

# eco

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Renewables  
Issue

JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT PREPCOMM 4 \* BALI, INDONESIA \* NGO NEWSLETTER

## WHAT A WASTE OF ENERGY

The Energy contact group is turning the World Summit on Suspiciously Similar Development (WSSSD) process into a 'Polluters Charter'. If current language prevails it will deliver zero added value to sustainable energy whilst legitimizing the promotion of 'advanced fossil fuels' (read new coal power stations) and 'liquid and gaseous fuels' (read oil and gas). A 'Polluters Charter' does not deserve NGO support and will not receive it.

Nation states acting on behalf of the fossil fuel lobby have successfully blocked any language on timebound measures to promote sustainable energy and in particular renewables. However new proposals to support renewables are waiting in the wings for more support. The Swiss have already proposed a small renewables target of 5% by 2010 which met with resounding silence as the Energy Contact Group consulted its collective navel. The Hungarians have also

supported a target whilst recognizing the impossibility of linking action on renewables with that on fossil fuels. In addition, proving wrong those who say that developing countries do not support renewables, Latin American and Caribbean Environment ministers agreed recently, in Sao Paulo, to bring a 10% by 2010 renewables target to Bali. Although the Latin negotiators appear to have left these documents at home (copies can be obtained at the office of the Indonesian Peoples Forum) this is still better than the EU which seems to have forgotten that it has a 15-State domestic renewables target itself.

A 10% global target for 'new' renewable energy (no large dams, no waste incineration) by 2010, backed with a concrete implementation plan, offers win-win energy opportunities in the North and the South. Many countries already have renewables

targets at the national level. A global target and action plan will simply facilitate the spread of such national best practice.

Setting a target for renewable energy would help deliver an ambitious global plan of action which should include:

- Domestic energy policy reform programmes.
- Increased support from International Financial Institutions.
- Increased support from bilateral financial sources.
- A clear signal to drive accelerated private sector investments.

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## Why are YOU here?

Yesterday, we asked the question, 'Why are we here?' Maybe the question should be restated. 'Why are YOU here?' Since they can't seem to come up with any targets of their own, negotiators, maybe it's time to 'target' the negotiators, the desk-bound bureaucrats who are sent here on behalf of governments to do their dirty work for them. Maybe that's why we seem to be moving backwards....

Newcomers to the negotiations are appalled at the lack of energy, vision, enthusiasm and above all, lack of leadership demonstrated by the government bureaucrats who are sent to these meetings, and old-timers like to remember a time when individual governments weren't afraid to speak up instead of hiding behind their regional blocs or a pathetically weak text. With a few exceptions, these negotiators seem bound and determined to turn back the hands of time. It's already been ten years since Rio, and the list of achievements is small compared to the goals of that Summit; and we're seriously behind the game in meeting the Millennium Development Targets, which come due in 2015. We're running out of time for world's poorest and the natural environment.

Maybe the wrong people are sitting around the negotiating table. After all, they're 'just' civil servants, and in many instances seem to be neither 'civil' nor servants of anything other than preserving the status quo. Leadership requires risk taking, and this is one risk-averse bunch.

What have they got to lose? If they manage to come up with something, then the ministers can come swanning in to pose for the cameras and get the limelight, the headlines, and the kudos at home. If they don't come up with anything, then they'll find a way to put a positive spin on it and then

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Country/Region	Renewable Energy Target
European Union	12% by 2010 , 22% of electricity (regional target)
Denmark	20% by 2020
Germany	12.5% of electricity by 2010
France	21 % of electricity by 2010
Spain	10-12 % by 2010
UK	10% of electricity by 2010
China	5% of electricity by 2010 (national plan)
India	10% of new power generation by 2010
Nigeria	Rate of rural electrification of 85% by 2010 (renewables a key component)
Uganda	Rate of rural electrification of 10% by 2010 (renewables a key component)
Japan	3.8% by 2010
Latin America	10% by 2010 (regional target)
US	20% of electricity by 2010 (Jeffords' bill under consideration)

**Table 1:** selected national renewable targets (source: G8 Renewables Task Force 2002)

# Yes to Sustainable Trade – but No to “Trade at All Costs”

Kofi Annan recently identified five key areas where concrete results can and must be obtained at the World Summit for Sustainable Development: water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity as “areas in which progress is possible with the resources and technologies at our disposal.”

