

OUTREACH

Providing you an insightful lively critical analysis and news



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

THURSDAY 14H APRIL

Clinton Visits the UN— The Next UN Secretary General?

As the CSD was meeting downstairs—upstairs UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was announcing at a news conference that former US President Bill Clinton will head the UN Tsunami Relief Effort, effective immediately.



Photo courtesy of Leila Mead / IISD

Mr. Annan said that Mr. Clinton is the perfect choice for this post because of his high-profile and vision for the project. It is the hope of the Secretary-General that Clinton's reputation and stature will enable him to continue to raise funds for the efforts and maintain public visibility of the project.

In his remarks, Mr. Clinton praised the immediate relief efforts and pointed out that this is now in an important transitional phase between relief and reconstruction. The coming infra-structural rebuilding period will be the most important and the most difficult.

Mr. Clinton described his job as having four parts: **One**, to make sure that money is not only available; but is spent in an effective, responsible, and transparent manner; **Two**, to work harder to **coordinate efforts** between **governmental** and **non-governmental groups** relief efforts; **Three**, to have an unshakeable commitment and **moral obligation** to build back the region even better than before; **Four**, to learn from the process and come up with a **set of best practices** to set up a system for mitigating and dealing with future disasters that can be used as a model for the rest of the world.

When asked about **aspirations to succeed Mr. Annan** as Secretary-General, Clinton would only say that he supports

and likes Mr. Annan and that he is now Annan's "employee, it would be unseemly to say or do otherwise."

Regarding the fitness of **John Bolton**, President Bush's nominee for the **US ambassadorial post** to the UN, Mr. Clinton tactfully avoided the question by deferring to the role of his wife, US Senator Hilary Clinton.

Another interesting question asked of Mr. Clinton was whether his motivation to accept the post was either out of genuine concern for the afflicted or out of a perceived need to improve the US's world image. **Mr. Clinton** responded by saying that he is **motivated solely by concern** for those **affected by the Tsunami**. As for the world image of the US, Clinton cited a survey that found that before the Tsunami disaster, the world approval rating of the US was about 36%. This rating went up to 56% after the Tsunami assistance from the US because, as Clinton sees it, both action and intent were pure. Mr. Clinton's point is essentially that actions speak louder than words and that if the US acts in a way that is effective, and without ulterior motives, then the image problem would take care of itself. Moreover, he feels that the US should be concerned about the future and the role of the UN and should assist it any way possible.

It is bittersweet to hear Mr. Clinton speak in such an eloquent and intelligent manner. It is good because he described the post and his intentions in an eloquent, just and rational manner. For many, it may seem depressing that his successor rarely speaks in this manner.

It is also interesting how his description of his job so closely mirrors what the outcomes of **Commission on Sustainable Development 13** should contain: accountability and transparency, a call for an effective role and voice for non-governmental groups and stakeholders to be coordinated with governmental bodies, to strongly commit to the process, and the creation of an effective model that can be used elsewhere.

It would behoove all participants to take note of the talk and these goals. However the outcome of the conference may turn out, it would certainly be a failure if any one of these four goals is left out.

Certainly, the naming of Clinton as UN Envoy for the UN Tsunami Relief appears to be an excellent and popular choice. Perhaps this is the beginning of a wonderful relationship with the UN. We wish him all the best.

STAKEHOLDER FORUM SIDE EVENT

From CSD to The Millennium Development Summit *Challenges for the Next Decade*

Delegates and participant at the CSD13 were treated to an exceptional experience yesterday at the Stakeholder Forum's side event when an array of high profile speakers put forward various ideas from their particular perspectives on priorities for the forthcoming MDG Summit in September and how CSD 13 agenda can contribute to it.

The panel included Prof. Ibrahim Gambari UN Under Secretary General and Special Adviser to Kofi Annan on Africa, Mr. Byron Blake Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica, Roy A Hathaway Head of Environment & Sustainable Development International Division Defra UK, Micheal Muller Director General Water Affairs and Forestry of South Africa and Felix Dodds Executive Director Stakeholder Forum. The side event was chaired by Malcolm Harper from Stakeholder Forum.

