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First Issue

JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT PREPCOMM 4 * BALI, INDONESIA * NGO NEWSLETTER

WHY ARE WE HERE?

They say that politics makes strange bedfellows, and the WSSD process is no exception. After years of operating in their own separate spheres, a number of environment, development and aid organisations have come together via the preparatory processes for the WSSD – partly in recognition that we need to break down the artificial walls between our different spheres of operation – and partly out of a sense of despair that this process is going nowhere, and that only by working together do we have any hope of influencing a process that seems to be moving in ever deeper spirals down the proverbial drain. One of the results of that coming together was the decision to bring you ECO-Equity throughout the Bali PrepComm and the Johannesburg Summit – to give you our views on the state of the negotiations – and to say out loud what governments can only say in private.

The Chairman's text for PrepComm II was bad, but it showed some promise. The Chairman's text for PrepComm III was worse, but there were some positive initiatives introduced which could have moved it in the right direction. The Chairman's text for PrepComm IV is a disaster, the lowest common denominator which does not even begin to fill the mandate that the UN General Assembly gave to the WSSD. In response, the heads of all of our organisations wrote to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and all Heads of State/Heads of Government last week to plead for their leadership to drag this process out of the sewer.

"The WSSD presents a rare opportunity for governments to work together to find solutions that will ensure an equitable and environmentally sustainable development"

-continued to page 3, col 1

An Open Letter to the Chairman

Dear Chairman Salim,

We are writing to you today in ECO to urge you to save this process. As you know, we are tremendously worried that this Bali meeting, in your home country, will bring us backward instead of forward. Why do we say this? From our observation, this process is following neither the mandate of the UN General Assembly Resolution, nor the recent statements of Kofi Annan: Targets and timebound measures are essential for a programme of action. Means of implementation, financial resources and governance must be part of the package. To quote Mr. Annan, "The Summit also aims to move from commitments – of which we have had plenty, 30 years ago and 10 years ago – to action." Our question is – where is the action in your text Mr. Chairman? We therefore cannot endorse your text and urge you to restructure it to include the elements above. It is not too late to do so and it is essential for this process to succeed.

We know that there are a number of countries that are working against you. The United States, Canada, Australia, Japan and Saudi Arabia will be brought into the public eye over these weeks to highlight their damaging influence in this process. Civil society will ensure that this happens.

You know that since Rio the status of the poor and the environment have both deteriorated. Johannesburg should move the world forward in dealing with these issues. We fear, however, that we are staring business as usual in the face. It is time to move forward Mr. Chairman. We have faith in you.

Indonesia, Please Lead Us

It takes a lot of guts to host the Ministerial Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Prepcom). But it takes even more guts to take the leadership in chairing it.

The world is watching with keen eyes on the Prepcom and its outcomes. The world is already disappointed with the quality of the Chairman's Text since it is almost impossible to salvage. The pressures from vested interests are obvious throughout the text. Take, for example, the paragraphs on energy. Fossil fuel is all over the sub-paragraphs on "clean" energy. The Text would not move beyond CSD9 agreements, however weak it is. The paragraph on climate change, unanimously agreed upon at the Marrakech Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention, is bracketed in the Chairman's Text. The list can get longer.

Of course, we understand that Indonesia is in a situation that is vulnerable to pressures. Indonesia's foreign debt problem makes it vulnerable to pressure from creditor countries, some of which are puppet governments of the

oil industry. Indonesia is also a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which makes it vulnerable to pressures from the other OPEC countries, some of which really do not want any progress with regard to energy for sustainable development.

But as the Chair of Prepcom, Indonesia needs to stand above vested interests, and shield itself from biases. It needs to protect itself from the influence of, for example, other OPEC members that want Indonesia to support their damaging strategy. Not only are the time-bound action plan and clear means of implementation for affordable access to energy services good for the world and the 2 billion poor who have no access to energy services, but also for the 40% of Indonesians who have no access to electricity. Similarly a time-bound plan for renewable energy is as good for the world as it is good for decreasing Indonesia's dependence on oil. The world will judge for which interests Indonesia stands. Indonesia, we need your leadership in operationalizing sustainable development. The whole world is watching.

