

OUTREACH



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TUESDAY 22ND

PEACE and SECURITY: the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPERATIVE

Is environmental degradation being treated as a key issue for the United Nations in its work to enhance international peace and security? Malcolm Harper considers whether it is being taken seriously enough.

The report of the UN's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, "A more secure world: our shared responsibility", which was published

earlier this month, states clearly that the environment is a critical factor in the pursuit of enhanced peace and security. Indeed, both environment and development issues feature prominently in the six 'clusters' of threats identified by the report:

- war between States;
- violence within States, including civil wars, large-scale human rights abuses and genocide;
- poverty, infectious disease and environmental degradation (my emphasis);
- nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons;
- terrorism; and
- transnational organized crime.



K. Gorospe

Previously, the UN's concern for Peace and Security has often appeared to be limited to a narrow focus on war and violence between and within Member States. It is therefore encouraging that the report not only seeks to improve the UN's effectiveness in regards to its traditional peacemaking and peace-keeping roles, but also stays true to the panel's title and includes a wider focus on the other critical threats and challenges faced by the world.

In fact, for some time now the UN Security Council itself has looked at "threats to international peace and security" in a wider context than had been possible during the Cold War. With the concept of the "peace dividend" being popular (albeit for a disappointingly short period) in the early 1990s, environmental degradation, abject poverty and massive and sustained human rights abuse started to attract the Security Council's attention. This background should be kept in mind, especially considering the fact that most of the discussion of the report to date has concentrated purely on its recommendations for Security Council

reform (in doing so continuing to reflect on the recent splits in the international community regarding the use of force against Iraq). It is indeed true that Security Council reform is a key issue, not least regarding fairer international representation, and the report does well in outlining two possible models for the General Assembly to discuss and hopefully to decide upon. But, however, the report also quite rightly argues that this single item should not be allowed to dominate the agenda to the extent that everything else in the report falls by the wayside. The Security Council is a mechanism for responding to threats to our common security, and we should be careful to maintain attention on the goals we face rather than just the process of attaining them.

Environment & Security

Let us therefore turn to what the report understands by the environmental aspects of this wider context of current-day Peace and Security concerns. The links between abject and continuing poverty, disorder and environmental degradation are spelled out. So, too, are the effects of climate change on natural disasters and consequent human suffering. Paragraph 54 goes on to state that: "Rarely are environmental concerns factored into security, development or humanitarian strategies. Nor is there coherence in environmental protection efforts at the global level. Most attempts to create governance structures to tackle the problems of global environmental degradation have not effectively addressed climate change, deforestation and desertification. Regional and global multilateral treaties on the environment are undermined by inadequate implementation and enforcement by the Member States."



K. Gorospe

It will be interesting to see what Member States make of this. The report's views will at least give support to efforts to reform UNEP, but will proposals for the creation of a stronger United Nations Environmental Organisation now be viewed with more urgency and enthusiasm? The increasing intensity of many environmental threats and the shared responsibility we face is underlined in paragraph 52: "Current trends indicate persistent and possibly worsening food insecurity in many countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Population growth in the

(Continued on page 2)

(Viene de la página 1)

developing world and increased per capita consumption in the industrialized world have led to greater demand for scarce resources. The loss of arable land, water scarcity, overfishing, deforestation and the alteration of ecosystems pose daunting challenges for sustainable development..." Given this recognition of a weakened global environment, Paragraphs 71-72 go on to discuss global warming and the Kyoto Protocol. They conclude with the words, "We urge Member States to reflect on the gap between the promise of the Kyoto Protocol and its performance, re-engage on the problem of global warming and begin new negotiations to produce a new long-term strategy for reducing global warming beyond the period covered by the Protocol."

Many climate activists will be disappointed that the report does not go further here, but I have been led to understand that climate change was not given centre stage in the report partly because the UN Secretary-General knows that it is being taken forward elsewhere and did not want unnecessary overlap.



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The Greatest Threat

Nevertheless, it is climate change which is ever more widely seen as the greatest of all threats to the whole future of our planet. If, it is argued, we do not get our act comprehensively together – at the international, regional, national and local levels – urgently and simultaneously, then the threats of terrorism, of organized crime, of poverty, of weapons of mass destruction and of war will become increasingly secondary.

