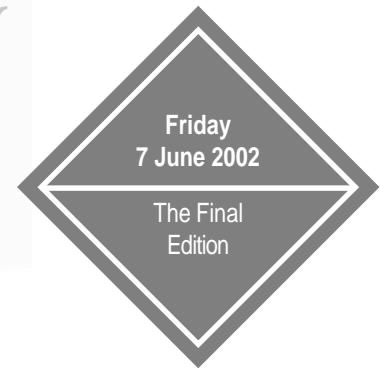


eco

equity



JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT PREPCOMM 4 * BALI, INDONESIA * NGO NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL: HOMEWORK FOR JOHANNESBURG

As we publish the last ECO for PrepCom IV, it seems there are three possible outcomes: one, total collapse of these negotiations; two, an 'agreed' text which is indeed the lowest common denominator which will consign this process to the dustbin of history as another 'do-nothing' UN conference; and three, as clean a text as possible here in Bali, leaving a few key issues in brackets (finance, energy and "common but differentiated responsibilities") to form the basis of the political discussions between now and Johannesburg, and at the Summit itself.

From what we can tell at 3AM Friday morning, option three seems the most likely, and depending on what's 'in' and what's 'out', it's clearly the most hopeful option, given the sad state of these negotiations to date.

Assuming we have important targets, timetables and action programs in brackets for the next two months, we can focus the po-

litical discussion, and at the same time generate public interest in the outcome of the Summit. When we were dealing with 40, 60, or 120 pages of diplomatic gobbledygook, interesting anyone other than the truly committed (committable?) was impossible. But if the discussion about the future of sustainable development can be crystallized into a debate over a few major issues, then we can work to truly engage the public, and make the Summit relevant to a meaningful percentage of the population. We think that can only help. The choices need to be clear. Countries must nail their colors to the mast on issues that matter to people – not on obscure wording in a bad negotiating text.

We do not want any document, but a document with clear targets such as the proposals for an increase in the new renewable share of the global energy matrix. A document that reflects a clear definition of the means of implementation and the resources

available, and more importantly: political will. The will to make a decent sustainable development plan with a vision for now and for the next ten years. The will to stand-up for the pressure from US, Canada or Australia and not surrender to their dirty tactics.

So, ministers, negotiators, NGOs: here is your mission, should you decide to accept it! Go forth from Bali, and spread the word...the fight is on! The World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in late August will decide....X, Y, and Z (TBD sometime between now and the close of play). The stakes are high, but the world has waited long enough. Caving in now means business as usual, or worse. Is a real program of poverty eradication through sustainable development truly the will of governments?

We'll be watching, and so, we hope, will the whole world.

GEF replenishment: Running on empty?

At Rio, it was agreed that new and additional external funding was necessary to share the costs and benefits of sustainable development and provide incremental funds to developing countries and countries in transition for the costs of delivering on Agenda 21 and various multi-lateral agreements.

The result?

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), which is an important source of funding for the goals of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the UNFCCC, the Montreal Protocol, and international waters programmes.

Current global donor contributions to the GEF amount to some \$2 billion, which in-

clude contributions from some major G77 countries such as China and India, reflecting the global nature of the GEF. A target for the third replenishment of \$3 billion was the aim for 2002. However, agreement on this top-up has been long and arduous. Some major donor countries have indicated their willingness to move ahead, but, currently, although the US has agreed to pay its arrears, it has not agreed to an increase in its contribution for the third replenishment. So an announcement of the anticipated \$3 billion seems a long way off and is sending a very negative signal to the WSSD process.

The US has argued – and it has been agreed – that the GEF should take on new focal areas for funding – the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants and land degradation, for example. So it's sur-

-continued to page 2, col 1

Poverty Eradication: The Will to Commit?

On this last day in Bali we recall the overarching theme for the Johannesburg Summit: Poverty eradication through sustainable development. So the question arises, what value added has the Bali PrepCom brought to international poverty eradication efforts? Answer: Slim to none. Back to the issue of targets and timetables.

As for time-bound commitments, the U.S. finally revealed it the eleventh hour here in Bali why it is opposed to time-bound commitments. The reasoning goes like this: If we agree to achieve Millennium Development Targets by 2015, the will to address the issues before then will be diluted since parties will wait until the eleventh hour to implement.