Ibrahim Gambari felt that one of the most important component of water agenda as discussed at the CSD is the integrated water resource management (IWRM) which can play an important role in meeting our goals on water. Africa is wrestling with conflict in areas which span water basins. In addition, many of river basins are degraded and need individual catchment areas action plans. For instance, in sixty shared river basins there are no arrangements to work towards a shared policy. IWRM approach at river basin level hence is a key for Africa. Planning for water resources is intrinsically linked to national development planning. The cost effective model of water provision is necessary but it should not compromise the access to water of those who can not afford it.

Sufficient resources are a key to achieve Africa's 'Water Vision Targets'. Africa where at one hand needs to take responsibility for its own betterment is in urgent need of external financial assistance. Without such, sufficiently enhanced assistance Africa will most certainly not be able to meet its Millen-

ium development targets. A serious handicap to development was the ability of African countries to compete in the world market. Only two percent of world trade happens through Africa – the lowest percentage of any region. While development is a major issue, the need for water is essential to allow any manufacturing or development activity to take place. His final plea was for donors to honour pledges in a timely and qualitative manner.

Roy Hathaway openend his presentation by saying that the challenges of poverty, disease, environment degradation, conflict, security and human rights as also set out in SG's report 'In larger freedom are interlinked in two ways. First, the set of problems feed off and exacerbates the others e.g. development and security, poverty and environment. One can not be solved without the other. Second we cannot sustainably meet these challenges unless we act together. He stressed the need for environment security to underpin our efforts to achieve MDGs as is very clearly stated in the Millennium Ecosystems, the Sachs, and the Commission for Africa reports.

How do we go about meeting these challenges: He reaffirmed EU and UK recognition of their responsibility to live up to their past commitments and take a lead role to deliver them. By choosing Africa and climate change as twin themes of G8, UK lives up to that commitment. He restated UK's commitment to doubling of its aid for water and sanitation to Africa over next three years. He also said that UK is very keen to integrate the environment and development agenda as there is a direct link between environment degradation and failure to achieve development goals. The recent meeting of G8's environment and development ministers is a right step in this direction.

How can CSD contribute to meeting these challenges: CSD has a key role to play in addressing the poverty and environment challenges. The achievement of MDGs on water, sanitation and human settlement will contribute to achievement of other MDGs particularly poverty, disease and education. He is of the view that CSD must focus on practical policy options backed by concrete action, to speed up implementation of MDGS along with identifying the implementation actors. In terms of contribution from CSD to the MDG summit the following were stressed by Roy as key ; recommitment to nationally owned and led IWRM and water efficiency plans, fuller reflection of the importance of sanitation in policies and



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budget at national levels. , a more integrated approach to the planning, management and provision of shelter and infrastructure to support settlements and full integration of water, sanitation and human settlement into national owned development programmes and including PRSPs and NSDS

“The Summit leaders can make real headway on the implementation of the linked commitments from the MDGs, Johannesburg and Monterrey — and provide political impetus for the Doha Development Round as well — then in time we can hope to make progress in all areas“

Roy Hathaway.

Byron Blake: On this occasion, Mr Blake was not speaking on behalf of G77 or Jamaica but was speaking in his personal capacity, based on many years work on sustainable development issues. In his opinion there were several important messages for CSD to take to the Millennium Development Review process. Firstly most developing countries are not on target to meet their water, sanitation and human settlement goals. Secondly it is increasingly becoming clear that a number of other MDG targets will not be met in most of the developing world. In his view the mobilization of sufficient resources is the biggest challenge along with technological and capacity building support for the developing and especially least developing countries.

He endorsed the comments made by Professor Gambari concerning the need to enhance development in Africa and other developing countries through measures like fairer trade, improved production and sustainable consumption. He urged that urgent attention is needed to change the emphasis of WTO policies to promote trade and development assistance. The fact that Africa pays out more in debts servicing than it receives in aid every year is a clear indication that progress can not be made with a negative outflow from these already poor countries. He stressed the need for increased aid to developing countries, the donor co-ordination, the transfer of technology and support in capacity building as key to ensure as chance of developing countries coming anywhere close to meeting the MDGs.

