



Taking Issue

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Visit the SDIN morning strategy meetings for reports from working groups, information sharing and strategic discussions. SDIN Morning Meetings are open to all NGOs.

Meetings are held in Conference Room C at the United Nations Building.

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Youth demand a sustainable future

Children and youth, as the future generations, do not wish to inherit a toxic, radioactive, dirty, and carbon-driven world, and call on the CSD to take action to guarantee that we have a future to look forward to. Providing more than 6 billion people with energy will require concrete action to ensure that we meet the needs of the poor and not only industry.

We firmly believe that renewable energy is the key to a sustainable future. Small-scale renewable energy projects offer a sustainable solution to energy access, providing local, context-sensitive solutions that preserve the environment. Youth have been essential partners in implementing small-scale projects; such contributions need further support.

A clear, universally recognized definition of sustainable energy must be agreed on, which must take into consideration principles stated in the JPOI. It is evident that nuclear energy and "clean" fossil fuels are not viable options for truly sustainable development; subsidies supporting their exploitation must be phased out and used to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Global climate change is the most pressing issue of our generation. We need immediate action; we cannot rely on partnerships and short-term political manoeuvring. Successful measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change demand innovative policy solutions encompassing multiple sectors.

We strongly believe that corporate social responsibility and accountability

must be emphasized; while the JPOI highlighted this need, it was not mentioned at CSD14. A framework for business and industry to operate responsibly is needed, and it is needed now.

Cleaner production should be matched with sustainable consumption. Market approaches cannot ensure the best economic allocation of resources alone. Subsidies, when required, need to be used to secure access to energy for the poor.

Children and youth want healthy air. Pressing air pollution issues include the need for a collaborative and functional international policy framework. The costs of unsustainable transportation should be internalized. Fiscal policy should be used to promote public transportation, fuel efficiency, and multiple user initiatives.

There is a lot work to do between now and May.

Measurable targets and timelines are required. While achieving targets needs cooperation from all stakeholders, government accountability must also be stressed.

Given its potential for change, we insist that the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development be heavily emphasized at CSD15.

Recalling UN General Assembly 60/2, the inclusion of youth delegates in the international decision-making process should be facilitated. Governments must fulfil their commitment to include representation of youth.

CSD 15: Bring Back the Structure

At a number of UN conferences, summits and commissions we often don't get to discuss the right issues because the structure of the document does not effectively facilitate such discussion. The structure of a document can be critical on a number of fronts to the conversations we have and the commitments we make. A good structured document:

1. Enables gaps to be clearly identified.
2. Sets up priorities.
3. Identifies problem areas to be focused on.
4. Allows for principles and mainstreaming to be integrated.
5. Allows for the identification of who should be involved with the implementation.

An example of a well structure document is the approach taken in Agenda 21. Stakeholder Forum offers a contribution to the Bureau for CSD 15 on how we might address the constraints and challenges building on the structure of Agenda 21.

Each section could be organised under the following structure:

I. Programme areas: Identify priority issues, e.g. renewable energy

II. Constraint or challenge being addressed

1. Basis for action: Chapters in Agenda 21, CSD decisions, Millennium Development Goals, setting of additional targets.

2. Objectives: For each constraint or challenge outline the aims and purpose for action, e.g. to improve access to renewable energy, improve trade policy for energy provision.

3. Activities at all levels: International to local action, touching on who should address which priorities international institutions, governments and different stakeholders.

4. Timetable and targets: 5, 10, 15 years to ensure some accountability for action.

5. Means of implementation: what capacity building, technology sharing, education and training are needed?

6. Financial resources: What public (domestic and foreign, aid and investment), Private (business, foundations, NGOs and other).



By Felix Dodds

7. Information for decision-making: Monitoring and assessing progress, Indicators, data management and provision.

8. Partnerships to deliver action against constraints and challenges: Here an opportunity to start to focus and quantify partnerships on addressing constraints and challenges.

NGO DECLARATION to CSD 15 from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus

We, representatives of NGOs from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, participants of Sub-Regional Consultations (Moscow, February 16-18, 2007) would like to attract the attention of the CSD to the following: The energy policy of our countries does not meet the modern challenges and cannot be considered as sustainable as the leaders of our countries still consider nuclear energy usage as one of possible options and do not give priorities to the renewable energy usage. CSD must not ignore the fact that nuclear energy does not meet criteria of sustainable development as it produces ultra-long-term waste and can cause Chernobyl-like catastrophes. The risks from the nuclear energy for the present and future generations are unacceptable. We

call upon CSD to recognize that nuclear energy is non sustainable. We urge CSD to recommend the following:

FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS - to ban any governmental or public subsidies to nuclear industry, including undercut and hidden ones;

FOR THE UN - to create a Commission on Nuclear Energy Phase Out;

FOR IAEA - to stop promoting nuclear energy and to concentrate on nuclear non-proliferation, both military and civilian.

