

GENERATION JO'BURG

A NEW VISION FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A compilation of reports by

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Biographical sketches of the authors can be found in the annex.

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FOREWORD & INTRODUCTION

Among the many activities and projects organized and undertaken by the Heinrich Böll Foundation in preparation for the World Summit for Sustainable Development in August-September 2002 in Johannesburg, there has been a strong focus on capacity building as an attempt to enforce and ensure civil society's participation at the WSSD.

To introduce a new generation of NGO activists to international environmental and developmental policy, hbf developed a three-step program consisting of capacity building workshops for young NGO activists from various regions and a two-month internship and training program in Brussels and Washington. In addition, the program participants will travel to Johannesburg to actively participate in the WSSD. The long-term effect of the training program, moreover, will surely reach far beyond Johannesburg and the WSSD.

The capacity building/internship program organized and facilitated by hbf Brussels and hbf Washington between March and May 2002 was designed for 14 young activists from non-EU member states.

The program's overall long-term objective was to promote, support and train the next generation of NGO activists and to help them improve their skills in lobbying, networking and strategy development. Its short-term objective was to enable them to participate efficiently at the WSSD in Johannesburg in August/September 2002.

In 2001 the regional hbf offices in Nairobi, Ramallah, Rio de Janeiro and San Salvador organized capacity building workshops for young activists from their co-operation partner organizations as well as from other regional NGOs. Choosing participants for the Brussels/Washington Program from among those who had attended previous capacity building workshops yielded eight candidates for the whole program. In order to ensure a balance among regions and continents, additional young activists from various countries were selected and invited to Brussels and Washington. Eventually a group of 14 young activists was gathered. Six of them went to Washington and eight to Brussels.

The participants in Brussels were: Mohammad Rabah Aghbarieh (Israel), Yael Cohen (Israel), Amanda Gonzales Cordova (Peru), Arqam Hijawi (Palestine), Kannikar Kijtiwatchakul (Thailand), Anna Matros (Namibia), Dany Va (Cambodia) and Yonas Yohannes (Ethiopia).

In order to ensure that participants possessed comparable levels of knowledge when starting the internships and to prepare them for PrepComm III in New York and the WSSD, we organized an initial five-day capacity building workshop taught by Johannah Bernstein, who had also led the previous regional workshops. Following the workshop, which was held at our office in Brussels, the participants began seven-week internships in Brussels-based NGOs, governmental or intergovernmental institutions, and were additionally provided with continuous training consisting of lectures, roundtables and strategy/project development training.

At the capacity building workshop Johannah Bernstein explained the structure and history of UN, UNEP and the Rio Process, focusing on Agenda 21 and the two completed WSSD New York PrepComms and their outcomes. Johannah also addressed the substantive agenda for Johannesburg, an overview of key stakeholders in the

process, with emphasis on the EU, its structure and institutions and its motives and role in the Process. By the end of the workshop, the group had developed six documents that are presented in this World Summit Paper by the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

This World Summit Paper is a compilation of the group's six "Titien Documents" and a brief assessment and comment on the outcome of Prep Comm III in New York, which the group attended as well. Taken together, these seven documents provide an insight into the Southern view of the Rio Process.

- **Le Titien Declaration** (named after the street on which the Brussels office is situated: Rue Le Titien) is a declaration of principles in the spirit of the Rio Declaration;
- **The Global Deal**, a proposal for a Global Deal from a Southern perspective;
- **New UN System Governance Criteria**, consisting of proposals to reform the UN towards more democracy and transparency;
- **The Le Titien MEA Implementation Strategy**, highlighting Southern concerns for the implementation of MEAs;
- **Le Titien Poverty Position Paper for PrepComm III**, defining new priorities and critiquing the Chairman's Paper's chapters on poverty for PrepComm III as well as proposing new actions regarding poverty, governance, financial flows, sustainable agriculture, peace and security, natural resource management, sustainable energy and urban poverty;
- **Critique of EU External Dimensions Communication**, assessing and critiquing the EU's Communication on the External Dimensions of its Sustainability Strategy.

At the end of their stay in Brussels and after their experience at PrepComm III, the group decided to revise the six "Titien Documents"; this World Summit Paper contains the latest version.

On March 28 the Brussels group traveled to New York to attend the second week of PrepComm III, where they joined the Washington group that had been present since the beginning of the conference.

