

OUTREACH

Providing you an insightful lively critical analysis and news



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TUESDAY 19TH APRIL

Are we returning to the “Killing Fields”?

By Malcolm Harper

Sunday – 17th April – was the thirtieth anniversary of the arrival of the notorious Khmer Rouge in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. Renaming the country Kampuchea, they proceeded to empty the cities and to force people to work on agrarian development in the countryside in what many of us would see as little short of gulags through a process of relentless hard labour. Currency was abolished and a return to a would-be utopian “Year Zero” was announced by the Angkar – the nearest we have ever seen to George Orwell’s “Big Brother” in his novel, “1984”.

The end result was the death of an unknown number of people – estimates vary between 800,000 and 2 million (with upwards of 1 million probably as accurate an estimate as is possible). Many died of hunger, disease and exhaustion; others through grotesque torture techniques used to extract “confessions” of disloyalty to Angkar.

We need never to forget what happened in Cambodia during the four years of Khmer Rouge misrule. We need, too, to support the efforts of the United Nations and others who are still seeking

to bring to justice (in a specially authorized criminal court) those Khmer Rouge leaders who are still alive.

But ... are we now witnessing a new “killing fields” phenomenon, which has nothing to do with the Khmer Rouge or evil régimes but with a widespread failure of adequate political will in the battle to combat dire poverty and gross injustice? UNDP in its annual Human Development Report, UNICEF, research bodies outside the UN family, development and environmental NGOs, trade union bodies and many others are producing the well-researched evidence of the **avoidable** deaths among the very poor which are not being prevented. And, just yesterday in a report, “**Water: facts and trends**”, published by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, it is stated that 1.8 million people die every year of diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera, which is the equivalent number of mortalities in 15 killer tsunamis *per annum* on the scale of the tsunami which erupted on 26th December.

By our less than adequate overall – there are some notable exceptions – commitment to an overtly action-orientated process at the CSD and elsewhere – and ultimately at the MDG summit in September – are we really showing the commitment and con-

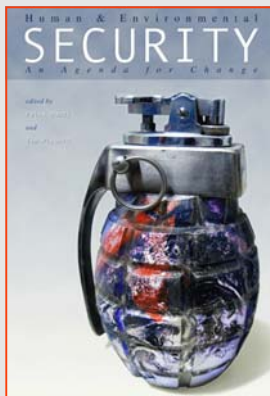
HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY – AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE

Stakeholder Forum will have three books out this year the first the Plain Language Guide to WSSD came out in January and the second Governance for Sustainable Development will come out in June, the third and final book will be Human and Environmental Security – An Agenda for Change. This book is edited by Felix Dodds of Stakeholder Forum and Tim Pippard of Jane’s Weekly and will come out for the MDG Summit as a contribution from Stakeholder Forum to the debate around the report to the Secretary General – Challenges, Threats and Change. Stakeholder Forum will be organizing a series of round Tables on the issues in the book with some of the authors in September. If you are interested in being kept informed then email fdodds@stakeholderforum.org

Foreword - Celso Amorim Foreign Minister Brazil - Introduction - Klaus Toepfer Executive Director UNEP

Section 1 Peace and Security

1. Peace and Conflict: New Threats and Challenges - **Lord David Hannay**: Member of the Secretary General’s Panel on Challenges, Threats and Change; 2. Human Security and the War on Terror - **Oliver Richmond**; 3. Achieving Nuclear Non-Proliferation - **Marian Hobbs** Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control New Zealand; 4. Peace building Commission - **Anders Liden**.