(contact: Andrey Ozharovskiy, ANPED Nuclear Issues - Sustainable Energy Working Group)

Energy Efficiency: A win-win approach

Meeting the energy needs of the world requires a comprehensive framework that not only seeks to increase energy supply, but also improve the allocation and use of energy while reducing energy demand. Increasing and improving energy efficiency can deliver benefits in all of the issues address at the CSD15, and policy options to exploit its potential must be reflected in the outcomes of the Commission.

Improvements in energy efficiency offer win-win solutions to the needs of the developing and the developed world. But, what can energy efficiency bring to the CSD?

It can

- Improve energy use with financial gains for different sectors using new and cutting-edge industrial technologies.
- Reduce current energy use, in some countries, by 70% by improving building.
- Reduce energy use by 10% improving stand-by use, or energy leakage.
- Reduce industrial energy use, in some countries, by 17%-33% through improving production processes by 2050.
- Reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 45%- 53% through improving production processes by 2050.¹

Energy efficiency is a win-win scenario –it must be a priority for a sustainably powered world.

Improving energy efficiency in the developing world requires technology transfer from developed countries; the CSD must create a framework that allows developing countries to access the benefits of energy efficiency. Public-Private

Partnerships is one option; further action is needed to promote a sustainable approach to energy use. Developed countries, in the spirit of the Monterey Consensus, must assist developing countries in leap-frogging to energy efficiency technologies and capacity building.

Some Policy Priorities for Energy Efficiency

Residential use: More regulations for new buildings and retrofits of old infrastructure can reduce cost and deliver savings to homeowners. Policy regulations can prescribe energy performance thresholds through MEPS, energy information labels, and subsidies for energy efficient appliances, building codes, and other methods to promote savings according. Because many appliances are imported to the developing world, it is important to harmonize references to perform-

ance standards observing international trade regulations.

Industrial use: We need to set benchmarks, energy auditing, and standards for industry, and these can deliver further benefits with far-sighted and transparent public-private and private-private partnerships. MEPS need to be set and enforced by governments, and these can be enhanced promoting voluntary measures through savings programmes.

Transportation: There are many policy options, and different measures and policies can help shape consumer behavior. Some of these are MEPS for national fleets, and improvements in public transportation. Improved technologies can help cut fuel use, and these technologies can be promoted through tax incentives.

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¹ Figures estimated by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its "Energy Technologies Perspective 2006: Scenarios and Strategies for 2050" Report for the 2006 G8 summit

“Without energy, nothing will run”

Yesterday Taking Issue talked to Raymond Myles, Secretary General for Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association, India, in developing countries, like India where Raymond comes from, 70% of the population lives in rural areas. Electric wires only distribute power to cities, while poor people see wires are passing over their villages and access to energy never gets to them. But when it reaches them, it does not last long. Access to energy for domestic use, particularly in Asia and Africa, is only an illusion.

As we convene for the CSD IPM, participants are making equitable and just access to energy services to fulfil basic needs of all citizens as contentious issues. Raymond says that access must be introduced in energy policies with time-bound targets and commitments, as an integrated element of the Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSPs) and National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs), with a focus on the poor and with institutionalised citizen involvement.

Energy access for domestic use needs to be improved. Women and children are taking much of their time collecting fire wood, as they do not

have a proper biogas stove. They are vulnerable to in-house pollu-

tion, they are suffering from eye and lung problems, and their life expectancy is decreasing. While many people are dying from water-borne diseases, safe drinking water could be available if solar energy is used for purification. If women and children are provided with clean energy at affordable cost, global health is bound to improve.

In most rural areas there is no reliable energy supply for irrigation, and people are forced to use diesel, which is not a sustainable means of energy and adds extra expenses to agricultural production.

Rural people are also dependent on diesel for their transportation.

“When we are talking about poverty it does not mean that poor people do not want energy, they want every thing but they can not afford”



Er. Raymond Myles

Myles put emphasis on bio-diesel for small scale industries at low cost and as a sustainable fuel for the poor.