In this context, the Report could – some say should – have stressed more fully that, if mass migration on unprecedented levels results from climate change, then this will itself be the biggest influencing factor on the maintenance of international peace and security. Given the combination of increased populations, weakened ecosystems, and the loss of increasing areas of habitable and cultivable land to sea-level rise and salinisation, the world will struggle to cope.

There is much more of value in the report that this brief article cannot include at present. What is most encouraging,

however, is this broader approach to threats to peace and security which the UN is now taking. All of us must seek to ensure that there is no backsliding from it.

The Way Forward: Key Recommendations

1. All States must recommit themselves to the goals of eradicating poverty, achieving sustained economic growth and promoting sustainable development. (paragraph 59)

10. States should provide incentives for the further development of renewable energy sources and begin to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies, especially for fossil fuel use and development. (para 71)

70. Members of the General Assembly should use the opportunity provided by the Millennium Review Summit in 2005 to forge a new consensus on broader and more effective collective security. (para 240)

72. Following the recommendation of the report of the Panel on Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations, the General Assembly should establish better mechanism to enable systematic engagement with civil society organizations. (para 243)

101. All Member States should rededicate themselves to the purposes and principles of the [UN] Charter and to applying them in a purposeful way, matching political will with the necessary resources. Only dedicated leadership within and between States will generate effective collective security for the twenty-first century and forge a future that is both sustainable and secure. (para 302)

Malcolm Harper is the Former Director of the UK United Nations Association and is a Board Member of Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future.

The Panel's report is available at: www.un.org/secureworld/ Stakeholder Forum will be publishing a book during 2005 on the theme of Environmental and Human Security – more details to follow soon.



K. Gorospe

Outreach

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European Union meets NGOs

In a meeting on Monday between the NGOs and the European Union NGOs were able to raise a number of key issues.

Access to Working Groups

NGOs pointed out that UNEP is out of line with the general practice in the UN system on access of NGOs to governmental negotiations and with the recommendations of the Cardoso Panel on Civil Society.

NGOs reminded the European Union of the practice at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development whose preparatory meeting on water, sanitation and human settlement will start next Monday. In the CSD stakeholders have been welcomed into and to speak at working groups and at informals recognising the significant expertise they can bring to the negotiations.

During the WSSD process their contribution was welcomed and their participation enhanced through the multi-stakeholder dialogue process – perhaps something UNEP should consider for the next Governing Council.

Chemicals

NGOs raised a number of points on mercury, which we report in full in another section of this issue, but focused on the call for a legally binding agreement on mercury to be an outcome of this Governing Council.

Environmental Governance

NGOs welcomed the call supported by a number of countries for a secure funding base for UNEP and for Universal membership as the global commons covers all nations not just a selection. They also raised concerns that WTO was dealing with environmental disputes, such as the GMO issue as opposed to the relevant MEA. Enhancing the ability for MEAs to deal with environmental disputes is a key issue that NGOs support.



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Gender

High on the agenda was the issue of Gender in preparations for the High Level discussion. NGOs raised the question why were the outcomes from the WAVE Conference not reflected in the Governing Council discussions and in budgetary allocation for the next biennium.

Five Year Review of WSSD and Human and Environmental Security

Finally NGOs raised the issue of the need to address if the present two cycle of the CSD adequately addresses the WSSD agenda and perhaps a Five year review might be worth considering particular in light of the new paradigm of Human and Environmental Security.

NGO Mercury Proposal

A number of NGOs led by NRDC, EEB, Mercury Policy Project, The Basel Action Network, Arnika association, Associacao de Combate aos POPs, toxics Link, The ban Hg Working Group attending this years Governing Council are highlighting the need for addressing the serious issue of mercury. They have called for Governments to:

