

# OUTREACH

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BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FRIDAY 22 APRIL

## CSD 13, Millennium Development Review and Beyond

### A Conversation with Lord Whitty of Camberwell

By Felix Dodds and Zak Bleicher

**Felix:** Where do you feel we have got to at this year's CSD both in substance and process?

**Lord Whitty:** It is slightly difficult to say absolutely at this point, the signs are that we will get a good negotiated outcome that we can be happy with. However, I have two main points to make:

1. One of the key issues for us is that environmental sustainability underpins the achievement of the MDG. It is therefore important that we have embedded sustainable development in other process and have made CSD relevant to the other events. We're clearly missing the MDG targets. Therefore, we need a mechanism that keeps our progress under review and allows us to take action as a result.

2. There has been an effective role for the negotiations and this has been complemented by the exchange between NGOs and countries on their experiences of implementing our commitments and sharing examples of best practice. Large numbers of different people have managed to exchange a lot of information about what has happened and what hasn't happened, this has been recognized in what delegates have said from the floor.

**F:** How do you feel the G8 can help this process, in particular the UK's IFF proposal?

**LW:** I hope it will. Clearly the IFF hasn't got universal support at the moment. But it is apparent that we do need a new international financial mechanism, and the IFF offers an immediate option. There is also a lot of talk about how we get greater public sector investment and how we direct it. We need to have a more flexible form of financing, both private and public. Regarding the G8, Africa clearly will be one of the main issues. In the context of this week especially, we see that as a very urgent and serious issue to be addressed.

**F:** What do you see as the follow up to CSD 13?

**LW:** We are very concerned that there needs to be better monitoring to ensure progress towards the targets. We've made progress on agreeing the monitoring process which will enable us to review our progress and come back if we are failing on water and sanitation. We will also need to share best practice of ways for actually getting things done.

We feel it is important to strengthen UN Water, but we don't want to create a huge new bureaucracy.

Clearly CSD needs to make a contribution to the Millennium Review summit, and I believe that CSD 13 has certainly set the right conditions for the Millennium Review Summit later on this year to address water, sanitation and human settlement issues.

**F:** All of the other major conferences have recently had ten year reviews, one concern that many groups had is that the environmental side of the summit will get a short stick. How will what comes out of here ensure that we have something about the environment?

**LW:** We hope that some of the areas we've discussed will be on the Summit agenda as a result of this week. None of the MDGs are achievable without environmental sustainability. We need to make that message more specific and effective. The Millennium Review is one way to do that. The exact agenda for the review will take some time to emerge.

Ensuring success will require better inter-agency coordination and cooperation and better collaboration between the UN and stakeholders as well.

**F:** A lot of the NGOs that are here have been writing up letters to ambassadors to ensure that stakeholders are not shut out of future sessions like we have been here.

**LW:** The UK has always been on the side of the angels as far as getting you all in and making sure that there is a dialogue.

**F:** The UK has just viewed its sustainable development strategy, is there anything you want to say about that?

**LW:** We have a new UK Sustainable Development Strategy, and we will be held to account on that. This document will provide direction to all government agencies and departments. The strategy also focuses on turning political commitment into action. The hard part now is figuring out a way to disseminate these concepts and issues to the larger population, it's a question of education, so that citizens and other institutions understand more of what this is all about.

**F:** UK groups might want to see more governmental control in

(Continued on page 2)



corporate social responsibility?

**LW:** We recognize that this is a big area of concern. Major companies tend to be quite sensitive to this and we need to make sure that there is more than a couple of charitable events a year and that it is a continual effort and process. But I'm not sure that more control is necessarily right, it might lead to a negative reaction. Generally, it takes consultation and encouragement, and trying to create an ethos and an atmosphere where a company's reputation rests on their social responsibility.

**F:** What do you see the role of trade unions to be in all of this?

**LW:** The main role for trade unions is to influence decisions that affect production, consumption, energy use and so on. There is a need for trade union pressure for improvement and training on sustainability generally. There should be management training as well.

**F:** At end of the year the UK ascends to the EU presidency, what are your hopes for that climate meeting, especially considering the US position?

**LW:** First of all, the UK has made climate change and Africa the main priorities for its G8 presidency.

We have the EU-ES summit in June and the G8 in July, which will clarify how far the Americans are going to reen-

gage on climate change.

