

# NETWORK 2005

2005: MULTI-LATERAL COLLISION COURSE

FEB 2004

## Defining moments for multilateralism

Over the past few years institutions of multilateralism have taken a pounding on many fronts. Many of the organizations date back to the end of the Second World War, the need for reform of these to cope with a world that no longer is bipolar would seem obvious. Has the United Nations, the worlds preeminent multilateral institution, has been dis-empowered to such an extent that it is unable to adequately deliver the commitments placed on it?

To resolve some of the current global problems governments have committed to a number of conflicting and competing agendas on trade, finance, development and peace and security, all of which are on collision course for 2005.

In agreeing to a high-level Summit in 2005 to facilitate a five year review of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the UN General Assembly is expected to put the final bit of the equation into place, making 2005 a critical year for the international multilateral system.

### Legacy of the 1990's

Through out the 1990s the UN facilitated a number of UN Conferences and Summits. These started with the Rio Earth Summit and was followed by the Copenhagen Social Summit, Cairo Population Conference, Beijing Women's Conference, Istanbul Human Settlements Conference, Rome Food Summit and finished with the Millennium Development Summit in 2000. These Summits each succeeded in bringing together ambitious Head of State Declarations and delivering impressive Plans of Action.

However, a critical problem arose in the implementation of these action plans. Governments consistently failed to provide adequate resources to enable the full and effective delivery of the agreements they had committed to. In real terms international development aid actually fell between 1991 and 2002.

In answer to their continued failure to deliver, donor governments have turned to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and trade as a way of potentially releasing more funds for developing countries. However over 70% of FDI has been focused in only ten developing countries. The

liberalization of the trade agenda, at least until the 4th WTO Ministerial in Doha, was weighted heavily in favor of developed countries' agendas.

### Stakeholder Democracy

The '90s also saw the rise of globalization, the reduction of the role of the State, and the growth of other stakeholders. As the '90s progressed these stakeholders demanded greater involvement at international government negotiations and, by 2004 many UN bodies were adopting a model to bring stakeholders into their discussions. This critical stage in the transition must be about defining the norms and standards of a stakeholder democracy.

### Trade

The collapse of the 5<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial in Cancun last September was a real wake up call for the international community. By December, things seemed back on track with the EU recommitting to WTO and the US accepting WTO ascendancy.

The Doha Development Round is scheduled for completion in 2005. However, with negotiations only just recommencing following the de-railing of the process last September in Cancun, it seems likely that this deadline will be missed.

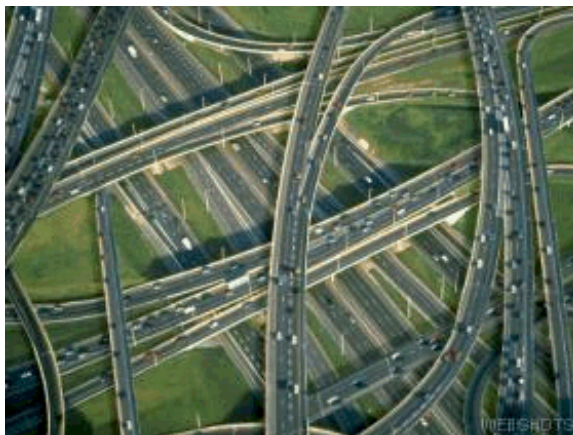
### Peace and Security

In November, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan appointed a High-Level Panel on Global Security Threats and Reform of the International System. The Panel is to report to the General Assembly in 2005. It will produce a comprehensive review of the international system and recommend how it should be reformed in order to tackle the challenges of this century.

There is deep divergence not only on the range of challenges facing us but also on the role that collective security mechanisms have to play in resolving them. The Panel will enable a creative dialogue to start to address a new way forward on these critical areas.

### Development Summit

The Millennium Summit in 2000 agreed a range of necessary targets for the world to achieve, mostly in 2015. The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) comprise 18 targets and 48 indicators. The targets presented are quantified, specific and time-bound. Although many might argue that these agreements did not go far enough, they do give a clear direction for the governments to focus on. Since the Summit, the UN system has slowly been reorganizing itself around



The road to 2005



these targets. To help prepare for the implementation of the MDGs the UN created the Millennium Project, directed by Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs of Columbia University. The Project's research will focus on identifying the operational priorities, organizational means of implementation, and financing structures necessary to achieve the MDGs and will be reporting to the Secretary General on progress.