- Adopt aggressive but realistic global goals of a 50% reduction in mercury consumption by 2010 and an 80% reduction by 2015, versus 2000 levels.
- Prepare annual reports tracking elemental mercury production and trade, and global consumption trends, based upon data vetted for consistency, accuracy and completeness.
- Prevent the introduction of surplus mercury into the global marketplace by: immediately terminating subsidies to primary mines and phasing-out primary production by 2010 and storing excess mercury from decommissioned mercury chlor-alkali plants and other sources instead of allowing such mercury to re-enter commerce
- Reduce global demand in the chlor-alkali sector by publicly benchmarking the relationship between mercury consumption and chlorine production at all facilities to encourage short-term improvements in operating practices, and by phasing out mercury use in the chlor-alkali sector over the next 10 years.
- End the manufacture and trade of mercury-containing soaps and cosmetics, and educate health professionals and populations at risk about the adverse human health effects attributable to use of these products.
- Promote the phase-out of mercury use in batteries, paints, switches, relays, measuring devices, and potentially other products and processes where non-mercury alternatives exist or become available over the next ten years by targeting key countries or regions where production or consumption is substantial, encouraging inventory preparation in such countries or regions, and sharing information on alternative technologies, and relevant laws and standards.
- Develop and implement a global strategy to promote the use of non-mercury and lower mercury use technologies in small-scale gold mining.
- Control the largest global source of mercury emissions by employing best available technology on the larger coal-fired power plants by 2012 and all coal-fired power plants by 2017.
- Prepare reports on the remaining mercury use in vaccines and the extent of financial and other resources required to adequately manage large abandoned mercury sites in countries requiring such assistance.
- On a parallel track, develop a global legally binding instrument to ensure coordinated international commitments and cooperation to minimize mercury production, trade, releases and consumption.
- Encourage voluntary contributions sufficient to support the above mentioned actions, the creation of a mercury unit within UNEP, and ensure the active participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

GC-23/GMEF

CHINA TO HOST 2006 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL GPA REVIEW

H.E. Mr. Zeng Peiyan, Vice-Premier of China, announced during the Opening Ceremony of the GC-23/GMEF that China will host the 2nd Intergovernmental Review of the Global Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) to take place in 2006. Early soundings favour Shanghai, although the host city has yet to be specified.

With some 80% of marine pollution originating from land-based sources, including municipal, industrial and agricultural wastes and run-off, the need to take action is urgent. In recognizing this, the GPA was adopted in 1995 with 108 countries and the EU committing efforts to reversing this trend. Among other actions, the GPA calls for States to develop national frameworks for reducing the impacts of land-based contaminants on marine ecosystems. China is currently in the process of developing a National Programme of Action (NPA), joining over forty nations in carrying out plans to streamline and strengthen their ongoing marine pollution mitigation work.



E.M. Hyland

GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

50 participants representing civil society in more than 60 countries participated in the fifth Global Civil Society Forum organised by UNEP in conjunction with their Governing Council. Two days were spent working on developing a critical approach to the proposed decisions tabled by various countries. Dividing the issues in three chapters -- Chemical Issues, International Environmental Governance issues and the Programme of Work -- civil society came up with a number of consensus recommendations. One of the most contentious issues were those relating to the mercury situation where the civil society calls for an "immediate concrete actions to substantially reduce mercury demand and releases, the adoption and meaningful targets, and the development

of a new global binding instrument to address mercury."

The IEG cluster also attracted a lot of attention. The official document to be negotiated is rife with brackets, and civil society read these brackets to mean simply to weaken UNEP. Consequently a number of recommendations to challenge such brackets were made. Among them were: strengthening UNEP at all levels, and in all contexts such as interagency coordination, the MEAs etc; making funding of the organisation predictable and reliable, strengthening science-based approaches while at the same time acknowledging and respecting the value of traditional ones.

As always, civil society has a strong concern for the precautionary principle. Their concern in this context read: "As the precautionary principle combines political and scientific concerns in a unique way, none of the above bullet points, nor any of the proposed text before the Governing Council should be used to undermine this principle. Where paradoxes might exist, they need to be solved in a sensible manner. A consensus feeling among the participants expressed the need to develop coherence in this context".

