



System wide coherence – a reformed UN must observe at the minimum the following:

UN reform must be about strengthening multilateralism and improving both the quality of UN policy/norm making and its implementation so that real results can be achieved on the ground. It must seek to make a real difference for the world's poorest and most vulnerable peoples. It must be about making the UN more effective in reaching its Charter aim of being 'a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations' in the attainment of 'international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character'. Anything less would lack legitimacy and effect.

We would strongly state that sufficient time should be allotted the reform process, even if this means extending the mandate of the panel.

ANPED would like to express its general support to those views expressed by the joint Greenpeace/ WWF/ ANPED paper on UN reform as well as those expressed by both WEDO in their paper on the reform process and those views found in the paper from TWN titled "Reclaiming Development: Reasserting the Role of the UN in Finance and Economic Matters vis-à-vis the Bretton Woods Institutions."

More specifically we would like to emphasise that the following must be taken into consideration:

- development needs to be equitable and sustainable;
- protection of the earth's environment and the life-supporting services it provides will be a key, if not the key requirement for achieving development goals.

We recognise that

- the world's poor are those most directly affected by and those most vulnerable to the degradation of their environment
- providing for the environmentally and socially sound sustainable use of their natural resource base is one of the most effective ways of protecting and assisting such communities.

Any new proposal emanating from the Panel's discussion must have proposals consistent with existing international agreements on sustainable development, poverty reduction and protection of the environment that would work to:

- Integrate the environment into UN and agency decision making
- Strengthen the institutional framework for the UN system's environment activities
- Achieve greater coherence in the UN system's environment work
- Link reform of work on environmental issues with work on trade, finance and support for civil society

Short, medium and long term measures with a specific timeline must be proposed for:

- *Integrating environment into UN and agency decision making*
- *Strengthening the institutional framework for the UN system's environment activities*
- *Achieving greater coherence in the UN system's environment work*

Such measures should, inter alia, cover the following issues:

- **A clear institutional framework for a UN environment system**

Any new UN body or agency working within a reformed UN system should focus on elements such as capacity-building, assistance, consistent funding, and technical information to enable nations to fully implement all relevant existing UN treaties and agreements.

A sustainable funding mechanism is needed to provide increased, stable and predictable long-term funding to UN bodies dealing with the environment. The UN should have one streamlined programme for each country and that those programmes include experts on environment and development issues and that work on setting strong norms and policy setting with a UN body for the environment has direct links to national level operational activities.

Sustainability and equity monitoring and feedback systems for development and investment programmes should be introduced and used by UN bodies in conjunction with governments, donors and International Financial Institutions; the information from these feed-back systems must be fed into international and country governance and financial policy frameworks. The UN needs to transform its general practice of using belated and generally ineffective reactive tools to using compelling evidence of damage to anticipate and prevent problems and integrate solutions into development action. There must be monitoring of progress made in operational activities and the review of progress in the UN's norm and policy making body for the environment to examine results on the ground and provide swift, direct and effective responses to emerging challenges. Such a monitoring and review mechanism should retain decision making power in countries and create an international system that is responsive to country needs and global problems. The information generated through this independent process would be used to set international policies, incentives, standards, and benchmarks and to facilitate capacity-building efforts. It would ensure that countries and donors assess development proposals for social and ecosystem impacts, using the monitoring and review mechanism as a starting point.

- **Integrating environment into development decision making**

Sustainable development should be viewed as the central development paradigm, and, as mandated by UN GA Resolution 57/253, constitutes 'a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities'.

Alongside this should be the full and effective financing and implementation of the 'Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building'; the creation of direct and effective channels between environment-related policy setting and operational activities in order to monitor environment and development trends and to facilitate implementation of norms and policies on the ground. There must be monitoring of progress made in operational activities and the review of progress in the UN's norm and policy making body.

- **Setting Norms and Standards for work on the Environment**

One of the major functions of the UN is global standard setting. Work must be done to:

- ensure the realisation of the RIO principles, and pay especial attention to the Precautionary Principle;
- ensure gender issues are fully integrated and understood;
- create incentives for increasing cooperation around and between MEAs (Multilateral Environmental Agreements);
- develop increased coherence among UN bodies on cross-cutting environmental issues;
- develop MEAs for areas where there is no international agreement
- develop a strong norm and policy setting UN body for the environment, which can effectively coordinate the full spectrum of UN environmental work.

- **Linking to wider reforms**

The solutions needed to deliver equity and sustainability also require adjustments and reforms outside the UN. The paper suggests exploring some key issues:

- **Financial Institutions**

These institutions must explore mechanisms to integrate sustainable development criteria into core economic models, possibly through considering parallel reforms to those now being discussed within the UN system.

- **Trade**

It is critical that the WTO does not have a mandate to set rules or criteria that might restrict the use or national implementation of any trade measures agreed to in MEAs.

Governments must grant UNEP and the Secretariats of MEAs with trade-related provisions, objectives, or obligations permanent observer status in all relevant bodies of the WTO. UNCTAD must be preserved and strengthened in the process of UN reform and given a critical role in ensuring sustainability and equity in global trade.

Civil society stakeholders

- NGOs are and will always be important to the work the UN is doing on the environment and on sustainable development. Ever since the inception of UNEP, NGOs have played a significant role in researching and implementing sustainable development. In the suggested Programme of Work for UNEP for the period 2006 - 2007, there are almost 70 references to NGOs and Civil Society in the implementation of the programme.

Decision GC/SS/VII.5 adopted in 2002 – states that civil society should “provide clear direction to the secretariat to ensure that all programmes take into account opportunities for multi-stakeholder participation in design, implementation, monitoring, and dissemination.”

Wider input into the reform process should be sought from civil society including NGOs and scientists from the various regions of the world, both to ensure a wider ownership from “we, the peoples” as well as bringing the reform process in tune with the demands of the peoples living in this century. Sufficient time should be allotted the reform process, even if this means extending the mandate of the panel.

A proper, functional and permanent position for civil society, including NGOs must be found within a reformed system and make sure that special concerns within civil society is respected, such as accountability, participation and transparency as well as those concerns expressed by Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, workers etc.