



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

inside:

The world needs Sustainable Energy for All

How can we encourage universal energy
access?

a daily multi-
stakeholder
magazine on
climate change
and sustainable
development

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02 June 2012



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About Stakeholder Forum

Stakeholder Forum is an international organisation working to advance sustainable development and promote democracy at a global level. Our work aims to enhance open, accountable and participatory international decision-making on sustainable development through enhancing the involvement of stakeholders in intergovernmental processes. For more information, visit: www.stakeholderforum.org

Outreach is a multi-stakeholder publication on climate change and sustainable development. It is the longest continually produced stakeholder magazine in the sustainable development arena, published at various international meetings on the environment; including the UNCSO meetings (since 1997), UNEP Governing Council, UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) and World Water Week. Published as a daily edition, in both print and web form, Outreach provides a vehicle for critical analysis on key thematic topics in the sustainability arena, as well as a voice of regional and local governments, women, indigenous peoples, trade unions, industry, youth and NGOs. To fully ensure a multi-stakeholder perspective, we aim to engage a wide range of stakeholders for article contributions and project funding.

If you are interested in contributing to Outreach, please contact the team (gmacdonald@stakeholderforum.org or acutter@stakeholderforum.org)
You can also follow us on Twitter: @Earthsummit2012

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How to trigger action for energy-efficient solutions in the building sector?

Philippe Fonta

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

Buildings represent about 40% of the primary energy used and associated CO2 emissions globally. They are therefore a critical component in shaping and driving the world's energy consumption profile, and its related environmental impact. Launched in 2006, the Energy Efficiency in Buildings (EEB) project focused, during its first phase of work, on delivering an understanding of the international building sector's use of energy, and its barriers to better efficiency. Based on a unique simulation model that analyses the energy use of thousands of building types and millions of existing and new buildings, both commercial and residential, the project produced recommendations and a roadmap for a transformation of the building sector, while being economical and socially acceptable. However, until now, financial, behavioral, and knowledge barriers have stood in the way.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is about to launch a new market engagement oriented project, 'EEB 2.0' in 2012, with the aim of triggering action and implementation that address these barriers, and using the understanding from the first phase of the EEB project, developed from 2006 to 2010.

Over the course of a proposed three-year project, EEB 2.0 intends to work with key decision-makers who are responsible for, or have influence over, substantial building portfolios in the public and private sectors. Over the course of up to ten selected engagements, the project will develop a replicable process for bringing key decision-makers and relevant stakeholders together to identify practicable energy efficiency solutions in the portfolios they control. It will also serve to scale up the implementation process across other decision maker portfolios. Such portfolios may be geographically concentrated, as in a part of a city or major urban development. In other cases the portfolio will be geographically dispersed, as in the case of a hotel chain, a global company's offices or a country's schools.

Objectives and Process

Our aim, through the visibility, success and replicability of our engagements, is to secure commitments from 1,000 decision-makers worldwide to cut energy use in their buildings progressively, by as much as 60% by 2050 – with interim targets along the way. This demanding target was identified by EEB as essential to meet global energy security and climate change goals, especially considering the rapid growth of new buildings in developing countries and the low rate of replacement of inefficient buildings in developed regions.

The identified decision-makers need to work with a set of stakeholders that can vary depending on the specific building portfolio. This 'implementation network' will



carry out a fact-finding exercise to capture examples and factual data on energy objectives, challenges, barriers, behaviors, motivations, timing, and limitations. On that basis, a progressive and effective approach will be developed and implemented, providing EEB 2.0 and its members with a process for engaging on similar building portfolios and decision makers.

Members of the Project

To scope out and set up this project, a group of private companies (AGC Asahi Glass, EDF, GDF SUEZ, Lafarge, Schneider Electric, SGS, Skanska, United Technologies (Project Chair), and Saint-Gobain) has been working with key partner organizations that are critical in executing EEB 2.0's objectives including the International Energy Agency (IEA), the World Green Building Council (WGBC) and its regional network, and the Urban Land Institute (ULI).

Participation is still open to a wide range of stakeholders, which include companies involved in finance, building materials and technology, real estate, and design. Policy makers are also welcome, as well as any community interested in being an 'implementation network' ■

MORE INFO

For more information, visit www.wbcd.org/buildings.aspx or contact Philippe Fonta, EEB Director: fonta@wbcd.org or +41 (0)22 839 31 04.