-continued to page 2, col 2

The Bali Assessment

Last Monday, ECO presented 11 make-or-break test cases to outline what a real implementation programme for Jo'burg might look like. Today we provide a traffic-light assessment of progress during the week:

Test Case	Rating	Assessment
1. Consumption and production "Develop and implement a 10-year programme"	Pass Open ? Fail	ECO still has hopes... The workprogramme + decoupling is still in but bracketed, monitoring and assessment has passed(!), but UN guidelines are out.
2. Energy "Access action plan, Renewables Target, Subsidies language, and Kyoto language"	Pass Open ? Fail	All four of these areas in the energy debate remain open. The world's poorest deserve an action plan on energy, driven at least in part by renewables, technology and market development, and a phase-out of fossil fuel and nuclear subsidies. The Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by both the EU and Japan during this PrepCom, and we need to keep the pressure on.
3. Water Access to water, sanitation, river basin management, priority action with stakeholders, financial resources.	Pass Open Fail ☒	The only positive result is a good target on access to water. Apart from that there is no action an implementation details are missing.
4. Biodiversity: Forest & Oceans Conservation, rehabilitation and restoration of biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources.	Pass Open ? Fail ☒	Forests: Even If the strongest target - CBD agreement - passes, it is still not good enough. CBD should be no more a ceiling than Monterrey or Doha. Oceans: elimination of subsidies is good, while maximum sustainable yield is bad: will the proposed text really make a difference?
5. Agriculture Action programme. Promotion of organic food, food security, halt to GMOs, land degradation focal area in GEF	Pass Open Fail	With most of the brackets now gone the agreed text now fails to promote an action plan for organic agriculture, a prerequisite for changing the course towards food security soil and water conservation, and agro-biodiversity
6. SIDS No commercial whaling and support for Western and Central Pacific tuna treaty.	Pass ☑ Open ? Fail	Whaling is out, Western and Central Pacific tuna treaty undecided.
7. Africa	Pass Open Fail	Cannot be evaluated: ECO has failed by not proposing any target, timetable or means of implementation
8. Trade and Environment End the subordination of the sustainable development agenda to the neoliberalisation agenda.	Pass Open Fail ☒	No tabled proposal even begins to address the need to privilege sustainable development above the 'theological' drive for global economic liberalisation.
9. Subsidies Eliminate environmentally harmful subsidies, extending transitional assistance to developing countries.	Pass Open Fail ☒	Despite its pro-market rhetoric, the EU has failed to shift from its entrenched position that environmentally harmful subsidies should be merely 'reformed'.
10. Corporate Accountability Develop a framework that secures corporate accountability and liability.	Pass Open Fail ☒	Instead of agreeing to a framework to secure corporate accountability and liability, governments watered down their already poor language. The fact that an American proposal weaker than the four alternatives also on the table was accepted as a "compromise" for Para 123 k says it all.
11. Public participation Adopt appropriate laws and regulations to guarantee citizens' rights...	Pass ☑ Open ? Fail ☒	In para 112 delegates have agreed to ensure access at national level to environmental information and public participation, however failed to agree on strong emphasis on civil society participation at both nation, regional and international level. Para 155 and 156 are still in brackets. The present text in chapter X is disappointing.

*-GEF Replenishment...
from page 1*

prising that the US is so far lagging behind in coming up with an increased contribution. No top-up means spreading the same amount of funds across a wider range of programmes, thus cannibalising existing resources.

The US has shown responsibility in the past through GEF funding and we would urge it now to go for the extra mile, fulfil its commitments and substantially refuel the GEF tank.

Then again, why agree to anything? While jam-packed with laudable goals and lofty aspiration, the Chairman's text contains precious few instances of the verbs, "will", "shall" or "commit". And even where they do appear, in Section II: Poverty Reduction, for example, any lawyer will tell you that they're not worth a monkey's grass. Halve, develop, promote, deliver, ensure, provide, increase, etc. might all sound convincing until one considers the chapeau.

*-Poverty Eradication
from page 1*

"...Concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels..." Who is committing to these? No party. Its all theoretical. Two pages of text are then devoted to elaborating the kinds of actions this might include IF it were ever agreed to...