Negotiating the Johannesburg Plan of Inaction

PrepCom 4 is off to what can conservatively be called an inauspicious start. Just when you thought it couldn't get any worse, an already weak text is being ratcheted down in a way that ensures that absolutely NO action-oriented words survive. The U.S., Canada, Australia and Japan have been leading the charge in both working groups to block any language that contains targets and timetables, regardless of the issue. As one example, the U.S. yesterday – with backing from the JUSCAN group – successfully eliminated a sanitation target from the text, despite this already being a Millennium Declaration Goal. Shockingly, the U.S. also seem opposed a commitment to reducing infant mortality, choosing instead the weaker term, "seeking to" reduce. Other regional groupings are being complicit in allowing these tactics to thrive. This begs the question of why we need a Heads of State Summit – if the only potentially useful outcomes are going to be voluntary ones.

The first two days of the Bali PrepCom have continued the painstaking process of wordsmithing that includes inserting more and

more permissive language. "Secure" is becoming "improve;" "ensure" is becoming "promote" or "support;" and "develop programmes" is turning into "support initiatives." This is amounting to a general attack on action. Countries seem to be forgetting the purpose of this Summit – which is about implementation and action, and accelerating the implementation of Agenda 21. This was in fact agreed in the UN General Assembly Resolution establishing the Summit process, which specifically stated that the UNCED ten-year review process should focus on action-oriented decisions in areas where further efforts are needed to implement Agenda 21. The Commission on Sustainable Development, as the Preparatory Committee, was further requested to propose **"specific time-bound measures to be undertaken."**

And if this weren't enough, many countries are hiding behind other processes such as CSDA, Doha and Monterrey to maintain the status quo on energy, trade and finance respectively. It is a shame that governments continue to focus on how to minimize the contribution of the WSSD to making trade and investment supportive of sustainable development rather than the other way around.

It would behoove all delegates to honestly ask themselves: Why am I here?

But, Where is Europe?

"Where is Europe?" is one of the questions most commonly heard these days in the corridors during the WSSD preparatory process.

International environmental policy has been conditioned in recent years by the conflict between the USA, generally supported by Canada and Australia, and the European Union, often in coalition or sympathy with the group of 77. All this has taken place against the background of a trade war within the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

But since Spain took up its six-month-long presidency of the European Union last January, many environmentalists have a bitter sense that Europe has abandoned any ambition to move international environmental policy forward. In counterpoint, the US has been increasingly active trying to dismantle the progress that has been made.

Last February, for example, US President George W. Bush's announcement of an his "alternative plan to Kyoto," which is liable to lead to up to a 30 % increase in greenhouse gas emissions by the US, coincided with the important meeting of the UNEP Governing Council in Cartagena, Colombia. Many journalists in Cartagena asked, "What is Europe's response to President Bush's plan," but the response was too slow and too timid. Spain's environment Minister Jaime Matas, who is known for his

personal skills and charisma, missed a good opportunity to serve the environmental cause.

The issue of renewable energy is clearly destined to be one of the central axes of the Johannesburg summit, and there is still time to make that summit the starting point of what we have come to call the "renewable energy revolution." At their meeting in Sao Paulo last week, the Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean have proposed the adoption by the WSSD of a target of 10% of energy use world-wide to come from renewable sources within eight years.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are not alone proposing a world-wide target for renewable energy sources for the WSSD. Earlier this month the European Parliament adopted an even more ambitious target. This should be welcomed by Spain, a leader in renewable technologies such as solar and wind, and dozens of countries where non-renewable energy is no option. Sadly, though, at the WSSD PrepComs, there were experts in the Spanish delegation who knew a great deal about offshore oil and gas installations, for example, little about renewables.