The United States is no longer in a state of denial on the science of climate change, but there is still no sign of the administration signing up to Kyoto. Certainly the issue will be raised at the G8 and we will try and reengage the Americans. So we must start thinking and talking about beyond 2012 and how we are going to effect change. We are not yet at that point, but we are hoping that we reach a point where we can build something positive. Our presidency of the EU will be pretty preoccupied with that. A lot of countries don't like all of the Kyoto recommendations, but we've got to redouble our efforts.

So part of the solution is implementing advanced technologies, for instance, the Chinese cleaning up big polluting plants – it's a win-win. There's a financial cost, but there are huge environmental gains and opportunities for technological development.

Energy efficiency for all of us should be a greater concern. For example, many of the achievements in terms of Kyoto targets will actually be made through energy effective measures rather than through alternative fuels.

I would hope that the CSD process next year will be a significant part of what develops.

*Lord Whitty is the UK Minister for Farming, Food and Sustainable Energy*

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## EU is the only one fighting the climate change battle

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*By Mehjabeen Price*

EU is the only one fighting the climate change battle. The reference to climate change under the 'interlinkages section' is under fear of exclusion. It will be a real shame to see this happen. Climate change is one of the biggest threat to the environment and hence to the economic and social development of most vulnerable states. the climate change can cause water needs to outstrip supply; cause severe water loss due to changes in evaporation and precipitation patterns; cause flood damage to low-lying countries and island states, including loss of coastal land to rising sea levels. Therefore we strongly urge the governments to keep the **climate change** issue alive in CSD text on water sanitation and human settlement.

Water resources are scare and in addition are not managed efficiently. Unequal geographic distribution of water, widespread contamination and unsustainable management are threatening the available supplies and pose a threat to sustainable development. Therefore we strongly support the inclusion of clause '**Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns in all countries with developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefit-**

**ing from the process to bring about behavioural change.'**

Progress can not be made if there are no clear deadlines. It is very important to adopt time bound plans to implement the policy outcomes of CSD on water sanitation and human and settlement. Therefore we strongly recommend the inclusion of EU clause '**As a milestone towards implementing the internationally agreed targets for water, sanitation and human settlements, countries should as soon as possible adopt and implement time-bound plans at the relevant level to achieve these targets, linked to poverty reduction strategies or national sustainable development strategies and other relevant policy plans'** in the final text.

The role assigned to UN Water should be to further coordination activities within its mandate. The text should reflect clearly where the responsibility of coordination and accountability lies and which UN Agency is doing what. CSD should request that UN Water hold regular briefings for governments and stakeholders.

The text should reaffirm the commitment to 0.7% ODA and a timeframe of no later than 2015 to reach that. The text should stress the need to put in place a mechanism to moni-

# International Trade Unionists Join with the U.S. Labor Community

Submitted by: Trade Unions

Monday April 18 was an historic day for progress on Sustainable Development in the U.S. The trade union delegation to the UN-CSD organized by the ICFTU, along with UNITE-HERE (textile and hotel restaurant workers union), and the Cornell Global Labor Institute, Sustainlabour, and The Apollo Alliance (of labor and environmental groups on energy), hosted an all-day seminar entitled *A Sustainable World is Possible: A Trade Union Day of Strategy on Globalization, Development & Environment*. This was a groundbreaking opportunity for the international trade union delega-

tor that the commitment of support made by donor governments is turned into actual financial pledges.

The text should recommend an assessment activity to measure the scale of increase in investment spending that will be required over the next ten years to achieve the goals on water, sanitation and human settlement, and develop dialogue between donors as to how these sums are to be mobilised and how they should be best administered.

The text should include clear recommendations that 70% of Water and Sanitation ODA should go to least developed and low income countries.

The text should come up with concrete recommendation as to how governance structures could be improved and donor harmonization issue addressed

The role and responsibilities of all actors i.e. governments, donors, UN agencies should be clearly stated.

On the issue of technology transfer, we strongly urge dealing with it in a separate section to clearly demonstrate its importance.

In the Sanitation section the text should clearly identify how the policy options will be implemented. Support to developing countries on waste water management should be strengthened.

With reference to accelerate progress on the water, the reference to all major groups including business and indigenous people should be made.

