

# OUTREACH 2015

*Providing you an insightful lively critical analysis and news*

## MAJOR GROUPS RESPOND TO THE CHAIR'S SUMMARY



Yesterday, at shortly past 3:00 pm, Part I of the Chair's Summary was distributed. Part I of the Summary aims to capture the main findings, including constraints and obstacles identified during the thematic discussions, including discussions on SIDS. The Summary identified 45 obstacles and constraints across the four thematic areas as emerging from the thematic discussions. One-third of these were related to air pollution, followed closely by industrial development. Only 9 obstacles and constraints were identified in relation to energy for sustainable development. And only 19 statements were included on means of implementation.

means of implementation was not given adequate attention and that energy security seems to have emerged as a fifth theme, not included on the agenda. Kuwait took this observation further by saying that energy security should not be on the agenda. Several countries raised concern over the presentation of judgements as facts within the Summary, and requested a chapeau text to address this concern. There was also concern over the framing of the discussion on renewables, references to common but differentiated

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

### Breakdown of the Chair's Summary

	Obstacles & Constraints	Lessons Learned/ Best Practices	Means of Implementation	Continuing Challenges
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>53</b>
Energy for Sustainable Development	9	16		
Industrial Development	13	11		
Air Pollution	15	7		
Climate Change	8	7		

The Chair introduced the Summary to the plenary and invited delegates to make factual comments. South Africa, on behalf of the G77 and China, raised concerns that the



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...See page 9

### WEDNESDAY 10 MAY

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responsibility as an issue, and the need to balance adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The US argued that the information presented at the Learning Centre and the Partnerships Fair was not adequately reflected.

Although Major Groups did not have the opportunity to comment on the document in the plenary, they did have significant reactions to the Chair's Summary.

### Response of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group



*Tom Goldtooth  
CSD Indigenous Peoples Major  
Group, Indigenous  
Environmental Network*

On Wednesday afternoon after the Chairman released his summary, the Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) had a quick exercise in rushing to obtain copier paper, find access to a copier, make copies, rushing to the cafeteria looking for a meeting space and quickly reviewed a document that, with many of us, was not written in our mother language. We are acknowledged that the document is not a negotiated text, causing many comments within our group of whether the summary would incorporate our interventions and aspirations of many communities and constituencies we represent. Many of us participating in the CSD 14 review session are few in numbers, however we all feel we are the eyes, ears and heart of many that couldn't be here.

The IPMG appreciated the tremendous effort it must have taken for all the helpers to prepare the summary for the Chairs approval for submittal to the delegates and participants of the CSD. It is an enormous task for the multiple layers of thematic topic areas and regional and multi-stakeholder perspectives.

If the IPMG were allowed to provide an intervention on late Wednesday afternoon, after the plenary was continued, the IPMG had agreed to state that we want to reserve an opportunity, for the record, to submit written comments to the Secretariat on our observations concerning the Chair summary. This, we will do.

However one key area we would like to mention to the *Outreach 2015* daily publication is our concern of the omission of the letter on Indigenous Peoples. We acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples was mentioned numerous times within the summary, however the Indigenous Peoples' letter was

omitted. The IPMG recalls the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation (JPOI) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002, where governments had reaffirmed the vital role of Indigenous Peoples in sustainable development. The Chairman and the Secretariat should maintain consistency with the WSSD language.

All delegates, major groups and civil society must be mindful that during the UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, governments recognized that Indigenous Peoples have a critical role in managing our environment and implementing development strategies. The importance of Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and practices was acknowledged, and the international community committed itself to promoting, strengthening and protecting the rights, knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples and our communities.

Indigenous Peoples assert that we are rights-holders not mere stakeholders, and so aspire to high standards of effective participation and protocols in all matters affecting our lives, territories and well-being. Governments, corporations and the private sector and intergovernmental organizations must,

**INFORMATION MEETING**  
on  
**The Informal Interactive Hearings of the  
General Assembly**  
with  
*Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society and  
the Private Sector*  
*on the Least Developed Countries  
and on International Migration and Development*

Wednesday, 10 May, 1:15 – 3:00 PM  
Conference Room 3

**Programme:**  
**1:15 – 2:00 Presentations**

- Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, DESA-NGO Section
- Ms. Elisa Peter, NGLS
- Mr. Fred Kirungi, OHRLLS
- Ms. Eva Richter, PGA Task Force for international migration and development hearings

**2:00 – 3:00 Question and Answer Session**  
Moderator: Ms. Shamina de Gonzaga, OPGA

under international human rights standards require Indigenous Peoples free, prior and informed consent and consultation by cultural appropriate means in all decision-making activities regarding sustainable energy, climate change, industrialization and atmospheric pollutants.