Governments have started to recognize the need to reorganize their machinery to deliver the MDGs. One of the missing links between the targets and their delivery is perhaps that of parliamentary oversight. Of course the MDGs are only soft law commitments, governments are therefore only morally obligated to deliver them. Parliaments could play a critical role in keeping donor governments focused, it is therefore critical that they become fully engaged in the MDG implementation programme.

The decision of the UN General Assembly to hold a Special Session in 2005 to look at the progress on the MDGs as well as the follow-up to the UN Conferences and Summits of the 90's would be a time to have national mechanisms such as these in place.

### **Institutional and Financial Reform**

What kind of international architecture does the twenty-first century need and what can it achieve? What role should the nation state play? How should stakeholders be integrated into global institutional policy discussions?

During 2005 we will see the appointment of a new World Bank President. This will result in a change of direction of the Bank. It may see it reduce its global reach, concentrating more on Africa.

Also during 2005, the UN will look at how it addresses and manages environmental issues. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), has been poorly funded.. However, even in this position it has overseen the creation of a considerable amount of international environmental regulation and standard setting. These successes have led to calls to strengthen the environmental pillar of the UN. The idea of a World Environment Organisation was brought to the 1997 Special Session of the General Session of the General Assembly to review the Rio Summit. However, the proposal did not receive significant airtime. In July 2003, the French Government released a proposal to reform UNEP into a United Nations Environment Organisation. This proposal is receiving more attention by the international community. The UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Korea 2004 will see discussions on International Environmental Governance and therefore the reform of UNEP reinvigorated.

In 1997 there wasn't the political will to address the issue, but

perhaps now, with an increasing number of stakeholder and governments turning their attention to the power imbalance between environmental and economic governance, discussion on the creation of an UNEO will stand a better chance of being properly addressed. Some people see an architecture, which would have the WTO, ILO and a new UNEO arbitrating over issues of dispute in the trade agenda.

In an era of globalization, when the ability of all but one national state to influence global concerns is small. It could also provide a bridgehead to a restructured UN with real power, based upon a set up values that would protect the weak and make the world a safer place.

*Felix Dodds, Stakeholder Forum*

## **Editorial**

Cast your mind back to Rio, 1992, and try to remember how progressive the concept of sustainable development seemed. Five years on, government's were forced to hold up their hands and admit that they had failed to grapple successfully with the complexities of linking Economic, Social & Environmental development. After 10 years, while some progress had been made - certainly in the terms of information and understanding - in the grand scheme of things, not a great deal had happened on the ground.

To be fair, the world had changed much over that decade, causing the goalposts to shifted relative to their 1992 position: the emergence of the phenomenon of globalisation; the end of the cold war; the tiger economies of the Far East as well as those in transition in Europe; the crippling HIV/AIDS health pandemic; and more recently global terror threats to name but a few.

The world did not stand by idle. The WTO has come to the fore, defense mechanisms have realigned themselves and have in some notable incidents been put into practice, Heads of State committed themselves to a new brace of promises at the Millennium Summit - the Millennium Development Goals.

And so what of these competing agenda's? As our lead article indicates, each has a prominent process dedicated to it. Each will be delivering a set of outcomes of one sort or another. Is it coincidence that all are aligned to 2005? Perhaps. Regardless, in 18 months time the global community will be considering an agenda far more advanced and complex than that faced in 1992. This is both a reflection of the world in which we live, as well as of the more sophisticated understanding we have of it. Your editor would argue that this is in no small part due to the work that took place over the last 12 years partly as a result of Rio.

The context of this agenda is scenery for historians. The opportunity it presents, however, is invaluable. Why? The international community can take an early look at the horizon and focus minds across departments, agencies and stakeholders at the same point. The outcome of such a joined-up approach could be the adoption of strategies that take into consideration the complex inter-linkages that exist between trade, sustainable development, and peace & security

The overarching point is that made in our lead article, the opportunity to set a course based on a collective multi-lateral approach. That these issues can most effectively be addressed by working in partnership.