Section 2 Sustainable Human Development

5. Human Security for the Poor - **Jan Pronk**: Former Minister of Environment and Development in the Government of the Netherlands; 6. Trade and Security in an Interconnected World - **Hilary Benn**: Secretary of State for Overseas Development UK; 7. Sustainable Livelihoods - **Ashok Khosla, Hari Sharan**; 8. Securing a Healthier World - **Dr Christine Durbak, Dr Claudia Strauss**; 9. Human Security and Population Challenges - **Zonny Woods**; 10. Protecting our Biodiversity - **Juan Mayr**: former Chair of UN CSD (2000) and Colombian Minister for the Environment; 11. Food Security - **Henrique Cavalcanti**: former Chair of the UNCSD (1995) and Brazilian Minister of the Environment; 12. Water for All - **Patricia Wouters**; 13. Climate Change: Impacts and Security - **Melinda Kimble**: Vice President UN Foundation; 14. Human Security for Human Settlements - **Anna Tibaijuka**: Executive Director UN Habitat.

Section 3 Global Governance

15. Changing role of the State and the emergence of Regional Governance - **Sabin Mendibil Intxaurreaga**: Minister of Environment Government of the Basque Country; 16. Human and Environmental Rights: A need for Corporate Accountability - **Hannah Griffiths**: Friends of the Earth; 17. Democracy in Trouble - **Felix Dodds**: Stakeholder Forum; 18. Reforming Environmental Governance - **Serge Lepeltier**: French Minister of the Environment; 19. America as Empire - **Jim Garison**

Afterward - **Mikhail Gorbachov**: former President of USSR

(Continued from page 1)

cern that the Preamble of the UN Charter demands of “we the peoples of the United Nations” to “promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom”?

The 8 Millennium Development Goals offer us all a contemporary way forward to that demand – the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women; reducing child mortality and improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and developing a global partnership for development. It really is all there for the taking!

We are already being told that there is no way in which the MDG targets for 2015 will be achieved on time. If this is so, what will happen? Will we revise the target dates to 2020, 2025 or some other year? Will we find the will to agree priorities in such a way that sufficient donor and other support will ensure their (albeit delayed) implementation? Or will we fail once more and revise the date yet again?

In the meantime, it is the very poorest who will be the main victims. If 1 billion people currently seek to survive on less than \$1/day, it is little wonder that avoidable deaths remain so high. There is evidence to show that, if a relatively high number of people in a country or area live in this bondage of endemic non-sustainability, the threat of civil violence and civil war are considerably enhanced, which – as is all too evident in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and elsewhere – leads to even more deaths than are caused by “natural causes”. And the dislocation and uprooting of people’s lives exacerbates the downward movement towards an increase in the number of people living on less than \$1 per day.

In these circumstances, it can be argued with much justification that we are, indeed, “returning to the killing fields” created by poverty, injustice and inadequate concern by those whose decisions can and do make a difference for good or ill.

Time is not on our side to resolve this crisis. Effective and continuing action from now onwards is the world’s best hope. In our heart of hearts we know that this is so; but will we live up to our several obligations?

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Challenges to the War on Terror; 10 Years after Oklahoma City Bombing

On April 19th, 1995, shortly after 9am, a bomb was detonated in the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Today Outreach would like to take a moment for remembering the people who dies in the Oklahoma tragedy. That day the United States experienced a terrorist at-



Photo from <http://jpsc.ndu.edu>

tack worse than any previous on its own soil, by its own citizens. Today marks the tenth anniversary of this event and coincides closely with the release of the High Level Panel of the Secretary General’s report ‘*A more Secure World, Our Shared Responsibility*,’ in which terrorism is identified as one of the most threatening security issues facing the world today.

Emphasizing the importance of security and a desire for peace, the report describes the major measures and obstacles to achieving it. It highlights greater action towards poverty reduction targets, quality of life improvements and international cooperation as important measures for the reduction of conflict, particularly terror.

The Panel urges the General Assembly to adopt a definition of terrorism that incorporates previous agreements, such as the Geneva Convention, and recognizes that “*any action... that is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a Government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.*”

Correction: Yesterday’s front page photo mistakenly refers to UNICEF as UNESCO. We apologize for the error.