The third Preparatory Committee Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development was held from March 25 to April 5 in the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The agenda for this PrepComm was to discuss and negotiate the outcome of PrepCommII (January 2002), including the results of official working group deliberations and the conclusions of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue and of national and international preparatory conferences. All the major groups had been asked to submit comments and suggestions on the Johannesburg Agenda. The Chairman of the CSD, Emil Salim (Indonesia), had synthesized these as the Chairman's paper, which was to be discussed, negotiated and amended at this PrepComm.

The PrepComm started slowly and never recovered. The three main working groups were occupied primarily with reading individual paragraphs out loud and collecting comments from the delegations, which resulted after the first week in two new documents being distributed by the chairman. Comprising more than a hundred pages

filled with brackets and bolded inserts, these documents were merely compilations of all the comments received.

The second week of the PrepComm started with much frustration about these documents, which most delegates, NGO-representatives and observers considered unreadable and impossible to work with. Decisions by the G77/China and the EU to hold separate meetings again delayed deliberations. The working groups hardly managed to read the Chairman's paper, not to mention achieve any progress. Some chapters remained untouched.

The third PrepComm eventually ended without reaching its goal, and in the closing plenary session the participants decided to postpone further negotiations to Bali and to convene there three days earlier than planned, on May 24 instead of May 27.

Naturally, the participants of the capacity building program were rather frustrated. They had arrived in NY in ambitious spirits and made a great effort in lobbying only to find themselves in the middle of a very slow and at times paralyzed PrepComm that yielded no real outcome or conclusion.

Following the "Titien Documents" there is a brief assessment of the outcome of PrepComm III as the group saw it. The participants decided to forgo a comprehensive report on PrepComm III, as the agenda, expectations and process of PrepCommIII have been thoroughly documented and described in various media. To avoid duplicating that documentation, they focused instead on crucial outcomes and tendencies of issues central to the forthcoming WSSD.

The report

- **"WSSD Off Track? A Summary of Outcomes of PrepComm III from a Southern NGO Perspective"** is the seventh and final document of this World Summit Paper.

The participants in the capacity building program will continue their work towards the WSSD during the forthcoming weeks. Some of them will attend PrepComm IV, and all of them will go to Johannesburg.

The aim of this paper is to give an impression of their perspective on the Rio Process and to provide an insight into the potential of a group that will hopefully continue to work in close co-operation to have some impact on the future.

Brussels and Berlin, May 2002

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1. LE TITIEN DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Le Titien, Belgium
March 11 – 15, 2002**

The Le Titien Conference on Sustainable Development,

Having met on Le Titien from 11 to 15 March, 2002,

Reaffirming the Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and seeking to build on both these instruments,

With the goal of establishing a new and equitable partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among States, key actors and civil society,

Working towards international agreements that respect the interests of all and protect the integrity of the global environmental and development system,

Proclaims that:

Principle 1

All Governments shall ensure the empowerment of local communities, in particular, women, youth and children, and the full recognition of community rights in all aspects of decision-making and benefit-sharing at all levels of governance.

Principle 2

Northern Governments shall ensure the complete elimination of all Developing Country financial debt and shall guarantee the full compensation of all ecological debt caused by Northern Governments.

Principle 3

Northern Governments and other key economic actors, such as TNCs, shall ensure the eradication of poverty and the reform of those economic and political institutions, systems and processes which create poverty in the first place.

Principle 4

All Governments and other actors shall work to promote human health, especially the fight against HIV/AIDS, as an indispensable component of sustainable development and poverty eradication and all Governments shall ensure universal access to medication as a basic human right.

Principle 5

All Governments, international financial institutions, and other key economic actors shall cooperate to ensure that all aspects of economic globalization are directed towards and supportive of sustainable development and equity at all levels.

Principle 6

All Governments shall recognize, and take all measures necessary to prevent, new threats to human, territorial, ecological, economic and political security.

Principle 7

All Governments shall cooperate to reform the international legal system in a manner that is respectful of cultural and economic differences, in order to ensure improved implementation, enforcement and compliance with international law and policy.

Principle 8

All governments shall take the measures necessary to reverse global ecological decline, and to prevent further environmental deterioration.

Principle 9

All governments shall ensure that decision-making processes are open, transparent, participatory, equitable, just, decentralized and uncorrupt.