*T. Middleton, Editor*

## **Network 2015**

### ***Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development***

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#### **Published by**

Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future

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# SUSTAINABLE NEWS

## International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development

There is growing interest in the contribution that voluntary, multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives can make to implementing sustainable development. Such initiatives were part of the action-orientated outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

From 4-6 March, Rome will play host to the International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development, organised by the Italian Ministry for the Environment. Taking place shortly before the 12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will include a Partnerships Fair as part of its review of implementation of the WSSD, the Rome Forum offers a timely opportunity to consider the contribution that partnerships can make to sustainable development.

More specifically, the purpose of the Forum is to enhance the contribution of partnerships towards:

- The implementation of sustainable development goals and objectives, particularly those related to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and other agreements related to sustainable development, and;
- The development of models of technology transfer and use of innovative financial mechanisms.

The Forum will be composed of both political and technical aspects. It will provide an important opportunity to identify, during a series of panels and inter-active discussion sessions, the essential elements of partnerships for sustainable development and the lessons learned from experience to date.

To facilitate contact between partners, meeting rooms will be available for informal discussions on the final day of the meeting. In addition, an exhibition space will be available for display of posters, videos and other informational materials relating to partnerships.

Attendance at the forum is open to all stakeholders involved or interested in partnership initiatives. The outcome of the Forum will be presented during the 12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

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## Delhi Sustainable Development Summit

This years Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, taking place from 4-7 February, takes up the dual challenge of WEHAB and partnerships.

Water, energy, health, agriculture, and biodiversity - these are the areas 'in which progress is possible with the resources and technologies at our disposal,' said Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at Johannesburg, proposing special attention on these five key thematic areas forming the WEHAB framework. Ten days of intensive deliberations at the WSSD resulted in a significant outcome: partnerships for sustainable development involving governments, corporates, funding agencies, scientific and technology concerns, and civil

society groups, aimed at implementing agendas built around the WEHAB themes. While an encouraging number of partnerships have come up and a considerable amount of funding has already been committed, many more are needed to meet the Millennium Development Goals of poverty reduction vis-à-vis protecting the earth's environment for a sustainable future.

This requires unprecedented efforts on the part of all stakeholders; the role of science and technology becomes paramount. Besides, governments have to agree on many propositions, corporates have to show greater resolve, and civil society groups have to be more proactive. While DSDS 2003 dealt with the larger development priorities set at Johannesburg, DSDS 2004 (4-7 February 2004) - titled *Partnerships for Sustainable Development: addressing the WEHAB agenda* - will essentially focus on, analyse, and assess innovative partnerships in the post-WSSD scenario.

As every year, the 2004 edition of DSDS will feature contributions by enlightened leaders and thinkers of the world, representing a wide range of constituencies: government, business and industry, NGOs, scientific community, media, bilateral and multilateral community, and diplomatic corps. The speakers will be joined by over 400 delegates, adding value to the discussions and the final outcome of the summit.

Contact: [www.teriin.org/dsds/2004/index.htm](http://www.teriin.org/dsds/2004/index.htm)

## Global Forum on Sustainable Energy

The 4th Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE) will take place from 18-20 February in Vienna, Austria. This years meeting will be devoted to 'Energy for Sustainable Development: Reconsidering the Role of Incentive Measures'. Particular emphasis will be placed on renewable energy issues in order to provide input into the International Conference on Renewable Energy 2004, taking place in Bonn in June.

The GFSE, launched in 1999 by Austria's Foreign Minister, was established to:

- Promote awareness on the role of energy for sustainable development;
- Seeks to facilitate decision-making on policy issues in the appropriate fora;
- Foster public-private partnerships;
- Promotes concrete cooperation endeavours in the energy sector.

Furthermore, GFSE will again provide a meeting platform for various energy partnerships announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and monitor their progress. Preceding the GFSE, on 17th February, will be a meeting dedicated to Energy Initiatives established within the framework of WSSD 'Type II' partnerships. The meeting will:

- Provide an update of ongoing initiatives;
- Exchange information of experiences;
- Explore potential collaboration between initiatives.