It should be the prime responsibility of governments to ensure the provision of basic water services to its citizens. The reference to the Government's primary role in the latest 2(d) is much weaker and should be replaced by 'government's responsibility' Follow up action should request countries and other actors to input to a country-specific table of commitments that identifies policy outcomes, national responsibilities, activities that countries have to undertake, partners, the time frame for the commitments to be fulfilled and expected results.

tion to connect with the U.S. labor community, updating them on sustainable development and labor's role in integrating the three pillars of sustainability, social, environmental and economic.

Sixty participants enjoyed a day of ideas, information and vibrant discussion. There were representatives from, among others, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Steelworkers of America (USWA), Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), Coalition of University Employees (CUE), and DC37 (AFSCME, public employees union). Speakers from Spain, Bolivia, Brazil, Kenya, Canada, the UK, and U.S. spoke eloquently on the interlinkages between occupational healthy and safety, and health and safety for all people in the global environment.

Presentations and discussions centered around:

- (a) the need for a sustainable world and how trade unions can and should be part of the process in creating a sustainable society, in the workplace, in communities, and in the natural environment as a whole;
  - (b) "Just Transition" policies as a means of ensuring continued livelihoods for workers who lose their jobs due to industrial change, through proper training and re-employment; and
  - (c) workplace actions as a means of educating workers and their communities about sustainable development.
- With groups like The Apollo Alliance and the Blue-Green Coalition (a coalition of U.S. labor and environmental groups including Sierra Club and the Steelworkers), the future of a powerful collaboration between the labor and environmental communities in the U.S. is improved. The old "jobs versus environment" debate must be resolved if sustainable development is to be implemented. The trade unions are well-placed to lead a solutions-based approach, so that workplace, home and natural environment are made to contribute to the well-being of workers. Through meetings such as this, trade unions can join with other stakeholders to apply models that create mechanisms for public education in the workplace and for "Just Transition" training and funding.

*We would like to apologise for our front page on Wednesday to anyone who found the page offensive.*

*Outreach attempts to ensure our work is balanced and fair and this time we made a mistake.*

*Felix Dodds.*

# Recent Innovations in Water Rights and Rules: Law on Water Development and Management



By Heather McCready

As human consumption rises and pollution continues to shrink water resources, how can the human right to water be respected, protected and fulfilled? The sustainable management and development of water resources requires practices that are socially equitable, environmentally sound and economically efficient; together these are the key to addressing the global water crisis.

International law concerning freshwater builds on international human rights law, international environmental law and economic law. Obligations primarily arise from treaties; however, there have also been developments of customary law in this area. Domestic law can complement these international developments by providing regulatory structures and enforcement mechanisms.

What are the most recent treaties related to water management and development and what are their key commitments? Commitments related to water management and development can be found in human rights treaties as well as environmental treaties. Some examples of human rights treaties



Photo from <http://www.byegm.gov.tr>

include: the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR), the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC), and the *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*. The commitments set out in these treaties recognize either a right to water or an obligation or need for states to provide adequate access to water. This right or obligation relates to health and human dignity.

International environmental treaties that pertain to water man-

agement and development include: The *Stockholm Convention* (1972), the *UN Convention on the Law of Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses* (1997), the *Berlin Rules* (2004), and the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* (2001). There are also numerous regional initiatives, including: the *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes* (1992), the *Espoo Convention* (1991), and the *Strategic Environmental Assessment Protocol*. These treaties contain commitments related to environmentally sound water management practices.

There are also various economic treaties that influence water management and development, including: the *WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services*, numerous bilateral and international investment treaties (BITs), and most regional trade integration processes. These treaties impact water management and development by liberalizing services (including water services) and influencing government regulatory tools on investment.

In addition to international treaties, interesting developments can be found in domestic legislation and regulations. For a more complete analysis of recent developments in international sustainable development law on water management and development, and a discussion of case studies on innovations in domestic law, please attend the International Law for Sustainable Development Partnership (ILSD) Partnership Event on Friday, April 15 at 1:15pm in Conference Room C, at the 13<sup>th</sup> United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

For more information on international sustainable development law, consult Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger and Ashfaq Khalfan, *Sustainable Development Law: Principles, Practices and Prospects*, Oxford University Press 2004; and Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger and Judge C.G. Weeramantry eds., *Sustainable Justice*, Martinus 2004.

