



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

inside:

Leaping forward after Rio+20

The challenge that awaits us

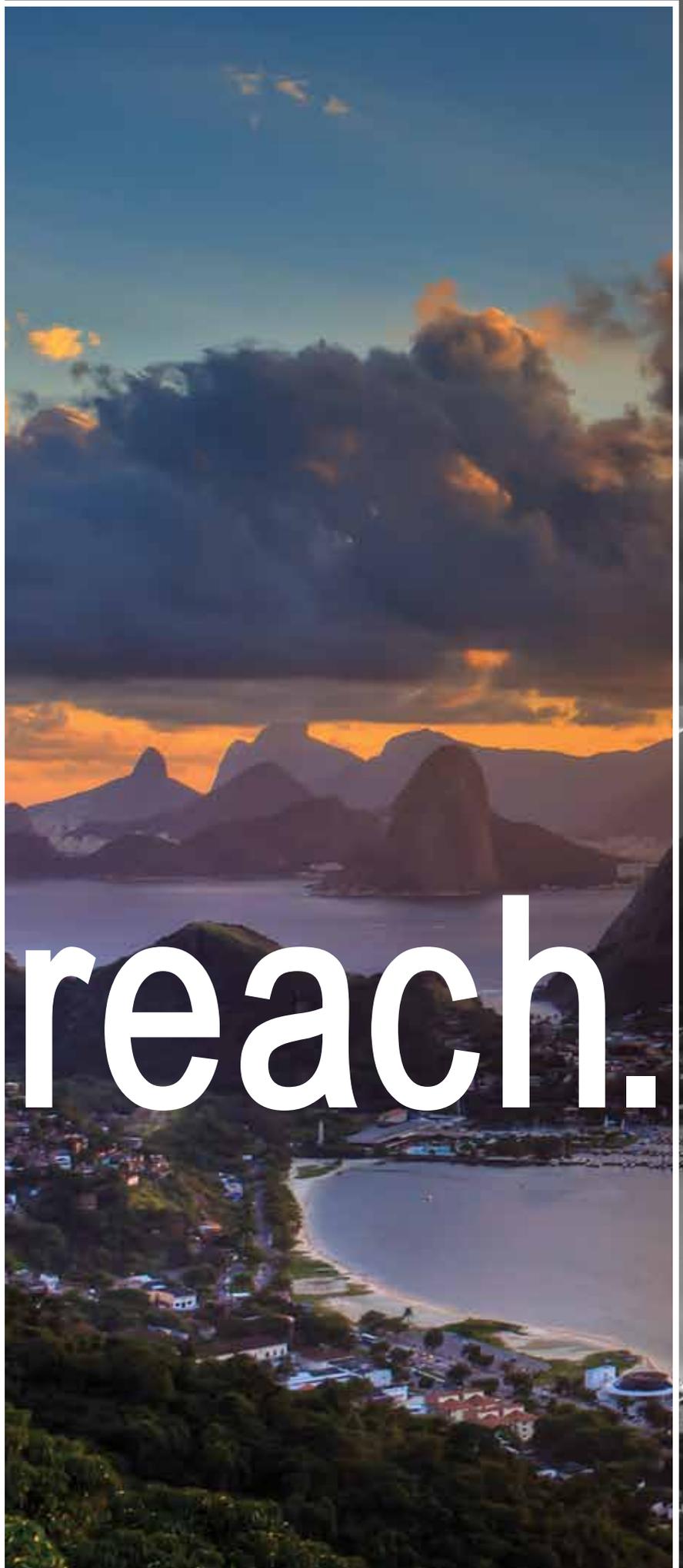
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contents.

- 1 Rio+20: Dig deep, prepare to act and have hope
- 2 Manifesto of the Peoples' Sustainability Treaties: Towards advancing a global citizens movement
- 3 A little less conversation, a little more action on oceans
- 4 Leaping forward after Rio+20
- 5 The future we want: Following the lead of grassroots women
- 6 Beyond Rio+20: Let's mobilise for a better world
- 7 The challenge that awaits us
- 8 All the ingredients for the future we want
- 9 The Prince's International Sustainability Unit: Putting talk into action
- 10 New book: Only One Earth
People Matter! Advancing national and global action to strengthen learning and skills development for a green transition
- 11 Rio+21 Partnership: Step up implementation of Agenda 21
- 12 ECO corner - The Rio Gap
- 13 What happens on Monday?
Rio+20 side event calendar
- 14 Reflections from Rio+20, Thursday 21 June



pic: Phil Whitehouse

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About Stakeholder Forum

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Outreach is a multi-stakeholder publication on climate change and sustainable development. It is the longest continually produced stakeholder magazine in the sustainable development arena, published at various international meetings on the environment; including the UNCSO meetings (since 1997), UNEP Governing Council, UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) and World Water Week. Published as a daily edition, in both print and web form, Outreach provides a vehicle for critical analysis on key thematic topics in the sustainability arena, as well as a voice of regional and local governments, women, indigenous peoples, trade unions, industry, youth and NGOs. To fully ensure a multi-stakeholder perspective, we aim to engage a wide range of stakeholders for article contributions and project funding.