Michael Muller: Commitment made at Millennium Summit in 2000 were built upon by international community at WSSD in 2002, South Africa was always clear that WSSD and what flowed from it was part of a broader process aimed at the renewal of Africa and the creation of a better world. In the lead up to the September 2005 Millennium Review Summit, these connections are becoming clearer.

The reorientation of CSD work around thematic cluster in two year cycle, the Secretary General’s high level panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and Cardoso Panel report highlighted the need to ensure that stakeholders are actively

drawn into the process of implementation and policy development are all concrete efforts towards setting out the platform for implementation of policy options that can help achieve MDGS.

In his view the success of CSD 13 will provide an important contribution to support constructive outcomes of the broader processes which are advancing the aims and objectives of the global development agenda. He stressed the importance of issues of global governance, follow-up, coordination and monitoring of the water, sanitation themes being discussed at the CSD.

On question of what outcomes we hope for from the Millennium Review he stressed first the need to acknowledged that development is on the agenda in its own right - freedom from want is necessary if we are to have the freedom to live in dignity and second a continued focus on implementation and finally that the strategies cannot effectively be implemented unless we address the challenges of the skills and technologies, the finance and the trade access that will make effective implementation possible.

Felix Dodds chose to challenge the participants and raised a series of thought-provoking questions. Are the WSSD outcomes been included in the SG preparatory process for MDG Summit? How will CSD incorporate views on other aspects of MDG7, e.g. forests, energy, and loss of biodiversity?

Why should stakeholders even come to the Summit as it is clear that with one slot allocated to them, that this is not a serious attempt to integrate the Cardoso Panel Report lessons?

The Consensus

“If we choose to walk towards the sunrise, it should be possible to make progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals and creating a better world. That path could be seen as a global partnership for development, a global people’s movement convened by a restructured United Nations which is enabled to play its due role in the promotion of global development “

Michael Muller

The discussion that followed indicated there was a broad level of agreement both between the speakers and the audience. Among the major points were:-

CSD 13 contribution to MDG review summit is both vital and beneficial to support constructive outcomes of the broader processes which are advancing the aims and objectives of the global development agenda.

There is a need to **ensure coherence** between the various initiatives such as Kofi Annan's important report, "In Larger Freedom," the report of the Commission on Africa, the G8 agenda. They all must pull together and work towards an integrated and mutually supportive approach to the summit, including targets and the next steps for the 2015 road map.

Even more urgent is the need for **donor governments to meet their obligations** adequately to finance the MDG process through reaching their 0.7% official development aid target as quickly as possible, through serious consideration of such initiatives as the proposed international finance initiative which would increase development resources earlier than originally planned and through a more determined programme by donors to turn pledges into actual payments.

Participants welcomed Roy Hathaway's comments on the efforts which the UK would be making at the forthcoming G8 summit in July and during the British presidency of the EU, during the second half of this year. The same for the British

commitment to double its financial inputs to water and sanitation programmes in Africa over the next three years. The point was also stressed that hygiene should be seen as the vital 3rd element in the water and sanitation process.

Speakers emphasised the importance of further strengthening of **good governance**, genuine democratisation and transparency at all levels. Professor Gambari spoke of the progress made through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and its peer review process. This is without doubt a powerful lever to ensure action, although he pointed out that at the moment there were 24 African Governments involved and that urgent efforts should be made to seek the participation of all 53 members of the African Union.

Above all, there was a wide recognition, by all participants, of the important and creative inputs which are made by civil society, and their role in the policy formulation and delivery of the MDGs. The importance of the "Cardoso" report on the UN/Civil Society co-operation needs much more creative support if this mutual goal is going to be achieved.

But will we finally achieve anything?

By Malcolm Harper

CSD-13 is a vital stepping stone in the final preparations for the UN General Assembly's Millennium Development Goals Summit in September ... but what will be achieved in concrete terms which will actively support and favour the basic needs of the world's very poorest people?

The answer remains very open.

Nor should CSD-13 be seen in isolation from the other initiatives which build into the MDG process. There are the findings of the Copenhagen, Cairo, Istanbul and Beijing Summits and their follow up; there is Kofi Annan's recent report, "**In Larger Freedom**"; there is the report of the Commission on Africa which was chaired by British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the majority of whose Commissioners were African; and so on.