To be able to carry out next year's work, UNEP, as well as other entities of the UN, relies heavily on civil society. The present work programme of UNEP is no exception and contains almost 70 references to civil society. Civil society seems to be wanted as long as it makes the UN perform, but when it comes to decision making processes, civil society seems to represent such a problem, that it seems to be consciously left out. The present work on the MDGs represents a unique opportunity for the UN and its peoples to work together. Yet, as is known, civil society will only be welcome at the coming five year review of the MDGs in September in a symbolic way. The GSCF strongly urged a review of the modalities for the September meeting in this way:

"The Millennium Declaration and its operational system as expressed through the 8 MDGs, their targets and indicators, were created to serve "we the peoples" of the United Nations. Civil Society has become a central partner with the United Nations and its various member nations to implement these goals. To be excluded from genuine participation at the first five-year review of these goals makes a travesty of the principles of good governance, i.e. inter alia, transparency, participation and accountability. The Global Civil Society Forum at the UNEP GC therefore sends a strong message to the United Nations Member States to open the five-year review to full access for civil society."



E.M. Hyland

CSD13: Local Government Priorities

Building from the base - Priorities for action from Local Government Major Group

Water, sanitation and human settlements are focal areas of local government action. In Johannesburg governments agreed to “enhance the role and capacity of local authorities as well as stakeholders in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit and in strengthening the continuing support for Local Agenda 21 programmes and associated initiatives and partnerships”. The policy recommendations of CSD-13 should further support these commitments.

I. Challenges for Local Government

Water and Sanitation

- Poor or non-existent local water governance
- Lack of water and sanitation management tools
- Poor access to finance for water and sanitation infrastructure and for capacity building
- Poor understanding of the interlinkages of water and sanitation with gender issues, health, education, poverty and economy

Human Settlements

- Rapid urbanization due to rural – urban migration
- Unplanned ‘informal’ settlements
- Poor planning regulation and building standards
- Increasing homelessness, decline in investment in social housing
- Regulatory gaps in land reform, housing, planning and building policies

Local Government needs identified in the CSD-12 Chair’s report:

- Further decentralization of services and devolution of decision-making
- Further involvement of local communities, especially women, in planning and policy making
- Capacity building for local water governance to strengthen analysis and management of solutions
- Understanding of partnerships as an effective implementation tool but not as a substitute for government leadership and action
- Further mobilization of local finance and other resources (technical, human etc)

II. Strategies and Programs

Recommendations:

- Local to national links - to ensure a coherent approach, national poverty reduction and sustainable development plans should better reflect local priorities, e.g. through supporting local strategies and sub-national processes.
- Strengthening of the Local Government level - capacity building programs for local decision-makers and municipal staff are needed to support local strategic approaches, including through national Local Government associations and networks of municipalities.

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Local Government Cont

III. Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Policies - a framework for decentralisation and subsidiarity

“Decentralised governance for development (DGD) is a key area of democratic governance which is crucial to attaining human development and the MDGs” (UNDP 2004).

Principles of “Good Urban Governance” are sustainability, subsidiarity, equity, efficiency, transparency and accountability, civic engagement and citizenship, and security (UN-Habitat). These principles should be further supported by member states.

Recommendations:

- Decentralization of both regulatory powers (ability to enforce local guidelines, policies, and create revenue through taxation and fees) and resources (finance, technical, management and governance capacity)
- Involvement of the local level in national planning strategies and reporting
- Land reforms to provide secure tenure, especially for the poor

IV. Finance - enhanced local autonomy

Improving access to finance for targeted service provision requires increased financial autonomy of sub-national and local authorities. This is at the core of decentralization and subsidiarity. Financial autonomy can enable greater efficiency by reflecting local priorities better, and accountability through establishing closer relationships between service providers and recipients.

Fiscal decentralization should be a core component of poverty reduction programs. To improve mechanisms for mobilizing local fiscal resources and local spending, local financial administrators must be trained in revenue generation and accountability. Such activities require additional resources from governments and external donors.

Recommendations:

- Development of tools and mechanisms (e.g. pooling of Local Government regionally to access funds jointly) to increase finance of local infrastructure (water, sanitation, housing etc)
- Access to finance locally and local revenue creation (e.g. capacity to raise taxes and fees)
- Sustainable consumption and production – national policies should be enacted and networks of municipalities encouraged to purchase goods and services (e.g. transport, shelter, water and sanitation delivery) that meet sustainability criteria.

V. Capacity building

Elected Local Government officials and municipal staff require capacity building in a number of areas to enable sustainable development locally. Support is needed through national Local Government associations, municipal networks and cooperation between cities, in addition to national and donor support.

