



Special Report on Selected Side Events at WSSD
published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Online at
<http://www.iisd.ca/2002/wssd/enbots/>



Volume 10, Issue #1 | WSSD: 26 August - 4 September 2002 | Johannesburg, South Africa | Tuesday, 27 August 2002

Events convened on Monday, 26 August 2002

Water For African Cities

Presented by UN-HABITAT

Kader Asmal, South African Minister of Education, emphasized the unique nature of the UN-HABITAT Programme on water for African cities in building capacity to improve water management. He highlighted a value-based approach to water education and underscored the need to prioritize the limited funds available.

Anna Kajumulo Tibajuka, UN-HABITAT Executive Director, highlighted water as a key indicator on how countries manage development, and noted increasing demand for water in African cities. She identified current restructuring and reorganization of the water sector in many countries, and emphasized the importance of water catchment management and waste reduction.

Yaw Barimah, Ghanaian Minister of Works and Housing, emphasized conservation of water and regulation of water use as measures to achieve sustainable water supply for people in Ghana. He emphasized the importance of water demand management and value-based water education programmes.



Anna Kajumulo Tibajuka, Executive director of UN-HABITAT, notes that water is not free, but a commodity which is currently most expensive for the poorest because of time spent collecting it.



Ronnie Kasrils, South African Minister for Water Affairs and Forestry, highlighted Johannesburg's development of a water conservation strategy, including an awareness raising campaign and initiatives to build a catchment strategy. He stressed the importance of partnerships and financial resources.

Zahia Hamdani Meghji, Tanzanian Minister for Natural Resources, noted the severity of water pollution and said that the programme on water for African cities is timely and appropriate.

Klaus Töpfer, UNEP Executive Director, advocated focusing on water demand before addressing supply, and called for investment in water supply maintenance. He noted that the poorest people pay the highest price for water and stressed the need for incentives for private investments.

Ronnie Kasrils, South African Minister for Water Affairs and Forestry, speaking about the city of Johannesburg as a model for the UN-HABITAT Programme on water for African cities.

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The Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) *on the side* is a special publication of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Editor of ENB *on the side* is Dagmar Lohan <dagmar@iisd.org>. This issue has been written by Karen Alvarenga de Oliveira <karen@iisd.org>, Jacob Andersen <jacob@iisd.org>, Tamilla Held <tamilla@iisd.org>, Dagmar Lohan <dagmar@iisd.org> and Charlotte Salpin <charlotte@iisd.org>. The Digital Editors are David Fernau <david@iisd.org>, Andrei Henry <andrei@iisd.org>, Leila Mead <leila@iisd.org>, and Diego Noguera <diego@iisd.org>. Funding for publication of ENB *on the side* at WSSD is provided by UNDP. The opinions expressed in ENB *on the side* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD and funders. Excerpts from ENB *on the side* may be used in non-commercial publications only and only with appropriate academic citation. For permission to use this material in commercial publications, contact the Managing Editor at <kimo@iisd.org>. Electronic versions of issues of ENB *on the side* from WSSD can be found on the Linkages website at <http://www.iisd.ca/2002/wssd/enbots/>

Participatory democracy and good governance as fundamental tools for a human rights approach to sustainable development

Presented by the Council of Europe, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)



Shafqat Kakakhel, UNEP, highlights the importance of cooperation with the countries that currently lack capacity to fully implement the Rio Principle 10.



Alan Meale, UK, says that European governments strive to engage the public in implementing Agenda 21.

Brigita Schmögnerová, UNECE, described the process of developing the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. She pledged support for developing guidelines on public access to information in the Asia-Pacific region.

Cheryl Gillwald, South Africa, said that the greatest challenge in South Africa is to make people aware of their rights and of the importance of exercising them. She stressed the need to address inequality in order to bridge the gap between ambitious human rights goals and delivery on the ground.

Božo Kovacevic, Croatian Minister of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning, explained that a wide range of instruments is needed to achieve good governance goals, and described Croatia's progress towards ratifying the Aarhus Convention.