It is vital that their various findings and recommendations are fully dovetailed so that we do not find their agendas being pursued in isolation from each other, with all-too-scarce resources being squandered on separate activities rather than on integrated follow up.

But ... does the necessary **political will** really exist to make sure that this happens? I remain somewhat doubtful that the answer is positive.

And this is where civil society – all over the world – has a key advocacy and educational role to play.

Time is critically short. The climate change challenges are, despite the objections of a limited number of key players, both urgent and potentially disastrous for us all if they are not

seriously addressed over the next 2-3 decades. In order to ensure that a potentially terminal tragedy does not engulf the world, action must be taken on all of the MDGs with a determination which has not been clearly manifested to date.

Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, on whose UK Board I serve, is playing a creative role in bringing together many of the key non-governmental actors in the whole MDG process. Water, sanitation – and I would urge the full integration of **hygiene** – and human settlements may be the focus of CSD-13 and they are major priorities for the coming decades. If climate change finally erodes or engulfs significant areas of land mass – not only small island states but the Ganges delta and elsewhere – pressures on such facilities as water, sanitation and human habitats will become even more extreme than they are at the moment. It is little wonder that more and more people are now arguing that water may replace oil during the current century as the commodity over which wars will be fought.

Just and equitable management of these vital resources must be urgently enhanced. Without their good governance the very poor will continue to lose out. Water harvesting and water protection need to be encouraged. People need to be educated as to their importance – both in school curricula and in the informal adult education sector. Donor governments need to allocate more resources to them in order to ensure that MDG7 receives adequate support for effective implementation. G77 member states need to make sure that they give adequate priority to MDG7. And civil society needs, on a continuing basis, to encourage them all to do so, both through bilateral and – hopefully, UN-centred – multilateral co-operation.

That is what it is all about: **effective action to ensure success**.

There is no alternative to water

By Felix von Geyer

On day three of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (13), the Commission discussed the key themes of water and sanitation pertinent to the Millennium Development Goals. While all the speakers highlighted the mechanisms for monitoring, the exact mechanisms for implementation remain murky, and the issues of public-private partnerships to provide a solution were only circumlocuted.

All speakers were united behind the call for a specialised United Nations' Water Agency to implement a single mechanism for the implementation of water and sanitation initiatives globally, thus preventing the establishment of a competing, bilateral mechanism.

James Bertram called for a three-tier mechanism to include global, regional and national processes, with regional processes requiring regional commissions.

The issue of water and sanitation essentially contains transborder implications, they cannot be confined to national borders, making water quality and pollution of truly global concern, concerns increasingly paramount as global water quality continues to decline while waste increases, all with seriously negative ramifications on global ecosystems. Richard Roberts asserted the need to address global 'hotspots' which would require improving the management and organisation of monitoring water quality and pollutants, furthering calls for a strengthened programme under a UN Water Agency.

There is not a serious observer or commentator who does not recognise the issue of water as essential to the sustainable development of communities, whether these are locally, nationally or regionally defined. Pointing to the practical experience of the IWRM, Al Doda was clear in stating the case for extra finance and capacity-building for water treatment and that a global fund is needed to assist the 138 countries who all require assistance in this area, with particular emphasis on trans-boundary water systems, from the Great Lakes and waterways of Africa to the river basins of China.

Such implementation further requires regional commissions and south-south sharing of experience, particularly concerning the conflicting uses for water. In Brazil, hydroelectricity competes with irrigation for agriculture, with the need of fisheries; groundwater use for agriculture can conflict with private sector requirements while, all the time, increasing climate change renders further unpredictability regarding droughts. The need, therefore, to invest in the agricultural industry is overwhelming, heightening the importance of planning for climate shifts and modifying the existing IWRM to include groundwater systems.

To advance the planning and preservation of groundwater systems also asks for the availability of low cost sewage treatment as current basic sanitation is proving to only further the contamination of groundwater systems if not also moving the problem of sanitation further downstream, again reinforcing

the issue of transnational borders. One only has to cast one's mind back to the cholera epidemic in Peru during the early 1990's to comprehend how this can happen.