As we shift our focus towards Jo'burg, one thing remains clear: Poverty eradication will require real commitments on trade and finance – not just flowery language. Show me the money!

When the sun rises (or, No naked leaders in Johannesburg)

Why are we here? Why on Earth are we here? The answer should be obvious: We are here to stop trolls that hinder sustainable development and implementation of Agenda 21. We are here to stop trolls that seem to be more concerned about making the crises of this world into global business opportunities; more concerned with rolling out a new Disneyland than with rolling back poverty and hunger. Life is not a fairytale for most people today. Even here in beautiful Bali we see how poverty and environmental degradation are destroying the good life. Still, we can use the wisdom of fairytales to understand the world around us and to strengthen our own resolve.

The Danish fairytale, "The Emperors New Clothes," is a fitting metaphor for the emerging "action plan"; far from what an action plan should be – and from what Kofi Annan has requested. We should listen to the child shouting out the truth and avoid sending our leaders naked to a World Summit!

Some are now working hard to convince ministers of goodwill that it is impossible to get a better plan of implementation. They even try to press countries to drop bracketed text in order to secure some final results at least.

Norwegian fairytales describe the adventures of Ash-lad. The smallest lad in the poorest family – harassed and criticized all his life by his parents and bigger brothers – he is the one who stops threatening trolls and wins both the princess and half the kingdom. He uses cleverness instead of power. He has a warm heart even though he has little to share. He involves good

helpers and – last but not least – he never gives in! And the trolls fall for their own bad tricks; the king is fooled because the Ash-lad uses the right helper at the right time. The trolls in the Nordic forests explode when the sun rises. They can't survive daylight, and play their tricks only as long as it is dark.

The Ash-lad-countries at the Bali PrepCom should stand firm, be smart and strong until sunrise. Keep the brackets and bring the process further through political work and good diplomacy all the way from now through to Jo'burg. It will be tough – much tougher than anything we have seen so far – but when the sun rises, we will not have to tell the world that the leaders are naked in Jo'burg.

Why on earth are we here? Because of the pledges made at Rio and in all the international instruments since then and through Rio+5. At the forefront of our consideration, should be the baby girl born in Bali this morning, and the reindeer born in Saamiland this spring. We are here to give them, our children, grandchildren and all life on this planet a future worth living. Bringing brackets from Bali is part of the price we have to pay to get agreements commensurate with this goal.

We The Peoples...

In corridor discussions, many delegations have lamented waning public interest in sustainable development since Rio. Not true! Just as many people care just as deeply about the future of the planet today. A coalition of NGOs led by Third World Network (TWN) has summed up their concerns in the visionary statement "We the Peoples" – reminiscent of the United Nations Charter. To prove to governments that people refuse to accept the rampage of corporate globalization, they aim to get 1 million signatures for this statement by the Summit. The key demands are:

- To change the course of corporate-driven globalization and development paradigms;
- To reject technologies and products that endanger nature, health and life;
- To reject the patenting of nature;
- To reclaim nature and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- To reclaim our national governments and the United Nations from corporate takeover.

Sign on today at: www.twinside.org.sq - yes, moaning delegates, you too can sign on.

Plenary, Contact Groups and Real Life

The discrepancy in form and content between the ministerial speeches and the ongoing efforts to remove brackets at all costs in the negotiating rooms is scandalous. Ministers in plenary speak of the critical social and environmental challenges we are facing and the need for urgent action. They support clear targets with goals, dates and means of implementation; accountability and monitoring; and, in most cases, they urge the international community to provide access to markets and resources to implement the plan of action being negotiated. At the same time in the informal contact groups, their delegations continue to water down texts, adopt language of minimum common denominators and emphasize the privatization of the United Nations through the so called Type II partnerships. One wonders how bad it can get before governments realize that this is about our planet and our lives. Governments are accountable to civil society and the sole responsible parties for the success or failure of the WSSD process.