This project is managed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). The World Business Council for Sustainable Development is a CEO-led organisation of forward-thinking companies that galvanises the global business community to create a sustainable future for business, society and the environment.

This article has been produced with the support of Skanska. Read more about how Skanska contribute to a more sustainable built environment by visiting: www.skanska.com/sustainability



Civil society perspectives on Sustainable Energy for All

Susan Alzner
UN-NGLS

The United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, in cooperation with the Executive Office of the Secretary General and the United Nations Foundation, has been facilitating civil society engagement with the Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative since March 2012.

The process so far has involved three meetings and three conference calls between members of the Secretary General's High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All and a total of ninety civil society organisations.

Detailed summary reports of all of these engagements are available at <http://www.un-ngls.org/se4all>. Civil society has emphasised the following key points during these sessions:

The Sustainable Energy for All Initiative's objectives, criteria and principles

- The Initiative's objectives would not keep global temperature rises below 2°C – and this itself is not safe. According to the International Energy Agency, this requires at least 40% renewable energy and a 50% reduction in energy intensity by 2030. The Initiative must increase its level of ambition. The Initiative is well placed to promote climate resilient energy sources in order to meet the goal of universal access.
- The Initiative needs to have the same enthusiasm for reducing emissions and excessive energy use in the industrialised world as it does for improving energy access for the poor.
- The Initiative should promote energy sources that are renewable, locally appropriate, and that take into account social and environmental safeguards. The Initiative should have criteria for clean energy.
- A global access standard must be agreed to enable meaningful measurement of progress toward universal access.
- Sustainable Energy for All must fit into the larger UN framework of commitments that the private and public sector have made, including commitments on human rights.
- Gender issues and women's empowerment must be mainstreamed in discussions about sustainable energy and reducing poverty.

The importance of bottom-up, local processes and production

- Those who do not have energy must be part of decision-making about their technical options, participation, and impact monitoring. Global policy needs to be broken down beyond the national level,

to the local level.

- The Initiative must ensure that the world's poorest people obtain not only energy access, but also control over their energy choices. The term 'sustainable energy' is highly related to peoples' capacity to operate and manage the energy facilities. Capacity building and training must be funded to enable the achievement of the Initiative's objectives.

Finance

- Two recent International Energy Agency studies found that, to achieve universal electricity access by 2030, more than half of all global investment must go to off-grid markets. Sustainable Energy for All must develop a monitoring mechanism to ensure donors and development banks are investing in mini-grid and off-grid generating capacity.
- Access to adequate financing for small enterprises and end-users of renewable technologies must be ensured; otherwise access will be very difficult for the majority of poor populations.
- Fossil fuel subsidies are a major barrier to wise deployment of decentralised, renewable, climate friendly systems.
- Multilateral development banks as well as export credit and investment guarantee agencies should be the first to impose targets for increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix.
- A globally funded system of Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) is an important mechanism to deliver technology and finance to deliver energy access with clean sources. FITs must be funded with new and additional public finance from innovative sources.

The role of civil society in the initiative

- Civil society organisations should have a formalised path for inputting their extensive expertise into the creation and implementation of the Initiative's accountability mechanism. Monitoring and verification are essential to determine whether policies and actions are providing energy access to those who are energy-deprived.
- Civil society can assist with development of locally appropriate technologies and innovative markets, as well as policy development and advocacy.
- Civil society organisations need to be involved in the national planning phase in order to fully participate in the implementation phase and fulfill the needs of the people, especially those who are living in the rural areas. National civil society engagement with the Initiative's country missions should be funded.
- Civil society needs a long-term consultation process, involving Northern and Southern NGOs and funded by the UN ■



The world needs Sustainable Energy for All

Andris Piebalgs

EU Commissioner for Development

Kandeh Yumkella

Director-General of the UN Industrial Development Organisation and Chair of UN-Energy

In Europe, when children need to study after dark, they switch on the lights. When we are sick, we go to a doctor's office or hospital, where electricity powers the equipment. When we go to our offices and shops in the morning, we turn on the lights, computers, coffee makers and printers.

Yet 1.3 billion people worldwide, the equivalent of the combined populations of Europe and Africa, lack electricity to light their homes or conduct business. Twice that number, 40% of the world's population, rely on wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste to cook food, resulting in toxic smoke that causes lung disease and death. This is not equitable or sustainable.