Principle 10

All governments and non-state actors have a responsibility to raise public awareness regarding the importance of the global transition to sustainable development.

2. THE GLOBAL DEAL

Trade Justice

The North shall:

- Compensate fully for ecological debt caused by it.
- Reform the WTO to ensure: fairer rules; more transparency; enhanced participation of Southern countries; protection of sustainable development from the impacts of trade liberalization.
- End the use by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) of conditionalities that force poor countries to open markets indiscriminately, regardless of the impacts on poor people and the environment.
- Open their markets to the products of Southern Governments.

The South shall:

- Enhance environmental and development standards in all aspects of the development and production of goods and services.
- Ban the import of unsustainably produced goods.
- Discourage the import of foreign goods where there are sufficient domestic supplies to meet local demand.
- Form a Southern trade organization to provide a counter-balance to the WTO.

Global Governance

The North shall:

- Level the global governance “playing field”.
- Provide necessary resources to the South to support their transition to democracy and to enable them to participate more effectively in global governance processes.
- Reform global governance systems to ensure decision-making processes that are accountable, transparent, participatory, just, equitable, democratic and enforceable.
- Comply with future agreements comprising legally binding, time-bound, concrete and enforceable sustainable development commitments.

The South shall:

- Support the development, empowerment and participation of civil society in all levels of decision-making.

- Reform global governance systems to ensure decision-making processes that are accountable, transparent, participatory, just, equitable, democratic and enforceable.
- Ensure their transition to democracy for participation in global governance systems.

Corporate Responsibility and Accountability

The North shall:

- Agree to the negotiation of a legally binding convention on corporate responsibility, accountability and liability.
- Empower civil society with the resources necessary to counter the excessive influence of the corporate sector in decision-making.

The South shall:

- Regulate the activities of TNCs in their own jurisdictions to ensure that their activities conform to their own national sustainable development goals and priorities.
- Take all necessary measures to protect local communities from the negative impacts and consequences of TNC activities.

Poverty

The North shall:

- Honor ODA commitments and ensure that ODA reaches its intended beneficiaries.
- Ensure that sustainable development cooperation is oriented to the poverty priorities that are set by the recipient countries.
- Cancel all financial debt and compensate for ecological debt fully.
- Support the implementation of all relevant international sustainable development agreements.

The South shall:

- Devote an appropriate portion of their national budgets to ensure the transition to sustainable development.
- Ensure that ODA flows reach their intended beneficiaries and support sustainable development goals.
- Ensure the transition to good governance, peace and conflict resolution as essential components of poverty eradication.

Unsustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

The North shall:

- Eliminate the economic factors that underlie and perpetuate unsustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Address the role that mass media play in contributing to unsustainable consumption and production.
- Create new fiscal incentives and implement full cost accounting mechanisms to eliminate unsustainable consumption and production.
- Transfer environmentally friendly technologies to the South on a non-commercial basis.

The South shall:

- Avoid replicating the consumption and production patterns of the North in the Southern transition to industrialization.
- Discourage the import of goods and services that are not developed in accordance with sustainable development principles.
- Integrate eco-efficiency principles into all aspects of production and consumption.

3. NEW UN SYSTEM GOVERNANCE CRITERIA

General Assembly	International Court of Justice	Security Council
Directly Elected Representatives	Improved Access for Citizens and Developing Countries	Expanded Mandate to Deal with New Forms of Threats to Security
Decision-Making by Majority Voting	Specialized Chambers	Elimination of Permanent Members and Veto
New Mechanisms to Ensure Accountability Such as “Parliamentary Question Time”	New Categories of Environment and Development “Crime”	Equitable Civil Society Participation in all Aspects of Security Council Decision-Making
Right to Know Legislation That Governs GA	Power to Mediate, Conciliate and Arbitrate	Individual Right of Complaint
Citizens’ Right to Monitor GA Proceedings	Corporate Liability Principles	Permanent UN Standing Force
Citizens’ Right to Intervene in GA Proceedings	Judges to be Appointed by General Assembly	
Legally Binding Decisions	Special Prosecutor for Sustainable Development	
System to Ensure Checks and Balances	Special Auditor-General for MEA Implementation	
Establishment of International Network of Civil Society to Facilitate Civil Society Participation in all UN Organs		