“When we are talking about poverty, it does not mean that poor people do not want energy, they want energy, but they can not afford it” said Myles. He said, while talking about poverty reduction and improving people’s life, Raymond believes that there should be a mechanism to make sure that energy alternatives are affordable to address issues of poverty and improve the life of millions.

Micro-financing can help poor people access energy and secure ownership in the long run. Myles said that if the world wants to promote a new form of energy, it should not be linked to income generation—it should be decentralized and linked with employment generation.

Energy and entrepreneurial development are connected. Promoting entrepreneurial development in rural areas, helps promote new technologies, such as solar energy and biomass. Similarly, Raymond believes that energy should be linked to capacity building to help people in rural areas understand the benefits of these new technologies.

Energy is important to improve lifestyles, but if energy is not sustainable and affordable, instead of empowering people, it will exploit them. Energy is not only related with life style, it is an input for every sector of development; health, agriculture, infrastructure, etc. with out energy, nothing will run.

As a result, there should be energy policy, which recognizes 1.5 billion people have no access to energy throughout the world. Poor

people will never have access to energy unless there is a policy with an action plan that states activities such as capacity building, micro financing and involvement of stakeholders (NGOs) in training as well as generating employment are vital.

Myles believes that this policy should encourage NGOs to take part in the process, as civil societies are the only group that can play the role to make energy accessible

for the poor. Civil societies can integrate the issue of energy in their activities when they are involved in development activities at grassroots level. The problem here is that civil societies do not

have the resources to train people nor to maintain access to energy unless there is a mechanism to make NGOs have access to funds in a flexible manner.

As a conclusion Myles said that policy makers have to accept that it is not only their document that is needed, but also their will; their will to promote and implement renewable energy on the long term. They should have a clear agenda of implementation and should encourage private sectors to provide energy in rural areas.

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UN REFORM

WORKSHOP ON THE UN-SYSTEM WIDE COHERENCE:

Recommendations of the High-level Panel on the environmental architecture of the United Nations

Inter-governmental Preparatory Meeting for the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Co-sponsored by UN Non-governmental Liaison Service (UN NGLS), Stakeholder Forum, the Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for Environment and Development (FBOMS) and ANPED, the Northern Alliance for Sustainability with support of the governments of Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and the UN Foundation.

28th FEBRUARY 2007

4.00 pm – 6 pm

Conference Room C

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Programme:

- Overview of the report of the High-level Panel on UN-System Wide Coherence and sustainable development
- Update on discussions at UNEP GC on environmental reform
- Update on discussions at the General Assembly on the environment
- Discussion on the Commission on Sustainable Development
- Discussion on the Sustainable Development Board and one country programme

Trade Unions Urge CSD Governments: “Break-Away From Spell-Bound Submission to Market Forces”

Lucien Royer // Trade Union Priorities for Action UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD15-IPM) 2007

Trade unionist Lucien Royer told government delegations at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) this morning in New York that they “have fallen under a spell of a prevailing belief that the best thing they can do is to make themselves small – to unleash the forces of the market, and then get out of the way”.

The representative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) told a full room of government and Major Group representatives that industrial policy remained a main driver for achieving sustainable energy objectives but that “assertive state and interstate action was needed for new and considerable international regulation and constraints on the way markets work and on those who act in them”.

“We are faced with a critical situation – such as climate change – which constitutes the biggest market failure in history”, he said, and that “national industrial planning for production priorities, investment, industrial governance and corporate accountability must now be made to reinforce environmental protection and social cohesion”.

“The CSD must now speak up about how the ‘industrial relations’ between workers, their representatives and employer organizations should become tools for joint implementation of solutions, through

collective bargaining, partnership agreements, or other legal structures related to workplaces” .

He said that workers must become engaged with their employers at the workplace level to reduce CO2 or other contaminants and in cleaning up the environment. “Effective training and education must serve to beef up their capacities” he said.

Royer warned that the next 10 years would usher intensive restructuring of industry, which must be guided by ‘just transition’ and democratically-determined policies to identify and address distributional effects – especially for the most vulnerable, including women, youth and the working poor.

Employment losses must be taken into account, he said, and job promotion made to catalyze labour intensive work in energy conservation, redesign & construction, technology implementation, and transportation practice – all with the view to also eradicate poverty.

“Entire buildings and infrastructures will be redesigned, newly created, dismantled or moved yet past errors must not be repeated” he said. “Chemical compounds in existing structures must be handled properly and others like asbestos or mercury must be banned or eliminated completely”.