In order to boost economic growth, improve the lives of the world's poorest people, and preserve the ecosystems which sustain all life, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has created the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. The Secretary-General has outlined three key objectives for his initiative. Ensuring universal access to modern energy services, doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, all by 2030. Ambitious certainly, but also achievable.

To help guide his Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Secretary-General established a High-level Group which has developed a global Action Agenda. This Agenda serves as a roadmap for the initiative and its many stakeholders, enabling us to move from aspiration to action, to take successful projects to scale and to establish innovative partnerships which can drive progress on the ground. We are privileged to serve on this group, along with highly respected colleagues drawn from the private sector, civil society and governments around the world.

The initiative is already gaining momentum. At the recent EU Sustainable Energy for All Summit in Brussels, the President of the European Commission José-Manuel Barroso announced the launch of a new EU program, "Energizing Development" and a commitment to provide access to sustainable energy services for 500 million people in developing countries by 2030. This program will include the creation of an EU Technical Assistance Facility, initially in excess of €50 million over the next two years.

This ambitious new program demonstrates the priority placed on energy within the broader development agenda, and serves as a significant commitment to the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

Already the EU is playing a lead role on this issue with more than €2.2 billion dedicated to delivering energy access through its aid programmes in recent years. For

example, the Africa-EU Energy partnership will provide energy for 13 million people and access to energy services is a vital part of the new EU Development policy.

The EU is not alone. From the Norway to Nepal, Ghana to Liberia, dozens of governments are engaged and making specific commitments to action in support of achieving Sustainable Energy for All.

However, government support alone will not be enough. The private sector and civil society have critical roles to play too. In the months since the Secretary-General launched his initiative, we have already seen significant new public-private partnerships being developed on transport, energy efficiency, solar cooking and finance. And civil society groups are expanding grass roots training and advocacy.

But it's not enough to simply expand access. The energy choices that we make are crucial too. If we are to limit damage to the environment for future generations, the energy we use must be sustainable, safe, affordable and as clean as possible. While increasing energy access, we must also keep in mind our commitments to addressing climate change if we are to have any hope of keeping global temperature rise below 2°C, as the science says we must.

Ultimately, Sustainable Energy for All is about opportunity, not charity. In these difficult financial times, new jobs will be created; new productive partnerships forged; new innovative technologies developed; and new markets created. In fact, what we are engaged in is nothing short of an energy revolution.

As we prepare for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June in Rio, we have an unprecedented opportunity to make a significant and lasting difference in the lives of some of the world's poorest people. The case for universal energy access is a moral, social, environmental and economic one. No issue is more relevant to the future of the global economy, the prosperity and well-being of the world's poorest people, and the preservation of our planet ■

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A cool idea: Refrigeration giant Imbera partners with BioRegional to promote One Planet Living at Rio+20

Hernán Mendoza

Imbera

The emerging energy crisis will be at the forefront of the Rio+20 summit, where stakeholders will come together to share ideas on sustainable growth and development.

Because commercial refrigeration accounts for roughly 80% of energy consumption in Latin American corner stores, efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of the refrigeration chain are paramount to living on a sustainable planet.

My colleagues and I first found out about One Planet Living when Daniel Viliesid, an expert in sustainability, visited us in Queretaro, Mexico, last year. At that time, Daniel had just returned from England, where he had been working for several years at BioRegional, and also where he had begun to develop and implement sustainability strategies for various projects in the United States and United Kingdom.

We were struck by the clear and concise manner in which Daniel conveyed the principles of the One Planet Living, which not only coincided directly with Imbera's values, but would also allow us to communicate to others, as well as to ourselves, our philosophy and way of doing business. At Imbera we are dedicated to the environmentally friendly design, development and manufacturing of commercial refrigeration equipment. We are continually involved in projects that contribute to environmental sustainability, such as the implementation of a system of measuring the environmental impact of our coolers, called Life Cycle Climate Performance (LCCP), and an overall 85% reduction in energy consumption of our products over the past ten years.

But beyond just producing environmentally friendly cooling equipment, our company has embraced One Planet Living. Developed by BioRegional, with a vision of

a sustainable world in which people everywhere can enjoy a high quality of life, within the productive capacity of our only planet, with space left for wildlife and wilderness.

We will participate in Rio+20 as a One Planet Living partner in a sustainable development workshop and a corresponding event prior to the Summit, in order to share our experiences in implementing the ten principles of the One Planet Living initiative with other companies and organisations, in hope that they may be successfully replicated around the globe.