1. Based on: Anna Russell, Shashi Kad, Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, *Water Rights & Rules: Recent Innovations in Sustainable Development Law Related to Water Management and Development*. To be launched at the International Law for Sustainable Development Partnership (ILSD) Partnership Event on Friday, April 15, 2005 at 1:15pm in Conference Room C, at the 13<sup>th</sup> United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.
2. Not yet in force.

Heinrich Boell Foundation, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Worldwatch Institute,  
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**"Water & Global Security Integrating Environmental  
Peacemaking in the Reforms of the United Nations"**

Friday, April 22. Time 1:15pm – 2:45pm

Location: Conference Room 2

# Our Ecological Footprint: Models of Strategic Leadership Initiatives

*P.J. Puntenenny – CSD Education Caucus Co-Chair*

Paragraph 23.2, Chapter 23 Section 111, of Agenda 21 stipulates that the need for new forms of participation at all levels to enable broad-based engagement... From JPOI we have shifted towards concrete recommendations leading to outcomes and implementation of strategies. The interlinkages among the thematic clusters and the international aims of poverty eradication and other Millennium Development Goals are inextricably linked to engaging people in sustainability. The public engagement of communities, diverse stake-



Photo from <http://www.infed.com>

holders, indigenous peoples, women and youth in their social and cultural contexts points to the inclusion of all community actors as educators. Education is implicit to key priorities outlined in the policy document for this thematic cluster.

This forum is meant to provide an opportunity to discuss engaging people in sustainability in terms of interlinkages.

Kofi Annan's statement on "Renewing the United Nations" clearly points to the need to invest in the public engagement of diverse stakeholders, "The rapid pace of change today frequently exceeds the capacity of national and international institutions to adapt. So many things are changing at once no organization on its own can keep track of them all – especially as the changes generally cut across traditional boundaries between academic disciplines and professional fields of expertise." He goes on to recommend that "part of the solution may be found in the emergence of global policy networks."

During this two year policy cycle, several models have emerged that are engaging people in sustainability and pointing the way to future strategies.

First, is the example of the WASH Program; second, the

emerging model of strategic leadership, integrated approaches and public engagement from the work of SIDS; third, the excellent work in Uganda on water and interlinkages from the leadership of the Minister of Water; fourth, in the policy cycle, the work on National Sustainable Development Strategies through peer review and shared learning.

Education as a cross-cutting issue in the CSD Plan of Work – 2017 is a vital priority in reaching consensus, negotiations, creating new kinds of mechanisms for implementation and monitoring and more. What emerging models can be brought to our attention during the Millennium Summit and especially the CSD 14?



## Stakeholder Forum For a Sustainable Future

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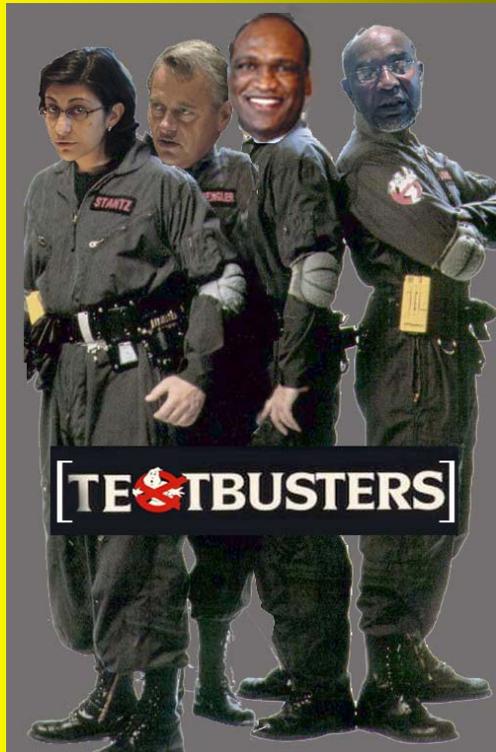
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## RIO GRINDS—the light hearted side of sustainable development

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## Strong steps down

Maurice Strong, UN Special envoy to North Korea and advisor to the Secretary General, is stepping down pending an investigation into connections with the oil-for-food program. Mr. Strong has admitted to maintaining a relationship with Tongsun Park, a Korean accused in the scandal. Strong has denied any ties to programs in Iraq, including oil-for-food.