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Terrorism moved to the forefront of international agenda after the September 11 attacks in New York, when the United States launched the “War on Terror” an international campaign to hold terrorists and the states harbouring them accountable, and to prevent future attacks.

This campaign has produced visible results; however, in light of emerging international standards expressed through the panel’s report, an examination of US policy finds certain inconsistencies. The Oklahoma City bombing was, by any definition, an act of terror, yet, the reaction to national terror contrasted sharply with the international campaign that followed attacks by foreign nationals.

The US has done little to curb the influence or existence of the network of armed militias who inspired the attack. Moreover, the US has not honoured its existing commitment to agreements, such as the Geneva Convention, by

engaging in tactics that include torture in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay.

The US is attempting to lead the way in the fight against terror and the promotion of security. By taking on this active and high-profile role, the US has a greater responsibility to honour the very principals it is working to protect at home. The overall effort must be reflected in both domestic and foreign policy in order for it to maintain credibility and effective leadership.

The Panel’s report sets goals that incorporate not only police and military actions in the fight against terror, but important social and developmental mechanisms as well. As we reflect on this tragic day ten years ago, it would behove US leadership to re-examine its approach to terror and make an effort to lead by adopting the proposed measures and conducting a truly international effort. But today lets all take a moment for the families of the Oklahoma.

Access as Dignity: Shifting the Playing Field

By Esther Castain, Soka Gakkai International
and Pam Puntteney, CSD Education Caucus Co-chair

The UN-HABITAT side event on “Unheard Voices of Women” focused on aspirations, priorities and visions of women in accessing safe drinking water, basic sanitation, and healthy shelter. Panel presentations, short films, and an interactive segment gave voice to women from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

In her opening remarks, Mrs. Nane Annan stressed the importance of listening to the voices of those living in poverty if we are to meet the targets of the MDGs, particularly halving poverty by year 2015. The solutions, most often, are not complex: Vocational training centres in urban slums and simple technologies such as latrines were examples she gave.

Personal interviews and testimonies highlighted the fact that access to these basic services means, in effect, access to privacy, self-respect, safety, and dignity. The link was also made between meeting sanitation requirements and slum targets in urban and rural areas.

Addressing the question of what are the key challenges to international gender cooperation, panel respondents pointed to the targets in the MDGs and the need for strong women in leadership roles.

Just as water and sanitation need to be seen from a gender perspective, the meaning of water and sanitation in regional context must be highlighted. For some, access to safe drinking water in some areas translates to a health concern; for others, it translates to placing women in the vulnerable position of being physically violated.

While these points suggest how felt realities may differ

across regions, commonly identified was the promotion of gender sensitivity in urban planning with a decentralized system in place as a condition that makes equity possible.

It is not just about listening to the grass-roots but shifting the playing field to the local community, one panellist summarized. This means shifting our approaches in evaluating problems, designing solutions and evaluating accomplishments. The processes, then, would involve the various actors coming together to learn from each other. This was echoed in other comments, to the effect, that education must have an impact *on* decision-makers, planners, and experts as well as the local community. Similarly, given that a great deal of money has been spent on the water sector, it was suggested that there be funds allocated to mobilizing the entire community in the sustainable development agenda.

In some regions, school education is rare or non-existent, and it was suggested that community forums for raising awareness play an important role. People need to be able to utilize the tools for monitoring and measuring the impact on the communities in which they live.

How to listen to the poor are an educative process and a necessity in strengthening capacities of governments. To understand what’s happening on the ground, a suggestion was made to hold future CSD sessions in other world regions.

“Unheard Voices of Women” expressed, in the most vivid and accessible terms, how engaging people in sustainability is key to achieving the MDGs and a sustainable future for all. One question remained: Why doesn’t education figure more prominently in the “Chair’s Draft Elements for Decision” and “user-friendly matrix”?