The IPMG appreciated statements made by distinguished delegates of the European Union and other delegates in relation to important issues discussed during this CSD 14 that are not reflected in the current summary. An example of another omission in the summary is the intervention that many Major Groups made in reference that “hydropower was not a solution”. The IPMG will be caucusing to reach agreement on specific points that either were not included in the summary or not clearly reported.

### Response by Youth

*Shadia Wood  
Environmental Justice  
Climate Change Initiative*



The youth caucus has continually stressed the absolute need for urgent action; however, the summary does little to display this. In short, these decisions and plans decide whether or not youth have a future to look forward to. We would like to note that youth of color, indigenous youth and low-income youth are already bearing the burdens of climate change and the policies that do little to combat it. Our future is the future of this world and when considering the welfare of this planet, we are concerned to see that the summary does less than substantial to focus on renewable energy resources. For example the 79th point on renewable energy is only a sentence long. This does not provide any insight on best practices nor does it contribute to further dialogue.

Also, throughout the world, youth around the globe are taking action to reduce green house gas emissions, educate our communities, and empower others in the biggest issue concerning my generation. We were a driving force at the COP/MOP in Montreal, we are mobilizing campuses to become carbon-neutral, and we are empowering our environmental justice communities to take action and heal their people and peoples. The summary needs to reflect these actions and begin to see youth as key players when considering solutions to this global problem. We are creating solutions, but we need your help to empower and educate more people. We need your help to spread our message, a message of urgency.

### Response by Workers and Trade Unions

*Winston Gereluk*

Workers and Trade Unions were pleased to see reference to a number of their priorities for the first time in the history of their involvement with the CSD: e.g. workers, jobs and employment issues; education, training and other forms of capacity-building; the need to accommodate workers and communities displaced by industrial restructuring, climate change and other effects of unsustainable industrial development (a ‘Just Transition’).

Unfortunately, the Summary did not properly reflect key points that were repeatedly made by Trade Unions and other Groups:

Worker organizations are mentioned, but the role of labour relations is ignored, in particular as it concerns over 2 million collective agreements and 47 framework agreements.

Discussion of the role of the public sector and governments in providing for essential public services and the negative effects of privatization schemes and deregulation is completely inadequate.

References to trade liberalization inadequately canvass repeated concerns over the effect that such multilateral trade negotiations as NAMA would have on developing countries.

References to public health completely ignore its integral linkage to occupational health and safety.

There is mention of corporate social responsibility, but not of corporate accountability.

### Response of Local Authorities

*Tanya Imola  
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability*

Local Authorities are key stakeholders in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and are implementing policies, programmes and projects that are achieving these global outcomes. Many local governments own and operate power plants and make decisions on energy sources. Local governments own and operate buildings, vehicles and facilities such as street lighting, waste management systems, and water supply and treatment. They also make decisions on transportation and transit systems. All of these responsibilities influence energy use, industrial development, air quality and climate change action, and public procurement.

Many delegates pointed out to the Chair that the Chairman’s Summary is not so much statements or statements of facts, but simply a summary of interventions. Sadly then, the Chairman’s Summary does accurately reflect the number of interventions made by the Local Authorities Major Group. ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability

was eager to bring to CSD-14 a delegation that included influential local government leaders that reflected regional diversity and gender balance, and while the Local Authorities Major Group we believe is well represented in quality, it is not in the quantity of delegates. Our delegation was often out of the room during the discussions, though we have been following the discussions closely through the daily summaries and reports, and are attending side events and presentations.

The Chairman's Summary unfortunately does not reflect the fact that all of the Major Groups have felt their participation to be marginalized. Major Groups have not been able to engage in any sort of meaningful dialogue with the national delegates. The Vice Chair specifically asked that the delegations not read prepared statements and instead respond to the statements made by the Major Groups, but this never did happen.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, as the UN-recognized representative of local authorities, is debating internally whether our role is better served by participating in the topic-specific side events and Partnerships Fair presentations than in the formal report that will come out of the thematic discussions and dialogues. Are the thematic issues better served by concrete actions at the local level than by the broader policy debate?