One also wonders whether the missing element to put the process back on track is simply a financial deal or the willingness of certain countries to make commitments to people and the environment. We urge governments today to reflect before we start our final hours of work: Why are they here?

eco



Bali Hai

Announcing the winner of ECO's 'most weasel words in one sentence' award! Tonight, the USA and Canada unveiled their proposal for a 'target' for the energy section (Section16(e)):

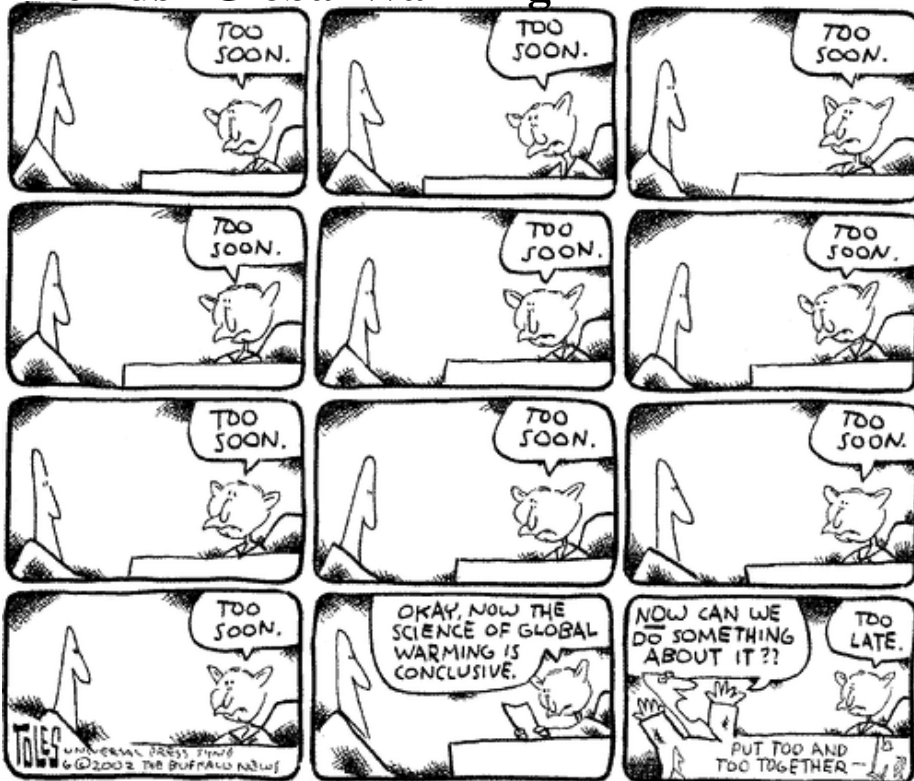
"Advance sustainable consumption and production through greater access to energy services facilitated by a diversification of energy supply by promoting a broader mix of energy sources, noting the growing importance of renewable energies, and improved energy efficiencies, as well as advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuels."

With targets like these, who needs Type IIs?

In her nightly perusal of Agenda 21, Bali Hai recently came across a section asserting that government delegations should include at least one youth delegate to represent future generations. Bali Hai guesses that there are no youth delegates on the U.S. delegation in Bali because the U.S. government could not find a person under the age of 25 who can live with the Bush Administration's environmental policies...

Describing the criteria a prospective youth delegate would have to meet to join the delegation. One U.S. delegate was overheard by Bali Hai to say the candidate would probably have to come from a family (preferably from Texas) that supported the Bush presidential campaign. Hmm...

The Bush Global Warming



6-6-02

International NGO Press Conference

Today 3:30PM
BICC Media Center

*Poverty and the Environment
Beached in Bali,
Will Governments Let Us Down
in Johannesburg, too???*

Speakers from
World Wide Fund for Nature
WALHI/Friends of the Earth
Oxfam International
Greenpeace International

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, Northern Alliance for Sustainability, Oxfam International, Pelangi and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Editor: Beth Roxas

Lay-out: Omar Sari

Special thanks to Taka Gani, Antonio Hill, Steve Sawyer, Sally Nicholson, Hans Peter Dejgaard, Marcelo, Pernilla Rinsell, Bjarne Pedersen, Morten Eriksen, Daniel Mittler, Tom Crompton, Matt Gianni, Colleen Freeman, and others.

<http://www.climatenetwork.org/eco/> | <http://www.rio10.dk>