Recommendations:

- Instituting good local water governance with human rights, sustainability and pro-poor orientation as the basis of any capacity building
- Introduction of local government decision-making and management skills – enabling local politicians and officials to

be effective managers of water, sanitation and human settlements in the short to long term

- Targeted capacity building is needed for key local practitioners e.g. planners, financial administrators
- Building skills for participatory approaches (civic dialogues, negotiation, conflict management, consensus building) to support active community involvement in local planning, decision-making and service delivery
- Information for decision-making – strengthening local capacity for data collection and analysis to enhance monitoring, reporting and decision making, also providing better information for national governments.

VI. Recommended actions

Water and sanitation

- Good local water governance is key.
- Water financing – develop mechanisms to increase finance of local water and sanitation infrastructure. A thorough assessment of the recommendations made by the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure is urgently needed.
- Decentralization and Local Government engagement with other stakeholders has a direct impact on water governance. Building on lessons learned from Local Agenda 21 (LA21) participatory processes helps to address issues of gender and other inequalities.
- Capacity building of Local Government leaders is crucial to fully understand the implications of various options for service delivery, including privatization and partnerships.
- Affordable service provision – housing programs that help low-income households afford better provision of water and sanitation are essential.
- Tenure – inhabitants of informal settlements must be provided with tenure, allowing utilities to extend provision for piped water and sewer connections.

Human Settlements

- Informal and illegal settlements require basic services. Service delivery to these areas should therefore be a commitment by all stakeholders, including all levels of government.
 - National housing standards need to be re-examined in regard to sustainability. National support is required to ensure that standards are applied.
 - Local involvement is needed in national, multilateral and bilateral schemes to make housing affordable for all
- ### General actions
- Urban - rural links – national strategies need to foster dialogue and cooperation between urban and rural jurisdictions, and encourage greater regional coherence.
 - Inter-municipal cooperation – governments and international agencies should encourage networking, technical exchanges and study visits which support local learning and capacity building for sustainable development. National, regional and international urban sustainability programs require additional support. More targeted information sharing is needed, enabling cities to learn from each other.
 - Local action needs to be encouraged by governments and international agencies

The full compilation paper for CSD-13 from all the Major Groups will be available shortly on the CSD website: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd.htm>

Global Youth Forum

Youth from around the world gathered 16-18 February at the Daybreak Health Farm for the Tunza Global Youth Retreat. The first day of the retreat kicked off with youth delegates touring the UNEP complex and meeting Eric Falt, UNEP director of communications, who welcomed the GYR participants to the UN complex in Nairobi and provided an overview of the [TUNZA](#) activities which aim to engage young people in the work of UNEP.

Eric seized the opportunity and posed a "Millennium Challenge" to the youth, urging them to outline how they can contribute in their own countries towards the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). He explained that their contributions will be compiled into a report to be presented during the Tunza International Youth Conference in Bangalore, India next October. The Challenge was well received and following the session, discussions were already underway between delegates about proposed responses.

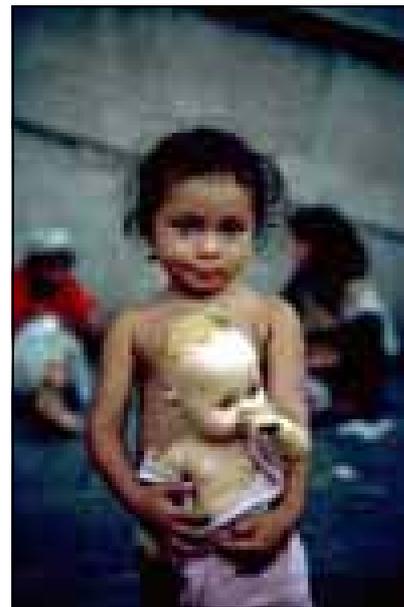
Theodore Oben, UNEP Head of Children & Youth unit, provided an orientation session and further information about TUNZA programme. Following that, he invited young people to introduce themselves and each was given an opportunity to briefly inform others of their environmental activities, interests and backgrounds. Additionally delivered was a presentation on the UN Commission for Sustainable Development with an emphasis on youth involvement.