Víctor Lichtinger, Mexican Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, highlighted the need for new institutions and noted costs involved in enabling access to information and public participation. He called for cooperation mechanisms to facilitate implementation of existing legislation in developing countries.

Olivier Deleuze, Belgium, described a participatory process for formulating a federal plan for sustainable development in Belgium.

Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Council of Europe, introduced a political message from the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to the WSSD, which promotes a human rights-based approach to sustainable development. She also described the Council's efforts to develop legal instruments for environmental protection, including laws to combat corruption.

Svitlana Kravchenko, European ECO Forum, described the unique role of civil society in the development, ratification and implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

Alexander Juras, REC, outlined preconditions for good governance, including: new and independent institutions; internationally binding agreements; and the recognition of a fundamental human right to good governance.

Shafqat Kakakhel, UNEP, stressed the urgency of promoting human rights in the context of globalization, and outlined joint efforts of UNEP, the Aarhus Convention Secretariat and the Commission for Human Rights to identify mechanisms for implementation of Rio Principle 10 (Access to Information) and the linkages between human rights and environmental protection.

Ben Turok, South Africa, noted the need to create new institutions and reform public services in addressing good governance. He expressed concern that the current global order will remain exploitive and unequal, and called for greater equality and respect for human rights.

Alan Meale, UK, underscored the success of the European Union in enabling democratic processes and implementing Agenda 21. He stressed the need to further engage the public in decision-making.

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Global pillage? Maintaining local values in a globalizing world

Presented by IUCN, ICTSD (International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development), and CEESP (Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy)

Wiseman Nkuhlu, New Partnership for Africa's Development, highlighted the need for African leaders to adopt leadership responsibilities, including: accountability, developing participative mechanisms, and fulfilling international commitments. He emphasized the importance of developing relationships with developed countries on trade, debt, investment, and participation in global processes.

Mark Heywood, AIDS Law Project, highlighted the link between health and sustainable development and the challenges posed by the spread of HIV and the lack of access to medicines. He identified the HIV epidemic as an example of disease of globalization, and noted that treatment of HIV in developed and developing countries cannot be the same. He also noted the failure of global market research, production and distribution mechanisms to work equitably. He underscored the need to define legally binding content for the human right to health.

Mark Moody-Stuart, Business Action for Sustainable Development, underscored that the development of local governance structures is an essential means to ensuring equity. He said the private sector should promote positive business behavior and highlighted the commercial advantages for businesses to support and respect local values.

Sunita Narain, Centre for Science and Environment, suggested identifying the best local democratic framework for integrating global markets and local values. She stressed the need to respect local communities' rights and recommended that ethics drive the globalization process.

Ian Goldin, the World Bank, drew attention to the management of globalization and defined equity as the power of local communities to determine their future. He highlighted the need for World Bank projects to be determined by local needs.

Alain Lipietz, European Parliament, stressed the importance of developing universal values on the basis of common local values for reshaping global trade to ensure sustainable local development. He underscored the role of cultural diversity for maintaining biodiversity.

Yolanda Kakabadse, IUCN, equated globalization with inequity, and said that competitiveness and lack of solidarity are the most apparent consequences of globalization. She called for an inclusive international code of ethics.



Sunita Narain, Centre for Science and Environment, stresses the need to identify the most appropriate local democratic framework for integrating global markets and local values.

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Launching of the women's action agenda for a healthy and peaceful planet 2015

Presented by the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and Rede de Desenvolvimento Humano (REDEH)

Thais Corral, REDEH, explained that the revised Women's Action Agenda 21 (WAA 21), Women's Action Agenda for a Healthy and Peaceful Planet 2015 (WAA), focuses on: peace and human rights; globalization for sustainability; access and control of resources; environmental security and health; and governance for sustainable development.

AnneKathrin Linck, Heinrich Böll Foundation, highlighted the need for gender sensitive sustainable development.

Manto Tshabalala, South African Minister of Health, noted that women are disadvantaged in terms of education, income, status and health. She stressed the need for empowerment of women.

Rachel Kyte, the World Bank, stressed that women were responsible for underscoring the links between environment and health, human rights and population at the international level. She noted the need for accountability and to introduce the WAA to places where women are under-represented.