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Rio+20: Dig deep, prepare to act and have hope

Farooq Ullah
Stakeholder Forum

The negotiations are over, the leaders are speechmaking and the NGOs are unhappy. Two and half years of a (at times painful) multilateral process to chart the future of the planet and its people has resulted in a mixed bag. At best the Rio+20 document is a series of mediocre steps forward, at worst it is failure to deliver on many of the things we need most. But it is too simplistic to declare Rio+20 an utter failure or a roaring success.

It is important to look deeper than a superficial assessment to understand what really happened. Sustainable development is complex; I wish it were easier. There are, without a doubt, some successes that must be celebrated, minor though they may be. Cynicism will not create sustainable world.

So what are some of these successes? The corporate sustainability paragraph gives a mandate to have companies report on sustainability impacts and the beginning of the means to hold them to account. We have a process (but no themes) to establish Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as good language on stakeholder engagement within the process and for the integration of all similar processes. And we have a new high-level political forum in the UN system with reasonably well-defined functions.

But the failures are quite stark. The language on the right to water and sanitation is vague and evasive. The text reaffirms commitments which are not universally agreed, rather than affirming the right itself. This is despite the fact that Canada and the UK have, for the first time, recognised the universal right to water and sanitation respectively (another success of the Rio+20 process). Likewise, the right to reproductive health was removed due to effective lobbying from some quarters. And despite 20 years of talking about it, there is no action plan for eliminating environmental harmful subsidies (such as fossil fuels). The amount spent on these subsidies would go a long way to providing the financing for the transition to a sustainable world. In fact, the means of implementation remain weak. Nor is there a clear statement on the need to remain within environmental limits, thereby defining new pathways to inclusive growth.

Overall, there is a severe lack of specifics in the document about how exactly we are going to deliver sustainable development, how it will be funded, what the green economy actually is and what are its underpinning principles.

Ultimately, Rio has delivered series of loosely connected small steps. Sadly it has not delivered the giant, coordinated leap to the future we want, nor the one we need.

It is also sad that sustainability is not delivered in one fell swoop of the pen. However, we now must take these small steps and build on them. It takes hard work and on the ground delivery. And there's the rub; implementation is the tricky part.

Countries must 'take Rio home' with them and focus on national delivery plans. That is the level that implementation will actually happen. But there must be alignment between global goals and local action. As resources for sustainable development are scarce, the need to be both effective and efficient is greater than ever. Each country will want to approach this task in its own way. But some key elements will need to be addressed everywhere. At the national and local levels we must now:

- Improve government and legislative machinery for sustainable development;
- Model new and better processes for engaging civil society and Major Groups in the sustainability transition;
- Create or renew national sustainable development strategies or frameworks in the light of the Rio outcomes, including in particular the new global SDGs;
- Review policies and programmes in the light of the Rio outcomes, including the application of green economy principles and instruments; and
- Deliver formal and informal education and training for sustainable development.

Rio+20 has not been the pivotal moment in history we wanted; that much is certain. And while it has given us new hooks from which to hang future work, it is clearer than ever that time is not on our side. We are sitting on an ecological time bomb.

Therefore, we must take whatever we can home from Rio and roll up our sleeves in anticipation of working harder than ever. But I hope that we will also take hope from one another. The commitment, passion, creativeness and compassion I have experienced at Rio will eventually win the day. That is the day we will finally get the future we want ■



Manifesto of the Peoples' Sustainability Treaties: Towards advancing a global citizens movement

Uchita de Zoysa

Global Sustainability Solutions (GLOSS)

Hundreds of civil society organisations from around the world who, with commitment, evolved fourteen Peoples' Sustainability Treaties prior to Rio+20, have declared that a another world is possible after the Summit and pledged their commitment to a transition towards an increasingly sustainable future on Earth.

Humankind faces multiple and daunting crises that are more than likely to confront and impact billions of people in the decades to come. In addition, research has shown that our actions are very likely going to cause us to transgress multiple planetary thresholds and boundaries. Despite this, governments at Rio+20 are missing yet another opportunity to formulate an effective response to these crises. Indeed, since 1992, there has been a retrogression in the consensus that was reached at the Earth Summit – and reflected in such principles as burden sharing, articulation of rights, mobilisation of support, and protection of the vulnerable. Repeated attempts to revive this consensus – at Johannesburg in 2002, Bali in 2007, Copenhagen in 2009, and now Rio de Janeiro in 2012—have come up empty handed, thus thwarting efforts to build upon it. Despite unprecedented growth in the global economy since 1992, governments are trapped into making insatiable demands for still more unsustainable growth and increasing inequity to remedy problems that economic globalisation itself has caused.