Contact: [www.gfse.at](http://www.gfse.at)

# BIODIVERSITY

## 7th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity

February 2004 sees the gathering of delegates to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP7, 9<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February) at the Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Just ahead of this meeting and also meeting in KL is the IUCN/GEC-organised Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF) which will meet 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February and the NGO Forum on the CBD COP7 organised by the Malaysian Environmental NGOs (MENGO), Third World Network and Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCI).

Among the plethora of meeting feedback, COP7 will expect to receive a report from the COP6 President on the outcomes of the WSSD in Johannesburg where, amongst other biodiversity-related decisions, the commitment to significantly reduce biodiversity loss by 2010 was made. This may be a timely reminder in the face of recently published research in the journal *Nature* which predicts a one million species extinction by 2050 through climate change, but this barely features on the COP7 agenda.

Substantive agenda items and recommendations to the CBD come from the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) which met 10-18 March 2003 in Montreal. They include three priority issues:

**Mountain ecosystems** – examining the programme of work that is needed to significantly reduce mountain biodiversity loss by 2010 in mountain regions where there is a high concentration of biological diversity hotspots, cultural diversity, opportunities for

the engagement of indigenous and local people in conservation and management, ecosystem fragility with vulnerability to land-use and climate change and subsequent impacts on food, water and soil resources.

**Protected areas** – a major area for discussion involving a huge proposed programme of work to expand, strengthen, integrate, manage and finance a global network of ecologically representative protected areas which reduce biodiversity loss and contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

**Transfer of technology and technology cooperation** – a proposed programme of work involving improvement in technology assessments, information systems, creating enabling environments, capacity building and enhancement

Also to be covered are:

**The Ecosystem Approach** (refinement and elaboration of this pivotal concept which underpins much of the work of the CBD, including the fourteen Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity), Global Taxonomy Initiative, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, Agrobiodiversity, Inland Waters ecosystems, forest, marine and coastal biodiversity, tourism, alien species that threaten ecosystems, access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources and much more.

Adequate international funding for these programmes is seen by many as a key factor in their future success and the conference will need to rigorously and urgently address the matter of additional financial resource requirements and review the effectiveness of, and provide guidance to, the existing financial mechanisms.

Details can be found on [www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org), Chris Mahon

# CSD 12 PREPARATIONS

## Comparative Analysis of the Regional Implementation Forums

The 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) invited UN Economic Commissions to coordinate and contribute to the work programme of the CSD at the regional level. To this effect a series of Regional Implementation Forum took place within each of the UN Regions between October 2003 and January 2004. The purpose of these meetings was to identify challenges, constraints and obstacles as well as achievements, recommendations and lessons learned in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. During the period 2003/2005 specific attention is being paid to; Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements.

The regionalisation of the CSD processes is essential in supporting a bottom-up approach. The effective review of implementation of sustainable development agreements can only occur if monitoring and evaluation takes place at the functional level - most usually the national and sub-nation. It is anticipated that the regional process will enable solutions to be developed which serve specific regional challenges, as well as encouraging

the sharing of experiences and lessons learned between regions. Experience of the first round of Regional Implementation Forums so far suggests that this task has at least in part been achieved. However, some key challenges have arisen.

There are clear disparities in the function and form of each of the Regional Implementation Forums. This has resulted in specific issues receiving greater attention within each region. Whilst this is to be expected due to different regional priorities and experience, this needs to be better aligned with the work programme of the CSD to ensure that all issues are dealt with in a balanced manner.

The level of interaction between governments and between government and stakeholders within the Forums has generally been low. More innovative methods of dialogue need to be developed and enacted within the forums. More lively discussion leading to a better exchange of experiences, such as those witnessed at the World Summit during Jan Pronks facilitated session, would be a welcome substitute for pre-prepared governmental statements.

The most notable inconsistency in the Regional Implementation Forums is in the structure of the Chairs Summary. As a result, the outcomes are largely incomparable. The reporting process would benefit from a set of guidelines or the development of a

framework to enable all regions to report in a similar fashion. This would both assist the Secretary General in his task of pulling the reports together, and in illustrating common issues for address in the review year.