We are especially proud to be the first company of our kind to have adopted the One Planet Living initiative, as well as the first in the American continent; which represents both a great commitment and responsibility.

In the current version of the Rio+20 Outcome Document, paragraph Energy 4 states the importance of recognising 'the need for energy efficiency measures in urban planning, buildings, and transportation, and in the production of goods and services and in the design of products'. This paragraph creates a strong mandate for the business sector to improve their energy efficiency and increase the sustainability of their operations. The role of business is further echoed in Energy 5, under the Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative and its aspirational goals of ensuring universal access to modern energy services by 2030.

We at Imbera want to be part of the solution, and are convinced that opportunities like Rio+20, where the best ideas in the world converge, are the best way to combine efforts among governments, environmentalists, mass media and business, to start building bridges that link islands, so that they may then become vast continents of entities that can live within the carbon footprint of a single planet ■

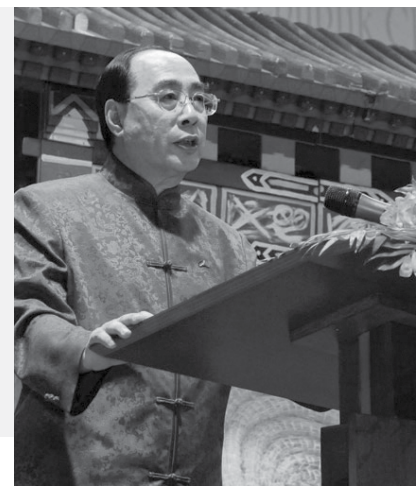
MORE INFO

www.imberacooling.com

New head of UN DESA announced

Sha Zukang who is head of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary General of UNCSD will be leaving his post after Rio+20. Yesterday, the UN Secretary General announced the new Under Secretary General for UN DESA will be Wu Hongbo, a senior Chinese diplomat.

Also announced was the position of Assistant Secretary General in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretary General has selected Ms. Shamshad Akhtar of Pakistan who, until recently, was the Vice President, Middle East and North Africa at the World Bank.



How can we encourage universal energy access?

Teo Sanchez

Practical Action

The UN, European Economic Community, World Bank and other major development organisations now recognise that universal energy access is key to getting billions of people out of poverty. One in five people in the world have no access to electricity, and two in five cook with low quality biomass and low efficiency cook stoves. These people are commonly referred to as 'energy poor'. Lack of access to electricity – and to other simple technologies – deprives them of basic services, such as education, health, and clean drinking water, while lack of access to improved cooking technologies and better cooking fuels severely affects the health of women and children.

Two overarching factors contribute to energy poverty. The first is economic poverty – energy generally requires large upfront financial investment to secure supply. The poor simply cannot afford to pay. The second has been the lack of political will among policy and decision makers at international, national and local levels, to recognise and prioritise energy access for the poor.



The good news is that the lack of political will appears to have been overcome, at least at the highest level. The UN has declared 2012 the year of 'Sustainable Energy for All' and has set a target of 'Universal Access by 2030' – a target which has been endorsed by the European Commission.

If, through this initiative, there is soon to be a substantial increase of financial resources, we need to devise implementation strategies to maximise benefits, and reach the largest possible proportion of those considered energy poor. We need to design and implement effective and inclusive strategies, appropriate technologies, new financial mechanisms and build local capacity to secure sustainable energy access.

From the practitioner's perspective, effective strategies will be those that take into consideration the barriers and enablers at national and local level, and how to overcome obstacles by learning from good practice. Based on lessons learned from the field, an effective strategy should:

- **Consider the whole local energy mix**
Off-grid systems are generally the cheapest option for rural electrification, while grid solutions are best in urban and peri-urban areas. Biomass improved stoves are appropriate for cooking in rural areas, with programmes of forestation, forest management and reforestation.
- **Design appropriate standards and indicators of energy use**
A village with high productivity and abundant natural resources may need a higher quantity of electricity, whereas one with scarce resources and low productivity may need less power.
- **Create financial mechanisms to mobilise local capital**
Micro and mini credit services can mobilise local capital and contribute to job creation; we need to review and adapt policies on subsidies to contribute to energy access for the poorest sectors of the population.
- **Build national and local capacity**
To design, build and operate small scale energy systems, especially those based on local energy sources (micro and mini hydropower, solar, wind and biomass), implementation of forestation and reforestation programmes, and rational and efficient use of energy.
- **Provide energy literacy**
It is vital to educate energy users and potential energy users – about costs, and life span of energy schemes, for example, so that they understand why they need to pay, and to care for the systems.
- **Promote forestation, reforestation and forest management**
To maintain sustainable supplies of biomass for the poor, promote efficient and clean cook stoves, and consider liquid and gas fuels.
- **Promote productive and rational use of energy widely**
To generate income, create jobs and contribute to earning a living.