Brownie Ledbetter, WEDO, noted that the WAA 21 is a blueprint for action and highlighted the importance of mobilizing women in the United States to promote linkages between US and international policies.



Thais Corral, REDEH, said that extensive consultations were held in order to revise Women's Action Agenda 21.

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Voices of reality - communities and sustainable development

Presented by UNDP



Esther Mwangi, UNDP, underscores the importance of SGP projects being financially rewarding to communities.

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This event considered the role of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in involving communities in sustainable development.

Delfin Ganapin, Foundation for the Philippine Environment, explained that the SGP focuses on community action, as this forms the basis of achieving sustainable development. He underscored that the event aimed to demonstrate practical achievements by local communities in contributing to sustainable development.

Zéphirin Diabré, UNDP, identified communities as the driving force behind sustainable development, noting that change only happens when communities are responsible for the environment in which they live, and when they are empowered to reverse environmental degradation. Diabré explained that the SGP has been empowering local communities to address challenges they face. SGP focuses on GEF priority areas, including biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, climate change mitigation, and desertification. He underscored that the SGP: builds on, and strengthens communities' initiatives; develops their capacities; disseminates experiences; and ensures project quality through monitoring, evaluation and technical assistance. He noted that the SGP operates in 63 developing countries, and that more than 3,200 grants of up to USD 50,000 have been allocated worldwide. He stressed that over 600 partners, including NGOs, international agencies and local governments, have provided co-financing and other support to SGP activities.

Esther Mwangi, UNDP, introduced a SGP project in Uganda under which inmates from a prison collect invasive water hyacinths, and process these into products, including furniture and handbags. She noted that the SGP project complements a larger GEF project addressing the problem of invasive water hyacinths. Mwangi underscored the importance of: good marketing of generated products; involvement of the private sector; replicability of projects; and income generation.

Sebastián Hernández, Asociación ANAI, and Benson Venegas, Asociación ANAI, introduced a SGP project on solar energy in Costa Rica. The project, which promotes the use of solar cookers, allows women to engage in income-generating activities, improves people's living conditions, and reduces fossil burning. Hernández and Venegas explained that the women transfer their knowledge to children in order to promote the use of solar cookers in future generations.

Water, climate and Agenda 21: Action by local government

Presented by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

Kaarin Taipale, ICLEI, stressed the importance of implementing sustainable development at the local level. She called for acknowledgment in the WSSD political declaration of local governments' capacities.

Parks Tau, City of Johannesburg, and Patrick Karangwa, Mwanza, outlined the successes of, and challenges in, providing water and electricity to African cities. Tau urged the Summit to ensure global access to water, and called for agency and government support in local initiatives.

Beate Weber, City of Heidelberg, outlined factors of successful implementation of Local Agenda 21 by a local government, including communicating with the public; developing consistent development strategies; and reporting to communities on progress achieved.

Bill Wood, Australia, described the participation of Canberra in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. He explained that the city's efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions include developing transportation policies and exploring new energy sources.

Judy Walker, ICLEI, called for moving from words to action in the post-Johannesburg decade with a focus on viable local economies and empowered, peaceful, eco-efficient and resilient communities. She stressed the need to build capacity at the local level and employ available environmental management tools, including eco-procurement and investment.



Beate Weber, City of Heidelberg, stresses that a local government should set an example to its community by pursuing sustainable practices.

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Capacity Development for Sustainable Development: From Words to Action

Presented by the Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD)

Richard Holme, LEAD, said that the event aimed at identifying ways to provide and finance capacity development. He presented two models for business engagement in developing countries: without involving the local communities; and involving them through contracting local suppliers, technology transfer and employee training. He stressed the importance of management training at all levels.

Philip Dobie, UNDP, described his experience as manager of the Capacity 21 programme. He highlighted the need to move from donor-priorities for knowledge transfer toward models based on entrusting people to make decisions and providing the necessary resources.

Julia Marton-Lefèvre, LEAD, described LEAD's network and activities of leadership capacity building for sustainable development through enhancing technical and negotiation skills, cross-cultural communication, and ethical aspects.