With its final month as EU president approaching, Spain has one last opportunity to seize this important moment for environmental progress. Will the country known by its tourism tag-line, "Everything Under the Sun," shine?

*-Why Are We Here?
from page 1*

path that is capable of delivering lasting poverty eradication and environmental security. However, there has been a shocking lack of political will throughout the preparatory process to date, causing civil society groups to question the utility of the process altogether. Not only do governments thus far seem unwilling to agree to concrete, time bound action plans to deliver on the landmark 1992 'Agenda 21' agreements; if anything, they seem to be moving backwards."

To remind delegates WHY THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE, General Assembly Resolution A/Res/55/199 called for the Summit to:

- Identify major constraints hindering the implementation of Agenda 21;
- Propose specific time-bound measures to be undertaken; and
- Identify institutional and financial

requirements and sources.

A Johannesburg plan of action MUST include:

- **Targets and timetables;**
- **Financial resources for implementation;**
- **Means of implementation including capacity-building, education for sustainable development, technology-transfer and other;**
- **Institutional requirements, including accountability mechanisms; and**
- **A mechanism for monitoring and reporting of commitments post-Johannesburg**

We're still waiting for any signs that negotiators here at the PrepComm have any idea why they're here. We hope their masters get the message before it's too late to save the Summit.

The full text of the letter is at: <http://www.greenpeace.org/earthsummit/docs/heads.pdf>

Bali Hai

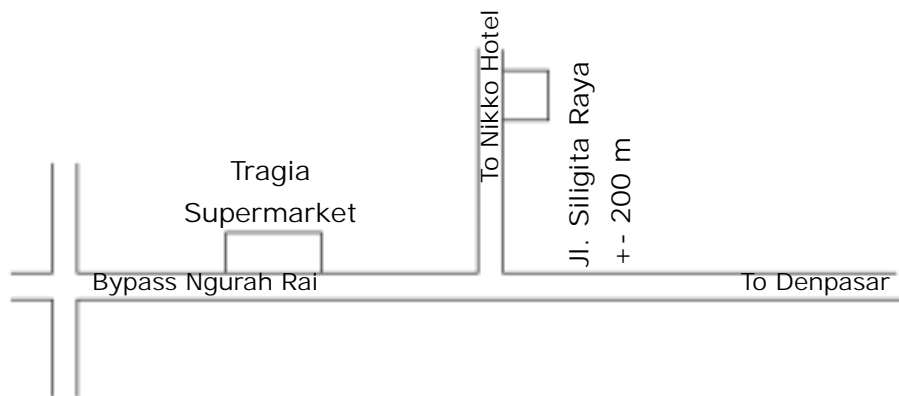
Bali Hai has discovered that there are not only 2 types of Summit outcomes, but a whole slew of others which have recently been found. For instance, Type 3 seems to involve unique and innovative plans of action that, interestingly, include absolutely no targets or timetables (please see mandates of Canada, Australia, U.S.A. and Japan). Type 4 outputs include an initiative to have George Bush actually say the words "sustainable development" without reading them on a teleprompter.

Bali Hai has also heard rumblings that a Type 5 outcome is being worked on, where the U.S. will – using the age-old art of ventriloquism – throw its voice and provide Australia's interventions (although they seem to have a jump start on this based on their coordinated interventions yesterday on targets and time-bound measures).

Bali Hai hopes that more of these useful, action-oriented initiatives emerge in the coming days.

An Invitation to Everyone Let's Have a Party!!!

Where?	When?
White Rock Cafe Nusa Dua - Bali (see map)	Tuesday, 28 May 2002 From 20:00 - 24:00



Note: The organizer only provides DJ and music. Meals and drinks are on personal account.

Eco-Equity is a publication of the Danish 92 Group, World Wide Fund for Nature, Greenpeace International, Friends of the Earth International, International Institute For Environment and Development, Northern Alliance for Sustainability, Consumers International, Pelangi, Fundacion Natura.

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