Access to Sustainable Energy is a priority theme in the agenda at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. Changes at the highest political levels may leverage substantial financial resources: the high level political influence may soon flow down to national and local levels, and so we may at last see global investment in energy access for the poor ■

Letter of 22 US environmental leaders to Obama

May 18, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing on behalf of civil society organizations that represent more than 5 million Americans to urge you to commit as soon as possible to lead the United States delegation to the Rio+20 Earth Summit in Brazil in June.

Your presence at this Summit would signal its critical importance to all Americans, demonstrate our country's deep concern over urgent global issues that will inevitably affect our security and well-being, and highlight our nation's determination to be a contender in the race to a low-carbon green economy. As United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon stated recently, your participation will be "crucial." This is true both for the success of the summit and progress toward a sustainable future for everyone on this fragile planet, and for your Administration's goals on jobs and clean energy here at home.

We appreciate the leadership shown by the United States in the Rio+20 preparatory process in advocating that the United Nations encourage countries, corporations, and communities to make commitments in Rio to specific measurable actions. Your presence at the Earth Summit would cement this leadership.

Our organizations additionally urge your Administration to announce as soon as possible its own commitments for Rio+20 as a model for other nations and stakeholders. Such commitments might involve new initiatives or those already underway where the action will be expanded going forward. Your Administration can point to important areas where it is making real progress towards sustainability - including making major new investments in renewable energy, promulgating EPA rules on carbon pollution from power plants, and proposing to reduce fossil fuel subsidies, among others.

US commitment to leadership at home can help leverage global action in Rio at the Earth Summit. World leaders are poised to make progress on eliminating fossil fuel subsidies at the Summit, building on the commitment your Administration made at a Group of 20 Summit in 2009 to phase out fossil fuel subsidies. We fully support your statement during the 2012 State of the Union speech: "We've subsidized oil companies for a century. That's long enough." And we believe the American people fully support your administration to take the next steps at Rio+20.

Internationally, the Administration can point to a number of new partnerships it has launched, including ones on short-lived climate forcers, clean water, and clean cook stoves. We hope that the US will make commitments to the UN Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, including securing a commitment from the World Bank Group to mobilize up to \$500 million to support off-grid clean energy investments. In addition, we understand that the Administration will use Rio as a platform to launch an international monitoring network on ocean acidification, a plan that we fully support.

The United States should advocate for strong language in the Earth Summit outcome document that will catalyze action to build healthy, resilient ocean ecosystems by reducing pollution and overfishing, establishing meaningful prohibitions on harmful fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity of global fishing fleets, establishing protected areas to sustain ecosystems in the face of rising ocean acidification and other stressors, and enhancing coordinated global monitoring of ocean acidification. These steps are fundamental for livelihoods, food security and sustainable development in island and coastal states, as well as for coastal and fishing communities here at home.

The Administration can also demonstrate leadership in creating a vision of a sustainable future, by strengthening international norms, and creating new structures to advance sustainability. We look to the United States, long a champion of human rights, to affirm that respect for human rights and the environment is an integral element of sustainable development and to support inclusion of the right to a healthy environment in the Rio+20 Outcome Document. The proposal to establish a High Commissioner for Future Generations would provide a new voice to assure that international deliberations take into account the interests of those who will inherit this world from us. After four decades, it is also clear that we need to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme.

Finally, we urge your Administration to be a strong advocate for speeding the transition to a Green Economy and to help catalyze the scaling up of clean energy technologies and infrastructure that will create millions of new green jobs



around the world and at home. This has been a cornerstone of your Administration. As you said in the 2012 State of the Union, “It is time to... double-down on a clean energy industry that never has been more promising.... Because of federal investments, renewable energy use has nearly doubled, and thousands of Americans have jobs because of it.” With your leadership, the Earth Summit can galvanize a strong global commitment to a green economy and stimulate new investment and jobs.

