordinator of the Civil G8, should be well pleased.

STAKEHOLDER FORUM BOOKS

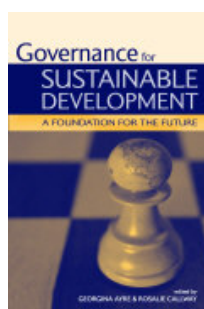


Stakeholder Forum has produced a series of publications in support of its project work.

These resources are designed to expand the intellectual space for stakeholder participation within the International Sustainable Development field.

- Human and Environmental Security-An Agenda for Change, 2005.
- Governance for Sustainable Development, 2005
- The Plain Language Guide, 2005
- How to Lobby at International Meetings, 2004

Order them at www.stakeholderforum.org



GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK

By Felix Dodds news items of the day. He also hosts the talk show "Person to Person," yet Murrow, "the face of television," is happiest as a news reporter.



Free Press and Vigilance: "Good Night and Good Luck"

"We will not walk in fear, one of another. We will not be driven by fear into an age of unreason, if we dig deep in our history and our doctrine; and remember that we are not descended from fearful men. Not from men who feared to write, to speak, to associate, and to defend causes that were for the moment unpopular. This is no time for men who oppose Senator McCarthy's methods to keep silent, or for those who approve. We can deny our heritage and our history, but we cannot escape responsibility for the result. There is no way for a citizen of a republic to abdicate his responsibilities. As a nation we have come into our full inheritance at a tender age. We proclaim ourselves, as indeed we are, the defenders of freedom, wherever it continues to exist in the world, but we cannot defend freedom abroad by deserting it at home. The actions of the junior Senator from Wisconsin have caused alarm and dismay amongst our allies abroad, and given considerable comfort to our enemies. And whose fault is that? Not really his. He didn't create this situation of fear; he merely exploited it — and rather successfully. Cassius was right. 'The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves.' Good night, and good luck."—Ed Murrow, "See It Now" CBS broadcast, 9 March 1954

One of the best films of the year has been an extraordinary one. Filmed in black and white to help recreate the image of the 1950's, George Clooney directs an attack on Republican Senator Joe McCarthy's witch hunt against communists. The film's main character is the esteemed CBS broadcast journalist, Edward R. Murrow (DAVID STRATHAIRN), who anchors the popular news documentary show, "See It Now," on CBS. Murrow, alongside producer Fred Friendly (GEORGE CLOONEY), oversees a show that reports on the

The film also portrays the dedicated crew of reporters that were working with Murrow. These included Don Hewitt (GRANT HESLOV), Joe Wershba (ROBERT DOWNEY JR.), Palmer Williams (TOM MCCARTHY), Jesse Zousmer (TATE DONOVAN), John Aaron (REED DIAMOND), Charlie Mack (ROBERT JOHN BURKE) and Eddie Scott (MATT ROSS). All these men will become broadcast legends in their own right but right now, their careers are just beginning.



The film shows an editorial meeting discussing an attack by Senator McCarthy on Milo Radulovich, who was kicked out of the Air Force Reserves for being a security risk. Milo was declared guilty without a trial—he had been asked to denounce his father and sister who were accused of being communists, but he refused. All charges against him had been kept sealed. Murrow reports this development on the show, despite opposition from the number two man at CBS, Sig Mickelson (JEFF DANIELS), who fears he may be getting the show into hot water. Murrow and Friendly are so committed to the program they even decide to pay for the advertising revenue lost from the show's sponsors that have military contacts.

A powerful figure at the time is Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin, on a singular crusade to rid the country of communists. His relentless pursuit of anyone he feels may have connections to the communist party has allowed a sense of paranoia to seep into the public consciousness. Such is the reach of his power that many people, from the armed services to the creative community, are forced to quit their jobs and go into exile based on his attacks.

"I have here in my hand a list of two hundred and five (people) that were known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist Party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping the policy of the State Department"
Senator Joseph McCarthy

Murrow suspects that McCarthy may have had something to do with Radulovich's dismissal, and questions it. This

results in Radulovich being reinstated, yet McCarthy's theatrical hearings continue, still spouting accusations at people based on hearsay.



Murrow then does a special on McCarthy, and invites him to then respond to the show. The Senator agrees but his rebuttal will be pre-filmed and he will need time to prepare. Eventually it airs, and predictably, he continues to accuse Murrow of communist ties without addressing any of the accusations leveled against him. Evidently, if he were to take issue with the factual content of the show itself, he would undermine his own words. Murrow details this in the following week's broadcast and clears his character, once again denying any involvement with the communist party, feeling that his search for the truth, even if it means the attention of McCarthy, is worth it. Again, the Senator gets a critical drubbing from the press and sees favorable opinion polls waver.

The public start supporting Murrow and it results in the Senate taking steps to censure the senator and remove him as chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

For Murrow, his pioneering show and its news department was what defined CBS.


The film is supporting [Participate.net](http://www.participate.net) (www.participate.net) which is a growing community of film lovers and activists who are dedicated to engaging their minds, sharing their passions, and improving the world around them. Like Murrow and the dedicated journalists of *Good Night, And Good Luck*, you can take action to help restore faith in the media's fundamental mission. **Report it Now** (www.participate.net/reportitnow) and become a guardian of the public interest.

A vigilant press and an informed public are essential to a healthy democracy. Great journalism is an extremely potent form of patriotism and the media has the responsibility to protect the public good by holding accountable the most powerful among us. Join the Report it Now campaign to discuss the importance of our First Amendment and free

speech rights and to report on stories in your own community.


The actors from *Good Night, and Good Luck* have gone as far as selling on eBay (<http://cgi3.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewUserPage&userid=premiereprops13>) the props from *Good Night, and Good Luck* through this charity auction. If you can put a bid in, by doing so, you are supporting nonprofit organizations who are working to support free speech and a robust media around the world.

GPA STAKEHOLDER FORUM



GPA Outreach is a monthly newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date on the planning and preparatory events of the Second Intergovernmental Review of the *Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities* (GPA). IGR-2 will take place in Beijing from 16 – 20 October 2006. **GPA Outreach**, produced by Stakeholder Forum and UNEP/GPA, will provide you with the latest information on:

- the developments of IGR-2;
- specific GPA-related issues such as financing of the GPA, national implementation of the GPA, wastewater and much more;
- a sneak preview of upcoming IGR-2 preparatory events planned by the Stakeholder Forum where you can provide your input;
- a summary of the latest conferences and events related to the GPA.



If you are interested in receiving **GPA Outreach**, please email: jpeer@stakeholderforum.org. We encourage you to pass on information about **GPA Outreach** to colleagues and friends who may be interested in the GPA.

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DIARY

7-8th April	International Workshop on Climate Change and Sustainable Development . Venue: New Delhi, India. Organized by: DESA, in cooperation with TERI. http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/climate_change/climateChange_inter.htm
1-12th May	Commission on Sustainable Development Fourteenth Session Venue: New York. Organized by: UN DESA. http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/review.htm
4-5 May	Workshop on National Sustainable Development Strategies in Pacific Island States Venue: New York. Organized by: UNDESA http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/nsds/workshop/pacificislands.htm
10-12nd May	Carbon Expo 2006 . Venue: Cologne, Germany. Organized by: International Emissions Trading Association, World Bank. http://www.carbonexpo.com/wEnglisch/carbonexpo2/presse/virtuelles_pressezentrum/pressemeldungen/39_final_report.shtml

NETWORK 2015

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