It is essential that the Regional Process it is structured and used effectively. Critically we need to learn from our experience this

time around to determine a process which achieves the objectives of the review process, and delivers results to which action based solutions can be developed. This should be an iterative process, which leads to the strengthening of the process year on year.

*Georgina Ayre – Head of Policy and Research*

# WORLD FORA

## World Economic Forum

Corporate, government and civil society leaders need to establish a more effective framework in order to interpret and manage the risks – and the perceptions of risk – as part of their partnership for prosperity and security for the future. This was one of the conclusions made by the co-chairs of Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos following 250 working sessions over 5 days.

“Are we really seeing the risks that lie ahead?” asked James Schiro, CEO, Zurich Financial Services, as he outlined the principal points that over 2,100 participants from 94 countries, including more than 30 heads of state or government, had focused on at the Meeting. These included determining the new risks, how perception of risks has changed, and the new technological tools for anticipating these risks and challenges.

“The way we manage risks is the key to prosperity,” Schiro said. However, he added that society also needs to determine the “right measures and development to anticipate these risks.”

Philippe Bourguignon, Co-CEO, World Economic Forum, challenged participants to consider the different action points proposed “to move beyond” in the year ahead. Should corporations focus more on the short term or the long term, or both, he asked. How do we develop more corporate responsibility at a time when businesses are becoming more global? Most critically, how do we reconcile the varying speed of clocks between the public and the private sectors? To this end, Bourguignon recalled what former US President Bill Clinton had told the Davos gathering on the opening day of the meeting, namely that “although we know what needs to be done, we need to adopt a systemic approach to achieve it.”

Referring to the need for business, government and civil society leaders to coordinate their activities for dealing with problems more effectively, John T. Chambers, President and CEO, Cisco Systems, and a Co-Chair of the Annual Meeting, said that people tend to want to solve these problems one variable at a time. “It doesn’t work that way,” he said. “We should stay in the area we understand best.” He also stressed the need to get the best value out of what one does by moving at the same pace. We need to work at them all together.”

Co-CEO of the World Economic Forum, José Maria Figueres said that “the meeting has shown that leaders from all sectors of society, not just business and politics, but religion and civil society too needed to work together to achieve partnership and prosperity; one cannot be achieved without the other. The participation of leaders as diverse as the Presidents of Iran, Pakistan and Poland, along with Vice President Cheney, and the Prime Minister of Turkey along with more than 1,000 representatives of business, has shown that leaders want to build bridges and work together in partnership. Whether it be transatlantic relations, corporate social responsibility or dealing

with weapons of mass destruction, the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting has again illustrated the desire for partnership in this increasingly complex and interrelated world, “ he added.

In a certain way, it is good that people do not trust leadership decisions right away, added Carlos Ghosn, President, Nissan Motor Company, and Co-Chair of the Annual Meeting. “You have done nothing yet. It is quite simple. You have to have transparency and results. The point is that one needs to deliver.”

Marilyn C. Nelson, Chair and CEO, Carlson Companies, and Co-Chair of the Annual Meeting, agreed that dealing with new risks is a key issue. One problem is the lack of one of the major stakeholders at the table, notably women. “I see this as a risk,” she said, particularly at a time when the world is becoming more “one to one”. An estimated 80% of consumers are women, she maintained. The usage of the Internet by women has also surpassed that of men, she added. When dealing with a world consisting of both the short and long term, she stressed, “we do need a new framework.”

Walter B. Kielholz, Chairman of the Board, Credit-Suisse Group, and Co-Chair of the Annual Meeting, further noted that one should not seek to use regulation as a means of providing an “all insurance” for confronting risk. “It is wrong to assume that there is no risk that cannot be handled.”

Contact: [www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org)

## World Social Forum

The World Social Forum in Mumbai was democracy in action in search of a fairer, people-centred world, says one of its Indian organisers. But to advance its global ambitions, must it look beyond Brazil as the site of future forums?

The 4th World Social Forum, and the first held outside Brazil, concluded in Mumbai on 21 January after 6 days of intensive discussion. What did this event really mean? Why did more than 100,000 people, from over 130 countries participate?