We believe that your leadership at Rio+20 affirming this country’s commitment to a green and sustainable future will provide – particularly for the youth – a vision of a future that works for them and for all of us. As you told Ghana’s parliament in July 2009, “above all, it will be the young people – brimming with talent and energy and hope—who can claim the future....” We are eager to work with you and your Administration to demonstrate American commitment and leadership to sustainable development, the environment, poverty alleviation and green jobs – and to make the 2012 Earth Summit a success.

Signed CEOs of the following:

American Rivers * Center for International Environmental Law * Citizens for Global Solutions * Clean Water Action * Defenders of Wildlife * Earth Day Network * Earthjustice * Environmental Defense Fund * Environment America * Greenpeace * League of Conservation Voters * Native American Rights Fund * National Tribal Environmental Council * National Wildlife Federation * Natural Resources Defense Council * Oceana * Physicians for Social Responsibility * Population Action International * Population Connection * Rails-to-Trails Conservancy * Sierra Club * Union of Concerned Scientists

Planetary boundaries



The original paper on Planetary Boundaries by Rockstrom et al (Nature, September 2009) is focused on defining what is called an environmentally safe space for human activities. The authors suggest nine planetary boundaries delineating the safe space for humanity, propose appropriate indicators and put forward tentative quantitative values for some of them.

Certainly, most of these values were preliminary and subject to further thorough discussion. We should not throw the baby out with the bathwater by flatly rejecting the idea of planetary boundaries as such. The basic idea is as follows:

1. To stay within the safe space globally, the boundaries should not be crossed.
2. It is not up to scientists alone to say what is and what is not safe. They should convey what may happen (with certain probability) if the boundary is crossed. The decision is up to citizens through a democratic process.
3. Before the decision is made, many considerations must be taken into account, including technical questions, costs, social issues, time and space horizons, political issues and many others.

As some of the successful examples of the past have shown, this concept is indeed useful for certain uses and has an added value which could be generally applicable. One such case is the preservation of the planetary ozone layer (establishing a certain limit for its maximum reduction) or the agreed limit of a maximum 2°C increase of global temperature. Some other boundaries are implicitly contained within several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (e.g. Stockholm Convention on Chemicals).

Should West Germany be allowed to attend the Conference?

'A dispute on the political status of the German Democratic Republic led the Soviet Union and the eastern European governments to decide they would not participate [in the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 1972]. The US and the UK had contributed to a boycott by the Soviet bloc. In the previous UN General Assembly they invoked the 26-year-old Vienna Formula for who should attend the conference. This required countries to be a member of the UN or its specialised agencies. West Germany was already a member of UNESCO and WHO so could attend, but East Germany was not. This resulted in the boycott by the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc countries'. A quote from Only One Earth by Felix Dodds and Michael Strauss with Maurice Strong.

So why cannot Palestine attend as a State?

When a treaty is open to 'States', it is difficult or impossible for the depositary authority to determine which entities are States. If the treaty is restricted to Members of the United Nations or Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), there is no ambiguity. However, a difficulty has occurred as to possible participation in treaties when entities which appeared otherwise to be States could not be admitted to these international institutions, owing to the opposition, for political reasons, of a permanent member of the Security Council or having not applied for UN or ICJ membership.

Since this difficulty did not arise with membership of the specialised agencies, where there is no 'veto' procedure, a number of those States became members, and as such were in essence recognised as States by the international community. Accordingly, and in order to allow for as wide a participation as possible, a number of Conventions then stipulated that they were also open to participation from all State members of specialised agencies. The type of entry-into-force clause utilised in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (later called the 'Vienna formula'), whose wording was adopted by various treaties, conventions and organisations.

Some treaties that utilise the Vienna formula include provisions that allow other States invited by a specified authority or organisation (commonly the UNGA or an institution created by the treaty in question) to also participate, thus making the scope of potential signatories even broader.

Palestine is a member of UNESCO.

So if West Germany was allowed to attend as a state in 1972, why cannot Palestine attend Rio+20 as a State, if both were/are members of UNESCO?

The international community should be consistent ■

The Pocket Guide to Sustainable Development Governance has been translated!

The Pocket Guide to Sustainable Development Governance, produced by Stakeholder Forum with the Commonwealth Secretariat, has been translated into French and Spanish! It will be posted on the earthsummit2012.org website in time for the beginning of the final Preparatory Committee meeting on 13th June. Please check the website that week and download the guide in Spanish and French.