In highlighting the current problems, there is optimism. Experiments in China, Brazil, Bulgaria and Romania have all produced encouraging results in terms of water planning and usage. However, individual and experimental projects are not enough. Moving the issue upward to a global scale is a must which means integrating experiences, particularly south-south ones into a tightened, structured learning experience, again consolidated in a single UN Water Agency.

The lessons learned so far from the EC and the delivery of the EU Water Initiative prompted Patrick Murphy to back the UN Water Agency. Often local water supply networks collapse enhanced by climate change where Northern Europe seems set to have a water surplus, while Southern Europe faces severe shortages. To discover the solutions, whether building more dams, increasing water protection and irrigation schemes requires 'unpacking the global scene'.

Regional experiences in the subsequent questions confirmed the consensus for more finance to enable capacity-building and technology to facilitate this. Byron Blake as Chair of the G-77 also suggests that it is essential to monitor global action and policy action, again asserting the need for one global water agency which the Scientific and Technological Communities' representative felt could implement global earth watching systems for data intelligence and remote sensors for monitoring surface water as well as global water systems, climate systems and ecosystems.

If one man's water is not to become another man's poison, implementing the cry for 0.7% of the developed world's GDP to developing countries via multilateral and regional development banks is a must, including facilitating micro credit schemes so that people can afford the basic human right of water access. Bringing the sum of experiences of the JNP to reinforce monitoring, for the UNDP and UNEP to be involved as well as the GWP and WWAP seems to point to the need for unifying them under one UN Water Agency. One UN Water Agency can effectively engage all stakeholders, from farmers who are victims of systemic low agricultural prices who cannot afford to invest in water and irrigation for their crops, to women who are the main haulers of water in Africa to the private sector.

Anyone who thinks they have heard it all before, be warned, there are alternative forms of energy. There are no alternatives to water.



The dapper diplomat dialogues...



By Jane Forshaw

Yesterday Dr Ashe joined the NGOs' meeting to take questions, but before we analyze that, who is this man and what motivates him?

Dr. Ashe's chairmanship caps a long association with the Commission, on which he has served in various capacities. He was a member of the Bureau of CSD-1 and CSD-7, and was Vice-President of the Bureau of the Johannesburg Summit. Dr. Ashe also possesses an intimate knowledge of the negotiating atmosphere of the CSD, having chaired negotiations on finance, energy, SIDS and the "Means of Implementation" chapter of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Earlier in the week Dr Ashe outlined his vision as Chair as ensuring that decisions are taken on the substantive and practical measures. Along with a clear guideline for implementation. Speaking to Outreach after the NGO meeting he said "My role is to ensure real measurable results that will impact on the lives of the poor, and all stakeholders can and should contribute"

It was clear from the opening remarks by the CSD chair that he was very surprised and impressed to see a big turnout of the civil society representatives.

At the meeting he was suave, clean operator, and obviously a dedicated Chair. He made it clear in taking questions from the

floor that the onus was on the NGOs to restate their arguments, to push their views, and persist in their role as lobbyists. He did emphasize that the views of Major groups were equal to those from Government. Furthermore he stressed the importance of this CSD feeding into the meeting of Finance Ministers and the MDG session.

Some of those present felt that though it was a good opportunity, their questions were not satisfactorily answered.

His views on "an innovative solution" in the way Major Groups contribute to the process with the timed interventions are welcome but it should be mentioned that the change in the format is a real regression - Major groups have always had this. It is the very least that should be happening.

Mr ash kindly volunteered to attend the NGO meeting again at 9.30 on Friday 15th April in conference room B.

Science & Technology NGO Caucus Meeting to discuss Chair's Text

April 14th 2005
Thursday

Time: 06:15 pm—07:15 pm

Venue: Grumman Room, 8th Floor Church Center

African Civil Society Concerns and Input to the Cross-Cutting Issues

By Maiick Gaye

In order to meet MDG and WSSD targets for water, sanitation and human settlements and ensure sustainable development in Africa, the African civil society organizations express following concerns;

Water, Sanitation and Human Settlement as Human Rights

We agree with the Chair's statement on the rights-based approach to water and sanitation. We therefore call on national governments in Africa to provide national laws to implement the rights based approach to water, sanitation and human settlements.