4. THE LE TITIEN MEA IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- Empower local communities to participate in the design and development of implementation strategies, and ensure the translation of MEAs into all local languages to support local-level implementation.
- Develop new mechanisms to understand the links between conflict and environmental security and to prevent and respond to conflict, and to address the impact of conflict on MEA implementation challenges.
- Support the development of ecological deterioration trends monitoring and enhance the capacity of all countries to adjust national environmental laws and regulations in accordance with new environmental trends.
- Reform the WTO and all key economic actors to be subservient to MEAs and sustainable development aims.
- Develop new tools to enable developing countries to assess whether MEAs are consistent with their own national and local sustainable development priorities, as a pre-condition for requiring developing countries to ratify MEAs.
- Enhance law-making capacity to ensure the development and adjustment of national laws, policies, regulations and new strategies to implement MEAs.
- Develop national strategies to ensure the coordinated implementation of MEAs and other relevant international laws and global programs of action.
- Empower developing countries to participate more effectively in MEA negotiations to ensure that southern concerns are better reflected in MEAs.
- Ensure the recognition of traditional knowledge in the development of MEA implementation strategies.

5. LE TITIEN POVERTY POSITION PAPER FOR PREP COMM III

I. New Priorities

- Each country should define its own poverty levels.
- Eradication of poverty must include access to basic human needs as well as access to those resources necessary to ensure human dignity and wellbeing.
- All causes of poverty must be addressed, with particular emphasis on the impacts of economic globalization, environmental degradation, and war and armed conflict.

II. Critiques of Chair's Paper for PrepCom III (Section II - Poverty)

- Underlying causes of poverty are not addressed
- New threats to poverty must be tackled (i.e. trade liberalization and international economic order)
- Need a clearer formulation of sustainable agriculture that emphasizes the importance of eliminating chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- Need new financial mechanisms such as the Tobin Tax
- No mention of the importance of sanitation along with safe drinking water.
- The importance of environmental protection and conservation is not mentioned, especially the link to poverty eradication.
- No mention of the importance of the empowerment of local communities, especially the importance of property rights and the right to benefit from the development of products and technologies derived from biological resources.
- No mention of the importance of the empowerment of women, youth and children and the impact of violence against women, as well as the importance of reproductive rights and health.
- No mention of the importance of enhancing good governance at all levels.
- No mention of the cancellation of debt and the elimination of factors which create debt in the first place.
- No mention of the importance of prohibiting the patenting of life forms
- No reference to the lack of implementation of ODA commitments.
- No mention of peace and conflict resolution
- No reference to the 20:20 Compact
- Need a corporate code of conduct
- No mention of environmental natural disaster strategies

- No mention of the role of pastoralists and local communities
- Lack of reference to the importance of public awareness
- Lack of strong statements generally
- Lack of reference to the impact of unsustainable energy consumption and production
- Lack of reference to the impact of urbanization
- Deadlines are too lenient
- Lack of reference to partnerships between public and private sectors and civil society.

III. New Actions for Chair's Paper (Section II – Poverty)

1. Sources of poverty

- Empower developing countries to define their own poverty priorities for themselves, and require donor governments to reorient development cooperation to adhere to recipient country priorities.
- Review and restructure the conditionalities of the Bretton Woods institutions, and reform the WTO to guarantee equal representation and participation of all states to ensure that global trade is fair and equitable.
- Develop a legally binding convention on corporate responsibility and accountability.
- New indicators are needed to measure wealth and progress in accordance with fundamental principles of sustainable development.

2. Governance

- Guarantee full and meaningful empowerment of local peoples at all levels of decision-making by creating an enabling environment through the provision of access to information, participation and justice and by de-centralizing decision-making processes to the fullest extent possible.
- Extend basic formal and informal education in rural communities and support local community-based resource management.
- Recognize and strengthen the participation of disadvantaged and marginalized groups in the development of national sustainable development strategies.
- Southern Governments must ensure just governance by promoting the participation of civil society, as well as the principles of accountability, participatory democracy and the elimination and prevention of both national and donor government-originated corruption.
- Southern Governments must increase public spending to ensure fair and equitable access to basic human needs.