The translation of the guide was made possible by the generous support of the European Commission Directorate-General for the Environment, providing funds to ensure representative, informed, broadened and enhanced participation and engagement of all stakeholders in the Rio+20 Earth Summit process.





Stakeholder Forum

FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Invites you to a presentation and drinks with **Elizabeth Thompson**, Rio+20 Executive Coordinator and **Maurice Strong**, Earth Summit 1992 Secretary General, to celebrate

The launch of the book

Only One Earth – the Long Road via Rio to Sustainable Development

By Felix Dodds and Michael Strauss with Maurice Strong

6pm outside room D, North Lawn Building

Rio+20 Logistics

Rio+20 Conference Handbook now available

The official Rio+20 handbook, which contains all the 'need to know' information about the conference logistics, is now available on the UNCSO website:

http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/607Manual%20operativo%20-%20Ingles_%2031-05_print.pdf

Shuttle bus schedule

A draft shuttle bus schedule for transport between hotels and Riocentro can be found here:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&nr=416&type=12&menu=14>



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IFSD here or in Rio?

Jan-Gustav Strandenaes
Stakeholder Forum

"IFSD?" I asked my delegate friend and received a positive nod. "In one way, everything is on the table. Functions are being discussed and agreed – final decisions will be taken in Rio". That's how a veteran negotiator sums up nine hours of deliberations. "What about the Sustainable Development Council?" I said. "Difficult. You know, delegates are by nature cautious. They think that a Council would add to the administrative costs of the UN. Many say a Council is no guarantee to make sustainable development issues a success".

I started to protest. He waived me off – "you do not have to convince me. I agree that we need such a mechanism. A Council or High Level Forum modeled on the Peace Keeping Commission, with an operational mandate and universal membership. As the Peace Keeping Commission reports both to the Security Council and the General Assembly, the High Level Forum should report to ECOSOC and to the General Assembly. That would give it much more political prestige than a reformed CSD".

"So you do not like the idea to reform ECOSOC or create a body within it?" I asked. My delegate friend sighed. "ECOSOC has been reformed almost every four to five years since the UN started, and every time it is burdened with more work and less money. If you add on all the functions now agreed on for sustainable development, ECOSOC will be totally overburdened. Besides – you know, as a lifelong member of civil society, moving the sustainable development process into ECOSOC will kill civil society's active role". "And I have a suspicion that a few nations know this and would like to see this happen." I volunteered – "Do not accuse anyone of foul play until you have proof". My delegate friend raised a warning finger.

"The rigidity of ECOSOC and its rules and procedures will not allow the major groups and other stakeholders to work at all. No more dialogue sessions or interactive processes. The creativity that CSD allowed will be gone. Those who say otherwise do not what they are talking about. Just read the mandate and rules of procedure. No, we need a new mechanism", he said, finishing off his coffee. "When will that happen" I asked. "Let's go to Rio and find out", my delegate friend said with a smile and find out", my delegate friend said with a smile ■

Time is running out on youth's red lines

Major Group for Children and Youth

Just like the negotiators, we too have our own red lines on Working Group I.

We are concerned about the excuses around eliminating **harmful subsidies** within a specified timeframe. We reject that 'this is not the right forum' for such commitments. We need to make decisions now, not refer them to the WTO.

On **employment**, we expect support for a clear global framework within the ILO to fight youth unemployment. In Jobs 8, we call for programmes and start-up capital enabling us to create our own green jobs.

The right to **quality education** is non-negotiable. We support the focus on developing countries but will not tolerate attacks on education in any nation, rich or poor. We expect non-formal education to be recognised, as it addresses inequity and develops the skills necessary to build a strong and lasting green economy. We thank all parties defending and trying to strengthen paragraphs Education 2 & 3.

The right to the highest attainable standard of **health** is also a red line. We need a recommitment to universal health coverage without exception. In Alms Ata, 1978, you committed to health for all by the year 2000. Not achieving this target is no excuse for keeping it off the agenda now.

There should be no regression in any text. We therefore urge governments to retain language in Gender 5 which commits to ensuring universal access to quality and affordable **sexual and reproductive health services**.

Young women and girls need strong commitments on their health and rights – a key cross cutting issue. Gender 3 & 5 are needed to help achieve the equality we all want.

Armed conflicts must be addressed throughout the text. The SDGs should include conflict in paragraphs SDG 3 & 5. We reiterate that peace is a prerequisite for sustainable development. We have less than 24 hours left. Let us make them count ■

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