Financing

In agreement with global NGOs position, we NGOs representatives from Africa disagree with the call by some delegates to use ODA as a lever to attract private investments in water, sanitation and human settlements. Experiences across Africa show that most ODAs and other multilateral support to Africa do not impact the lives of the common Africans since such supports are channeled through the private sector. Failures of such projects have contributed greatly to the debt burden of

Africa. Overseas supports are largely directed through northern experts with a larger percentage of the support being spent on overheads of the oversea expert groups.

All support must be directed to strengthening the Africa public sector to meet the water, sanitation and human settlement needs of the African people. African CSOs must play clear partnership roles in all the processes including the acquisition of the support, implementation of projects, monitoring and evaluation of all investments. African NGOs experiences in working with the civil society in providing best practices must also be incorporated into national budgets, planning and implementation process in the water, sanitation and human settlement projects.

Innovative local technologies and small and medium scale enterprises should be properly harnessed and supported through microfinance micro-investments.

Debt

African people are overburdened with debt and Africa will miss the water MDG target by 50years and sanitation target by 85years as result. We demand an unconditional cancellation of the debt of Africa.



Habitat International Coalition HIC

Come and share the debate at our Side Event!
On Thursday, 14th april 2005, 1:15 to 2:45 pm, Conference Room C
Housing Rights, Privatisation,
and Human Settlements :
An Underdeveloped Debate in CSD 13 ?

Panelists:

Ana Tibaijuka
 Malick Gaye
 Michael Kane
 Knut Unger
 Courtney Miller

Executive Director – UN Habitat
 Director ENDA – RUP, Senegal
 Executive Director – National Alliance of HUD Tenants NAHT
 AG Forum Habitat and Written Tenants Association
 Architect ECO Build Cambridge

Facilitator

Ana Sugranyes

General Secretary Habitat International Coalition



RIO GRINDS—the light hearted side of sustainable development

Demolition is now finished at the US Embassy over the street and builders are reported to have found a tunnel that leads directly to the Vienna Café. Also found was a large room full of brackets. Some of these appear to have been used many, many times.

Other of these seemed to have found their way on to the tables in the Vienna Café and have been sold on the 'bracket' market. This goes a long way to explain the vibrant Luxembourg delegation as they prepare for Friday.

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

Partnership

AM	09:30-1:30	Neck Area	Partners for Water and Sanitation (PAWS)
PM	2:00-6:00	Neck Area	Transfer of know-how held by Japanese local governments in the field of addressing environmental problems)
	2:00-6:00	Neck Area	Total Water Programme Partnerships
	2:00-6:00	Neck Area	Children's Environmental Health Indicators
	3:30-5:30	Conf. Room 1	Interactive discussion. Partnerships in Practice: Mobilising Resources: Financial and Non-financial contributions to partnerships

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Information Transfer Claudia Strauss;
World Resources Institute Jonathan
Lash; WWF International Gordon
Shepherd.

AM	10:00 -1:00	Conf. Room 1	Distribution of Chair's draft elements for negotiation - no plenary
PM	3:50- 5:30	Conf. Room 1	Delegates study Chair's draft - no plenary

Side Events

AM	1:15- 2:45	Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium	Mainstreaming Climate Impacts into Sustainable Water Management Organized by WMP and IHE
	1:15- 2:45	CR 2	Peer Review/Shared Learning of National Sustainable Development Strategies Organized by Government of France
	1:15- 2:45	CR 6	Sustaining the Desert Miracle: Water and Waste Man- agement Under Adverse Conditions Organized by Gov- ernment of Israel
	1:15- 2:45	CR C	Housing Rights, Privatization and Human Settlements: An Underdeveloped Debate in CSD-13? Organized by Habitat International Coalition
PM	6:15- 7:45	CR 2	Moving forward: Strategic action through IWRM to reach the MDGs - Implementation on national and transboundary levels Organized by UNDP
	6:15- 7:45	CR 6	Governance and Local Capacity Development for Sus- tainable Development Organized by Directorate Gen- eral for Research, CEC
	6:15- 7:45	Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium	Access to Basic Services for All: Towards an Interna- tional Declaration on Partnerships Organized by UNI- TAR

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

**Thank God the Minister aren't here yet?
(Things to do over the weekend)**

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



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