UNEP's partnership with Bayer on youth activities was one of the highlights of the day, with 2 top Bayer executives attending. Michael Schade and Dirk Frenzel offered the delegates a presentation on Bayer's environmental programme and corporate responsibility towards the attainment of sustainable development.

Four participant-driven capacity building workshops took place on the afternoon of the second day. Youth with expertise in media, fundraising, lobbying and involving people ran the workshops. Additional activities included interactive discussions on youth and the Millennium Development Goals, as well productive discussions and question and answer sessions with UNEP regional directors, and an address from Dr. Klaus Toepfer, UNEP Executive Director.

But it wasn't all work and no play. Later in the evening our young people danced the night away following a hearty dinner at Nairobi's famous Carnivore as well as a cultural exchange night.

A busy three days completed with a Youth Statement, about which more information will be shared later.



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RIO GRINDS—the light-hearted side of sustainable development



Next UN Secretary-General?

President Kwasniewski of Poland.

Breaking News

The head of the UN refugee agency, Ruud Lubbers, has resigned following allegations of sexual harassment.

In a letter to Secretary General Kofi Annan, Mr. Lubbers denied the allegations and said he was quitting because of a lack of confidence in him. Mr. Annan accepted the resignation, thanked Mr. Lubbers for his work, and said a new page had to be turned.

The allegations against Mr. Lubbers were contained in a confidential UN report leaked by the press on Friday. It said that he had engaged in unwanted physical contact with a female employee at his agency in Geneva. The report added that claims made by other employees indicated a pattern of sexual harassment—although these women had not made official complaints.

Ruud Lubbers has said the claims are unsubstantiated.

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Shepherd.

Date	Event and Location
Tuesday 22 February	07:00— 09:00 Environment Institute's Breakfast Event on Youth and MDGs. Roundtable on youth participation in implementing MDGs, Recreation Centre 13:00— 14:00 Environment Institute's Lunch Special Event on Climate. Achieving MDGs in a changing climate. UNEP and TERI, Recreation Centre 15:00— 18:00 The Institute@UNEP-GC/GMEF: MDG3, Gender, Drylands and Poverty. Recreation Centre 19:00—21:00 Reception hosted by the Government of Kenya. Location TBA
Wednesday 23 February	07:30—09:00 Environment Institute's Breakfast Event on International Environmental Governance, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies 13:00—14:00 Environment Insitute's UNEP/UNESCO event on UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, Recreation Centre 12:00—15:00 Capacity Building Workshop on "How to Lobby at MEAs." Organized by Stakeholder Forum, UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, Earth Media and Centro de Estudios Ambientales. Room T-105. (Space is limited, see Felix Dodds). 15:00—18:00 The Institute@UNEP-GC/GMEF: Urban Air Quality and Partnerships, Recreation Centre 19:00—20:30 Special Event on Agriculture, Biodiversity and Eradication of Poverty and Hunger, Organized by UNEP/IUCN/FAO; Conference Room 1 20:30—22:00. Ministerial Working Dinner. <u>Theme</u> : Agriculture, Biodiversity and Eradication of Poverty and Hunger; <u>Structure</u> : Served dinner with invited speakers and interventions between courses.Organized by UNEP, Location TBA
Thursday 24 February	09:00-19:00 The African Business and Sustainable Development Roundtable; Organized by International Chamber of Commerce / World Business Council for Sustainable Development / World Energy Council /UNEP, Conference Room 4 13:00—14:30 Environment Institute's Special Event on Water: Rainwater Harvesting in Integrated Water Resource Management., Recreation Centre 14:00—18:00 African Business and Sustainable Development Roundtable, Location TBA 15:00—18:00 The Institute@UNEP-GC/GMEF: Sustainable Waste Management in Coastal Cities, Recreation Center 19:00—21:00 Environment Institute's: Special Event on Impact of Climate Change on the Arctic, Organized by UNEP and the Russian Federation, Recreation Centre 19:00—21:00 Environment Institute's: Special Event on Desertification: Event on the UN International Year of Deserts and Desertification, Recreation Centre
Friday 25 February	13:00-14:00 Press Conference, Press Centre
Saturday 26 February	GC-23/GMEF Field Trip

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