A few of the national delegations have privately stated to the Local Authorities Major Group that the role of local authorities will be critical when the CSD process begins to move from discourse to implementation. Given that, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability may wish to pursue some sort of differentiated status within the CSD. ICLEI is currently pursuing that type of special status within the UNFCCC, giving local authorities a bigger role in the international negotiations on climate change.

### Response of the Education Caucus

*P.J. Punttenney*

The Chairman's Summary provides a good overview of the key points brought to bear on the thematic cluster of issues. In terms of education as a cross-cutting issue, we would like to see stronger language on implementation regarding education for sustainable development, meaning engaging stakeholders on three levels: the learning individual, the learning organization, and the learning society.

In the section on climate change, we would like to see clear language on engaging people in sustainability efforts that links knowledge with action. Paragraph 233 exemplifies the problem of defining the function of education only in terms of training and dissemination. When what is needed to address the complexity of these thematic issues is an exponential increase in access to knowledge that links the global to the

local. Indeed, accurate judgment and assessment of concrete actions and measures to understand and enhance international cooperation is highly dependent upon education as a cross-cutting issue.

Under Agenda 21 and JPOI, education in all its forms engaging all sectors is to be built into implementation strategies and therefore should be reflected in the chapeau of the Chairman's Summary as such.

According to Paragraph 17, the matrix is designed to help organize lessons learned and best practices. Therefore education as a cross-cutting issue can be made stronger as a component of the matrix.

These points serve to clarify our progress in implementing the education provisions in Agenda 21, the JPOI, and the CSD Plan of Work as noted in Paragraph 19 which calls for follow-up arrangements that could be agreed upon at CSD-15.

*"If government doesn't build the inner energy of the people, the energy resources it does build will not be sustainable."*

Chief Mrs. Bisi Ogunleye, CSD-14, 2006

### Comments by Third World Network, an Organising Partner for NGOs

*Saradha Iyer*

The Summary is comprehensive but overwhelmingly bland. The shocker is the fact that 'common but differentiated responsibility' is still being considered as an issue. Means of implementation received short shrift, despite the fact that half of the countries made statements about the need to emphasize this. It was disappointing to see that the challenges for nuclear energy are couched in very accommodating language which presents nuclear as a viable option. Carbon capture and sequestration, as well as biofuels, are both treated as if there are no problems associated with them. But this is a debatable issue and that should be recognised.

The Summary is unduly positive on air pollution. Corporate Social Responsibility is not adequately addressed, and the issue of accountability is overlooked. The Summary recognises private sector solutions, without recognising that the private sector can also be part of the problem. Privatization gets mentioned in only one sentence, but this is an important part of the access to energy problem in developing countries. The Partnerships Fair and Learning Centre are adequately captured, though the outcomes of the side-events should receive more attention.

Front page and Tom Goldtooth photo from [www.iisd.ca](http://www.iisd.ca)

# SHORT-TERM SACRIFICES FOR LONG-TERM GAINS - HOW DO WE CHANGE THE TIME HORIZON OF GOVERNMENTS?<sup>1</sup>

By Sylvia Karlsson  
Senior Researcher, Finland Futures  
Research Centre.  
General Secretary, International  
Environment Forum



Many sustainability issues are characterised by displacement in space *and* time between cause and effect, culprit and victim. Displacement into the long-term future poses particular challenges for our societies, especially when short term sacrifices are necessary for long term gains. For some issues such as energy efficiency there are clearly win-win situations between short- and long-term priorities, but for many there are considerable trade offs, not necessarily on a societal level but clearly for certain groups or sectors in society, and even for individuals.

Decision-making in governments and other sectors of society tends to be biased towards much shorter time horizons than sustainable development requires. Several types of institutions at the national level need minor or major adjustments to favour the future.

One example is setting concrete, measurable long-term *goals and targets*, but targets alone are easily forgotten. Expanding the *planning horizons* can allow strategies to ensure that long-term targets are met. If governments can plan space exploration or fusion research for decades, it should be possible to plan for issues on Earth for at least as long. Another means of expanding the time horizons of governments is to adopt *accounting* which shows what liabilities present societies put on infinite future generations. Intertemporal Public Liabilities, which have been calculated for European and other OECD countries, show how “sustainable” public financial affairs are.