3. Financial flows

- Cancel all debt of developing countries to enable them to reorient these resources to support their sustainable development priorities.
- Develop indicators to monitor ODA flows to ensure that these resources support recipient country-driven sustainable development priorities.
- Develop new mechanisms for penalizing donor governments who do not fulfill the UN ODA targets (i.e. suspension of voting rights in the General Assembly).
- Increase the UN ODA target from 0.7% of GNP to assist developing countries to meet International Development Targets (IDTs)
- Develop new and innovative mechanisms for mobilizing financial support to developing countries to promote sustainable development and peace and security (i.e. including the Tobin tax, user fees for the global commons, pollution taxes, poverty taxes)

4. Sustainable agriculture

- Promote sustainable low-external input and indigenous agricultural practices and take precautionary measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impact of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and GMOs.
- Respect the rights of farmers and local communities to practice and protect indigenous knowledge and to share equitably in the benefits arising from the use of their local biodiversity sources.
- Prevent TNCs from patenting plant genetic resources, which undermine local communities from controlling their own natural resource base.
- Ratify and implement the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol.

5. Peace and security

- In conformity with Principle 25 of the Rio Declaration, Northern and Southern Governments must ensure peace and conflict resolution as a pre-condition for eradicating poverty.

6. Natural resource management

- All governments shall make conservation and management of natural resources an integral part of poverty eradication strategies.
- Ensure fair and equitable access to productive resources such as land and credit.

7. Sustainable energy

- Activate, initiate and support environmentally friendly, renewable energy sources.

- Ensure universal access to sustainable energy as an integral component of poverty eradication.

8. Urban poverty

- Ensure social justice by guaranteeing universal access to adequate shelter as well as basic infrastructure such as sanitation, sewage, potable water, education, public transport, health and the means of preventing environmental pollution.

6. CRITIQUE OF EU EXTERNAL DIMENSIONS COMMUNICATION

Section 3.1. Harnessing Globalization: Trade for Sustainable Development

Priority Objectives Critiques

- A questionable assumption is made regarding the benefits of trade and investment liberalization.
- No mention of the importance of Northern Governments opening up their own markets to Southern trade.
- No mention of the need for capital flight controls.
- No mention of the impact of the international economic order generally.
- No mention of the role of TNCs in the economic globalization process.
- No mention of the negative impacts of economic globalization on developing countries.

European Union Action Critiques

- Questionable assumptions are made regarding the merit of market-oriented trading systems.
- No mention of the need to ensure the protection of environmental measures from the impact of trade liberalization and the world trade regime rules that dismantle environmental protection measures as disguised trade barriers.
- Questionable assumptions are made regarding the value and acceptability of the Doha outcome.
- No mention of the Tobin Tax.
- No mention of the need to reform the WTO and improve equitable participation of developing countries in WTO negotiations.
- No mention of the need for measures to support localization as a key antidote to globalization.

Section 3.2. Fighting Poverty and Promoting Sustainable Development

Priority Objectives Critiques

- No mention of the importance of mobilizing new forms of financing for sustainable development.
- Need a strong statement regarding the moral imperative of meeting ODA commitments.

European Union Action Critiques

- No reference to the dignity line.
- No reference to measures needed to empower the poor.
- Must enable developing countries to define the causes of poverty in their own countries.
- Must ensure that EU development cooperation is demand-driven.
- No mention of the link between environmental degradation and poverty.
- Must address the impact of the international economic order on the creation and perpetuation of poverty.
- Incorrect reference to “poverty reduction” instead of the more politically acceptable term “poverty eradication”.
- Need a stronger reference to the broader food security agenda.
- Reference to basic human needs only refers to food, water and sanitation. Must also include access to: health care, family planning, shelter and clean environment, as well as access to economic opportunities, productive resources such as land and credit, and education and opportunities to participate in decision-making that affects the poor.
- No mention of the battle against HIV/AIDS as an integral part of poverty eradication.
- No mention of the need to empower local communities to define their own strategies for poverty eradication.

Section 3.3. Sustainable Management of Natural and Environmental Resources

Priority Objectives Critiques

- No mention of the underlying root causes of environmental degradation.
- No mention of the need to support the full implementation of MEAs.
- No mention of the importance of developing bottom-up solutions to environmental challenges.

European Union Action Critiques

- Need concrete EU commitments regarding targets for reduction of unsustainable production and consumption.
- No mention of the need to develop concrete time-bound targets and timetables.
- Need concrete EU commitment to assess the ecological footprint of its economic policies, practices and behavior on the South.