Collaborative Actions for Sustainable Water Management

By Andy Wales, Severn Trent Plc

The Water and Sustainable Development Programme at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development has developed a discussion paper for CSD 13 entitled 'Collaborative Actions for Sustainable Water Management'. The document highlights the actions that members of the programme feel should be prioritised by business to deliver sustainable water management. The document will be launched and debated at a side event at 1.15pm today in room 6, jointly hosted by WBCSD, IUCN and Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future.

The sustainable management of water makes an important contribution to the achievement of social and economic development. This can only be done through all sectors working closely together. The Collaborative Actions document presents steps that business can take, in interaction with other stakeholders, to ensure sustainable water management. The actions are supported by case studies demonstrating how companies are working in collaboration with communities and governments to achieve sustainable water management.

Business needs reliable water supplies to manufacture products and deliver services to its customers. It also needs safe sanitation systems to protect the health of its employees and to treat and recycle used water. It needs healthy and vibrant communities and attractive environments in which it can do business. These cannot exist if water management is neglected.

Water supply and sanitation are prerequisites for sustainable development. Providing safe water services depends upon a healthy environment where water resources are not over-exploited or excessively polluted. When water ecosystems fail, the foundation for water supply and sanitation is lost. Everyone, including business, has a vested interest in making sure that this does not happen by managing water in a sustainable manner.

Making progress is not easy. Companies that provide water services in the developing world face high risks, especially where there are few guidelines or controls to regulate their operations and protect their investment. This means that much needed private sector expertise and finance is rarely available to help overcome water service deficiencies.

Some countries lack the governance structures necessary to introduce or support efficient water services. In circumstances where there are few laws and regulations controlling water use and wastewater disposal, businesses must adopt international standards and ensure that their activities are socially and environmentally responsible. This applies whether they are in an industry that uses water services or are part of the water service industry itself.

Sustainable water management requires collaboration be-

tween business, civil society and governments; none of these sectors can deliver it on their own. Business has a key role to play, but must work proactively with other sectors in order to achieve lasting results.

For ease of use, the Collaborative Actions have been divided into three sections to emphasize areas where business can take a lead in their own activities and where they should work in partnership with local communities and governments. However, in many cases the best solution will involve all three sectors working together to achieve lasting improvements in water management.

Businesses taking the lead presents actions and case studies showing where businesses can demonstrate sustainable water management in their operations, products and services;

Working with civil society includes actions and case studies showing where businesses can work with local communities to ensure better water provision for those communities;

Supporting good governance and development presents actions and case studies showing how business can work in responsible interaction with governments.

Businesses taking the lead

In 'areas where business can take the lead' we focus on getting our own house in order. Significant water users should introduce water management plans, where they have not done so already. Companies should take steps to reduce their water and waste water footprint – including the footprints of their products and services 'in use' by consumers. To reduce water use and improve waste water quality business should develop robust measurements of performance. We would also argue that companies should undertake environmental impact assessments for ventures requiring significant amounts of water. Pollution should be tackled at its source, and 'end of pipe' treatments for pollution should be avoided. We also advocate a demand management approach to ensure that the demand for water does not exceed the natural rate of replenishment.

Business needs to employ the best available and most appropriate technologies for its operations to ensure long term sustainability. In the same context, we also need to ensure that we build the capacity of local industry to manage water and sanitation systems – so they can undertake operational, maintenance and renewal works – to avoid a potential dependence on imported skills.

Working with civil society

The second section of Collaborative Actions focuses on two key areas where business can work with local communities to ensure better water provision. The first considers decision-making regarding water service provision to domestic, industrial and agricultural users. Stakeholder engagement is a key

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to transparent and inclusive business activities and strengthens a business's licence to operate.

Second, where an existing industrial or agricultural activity proposes to increase its use of water and sanitation services, business should engage with local communities to ensure that decisions are made fairly and the needs of those communities are not overlooked. Again, such a process works best when business engages with local civil society organisations.

Supporting good governance and development

The third area of the Collaborative Actions document discusses governance and development.