That’s encouraging but this won’t work unless WSSD addresses the underlying causes of these and a host of other social and environmental problems, particularly trade-environment linkages.

More than 150 NGOs from all over the world are asking governments to reaffirm the authority and autonomy of MEAs, and to clarify that the objectives, principles, and provisions of MEAs will not be subordinated to WTO rules.\*

A critical component to stop the current trends against sustainable development is the clarification of the relationship between Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. The conflict between trade and environment rules is one of the obstacles to sustainability. The mandate of the WSSD includes the identification of such obstacles, and their elimination. And the nature of this conflict and of the different interests involved makes it imperative that Heads of State and Government address how to resolve these contradictions.

Around twenty MEAs have trade-related provisions. But because of the rapid development of WTO rules with strong en-

forcement measures, the implementation of some MEA trade provisions has suffered from a “chilling” effect.

As part of the Doha Declaration, WTO Members did agree to start negotiations on the relationship between MEAs and trade rules. But you cannot expect a fair outcome from negotiations taking place under the auspices of one of the parties in the dispute (the WTO). It makes more sense to resolve the issue in a setting such as the WSSD, which is neutral and at a high political level.

A number of countries may be reluctant to touch on an issue that is apparently addressed in the Doha Declaration. But, hasn’t the US already done irreversible damage to the credibility of Doha, with President Bush’s recent subsidies to the US steel and agriculture sectors? Hasn’t the time arrived to realize that the US and the EU have out-maneuvered the rest of the world?

If Johannesburg does not bring the WTO to recognize the supremacy of multilateral environmental agreements, that organization will continue to undermine every sustainability and environmental agreement.

Let’s not fool ourselves!

\* The NGO statement on WTO and MEAs is available on the websites of Friends of the Earth International, Greenpeace International, Third World Network, and WFF-International.

## Wanted: NGOs for Sale

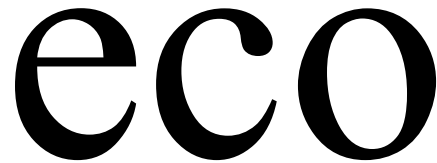
Commitment phobic Northern government seeks tame NGO for mutually beneficial “partnership.” Must be willing to embrace Programme of Inaction. Monetary reward negotiable. No long term commitment necessary.

Does this personal ad seem all too familiar? Partnership arrangements are shaping up as the dark horse of the WSSD process. Some see them as the sole saviour of an otherwise doomed process; others see them as the Trojan horse to facilitate the neo-colonial agenda of transnational corporations (TNCs) in a world of unequal power relationships. Still others see them as an attempt to bribe NGOs into letting governments off the hook for failing to make new commitments, while some see them as a potentially useful tool to facilitate the implementation of a WSSD Programme of Action and Agenda 21.

The term “partnership” has become so trendy as to be trite: with UNEP suddenly characterizing its 30 year history of engagement with civil society as a “partnership,” the WSSD can hardly call the concept novel or innovative. NGOs have been developing partnerships with governments and the private sector for years. The important thing to remember about partnerships is that they are a means, not an end.

The bottom line for many NGOs is that any partnership initiative – as the concept is evolving in the WSSD process - must support but not replace government commitment to specific time bound measures as called for in the General Assembly Resolution establishing the WSSD process. To be credible, partnership initiatives must:

- Be linked to specific elements of the Programme of Action



- Have targets and timeframes
- Include civil society partners
- Be driven by local interests, not primarily by the donor
- Be accompanied by secured resources
- Specify accountability mechanisms, including transparent monitoring and reporting back to the multilateral WSSD follow up process.

Successful long term relationships require trust, respect and, most of all, commitment. The same is true of sustainable development partnerships.

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Such measures would push down the cost of renewables, improving their affordability and accessibility as an option for those without adequate energy services today.

