

## **Draft resolution Stockholm 12-14 April 2002**

### **GLOBE EUROPE-conference on Sustainable Development – a European roadmap towards WSSD in Johannesburg**

At the Earth Summit in 1992, governments agreed that the main challenge for industrialized countries was to change their unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Agenda 21 is still a challenge to be fulfilled. Disparities in economic and social welfare, including unemployment and social exclusion have increased. The world 's economic and political systems are still dominated by an unbalanced distribution of resources and power. Women and children remain the poorest members of the world community. Thus the gender perspective for increased equality needs to be a high priority.

World leaders need to come to an agreement to ensure sustainable development based on the principle of common, but differentiated, responsibility. They must implement and enforce the international conventions and initiatives on the environment (Kyoto, Montreal), on poverty eradication (Monterrey) and on education and health (Copenhagen). Political leadership is essential for setting and monitoring the agenda and for using the WSSD as a launching-pad for new partnerships between governments, the private sector, communities and citizen groups. These partnerships have to be a part of a framework such as the Global Deal agreed by the EU at the Gothenburg Summit. Tangible action is needed!

#### **POVERTY ERADICATION**

1. Poverty eradication and economic and social development is central to sustainable development. 1.2 billion people are living on less than 1 US\$ a day!

The comprehensive goal of the UN Millennium-declaration needs to be confirmed : to halve extreme poverty before 2015, and to stress the necessity of redistributing the world 's resources. It is unacceptable that people live in poverty in a world with enough resources to meet everybody's basic needs.

2. Based on the results and discussions of the Monterrey-conference, countries must strive to reach the UN ODA-target of at least 0.7 % of GDP, as soon as possible. Countries that have not already reached this target should immediately develop plans for scaling up. The ODA should be a support for capacity building and sustainable poverty eradication, according to the priorities of the recipient countries.

3. Pressure of debt repayments often causes overexploitation of natural resources resulting in environmental problems in developing countries. There needs to be an acceleration of debt relief programmes including the cancellation of all debts that are threatening fundamental human rights and the environment.

4. Poverty eradication will not be achieved unless women are given better economic opportunities, access to education, health services and political power. Reducing inequality between and within societies is an essential part of poverty reduction.

5. Wars, conflicts, terrorism and other forms of violence are serious obstacles to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of goals for sustainable development.

**HEALTH**

6. The proportion of people who are denied the human right of affordable safe drinking water needs to be halved by 2015. Governments should commit themselves to develop integrated sustainable water resource management plans by 2005.
7. In order to combat the global impact of HIV/Aids the declaration adopted at UNGASS in 2001 must be implemented. Patent regulations and costs must not hinder access to medical treatment.
8. Hazardous chemicals pose a global threat to people's health. They should be phased out by 2020 and the precautionary principle rigorously adopted.

**TRADE**

9. In order to encourage trade opportunities for developing countries, it is necessary that industrialised countries work towards the objective of duty-free and quota-free market access and the abolition of trade-distorting and environmentally harmful subsidies that disadvantage poorer countries.
10. Environmentally and socially responsible, trade and investment are necessary to build on and sustain support for improved social conditions and environmental protection around the world.
11. The WTO must be reformed to reflect the precautionary principle and respect for MEAs. It must play an effective role in contributing to sustainable development and to the eradication of poverty by conducting its activities in line with sustainable development and with the international commitments of the UN and ILO.
12. Governments should agree to negotiate a legally binding framework on corporate accountability which will incorporate legal rights for citizens and communities affected by corporate activities, social and environmental duties on corporations and rules to ensure high standards of behaviour wherever corporations operate.

**BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY**

13. A decline of biological and landscape diversity should be halted globally by 2010.
14. Many agricultural and fisheries policies threaten biodiversity. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the European Union is unsustainable. It has to be remodeled because it affects the opportunity for developing countries to compete fairly on the European market. One important step would be to remove all environmentally harmful subsidies used within European agriculture.
15. Fishery Policy in the EU and world-wide also needs restructuring where emphasis is put on sustainable fisheries. Many fish stocks have been overexploited. Therefore conservation of the ecosystem the prevention of over-fishing and sustainable use must be prominent goals. More attention should be paid to the respective interaction among different stocks and species of marine and freshwater resources.

16. The precautionary principle must be rigorously applied when dealing with genetically modified organisms. Releases of such organisms into the environment can only be accepted after serious trials have been undertaken and proven risk-free. A proper liability regime must be put in place and people given the right to choose (labelling).

### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

17. We urge countries to fully meet their national commitments on reduction targets for greenhouse-gas emissions, ratify the Kyoto Protocol in the year 2002 and implement the agreed reduction targets. To accelerate the Kyoto Process governments must commit to ensuring access to sustainable, renewable sources of energy for the 2 billion of the world's poorest people within ten years who currently have no access to basic modern energy services by 2012.

18. Clean energy technologies, transition to renewable energy sources and low energy intensive production have to be promoted.

19. Environmental costs in the prices of energy and raw materials should be internalised to change consumer- and production-patterns. Stringent technical standards, environmental impact assessments and economic instruments can reduce emissions of air pollutants and noise and improve fuel efficiency and quality.

20. To mitigate pollution from the transport sector better land-use planning and increased investment in public transport and rail system is necessary. The prices of transport must reflect the costs of pollution and other externalities.

21. Consumer behavior is an important factor in achieving sustainability and consumers should and could be empowered to make more sustainable lifestyle choices.

### **THE SOCIAL AGENDA**

22. The relations between the private sector and society are of utmost importance for the shaping of social policies in the coming years and positive development has to be encouraged to balance competitiveness and solidarity.

23. Businesses should compete on the basis of value added from skills and know-how not on the basis of low standards of protection and safety for their workers. Governments world-wide should implement the core labour standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

24. Access to social services for all has to be provided.

### **INTEGRATE POLICIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

25. Sustainable Development encompasses environmental, social and economic dimensions. There needs to be an integration of these concepts in decision-making at the policy, planning and management level. A step towards sustainability is to make sure that International Conventions on environmental and social protection are superior to conventions on trade and economical issues.

26. In order to attain sustainable development, the polluter pays principle (PPP) and the precautionary principle are basic to legislation and administration. Economic instruments can contribute to effective integration of environmental and economic policies.

27. A common set of indicators for sustainable development needs to be agreed on and used worldwide.

The ecological footprint is potentially one such indicator showing how uneven the use of resources is between different regions and continents. Its use should be further explored.

28. A de-coupling of GDP-growth from energy and material consumption, emissions and waste must be achieved.

### **GOVERNANCE, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

29. Good governance requires accountability of all stakeholders and decision-makers in the global political scene and transparency of policies made. To create measures of accountability and transparency of all stakeholders and decision-makers and in particular to begin negotiations on a legally binding framework on corporate accountability.

30. Public Participation and awareness is important at all levels of environmental policy making. In accordance with Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information,

Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, should be fully implemented.

31. Public authorities can play an important role in ensuring sustainability, for example by incorporating environmental and social criteria in the public procurement rules.

32. Individual citizens, NGOs and the private sector also play an essential role in ensuring environmental protection. Consultations with civil society become increasingly important.

33. All governments should ensure the empowerment of local communities, in particular, women, young people and children and the full recognition of community rights in all aspects of decision-making and benefit-sharing.