It is vital that business is seen to be transparently supporting good governance when engaging with water and sanitation services around the world. Business should support Integrated River Basin Management, ensuring that it considers both the polluting effects of waste water and the risks of over-abstraction of water. Business should manage its land and water use to ensure that ecosystems are not exploited beyond their natural capacity.

At CSD 12 and in this discussion paper, business has made it clear that the provision of water services to the poor – indeed fulfilling the human right to water – is the responsibility of governments. Business can deliver specific outputs as required by the contracts it enters into. Business should work in creative partnerships with governments and civil society to help achieve better provision of vital water and sanitation services.

Business should also encourage – and be seen to encourage – an effective water governance framework, and work within the terms of that framework. Business should encourage clear environmental, economic and quality regulation to ensure that the provision and use of water and sanitation services is properly overseen. Strong, independent and accountable regulators create a secure environment within which business can successfully operate.

Moving to action

The case studies featured throughout the document are an indication of what can be achieved by business. Many companies need a better understanding of the benefits that could be delivered to their business, the surrounding community and the environment from sustainable water management. Some businesses mistakenly believe that actions of this kind cost money while providing no shareholder return.

Business can only thrive in healthy economies where social and environmental needs are satisfied as well as economic ones. Good water management, safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation are essential for a healthy society. Businesses should see these as valuable long-term investments for the future and work in collaboration with governments and civil society to ensure that they are provided and maintained.

These collaborative actions provide a partial answer. They begin to highlight where business can take a lead and 'make a difference' and they can be adopted by any company as part of its commitment to sustainable water management and corporate responsibility. The WBCSD Water and Sustainable Development program members intend to use this document to share good practice with other businesses in their sectors and countries where they work. We welcome further interaction with other stakeholders as we seek to work openly to improve sustainable water management.

Desalination of Seawater is not the Sustainable Solution

At CSD 13 industry groups and some governments are promoting sea water desalination as the answer to water supply scarcity issues. The attitude is that with the advance of reverse osmosis technology water scarcity has become a thing of the past. Statements made suggest that as long as there is water in the sea there will now be fresh water available to all.

The Israeli government is a strong proponent of sea water desalination. The first desalination plant producing 110 mil-



Photo from <http://www.hitachizosen.co.jp>

lion cm of water will come on line this summer with plans for over 400 million cm of water to be produced annually. The Israeli Water Commissioner will be present at CSD 13. He will highlight the sophisticated technology developed such as desalination and drip irrigation, extensive use of treated wastewater and advances made in the use of saline waters for agriculture in Israel.

A coalition of the non-governmental organizations from Israel, at a side event together with the World Resources Institute and the Heinrich Boll Foundation will present its critique of Israel's water policies highlighting a failure to deal with demand side management and prevention of water pollution.

The NGO critique sees the extensive investment in seawater desalination as a missed opportunity. Israel has the know how on water but the policies are not in place. Instead of investing millions of dollars on building desalination plants, the

(Continued from page 5)

same money could be invested in supporting water conservation methods and preventing the rampant pollution of existing water resources.

The Israeli coalition published a new report titled 'Paths to Sustainability' calling on the Israeli government to place water conservation as the top priority for managing the national water economy. With Climate Change threatening increased desertification in many areas around the globe including developed countries, Israel's experience in building a highly sophisticated water economy in a semi arid region could be helpful. Ironically though the recent decision of the Israeli Water Commissioner to focus on seawater desalination as the solution to Israel's water needs is not sustainable and only further adds to the greenhouse effect.

It is odd that Israel a country that has no oil will soon be increasing its dependence on burning fossil fuels to produce water from the sea. It's a short-sighted solution. The NGO report highlights that Israel should stick to the type of water saving technology that has made it world famous in water – drip irrigation and other water saving methods.

For more information and a copy of the report please attend the Side Event to be held on Wednesday, 20/4/05 at 6:15 pm at conference room 2.