When there are clear long-term goals which require sacrifices on the way, then there is need for governance to be based more on *stable institutions which resist political pressures and are detached from day to day decision-making*. One example where this has been implemented is the European Central Bank and its task to control inflation. Such long-term institutions assist the private sector which relies on stable

rules of the game for their investments, for example in renewable energy.

Another approach is to create *bodies which are explicitly responsible to address long-term problems*. For example, Finland was the first country to establish a ‘Committee for the Future’ in its Parliament. Its main task is to review the government’s report on the future which it is mandated for release at least once each election period. This created a new type of dialogue between the government and the parliament on the core issues in society.

In *global governance*, the UN system with its operational agencies has even larger constraints to deal with long term issues than national governments. Factors such as inadequate and unreliable funding force short budget cycles and a focus on crisis intervention rather than long-term prevention. *Stable and sufficient funding* would enable more long-term strategies. Furthermore, in many countries the parliament is not much involved in international and global issues. Thus when a government changes, its policies can move away from international agreements and targets taken on by earlier governments (or the other way around), severely constraining long-term consistent global governance. A *greater engagement by national parliaments and civil society in deliberations on global governance issues* at the national level could facilitate consistency over time in both global negotiations and the implementation of global agreements nationally. Creating a *body whose mandate is to act as a trustee for future generations* would be one strategy to address intergenerational justice, for example by striving to make international rules span longer periods than they do now.

But ultimately, if we want democratically-elected governments to expand their time horizons and to create institutions that favour these, for example in areas discussed at this CSD, then we need to *make societies as a whole, including the electorate and the private sector, expand their time horizons* out of genuine concern for the well-being of future generations. Such a value change towards intergenerational equity is, however, intimately linked to a value change for intragenerational equity. If we do not consider equity and justice for humankind within our own time as a primary objective, how can we be concerned for future generations?

<sup>1</sup> This is a summary of a presentation made at the Earth Values Caucus at CSD 14 on 3 May. The full paper will in due course be posted on [www.bcca.org/ief](http://www.bcca.org/ief)

# GA ELECTS FIRST MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



*By Alexander Krstevski*

The members of the first U.N. Human Rights Council were elected by the General Assembly yesterday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. The new 47-seat body replaces the now defunct U.N. Human Rights Commission. The creation of the new body is the result of widespread dissatisfaction with the former commission for allowing seats to countries with questionable

human rights records. The new Council will conduct human rights reviews of all countries, a process that will begin with those who holding seats. A spokesperson for the U.N. Secretary General commented that this step “will give members the chance to show the depth of their commitment to promote human rights both at home and abroad.”

The United States, which did not submit a nomination to hold a seat, has expressed skepticism about the new format for not going far enough to exclude countries with poor records. Several of the countries elected to sit on the new Human Rights Council have received criticism on human rights issues. Such countries include Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, China, Russia and Cuba, all of whom received 135 votes or more. 96 votes out of the 191 countries that voted were necessary to be approved.

## ‘QUARTET’ APPEARS AT NEW YORK VENUE

*By Alexander Krstevski*

The Middle East “quartet” convened to discuss Palestinian aid yesterday, at UN Headquarters in New York. A joint statement was released by the U.S., European Union, Russia and the United Nations that endorsed a “temporary international mechanism, limited in duration... that insures direct delivery of humanitarian assistance to Palestinian people.” The four powers are the primary brokers – dubbed the ‘quartet’ – of the ‘Roadmap’ peace plan for the Middle-East. The meetings focused on how to deal with the Palestinian’s newly elected Hamas government. The quartet has refused to work with Hamas, and subsequently withheld virtually all direct aid to the Palestinian Authority. The quartet has said that they will normalize relations when Hamas recognizes Israel’s right to exist and denounces violence. The statement came after a full day of discussions. Some of the day’s meetings also included representatives of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Secretary General, Kofi Anan, at an afternoon press, stressed that any such mechanism would distribute funds for humanitarian assistance without working through the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority. He also reiterated that normal assistance would be restored once Hamas leaders commit to the principals of non-violence, recognition of Israel, and

commit to adhere to previous agreements.