They came, most evidently, to protest against the failure of neo-liberal globalisation to provide equitable and sustainable development, and to debate alternatives. The forum – in the 1,200 public meetings, seminars and workshops – had, as its overarching themes, including: patriarchy, racism, caste-ism, religious sectarianism, and militarism.

These discussions voiced a rich variety of views from the environmental, women’s, tribal, indigenous peoples’, workers’, peasants’ and other movements. Such a plurality is built into the forum and its charter, in the form of the concept of an ‘open space’ that encourages contending opinions to debate and exchange experiences. This space includes those who want a reformed liberal model to replace the neo-liberal ‘Washington consensus’ that dominates the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the OECD; and more radical critics who seek anti-capitalist alternatives

# SIDS UPDATE

## SIDS+10 Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting

The Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting for the Ten-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) took place in Nassau, Bahamas from 26-30 January 2004. During the week, delegates engaged in a general debate, six panel discussions, and considered and adopted the Nassau Declaration and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Strategy Paper for the Further Implementation of the BPoA.

Anwarul Chowdhury, Secretary-General of the International Meeting, urged delegates to be realistic and practical to enable international support and implementation, while the need to build on the outcomes of regional meetings, and aligning the activities of relevant UN agencies with that of BPoA was highlighted. During the meeting, SIDS reaffirmed their commitment to pursue sustainable development within the framework of the BPoA as well as reaffirming their commitments to the Agenda 21, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the JPoI, whilst recognising that the Mauritius review meeting must give new momentum to the implementation of the programme taking into account the emerging issues of HIV/AIDS, use of information technology, market access and security.

Panel discussions were held throughout the week on:

- New challenges and emerging issues;
- Implementing National Strategies for Sustainable Development;
- Enhancing competitiveness;
- Cultural diversity, developing cultural industries and empowering youth;
- Towards knowledge-based societies; and
- Building resilience.

The outcomes and priorities of each panel discussion were highlighted during a wrap-up session. Although some observers found that the panel discussions focused too much on presentations and too little on interactive discussions, diminishing the engagement of ministers, others noted that the panels provided a sound basis for discussions in the lead-up to the International Meeting.

During the 14 paragraph Nassau Declaration, SIDS reaffirmed the continued validity of the BPoA as the fundamental framework for the sustainable development of SIDS. The Declaration expresses SIDS' concern regarding their weakening economic performance and their inability to effectively participate in multilateral trade negotiations. SIDS further recognise the importance of establishing an AOSIS structure to strengthen the profile of SIDS in global affairs.

The introduction states that the BPOA provides the blueprint for addressing sustainable development in SIDS. Specific issues were discussed, each with a series of recommendations reflecting the agreements reached during the meeting. The issues included: climate change and sea-level rise; natural and environmental disasters; management of wastes; coastal and marine resources; freshwater resources; land resources; energy resources; tourism resources; biodiversity resources; transport and communications;

science and technology; graduation of SIDS Less Developed Countries (LDCs); trade: globalisation and trade liberalisation; sustainable capacity development and education for sustainable development; sustainable consumption and production; national enabling environments; health; knowledge management and information for decision making; culture; implementation; access to financial resources; and monitoring and evaluation.

During the negotiations, trade and graduation of SIDS LDCs dominated the agenda. The strategy stresses that graduation from LDC status should not be contemplated unless sustainable socio-economic progress is appropriately demonstrated and that the policy and process for a smooth transition has been accepted. In terms of trade, globalisation was identified as having increased the difficulties faced by SIDS. SIDS will be further marginalized due to their smallness, persistent structural disadvantages and vulnerabilities unless specific provisions are made for SIDS in the multilateral trading system. Actions required to address this included: simplification and acceleration of SIDS accession procedures to the WTO; adoption of an integrated framework of technical assistance and cooperation for trade development in SIDS and recognition by the WTO of non-reciprocal preferences for SIDS. In addition, SIDS called for greater attention to the environmental dimension of trade.