Paths to Sustainability Israeli Environmental and Social NGOs Coalition

Climate impacts into sustainable water management

UNESCO-IHE (Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate), WMO and the Japan Water Forum last week organized a side event on "Mainstreaming climate impacts into sustainable water management". The event focused on Water-related hazards – such as floods, droughts and storms – are on the increase. Although efforts are made to reduce vulnerability, human and economic costs are sharply rising year by year.

Compounding drivers including population growth, economic development, flood prone land use and climate change give rise to trends which change the nature of extreme events from incidental to much more frequent and from local to regional and even global.

The increasing water related vulnerabilities require comprehensive responses to improve management of risks. These responses should become part of Integrated Water Resources Management.

The CSD-13 side event "Mainstreaming climate impacts into sustainable water management" started with pres-

entations, followed by discussion.

Outcomes

The meeting concluded that:

- The impending impacts of climate change upon hydrological systems threaten the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal 7. The audience was in agreement with **a new target under Millennium Development Goal 7 to halve the loss of life associated with natural disasters of meteorological, hydrological and climatic origin by 2015**. It is recommendable that the new MDG target includes reduction in economic losses. An indicator framework is required to monitor progress.
- Forecasting systems, early warning systems and public awareness campaigns are indispensable elements for effective risk management. To achieve the new MDG target, investments in meteorological and hydrological warning systems as well as warning systems for a variety of other hazards should therefore be made. There is indeed increasing technical capacity and political will to invest in early warning and forecasting systems.
- Climate change impacts should be included into the national plans for sustainable development. A call was made to harmonize the National Adaptation Plans of Action and the Integrated Water Resources Management plans.
- The importance of capacity building should be emphasized to achieve the new MDG target.

Economist Offers Addition to Global Debate on Sustainable Development

Economist, author of *The Skeptical Environmentalist* and recent addition to Time Magazine's list of the 100 Most Influential People, Bjørn Lumborg, visited the United Nations yesterday to promote his latest book *Global Problems, Global Solutions* which was a result of the Copenhagen Convention which he hosted in 2004.



This conference gathered many of the world's top economists and asked them to review a series of issue papers regarding

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the world's greatest problems. These issue papers, written by other economists, focusing on topics like disease control, climate change, water, etc, presented the case for these crises and made the case for specific solutions. Upon review, the gathered economists were then asked to prioritize each problem and solution essentially based on a cost-benefit analysis.

Without getting too detailed, suffice to say climate change solutions were at the bottom of the list of priorities and disease control regarding HIV/AIDs was the number one priority. Lumborg was more than willing to admit that prioritization is unpleasant, difficult and perhaps unfair, but his concern is solely the accomplishment of something and these accomplishments should bring the greatest good for the least amount of money.

Mr. Guido Schmidt-Traub, Policy Advisor to the Millennium Development Project, was present to offer his critique. He made three main points: **one**, the Convention addressed the wrong questions; **two**, the methodology was problematic; and **three**, the process is not the right one.

With the 0.7% of ODA target from developed nations moving closer to achievement (which the book fails to mention) there is and will be a great deal of money available. Which is not to say that low-cost solutions are not good ones, but perhaps the question should solely be: what are the **best** solutions?

Moreover, a methodology of a purely cost-benefit analysis slanted towards low-cost and available data required the panel to throw out benefits that can't be quantified or problems whose solutions we are as yet unsure of.

Lumborg's analysis also fails to recognize the importance of South-South and local solutions to many of these problems, to say nothing of the improvement and delivery of education.

Perhaps the strongest criticism of Lumborg and his Convention was his failure to recognize, let alone incorporate, the synergies and inter-linkages of the specific solutions to many problems. To attempt to stop the spread of HIV/AIDs without developing a basic infrastructure for the delivery of healthcare seems a little like replacing the carburettor on your car, but not repairing your faulty engine – it will help, but ultimately your car is still busted and its going to explode very soon, with you in it.