The US and Israel have been withholding aid from the Palestinian Authority since the formation of the Hamas government in March, attempting to isolate the new government until it renounces violence and recognizes Israel’s right to exist. Though the EU has announced plans to withhold aid, it, along with Russia, has demonstrated a reluctance to endorse a strategy of complete isolation. France has proposed that the World Bank be allowed to channel funds to pay Palestinian Authority workers’ salaries.

The European Commissioner for External Relations, Benita Ferrer Waldner, during Tuesday’s press conference called for a meeting of experts to convene in Brussels “as soon as possible” to construct the details of a plan to bypass the Palestinian Authority and provide aid. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice explained that the US is releasing \$10 million to meet emergency medical needs in Palestine.

Some 160,000 employees of the Palestinian government have not been paid, some since March, as a result of the withheld funds. Tuesday’s talks came amid growing concern regarding its already struggling economy. The World Bank recently warned that the financial crisis could leave the West Bank and Gaza ungovernable.

# CLEAN, SAFE & RENEWABLE SOLUTIONS NOW!

By Francinia Protti-Alvarez, Greenpeace International

Environmental protection, economic growth, job creation, diversity of fuel supply and rapid deployment, as well as global potential for technology transfer and innovation, have all been addressed in one way or another during the CSD 14. The benefits of solar power, whether photovoltaic or solar thermal, are compelling against all of these criteria.

The Greenpeace report *Concentrated Solar Thermal Power – Now!*, produced in conjunction with the International Energy Agency SolarPACES programme, and the European Solar Thermal Power Industry (ESTIA), aims to contribute to a better understanding of the potential of solar energy.

A brief history...



Attempts to deliver devices that would supply energy from the sun's rays began some 100 years ago, long before the "oil shocks" of the 1970s. In the 1860s, August Mouchout experimented with a solar powered motor that produced steam in a glass-enclosed iron cauldron. In the 1900s, the experiments continued: Aubrey Eneas created the first commercial solar motor, while in 1907 a patent was granted for a device to directly use solar irradiation for steam

generation. In 1912, Frank Shuman used parabolic trough technology to build a 45kWh sun-tracking parabolic trough plant in Meadi, Egypt.

These early attempts provided the groundwork for the research and development that took place in the 1970s and 1980s. A major breakthrough came in the 1980s when the American-Israeli company Luz International commercialized the technology, building a series of 9 Solar Electric Generating Stations (SEGS) in the Mojave Desert.

Although solar thermal technology is relatively new, it is ready for global implementation today. Solar thermal power uses direct sunlight, so it must be sited in regions with the highest direct solar radiation. Electricity from solar thermal power is becoming cheaper to produce and costs are expected to continue dropping. Advanced technologies,

mass production, economies of scale and improved operation will together enable a reduction in the cost of solar electricity.

The four main elements necessary to produce electricity from solar thermal power are a concentrator, a receiver, some form of transport/storage and power conversion and the three most promising solar technologies are:

- **Parabolic trough**, which uses trough-shaped mirror reflectors to concentrate sunlight on to receiver tubes transporting heated thermal transfer fluid (roughly 400° C) used to generate superheated steam. Such is the type of technology deployed in Southern California.
- **Central Receiver (solar tower)** systems use a circular array of large individually tracking plain mirrors to concentrate sunlight on top of a tower. This technology is further away from commercialisation but over the long term it has a high conversion efficiency rate. This type of technology is being deployed in Spain.
- **Parabolic Dishes** are comparatively small systems that use a dish-shaped reflector to concentrate sunlight with superheated fluid being used to generate power in a small engine at the focal point of the reflector. Their potential lies primarily in the decentralised power supply and remote, stand-alone power systems.

In many regions, one square kilometre of land is enough to generate as much as 100-120 GWh of electricity per year using this technology. The process by which solar radiation is converted to electricity is straightforward and storing mechanisms enable power generation during the hours of the night guaranteeing continual operation.

New opportunities are opening up for global clean energy solutions such as the adoption of legislation. This and other factors have led to significant interest in constructing plants in the Sun Belt regions. Interest rates and capital costs have drastically fallen worldwide increasing, the viability and attractiveness of renewable energy projects.