- Need concrete commitments to support community empowerment and recognition of community rights.
- Need EU commitment to earmark a certain percentage of EU development cooperation to supporting MEA implementation challenges in EU partner countries.
- Need mechanisms to monitor the flow of development cooperation to ensure that it reaches its intended beneficiaries and their sustainable development priorities.

Section 3.4. Better Governance at all Levels

Priority Objectives Critiques

- No mention of the need to ensure good governance of all relevant economic actors such as TNCs.
- No mention of the importance of accountability and transparency as goals to be strengthened along with the reference to legitimacy, participatory basis, coherence etc.
- No mention of the need to empower peoples' organizations and local communities in all aspects and all levels of governance systems. Strengthening the participatory basis is not enough. Stakeholders must themselves be empowered with the resources to participate effectively.

European Union Action Critiques

- Institutional capacity building must not be EU donor-driven. Priorities must be set by the partner countries themselves. The same applies to public sector reform.
- Civil society must be empowered to participate in international decision-making processes and NOT just national and regional policy debates and decision-making processes.
- There is no mention of the need to empower local communities to strengthen their own decision-making processes and to ensure that the results of those processes are better reflected at the international level.
- Need strong measures to not only eliminate corruption in developing countries, but also to address the sources of corruption that originate in EU countries as well!
- There is no mention of the need for concrete measures to promote good governance. This is mentioned as a priority objective but is not followed through on with any concrete EU action.
- Strengthening environmental governance must also include the development of new enforcement mechanisms as well as compliance mechanisms.

- Promoting an “active role for civil society” is a very weak statement and does not express the need for resources to ensure the effective participation of civil society in international decision-making processes.
- There is no mention of the Beijing and Cairo commitments regarding the need to ensure a greater role for women in decision-making processes.
- No mention of the need to reform the governance systems of the WTO, the World Bank and the IMF.
- No mention regarding the need for measures to address the governance of TNCs and the need for corporate codes of conduct.

Section 3.5. Financing Sustainable Development

Priority Objectives Critiques

- Need stronger reference to the moral imperative of honoring ODA commitments.
- Reducing debt burden is not enough. Need strong language regarding the need to cancel the debt burden completely and to address the factors that have created the debt crisis in the first place.
- Expanding the geographical distribution of FDI is not enough. The EU must ensure that it reaches the sustainable development priorities of developing countries and that more effective control channels are implemented to guard against FDI towards unsustainable activities such as highly polluting industries.

European Union Action Critiques

- Need recognition of the fact that the *Monterrey Consensus* is heavily criticized by Southern Governments and NGOs alike
- Need new measures to assess the overall impacts of ODA and new measures to track the distribution of ODA to ensure that it actually reaches its intended beneficiaries and their sustainable development priorities.
- Need measures to reduce tied aid.
- Need mention of the need to compensate for ecological debt.
- Need measures to assess the impact of the HIPC Initiative (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative), which is criticized by a number of developing countries.
- Need reference to the importance of eliminating perverse economic subsidies.

7. WSSD OFF TRACK?

A Summary of Outcomes of PrepComm III from a Southern NGO Perspective

Introduction

The third PrepComm in New York closed in some disarray. At a minimum, delegates had hoped to produce some broadly agreed-upon text. PrepComm III did not achieve this objective and thus failed to fulfill its mandate. The shortcomings and frustrations at the conference were attributed to a number of factors, both internal and external to the negotiating process, including weak political commitment, gaps in institutional memory, poor organization of the PrepComm's work, and a lack of clarity on how the overall process should have been managed to achieve the PrepComm's goals.

The review of the revised chairman's paper was done in three working groups to enable member states to digest the 120 pages of text. The main discussions revolved around environmental issues such as fresh water and global water resources management, wise energy consumption, hazardous and chemical wastes treatment, with special focus on mercury, environmentally friendly technology, the precautionary principle, sustainable agriculture and its impacts on environments, food and health security, world consumer outlook and good governance. The one issue that everybody at the PrepComm agreed on was the fact that we are facing an implementation crisis.