Without a global target to focus and drive an action plan, the WSSD is likely to deliver a random assortment of uncoordinated, ineffective actions that would in all likelihood have happened anyway. The polluters will not pay and the polluted will continue to pick up the bill for their actions. This is unacceptable.

# COLOMBIA, ¿QUE PASA?

There is disturbing news coming from Colombia.

Environmentalists had raised great hopes when President Andrés Pastrana appointed Juan Mayr, a renowned environmental and indigenous rights activist, as Environment Minister four years ago.

This was a few months before the famous meeting to adopt a CBD Protocol on Biosafety was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. As minister of the host country, Juan Mayr got the task of chairing the meeting. The Biosafety Protocol is a legal instrument reaffirming the right of any country to say “no” to Genetically Modified Organisms in food and agriculture on the basis of the precautionary principle, as envisaged in Rio Agenda 21.

The rest is one of the most famous chapters of the *post-Rio decade*: the US, Canada, Australia and a couple more grain exporting countries formed the so-called *Miami Group* to sink the negotiations. With threats of WTO economic retaliation, the Cartagena talks were suspended until after the WTO ministerial conference in Seattle. In Seattle, the US, Canada and Australia proposed the creation of a WTO body that would deal with the regulation of GMOs in their own way (read: any restriction would be considered a breach of WTO discipline). But their proposal sank together with the rest of the Seattle conference.

Eight weeks later, the Biosafety negotiations were resumed in Montreal. Juan Mayr as the chairman was supported and empowered by a strong *like-minded group* led by Ethiopia, the European Union and environmental and development NGOs. He became for a while a hero of the environmental movement when the protocol was adopted after several long nights of negotiations.

Pursuant to last weekend’s presidential election in Colombia, Juan Mayr is now expected to make his final international appearance as Environment Minister of his country here in Bali for PrepCom IV. One would expect that in these circumstances, he would seek to demonstrate leadership here in Bali, but so far there has been on sign of this:

1. At the meeting of Environment Ministers from the Latin American and Caribbean region held last week in Sao Paulo (which Juan Mayr did not attend in person), Colombia was the only country opposing the adoption of concrete targets and time-tables by the WSSD, and it was only under very strong pressure that the Colombian delegation conceded the adoption of a target of 10% for renewable energy world-wide. We all know of course that Colombia’s economy is in part dependent on oil exports. But this is also true of other Latin American countries who nevertheless supported the renewables target;
2. Perhaps even more disturbing, Juan Mayr appears to be ready to leave office without having completely secured the ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on

Biosafety by his country. This leaves Colombia’s biodiversity defenceless against the threats from GMOs;

3. And – according to Monsanto, the American Genetic Engineering giant – Colombia has recently given a green light to the planting of genetically engineered Bt cotton, though no regulations (linked to the Cartagena Protocol or otherwise) have been enacted in this country.