Why would one choose the environmental and economic burden of monolithic, unsustainable and expensive sources of energy? Solar energy makes sense: it's free to produce; harnessing technologies are already in existence, deployed and proven to be viable; environmentally the impact is significantly reduced and economically it contributes to empowering rural communities and enabling opportunities for poverty reduction and economic growth.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*OECD/IEA Cocktail Reception  
on the event of UNCSD-14*

Wednesday, 10 May 2006 at 18:15  
UN Delegates Dining Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor



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**Climate Change and Development**  
Kiyo Akasaka, Deputy Secretary General, Organisation  
for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

**The Role of Business**  
Bjorn Stigson, World Business Council on Sustainable  
Development (WBCSD)

**Energy Technology Collaboration**  
Antonio Pflüger, International Energy Agency (IEA)

\*\*\*\*\*

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## RIO - GRINDS: the light hearted side of sustainable development



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San Sebastián, Spain, 11 July.

*Bob Dylan photo from [www.angelfire.com](http://www.angelfire.com)*

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY, CSD 14

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# NORTHERN IRELAND, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE PEACE PROCESS

By Dr Peter Doran

For the first time ever, Northern Ireland will have an official presence at the Commission on Sustainable Development in the person of John Gilliland and his secretariat, Clare McKeown. Their presence coincides with another critical milestone in the history of the Northern Ireland peace process.



Next week, the crisis-ridden regional Assembly will be restored in a final bid to restore local democracy to the people of Northern Ireland. The Assembly is the regional parliamentary element in a series of new governance arrangements set up in 1998 as part of the 'peace process' that has witnessed the demise of a thirty-year IRA campaign and the return of relative normality.

With a little luck, the current phase in the peace process will also mark an opportunity for the people of Ireland to embed sustainability as a focus of the new institutions for governance and a key accomplishment of the overall peace process.

Yesterday in Belfast, Northern Ireland's Secretary of State, Peter Hain, launched Northern Ireland's first comprehensive sustainable development strategy after a prolonged process of stakeholder consultations.

## Background

Last year the UK Government launched two documents that will set the context for the roll out of our local sustainable development strategy in Northern Ireland. The first is a UK sustainable strategy, *Securing the Future*. The second, launched in partnership with the devolved administrations, is a shared framework document, *One future, different paths*.

The new framework document sets out five guiding principles agreed by all the devolved administrations, including 'Promoting good governance'. The document describes, 'Promoting good governance' as the active promotion of effective participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people's creativity, energy and diversity.

The creation of the Northern Ireland assembly together with the creation of trans-border institutions that tie in politicians and decision-makers in Belfast, London and Dublin, represent innovations in governance and pooling sovereignty in the pursuit of peace. The North-South and East-West dimensions of the new institutions may provide governance templates for once insoluble problems, such as that in Kashmir. The challenge now is to ensure that innovations in governance and peace building continue, with efforts to put sustainability at the heart of new developments in Northern Ireland. With a population of just 1.5 million and a massive public sector, a highly motivated and well organised civil society network, the opportunities for piloting initiatives e.g. greening procurement, are significant.

## Governance, legitimacy and peace building

The current stage in the peace process is a classic 'peace building' phase, which typically focuses on seizing the economic and social opportunities arising from the new political dispensation. Questions about economic development, new infrastructure spending, negotiating the use of public space and community relations are typical issues confronting decision-makers.

There is a pressing opportunity for the UK and the Northern Ireland region to promote sustainable development as the over-arching normative and policy framework for the current 'peace building' phase of the peace process. As they become familiar with sustainable development debates, non governmental actors are also recognising the overlaps between the language and concerns of sustainability and peace building, including the shared focus on regeneration, infrastructural renewal and investment, the development of new and shared institutions, social inclusion, citizenship, and quality of life.

Environmental NGOs, the suspended Civic Forum and the community and voluntary sector, can play a decisive role in education for sustainable development, promoting active environmental citizenship and leadership, and disseminating information and campaigns to support sustainable consumption and production. These organisations will require support, including core funding, to support such activities and to ensure that their contribution meets the demands and influence brought to the table by actors such as the private sector.

John Gilliland photo from [www.sd-comission.org.uk](http://www.sd-comission.org.uk)

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY, CSD 1

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## DIARY - SIDE EVENTS

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	Sustainable, affordable and accessible energy; Swedish experiences on renewable energy and modern bioenergy. Government of Sweden	*DHILA
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	Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth. Coalition for Rainforest Nations	A

## OUTREACH 2015

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