Cross-cutting and integrated solutions have been a part of the sustainable development discussion for some time now and the fact that Lumborg dismisses this fact is not merely disappointing, but is bad analysis and tends to deligitimize his work as a whole.

Mr. Schmidt-Traub made an excellent summation by saying that Lumborg's work while appearing to be a good idea is, in the end, far too narrow of an analysis that does not go far enough in terms of real solutions. We do, however, for his emphasis on actual implementation and thank him for contributing to the debate. Hopefully, his celebrity will draw more attention to this important topic.

A business response to the Chair's draft elements for decision

From the Business Major Group

The business major group, alongside many other groups, was disappointed by the sparse commitments to action found in last week's chair's draft elements for decision. Listed below are four areas where business believes that further commitment or clarification is needed:

Corruption

Business feels that the text should encourage stable, enforced regulatory systems and strong institutions. Eliminating bribery and corruption, in favour of the rule of law and democratic processes, is fundamental and should be emphasised.

Economic stimuli

In addition to financial resource transfer and debt relief, the text should also highlight the role to be played by foreign direct investment, job creation, strong domestic enterprises and technological innovation and development in meeting the targets.

Partnerships

All options should be considered for service delivery. Public-private partnerships can be an effective option for accelerating progress in delivering basic services to all when a favourable enabling environment is in place. The role of local community based organisations should be strengthened in local decision making, resources allocation, development and implementation.

'Rights-based' or 'Needs-based'?

The business community recognises the right to water as defined by EcoSoc in 2002. However, it is not entirely clear what a 'rights-based approach' means in the context of the CSD 13 text and its subsequent implementation. What will it actually mean for those on the ground who need water and sanitation services? Will it assist them in receiving those services any quicker? We are not sure. Clearly some major groups hold strong opinions on this topic and so we would suggest that there needs to be a more detailed understanding of what a new approach might mean. It seems to us that the rights based approach and the needs based approach are not mutually exclusive, and to set them up in opposition may not be constructive. Our proposal in response to the chair's text is: "National water legislation and policy should incorporate a rights-based approach that gives priority according to needs, especially those of unserved poor populations.

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A M	10:00	Conf. Room 1	Consideration, in the Plenary, of the compilation text of the Chair's draft elements for decision, reflecting the results of the discussions on Monday, 18 April.
	1:00	Conf. Room 2	To be announced upon the adjournment of the Plenary in Room 1.
P M	3:00	Conf. Room 1	Negotiations
	6:00	Conf. Room 2	

Side Events

P M	1:15 2:45	DHLA*	S&T Priorities for Sustainable Development: Consulting Stakeholders at the CSD.Organized by the International Council for Science (ICSU)
		Conf. Room 2	WASH Roundtable: Mobilizing Women Leaders for the MDGs. Organized by the Government of Norway and Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
		Conf. Room 6	Business and Sustainable Water Management. Organized by World Business Council for Sustainable Development
	6:15 7:45	Conf. Room C	Indigenous Model Programme – Addressing Issues of Clean Drinking Water.Organized by Indigenous Environmental Network/International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)
		Conf. Room 2	Good Local Water Governance: What is it? Organized by Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)
		Conf. Room C	Financing for Environment and Development. Organized by International Institute for Environment and Development
		Conf. Room 6	Launch of the World Bank's Little Green Data Book 2005.Organized by Southern Caucus of NGOs for Sustainable Development

Partnerships

A M	9:30 1:30	Neck Area	Water program for Africa and Arid and Water Scarce Zones Northern Water Network
P M	2:00	Neck Area	The Seed Initiative
	6:00	Neck Area	International Law on Sustainable development partnership
	3:00 5:00	Conf. Room 6	"Partnerships in Practice" interactive discussions on:Exploring the Role of the Private Sector in Partnerships for Sustainable development

RIO GRINDS-the light hearted side of sustainable development



The UN at the beginning of President Bush's Presidency...

... the only thing left at the UN after President Bush's Presidency...
...The Vienna Cafe



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