The Heinrich Boell Foundation (Brussels) sponsored a number of young NGO activists from non-EU countries to attend this PrepComm as part of their internship programs, which focus primarily on advocacy and lobbying. The interns summarized the outcomes of this PrepComm on various issues as follows:

Type II Outcomes: Public/Private Partnerships

"Type 1" outcomes, or political declarations – including most international treaties and summit outcomes that have been developed for decades, such as the Rio Declaration, the Beijing Declaration, and key MEAs – have been undermined and threatened with subservience by the emphasis on "Type 2" outcomes, or partnerships/initiatives of a voluntary nature, according to the chairman's explanation. These new initiatives, intended as self-regulatory commitments, confer legitimacy without any framework of accountability, despite the fact that corporate accountability, liability and transparency are key elements of sustainable development. In spite of efforts to turn the commitments of Rio into action by the time of the Johannesburg summit, most powerful countries including the USA, the EU states and Japan have opposed and rejected specific time-bound goals specified by "Type 1" outcomes. Instead, they have been emphasizing "Type 2" outcomes, so-called Private/Public Partnerships that directly involve transnational corporations (TNCs), particularly in business sectors dominated by corporations based in those countries. The USA, the world's major exporter of GMOs, discusses food security initiatives. The EU focuses on water and energy; in that sector, most key corporations are based in EU member states. Likewise, Japan proposes water, energy, and natural resource management, including low-impact tourism. Undoubtedly, this situation will result in further environmental and social degradation.

Energy and Climate Change

Energy and climate change issues were raised in chapters two (“Poverty Eradication”) and three (“Changing Unsustainable Patterns of Consumption and Production”) of the chairman’s text. During the negotiations, various new proposals were made concerning improved transportation, land use planning and the development of a concrete action plan to promote energy and resource efficiencies. The Energy and Climate Caucus noted that there was abandonment of progress from CSD9 on energy issues. They tabled new proposals to phase out environmentally and socially harmful energy subsidies in OECD countries within 5 years – exempting subsidies targeted to the poor and low income – and use 20% of the money saved in this way to fund the International Sustainable Energy Fund.

Amendments to the chairman’s text on this particular topic were debated. Switzerland and Iceland proposed to promote the use of renewable energy by providing energy services to the poor. The G77 proposed to promote low-cost energy technology for cooking and water pasteurization. Tuvalu proposed to increase the new renewable energy target to 20% by 2010. However, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan disagreed with the targets and timeframes for energy and resource efficiencies proposed in the text. Furthermore, Russia, Turkey, Japan, Canada and the G77 wanted to remove the target of 5% new renewable energy for primary energy use, for various reasons.

Fresh Water

Discussions of fresh water at PrepComm III were mostly based on the Millennium Declaration, and that document was perceived as forming the basis of any water initiative the WSSD takes forward. However, countries were divided regarding the reference to the International Freshwater Conference. Several delegates objected to the text on water pricing models. Australia opposed subsidizing water as a common good and supported the new G77/China text calling for an integrated approach to water management.

There were a number of concerns that the caucus meetings addressed, such as the fact that there is no international development target for sanitation. This reflects the fact that though lack of access to adequate sanitation affects more people than lack of access to safe water, the international community continually fails to give the issue political backing and funding. Other areas of focus included governance in the water sector, community-level risk management, capacity building, training and education.

Globalization

The very inclusion of the issue of economic globalization in chapter five of the chairman's paper ("Sustainable Development in a Globalizing World") is in itself an achievement for social society groups. However, PrepComm III discussions failed to respond to the widespread global concern about globalization and ignored the massive public outcry about corporate misbehavior in the wake of the ENRON scandal. All that was offered in the discussions on corporate accountability were voluntary initiatives, which fail to establish rights for communities affected by corporate abuses. After

negotiations, the sustainable development agenda is still subservient to the trade agenda put forth by the WTO. A call by major NGOs to make it clear that Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) should not be subservient to WTO trade rules gained the clear support only of Switzerland. The European Union strongly supported the latest Doha WTO Ministerial Conference outcome, which puts even more emphasis on trade liberalization instead of sustainable development.

Good Governance

Good Governance should be based on subsidiarity (decisions at the lowest appropriate level), accountability, transparency and elimination of corruption. The WSSD must adopt a rights-based approach to implement Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and other international environmental and human rights treaties that promote these principles. With this in mind, the NGOs were shocked and dismayed to hear that efforts to secure human rights in the text on sustainable development governance were being undermined by the Vice Chair Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu. Most of the participating countries have incorporated human rights in their national constitutions and ratified international human rights treaties. To dismiss human rights in this process is essentially a betrayal of the people these countries' delegations represent.