For a brief time in 2000, Strong sat on the board of Air Harbour Technologies, along with Kojo Annan, who is said to have had a relationship with the company Cotecna, which won a UN contract to monitor oil-for-food shipments. Kojo is accused of concealing the relationship despite questions of a conflict of interest. Strong told the Financial Times that he left the company because it was badly run.

Tongsun Park is said to have invested near \$1 million of Iraqi money in a Canadian company established by the son of a UN official. The money was lost when the company failed

According to the WHO, over 80% of the 1000 million of the people than do not have safe water yet live in rural areas where piped water supply is often costly and /or complicated. To reach these people small scale options are needed which more than in former CDS meetings, is acknowledged by policy makers

Previously imported water technology such as well drilling, pumps and water filters were often imported and therefore expensive but recent innovations have reduced cost drastically

Examples are demonstrated in the neck room area. Toilets of 2 dollar, water filters of 10 dollars and hand pumps to pump water form deep wells of 60 Dollars

Henk Holtslag of the Dutch Practical foundation demonstrates one option , the so-called rope pump. Old technology improved with modern materials and now over 1 million people in 10 countries use this pump. In Nicaragua there are over 50,000 installed. The shift from imported Piston pumps to Locally produced rope pumps has doubled rural water supply in Nicaragua in 10 years. In Tanzania cost of a well and a pump reduced from 3000 to 600 dollar by using manual drilling technology and locally produce rope pumps instead of drilling rigs and imported pumps. Another example is a ceramic silver water filers that produces water safe water. Half a million already use this filter and the cost of introduction of these option is 3 dollars per person. This and other examples indicate that small-scale option applied on a big scale have a huge potential to reach the water millennium goals.

More information on smart water solutions see [www.practicafoundation.nl](http://www.practicafoundation.nl)

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### SIDE EVENT MDG GLOBAL WATCH

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# San Sebastian International Film Festival



Donostia-San Sebastian has a French air which gives it a distinguished appearance, a well looked after atmosphere that the visitor notices as soon as he arrives. It is in fact a city that looks a lot to Sartre's country, both in terms of its town planning design and the cultural programmes and lifestyle which give the Urumea city a very unique identity.



As CSD 13 wraps up our thoughts are beginning to wander from water rights, sewage treatment and sustainable human settlements to what we might do this summer. Perhaps we might hit the beach in San Sebastian and take in a few movies...

This year the San Sebastian International Film Festival will be celebrating its 53rd consecutive edition with the same enthusiasm felt the day it first saw the light on September 21st 1953.

The list of personalities making an appearance at the Festival ever since its early days is endless. Their names have given San Sebastian Back its cosmopolitan splendour and have bestowed it with a certain dose of glamour, always connected to fine filmmaking. Federico Fellini, Gloria Swanson, Alfred Hitchcock, Kirk Douglas, Jean-Luc Godard, Deborah Kerr, Leslie Caron, Bernardo Bertolucci, Anthony Quinn, Audrey Hepburn, Francis Ford Coppola, Fritz Lang, Robert Altman, Howard Hawks, Nicholas Ray, Elizabeth Taylor, Fran ois Truffaut, Orson Welles, Fernando Rey, Luis Bu uel, Steven Spielberg, Joseph von Sternberg, Imperio Argentina, Richard Burton, Gina Lollobrigida, Harrison Ford, Pedro Almod var, Victoria Abril, Sergio Leone, Roman Polanski, Jacqueline Bisset, George Peppard, Sydney Pollack, Peter O'Toole, Joseph L. Mankiewicz, Charlton Heston, Glenn Close, Anjelica Huston, Sophia Loren, Mel Gibson, Keanu Reeves, Matt Dillon and Ethan Coen, Antonio Banderas, Bertrand Tavernier., And they are only a few of the celebrities that have come with their films and have left an indelible stamp on the Festival's memory.

For the purpose of rendering due recognition to those who have contributed their lives to the motion picture world, in 1986 the Donostia Prize was created. This tribute, named after the city, has so far been placed in the hands of Gregory Peck (1986), Glenn Ford (1987), Vittorio Gassman (1988), Bette Davis (1989)... Last year, Woody Allen, Annette Bening and Jeff Bridges (2004) were presented with the award.



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break—literally...



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