The unique and special case of SIDS has been a prominent feature of the international sustainable development agenda for over 10 years. The Bahamas meeting was an important occasion for exchanging information, strengthening ties, and building consensus among SIDS. The Nassau Declaration and the AOSIS Strategy Paper will provide the basis for negotiations in New York and Mauritius.

Issues likely to dominate the New York meeting will be those regarding institutional mechanisms at the global level, including follow-up within the UN system. In this regard, CSD12 chair Borge Brende's opening statement highlighted the important role of the CSD as a platform for SIDS and the international community to address the special circumstances of sustainable development in SIDS. Delegates were unanimous in the view that the Mauritius meeting presents a historic opportunity for SIDS. Within this context, the Bahamas meeting succeeded in consolidating the view that Mauritius must produce a set of focused and action-orientated outcomes that address new and emerging challenges, and that the results should be based on a clear set of priorities that can and will be implemented.

While the AOSIS Strategy focuses clearly on what can be implemented and is not just a well-intentioned paper, the consultations to be held in New York are likely to see a difficult exchange of views that will test the unity of SIDS and the resolve and leadership of AOSIS to determine the next steps in the challenging path towards sustainable development at the national and regional levels, and the advancement of the special case of small island developing states within the international community.

For full conference reporting visit

[www.iisd.ca/sids/bpoa10/bahamasprep/](http://www.iisd.ca/sids/bpoa10/bahamasprep/)

For more information on SIDS visit: [www.sidsnet.org](http://www.sidsnet.org)

*Karen Dickinson, Stakeholder Forum*

# PROJECTS UPDATE

## North-South Platform

Africans affected by the oil industry are looking to Shetland and Alaska for ways to cut pollution and gain a fairer share of oil revenues.

Visitors from Angola, Nigeria and Alaska yesterday [WED] ended a two-day meeting in Shetland with a draft agreement for a community exchange programme and academic research into how the companies treat local people living next to oil and gas fields. The delegates were the guests of Shetland Islands Council and Shetland College.

The new 'North-South Platform' grew out of the Johannesburg world summit in 2002. Speaking in Lerwick after visiting BP's Sullom Voe oil terminal and the island of Unst, Peter Ritchie from the UN Stakeholder Forum in London outlined plans for the new venture, which has already won substantial funding from the American development programme, USAID:

'We'll be studying the oil industry's best practice, such as BP's environmental record here in Shetland, and making this information available to local communities in places like the Niger Delta and coastal Angola, where oil companies can operate to different standards,' Mr Ritchie said. 'We'll also look at how revenues from oil and gas are shared with local governments and citizens' groups in the north and in the south.'

From Nigeria, the Rev. David Ugolor, President of the African Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, said the people of the Niger Delta deserved the benefit of their oil revenues, to end 'widespread poverty in the midst of huge oil wealth'.

Allan Cain, director of the Development Workshop in Angola, said the end of the devastating civil war had coincided with expanding oil and gas developments: 'The challenge is to ensure that Angolans benefit in the way that Shetlanders and Alaskans have, rather than making worse the economic exclusion and conflict that we find in many developing countries.'

Councillor Drew Ratter, Shetland's chairman of economic development, was enthusiastic about the North-South Platform and hoped the council would formally endorse it next month: 'Over our 30-odd years of dealing with the industry we've found that it doesn't have to cause pollution and you can actually use oil revenues to do a lot of good at local level. I hope other people can learn from our experience, and of course from our mistakes.'

John Devens, director of the citizens' advisory council in Valdez, Alaska, thanked the Shetland council and college for their welcome and said Alaskans also wanted to share what they'd learned: 'I hope other oil-affected areas will want to join our project.'

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## Strategies for Partnerships

The Royal Institute of International Affairs and Stakeholder Forum are launching a joint project on partnerships. Titled 'Strategies for Partnerships, the project will develop an analysis of the strategic challenges faced by governmental,

intergovernmental, business, civil society and non-government organisations committed to promoting the development of partnerships for sustainable development.