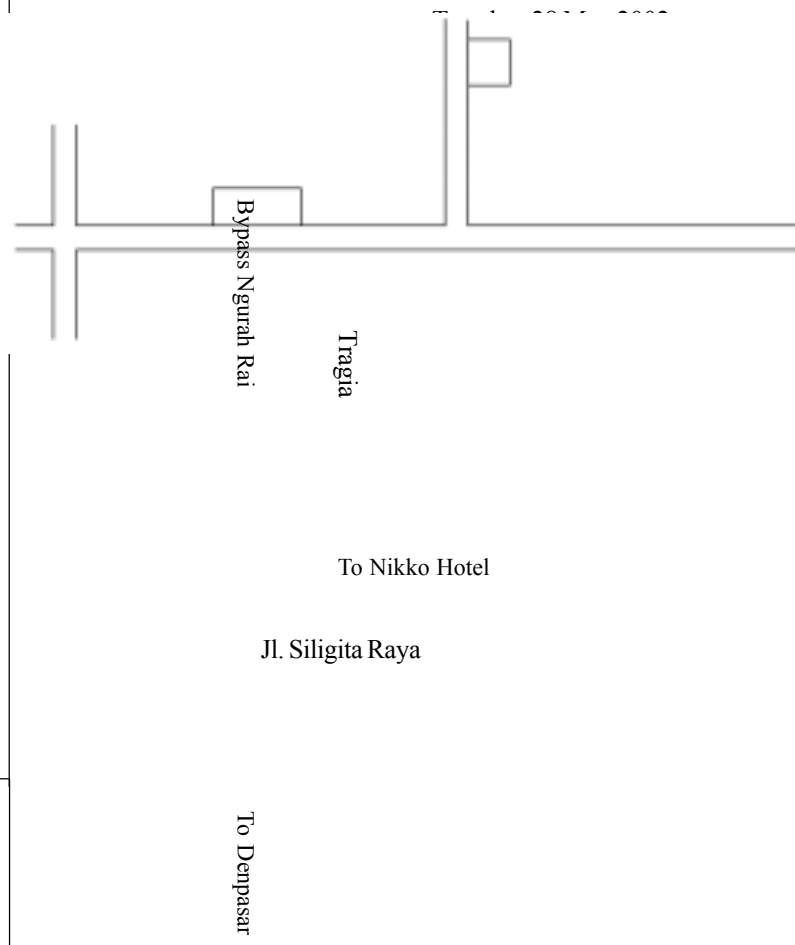
Colombia is one of the centres of origin of cotton, and in this country there are *wild parents* of cotton. Cotton forms part of the traditional agriculture system of indigenous people in the Amazon basin, and GE cotton puts agricultural diversity, biodiversity and traditional livelihoods at risk. Risks that were designed to be prevented by the Biosafety Protocol that Juan Mayr helped to conceive, but never got ratified in his own country.

Come on, Juan! ¡ Vamos! We know Colombia has a difficult relationship with the US. But this is not new. This is no reason to become their hostage and threaten your people’s resources and future. A hundred years or so after the US took the Panama Canal away from you, do not let them take the rest!

P.S. Only 19 countries have ratified of the 35 needed for the Protocol to enter into force.

## Reminder! Our Party Tonight

Where? When?



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

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slink home, hoping that no-one will connect the dots and quietly let this process sink into the oblivion that many are beginning to think it deserves. After all, who even remembers 1982 Summit ‘Ten Years After Stockholm’? Are governments willing to consign the Johannesburg Summit to the same fate?

Tuesday, 28 May 2002.

## Bali Hai

A member of the Australian delegation was heard to mutter yesterday that “it would be better if this summit had never happened”. Bali Hai wonders if it it wouldn't be better if Australia had stayed home.

New Zealanders are an independent lot, especially when it comes to big countries trying to push them around. A US negotiator was overheard telling a member of the New Zealand delegation that they'd really appreciate New Zealand's support on their positions at the PrepComm... and added that ‘it would be worth their while...’. Bali Hai would like to remind the US negotiators that last we heard, New Zealand is not such a cheap date as Australia.

Overheard in the hallway (or was it at Double Six?): “What's up with the Australians? They're so close to the US, they're almost sitting in their laps having sex.” But as the US was heard to say in the oceans contact group, “We're under instructions regarding dates so we can't take dates.” Presumably not even cheap

dates. Bali Hai suggests that perhaps such conversations ought to be conducted in private by consenting adults.

A Question to South Africa, Host of the Summit:

Given that your country has not even signed – let alone ratified – the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, many delegates anxiously want to know if you will guarantee that GE-free foods, such as maize and wheat currently grown in South Africa, will be served by the catering service at Jo'burg? Thank you in advance... and Bon Appétit !

Heard in the lobby of the conference centre.

*Punished delegates...*

“Bad students make me sick when they complain of not being allowed to go to the beach because they haven't done their homework properly, and must then rush to get ready for their mid-summer exams”.

James “Kimo” Goree IV, Editor of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin



## ‘Arctic Sunrise’ arrives in Bali

Welcomed by traditional dancers, musicians, NGOs and the press, the Greenpeace ship *Arctic Sunrise* arrived in Bali yesterday afternoon. The ship and its international crew of 30 hope to help focus international attention on the Bali PrepCom.

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

Editor: Beth Roxas

Lay out: Omar Sari

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<http://www.climatenetwork.org/eco/>