John Ashton, British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, noted that elements of capacity building for sustainable development are, inter alia: human networks; understanding the consequence of decisions; and designing policies that go beyond traditional boundaries.

Timothy Wirth, United Nations Foundation (UNF), identified leadership as the horizontal and neutral behaviour that helps to mobilize resources and form partnerships. He described UNF actions as intermediary in the environmental and the financial field.

Alvaro Umana, UNDP, stressed know-how, mobilization of resources and skills, and political will and leadership to help countries in achieving sustainable development.



Julia Marton-Lefèvre, LEAD, describes LEAD's leadership building activities.



John Ashton stresses that capacity is at the heart of sustainable development.

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Kristalina Georgieva, the World Bank, identified necessary trends for capacity building sustainable development, inter alia: ensuring that children attend and complete primary education; securing quality of education and knowledge; and turning passive learning into active learning.

Hans van Ginkel, United Nations University, stressed the need to focus on both capacity development for individuals and for institutions. He urged creation of networks and development of indigenous capacities.

Discussion: Participants emphasized the importance of developing capacity during childhood, and noted the role of media in sustainable development.

Water For African Cities

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Timothy Wirth, UN Foundation, highlighted achievements of the UN-HABITAT programme, including establishing national steering committees and launching demonstration projects. He called for public education and invited potential donors to join the programme.

Jamar Saghir, the World Bank, noted that water and sanitation contribute to poverty reduction, and underscored the need for increased private sector investment. He highlighted water pricing and market based instruments as measures to secure water conservation and water supply management.

Richard Dolly, the Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council, highlighted the importance of incorporating consumer demands, advocated a focus on sanitation and hygiene, and called for restructuring of existing resources.

Discussion: Participants discussed: water pricing; expansion of the programme; the role of women; and water storage.

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Frontier governance and sustainable development in Amazonia

Presented by the Amazon Institute of Environmental Research (IPAM), the Instituto Socioambiental and the Amazon Working Group (GTA)

Ana Barros, IPAM, highlighted the importance of the Amazon for biodiversity and for the regional and global climate and noted that deforestation, logging and fire are the region's greatest threats. She said that the Brazilian government provides incentives for continued destruction of natural resources, and criticized the government's plans for the region to increase infrastructure instead of focusing on enforcement. She said that current plans for improving roads would result in increased logging and suggested frontier governance as an alternative. She called for better governance through, *inter alia*: stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process; effective solutions to land tenure problems; sustainable use of legal reserves; demarcation of indigenous lands; and land use monitoring.



Juliana Santilli, Instituto Socioambiental (left), introducing the report "Does Brazil Protect the Traditional Knowledge?"

Adilson Vieira, GTA, explained that the GTA is a civil society attempt to fight inequalities within the Rio conventions. He noted continuing threats to and pressure on local communities and called for a more ethical approach in order to secure the natural and cultural diversity of the Amazon.

Juliana Santilli, Instituto Socioambiental, presented a report on the protection of traditional knowledge in Brazil. She described a recent presidential decree establishing principles and directives to implement the national policy on biodiversity. Santilli stated that two bills currently discussed by the National Congress would make biopiracy illegal and increase NGO participation in genetic resources management.



Adilson Vieira, GTA, says that biopiracy, land rights violation, dams and sawmills create a tremendous pressure on local Amazonian communities.

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<http://www.ipam.org.br>
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Water, climate and Agenda 21: Action by local government

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Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel, UNEP, stressed the importance of integrative thinking, clear goals, monitoring of results, and the sharing of experiences. She highlighted UNEP's role in assisting local communities to move toward sustainable development.

Khalid Mohtadullah, Global Water Partnership (GWP), stressed the importance of dealing with water issues at all levels, and welcomed long-term partnership between ICLEI and the GWP.

Harvey Ruvin, Miami-Dade, called for optimism in efforts to resolve sustainable development challenges, and compared ICLEI and local authorities with a beacon pointing toward sustainability.

More information:

<http://www.iclei.org>
<http://www.joburg.org.za>
<http://www.act.gov.au>
<http://www.uneptie.org>
<http://www.gwpforum.org>
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