The project will draw on case-studies of existing partnerships and partnership management strategies, and the expertise of a wide range of stakeholders currently involved in partnership development to:

- Explore the key challenges facing organisations in developing strategies for promoting partnerships for sustainable development;
- Discuss examples of best practice relating to these challenges;
- Develop pragmatic recommendations applicable to a wide range of organisations, including governments, UN agencies, the Commission on Sustainable Development, business and non-government organisations;
- Disseminate and discuss *Strategies for Partnerships* at the 12th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, and through the RIIA and Stakeholder Forum websites and email lists;
- Discuss the outcomes of the project with key decision makers in the UN and other bi-lateral and multi-lateral development agencies.

The project will centre around a workshop in the UK on the 6th April. The workshop will explore the strategic issues that need to be addressed by organisations that are seeking to mainstream the use of the partnership approach, including the following:

- The role of partnerships in the achievement of national and sustainable development objectives;
- Interactions between partnerships and other governmental and intergovernmental activities;
- The development of management strategies for encouraging and supporting the development of partnerships, including funding incentivisation mechanisms, standardised partnership management guidelines, toolkits and training for staff engaged in partnership development;
- The use of partnerships to scale-up or coordinate existing sustainable development activities;
- Measuring partnership outcomes;
- The accountability of partnerships;
- The role of UN processes and institutions in facilitating the development of effective and creditable partnerships;
- The role of the private sector and civil society organisations in developing effective multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The workshop will seek to develop practical recommendations for addressing these challenges, which will be captured in a report - *Strategies for Partnerships* - to be launched at the UN in New York, during CSD 12. The project team will also seek to ensure that the recommendations in the report are made available to key decision makers in the UN, and other bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors.

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# CONFERENCES & EVENTS

<b>4 - 7 February</b>	Forth Delhi Sustainable Development Summit: Partnerships for Sustainable Development - The WEHAB Agenda. Delhi, India. Contact: <a href="http://www.teriin.org/dsds">www.teriin.org/dsds</a>
<b>9 - 20 February</b>	UN Convention on Biological Diversity 7th Conference of the Parties. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Contact: <a href="http://www.biodiv.org">www.biodiv.org</a>
<b>18 - 20 February</b>	Forth Global Forum on Sustainable Energy. Vienna, Austria. Contact: <a href="http://www.gfse.at">www.gfse.at</a>
<b>2 - 5 March</b>	Global Biotechnology Forum. Concepcion, Chile. Contact: <a href="http://www.gbf2004.cl/index1.html">www.gbf2004.cl/index1.html</a>
<b>4 - 6 March</b>	International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development. Rome, Italy. Contact: <a href="mailto:visconti.gloria@minambiente.it">visconti.gloria@minambiente.it</a>
<b>15 - 17 March</b>	Sustainable Development Conference. Johannesburg, South Africa. Contact: <a href="http://www.bembani.com/main/conference.html">www.bembani.com/main/conference.html</a>
<b>17 - 18 March</b>	World Resources Institute 7th Annual Sustainable Enterprise Summit. Washington DC, USA. Contact: <a href="http://www.summit.wri.org">www.summit.wri.org</a>
<b>21 - 27 March</b>	White Water to Blue Water Regional Partnership Conference. Miami, USA, Contact: <a href="http://www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw/meetings.html">www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw/meetings.html</a>
<b>25 - 26 March</b>	Meeting on Trade, Environment & Sustainable Development. Cheju, South Korea. Contact: <a href="http://www.unep.org">www.unep.org</a>
<b>29 - 31 March</b>	UNEP's Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Cheju, South Korea. Contact: <a href="http://www.unep.org">www.unep.org</a>
<b>19 - 30 April</b>	12th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. New York, USA. Contact: <a href="http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm">www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm</a>

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- **Multi-Stakeholder Processes for Governance & Sustainability** £18.95  
 Dr Minu Hemmati. Earthscan.
- **Earth Summit 2002: A New Deal – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition** £19.95  
 edited by Felix Dodds with Toby Middleton. Earthscan (September 2001)
- **Poverty in Plenty: a Human Development Report for the UK** £14.95  
 edited by Jane Seymour and Tom Bigg. Earthscan (September 2000)
- **Earth Summit II - Outcomes and Analysis** £17.55  
 Tom Bigg and Derek Osborn. Earthscan/UNED-UK (April 1998)
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