Cooperation between governments, intergovernmental organizations with the relevant mandates, and non-governmental actors needs to be enhanced to design programs, policies and action plans that integrate economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development. It is clear from the outcome of this PrepComm that there is still a long way to go, but at least baby steps have been made.

The African Chapter

Urgent action is required to stop the African region from being marginalized and negatively affected by globalization. However, this urgency was not so strongly felt at this PrepComm, judging from the fact that the African Chapter was not even included in the revised chairman's text. Due to this omission, the African governments and the African Caucus took it upon themselves to revise the chair's chapter on African initiatives and propose a new revised African chapter that was tabled for the chair's attention on Wednesday, 3 April. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has become a future framework for many African governments. However, it was evident that considerable public debate and consultations with civil society are needed.

The publishing of the South African Non paper on the 3rd of April was perceived to have caused an immediate increase in positive energy among delegates and stakeholders. The paper suggested that the Program of Action include the following: proposed targets and timeframes, proposed actions, resources, institutional mechanisms, co-ordination, monitoring, stakeholder involvement and implementation plan sustainability. The paper also focused on water and sanitation, energy, agriculture and food security, technology, education and health. The paper also dealt with the link between Type 1 and Type 2 outcomes and put forward parameters for Type 2 partnerships. The African governments will meet before PrepComm IV to translate the

paper into an African document. Many believe that this paper provides direction for WSSD and should be built upon.

International Negotiations (Round Tables)

There were two visible, formal alliances (the EU and the G77+China) around the negotiating tables, as well as an informal alliance, the JUSCANZ (Japan, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand). These alliances determined the strengths and weakness of the negotiations concerning the chairman's text. There were no concrete results from the negotiations and therefore only a few examples are highlighted to illustrate the trend of the negotiations:

The US reaffirmed its commitment to "internationally agreed development" goals, *avoiding multilateral frameworks and binding international agreements.**

The G77/China suggested including text on achieving the Millennium Declaration goals through common but differentiated responsibilities and concrete actions, including new and additional financial resources, technology transfer, capacity building and access to markets. *The G77 aims for the most concrete commitments possible.*

The US suggested including text stating that individual countries have primary responsibility for economic and social development. *This is a way of undermining the "shared and differentiated responsibilities" concept.*

The US recommended removing text on unsustainable lifestyles and adding text on equity, participation and accountability. *We recognize the US as the birthplace of unsustainable lifestyles and patterns of unsustainable consumption.*

Australia, supported by the US, expressed concern that time-bound commitments may reduce flexibility of emerging development needs. *This group concern is focused on avoiding time-bound commitments and concrete definitions of what is not a sustainable development pattern for developing countries to follow.*

While the G77 and the EU, supported by other countries, highlighted the necessity of giving equity to the globalization process, the US, along with the Republic of Korea, objected to the notion of "managing" globalization, and suggested mentioning its benefits. Again, the intention is clearly to avoid establishing rules about the quality of the globalization process.

** The statements in italics are added to the text from the "EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN" published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).*

Conclusion

In the wake of PrepComm III, the chairman's paper remains in the form of 120 pages of preliminary and bracketed text. There will be the possibility of transforming the converging views of the member states into concise, action-oriented goals and commitments in Indonesia prior to PrepComm IV, with regional group consultations scheduled for Friday, 24 May, and informal-informals on Saturday and Sunday, 25-26 May.

‘Although we were discouraged by the outrageous and frustrating situations that arose during PrepComm III, we still remind ourselves that a lot needs to be done, because we believe that another world is possible.’

Annex: Biographical Sketches of the Authors

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Anna Matros was born in 1979 in Windhoek, Namibia. She studied Natural Resources Management at the University of Namibia. In 2001 she joined the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia, an NGO dedicated to furthering understanding and competence for the appropriate management of arid environments for sustainable development. The DRFN is currently the secretariat for NGOs, governments and private sector participants working towards the WSSD process and Anna is the project coordinator for that preparation process. During the training program she worked for the Greens in the European Parliament. Contact: annam@drfn.org.na / www.dfrn.org / www.namibia-jwssd.org, tel: +264 61 229855

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