Royer also warned that Governments needed to take heed of the serious threat of HIV/AIDS in impeding progress on climate change and poverty eradication, especially now in Africa and in the not too distant future within many other countries of the world. “We call here on the G8 Summit next June to establish a high level working group to yearly examine progress in tackling this disease,” he emphasized.

He said that the spell-bound character of governments to let loose market forces has led to the damaging trends of privatizing utilities, “just when we need to instead define new roles for the public service, especially for improving access by poor and vulnerable groups to much needed resources and services”.

“In the absence of a significantly bold response to our climate change and other catastrophes like HIV/AIDS, all subsequent issues could fall by default – to the disadvantage of us all”.

“climate change and our response to air pollution, as well as to the need for industrial design must be placed in a context of sustainable development”, he concluded, saying that financial resources for social & environmentally friendly energy must be made to support synergies in addressing barriers and effectively promoting actions that CSD 2007 will propose”.

Sustainable Consumption and Production: The Marrakech Process

An often heard complaint during CSD is the lack of attention to cross-cutting issues. One of these cross-cutting issues is SCP, or Sustainable Consumption and Production. A special process is in place to monitor and follow up on this important issue: the Marrakech Process. Taking Issue attended the UN DESA/UNEP side event on Monday that provided an explanation and an update of this process.

The Marrakech Process

is a global process supporting national and regional initiatives promoting the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns. The process was started as a response to demands in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation calling for the development of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The first international meeting devoted to developing the 10 Year Framework took place in Marrakech, from which the process took its name. UNEP and UN DESA are the lead agencies of this global process.

The phases

The Marrakech Process consists of the following phases:

- Organizing regional consultations to promote awareness and identify priorities and needs for SCP
- Building regional strategies and implementation mechanisms with regional and national ownership
- Implementing concrete projects, programmes and initiatives at the local, national and regional levels
- Monitoring and evaluating progress and exchanging information and experience at the international level.

Between 2003 and 2005, nine regional consultations were held in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. International review meetings are organized

biannually; the last one took place in 2005 in Costa Rica. This year the international review meeting will take place in Stockholm, from 26-29 June.

The challenge

The main implementation challenge the Marrakech process is facing is wide participation and support. Therefore, it is seeking ways in which participation can be broadened. Participation needs to be broadened at several levels:

- more engagement from developing countries
- more participation from the private sector and civil society
- more participation from multiple governments and ministries
- more active involvement from development cooperation agencies

The Marrakech Process is approaching this challenge through its Task Forces, its Cooperation Dialogue with development agencies and by the promotion of national strategies on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Taskforces

In order to support the implementation of concrete projects, and to focus on specific themes of Sustainable Consumption and Production, the so-called Marrakech Task Forces has been created. These are voluntary initiatives led by governments that, in cooperation with other part-

ners, commit themselves to carrying out a set of concrete activities at national or regional level that promote a shift to Sustainable and Production patterns. Currently, there are 7 task forces: cooperation with Africa, sustainable products, lifestyles, procurement, tourism, building construction and sustainable consumption.

What next?

The next step in this process is the third International Expert Meeting on the 10 Year Framework that will take place in Stockholm, Sweden from 26-29 June 2007. The meeting aims to have the following outcomes:

- Review and evaluation of progress to as well as provide a new direction for future activities.
- Initial vision of what goals and key elements might look of the 10 year Framework might look like
- Stronger engagement of private sector and civil society through new entry points and platforms for cooperation.
- Strengthened cooperation on the implementation agenda for regional processes, including links to the work of the taskforces and development cooperation agencies.
- The announcement of several new Sustainable Consumption and Production initiatives

For more information, please refer to: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/consumption/Marrakech/conprod10Yglobmeet.htm>

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Question of the day

What is your most important issue regarding energy?



Anare Matakiviti
Energy Adviser, South Pacific

Access to energy especially modern energy services for rural areas.



Rose Mensah-Kutin
ABANTU for Development, West Africa

I guess that the most important question for me in the context of Africa, is access to clean and affordable energy services in their households and in their economic activities. Privatization policies on the energy sector have not benefited women and there's a need to promote energy services as public good to benefit women and the poor.



Lucien Royer
Trade Unions, France

The possibility that workers through out the world will engage in concrete action with their employers at work place level to have reduce Carbon dioxide emissions and to agree on joint action at the community level.

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