The signatories to this Manifesto, refuse to sit idly by in the face of another failure of governments to provide hope for a sustainable future for all. We announce our responsibility for undertaking actions, inviting and encourage similar actions and commitments by other rights holders and stakeholders, communicating a vision for healthy communities, sustainable and equitable human wellbeing and its associated strategies, and coming together in the form of a global citizen's movement to shepherd the transition to a sustainable, equitable, and democratic future. These would come together in the form of a global citizen's movement to shepherd the transition to a sustainable, equitable, and democratic future, one in which ethics is both a right and a responsibility—at the level of the individual, the community and the planet.

The signatories have pledged that:

Equity is the overarching demand from the civil society world, and must be the foundation of the collective global response. We call for equity within generations, equity across generations, and equity between humans and nature. For this we need to revert back to making individual and societal decisions based on equity and ecological factors and not merely on monetary factors. A different sort of economics, a new approach to learning and education as a process, a revised understanding of ethics and of spirituality then become the ways in which we can work toward a more Equitable society; one that recognises our integral relationship with the natural world.

Localising our systems of economies, decentralising governance, and advancing sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods becomes the new social order of sustainable societies. Localism is the theme emerging across the board which is linked to the principles of devolution, of decentralisation and of subsidiarity, turning localism into a world-wide movement becomes the key to unpacking many of the complexities we face, whether in the case of sustainable consumption and production or in the case of radical ecological democracy. Protecting the rights of Mother Earth and of humans, transforming our governance systems through radical ecological democracy, respecting cultural diversity, and strengthening sustainable economies is the way towards sustainable futures for all. It is thus essential that we create a more effective, responsible and democratic system of global governance.

A **Global Citizens Movement** is the collective response towards transitioning to a sustainable world. All sections of society must strive to converge upon their visions and convictions and find common ground for collective action that can bring about the transformation required to ensure the wellbeing of all on the planet – humans as well as nature. Such a global citizens movement would catalyse a peaceful and prosperous new world that generates widespread happiness and contentment – thus propagating widespread practices of mindful intentional action. For this, a new sense of ethics, values and spirituality must be seeded within current and future generations through a redesigned system of learning, education and enlightenment.

This manifesto calls for action that helps move simultaneously toward a more localised socio-economic structure and toward a supra-national mindset that helps us transcend the parochial concerns of a corporate-capitalistic globalisation to activate a global citizens movement ■

MORE INFO

The manifesto and the fourteen Peoples' Sustainability Treaties are available at www.sustainabilitytreaties.org and at www.ipetitions.com/petition/peoples-sustainability-manifesto. Please contact Mr. Uchita de Zoysa at uchita@sltnet.lk



A little less conversation, a little more action on oceans

Rachel Kyte
World Bank

At the Global Ocean Forum - a gathering of ocean thinkers and doers on the sidelines of the Rio+20 Conference - I announced the official birth of the Global Partnership for Oceans.

It felt good to announce that 83 countries, civil society groups, private companies, research bodies, and more, have joined forces to make things happen for better managed, better protected oceans. Each of them has 'signed on' to the Declaration for Healthy, Productive Oceans to Help Reduce Poverty.

It has been inspiring to see the excitement that has gathered around this partnership. Country after country is now talking about the crisis facing oceans, the lack of action on all the unmet promises since the last Rio Conference, and the fact that it is time for all interests - public, private, non-government - to come together around innovative solutions.

It is time for a global platform of action. This action needs to start on Monday.

With 32% of the world's ocean fisheries overexploited, depleted or recovering from depletion (up from 10% in 1970), and another 53% now fully exploited, we cannot keep going with business as usual. This creates an annual global efficiency loss of some \$50 billion - and that is bad news, not just for our oceans, but also for the 350 million people who depend on the oceans for their jobs and livelihoods and a billion more for food. For many, it is a matter of life and death.

At the Global Ocean Forum, the permanent secretary for Fiji's Environment Department, Taina Tagicakibau, put it best in an interview with a film crew on site:

"Oceans are our life and livelihoods", she said. "The Ocean is where we live. It's not just water, it's everything to us".

We welcome Fiji and the many other coastal and small island states joining us in the Global Partnership for Oceans. With the publicly stated support of so many countries and organisations, the real work of the partnership can begin. We are now in a good place to implement what emerges from this UN Conference on Sustainable Development. We have momentum. We have leadership. Now it is time for action.

Some of the partnership goals for 2022, all in line with previous internationally agreed commitments and taking into consideration growing impacts of climate change, are:



Sustainable seafood and livelihoods from capture fisheries and aquaculture

- Significantly increase global fish production from both sustainable aquaculture and sustainable fisheries by adopting best practices and reducing environmental and disease risk to stimulate investment;
- Reduce the open access nature of fisheries by creating responsible tenure arrangements, including secure access rights for fishers and incentives for them to hold a stake in the health of the fisheries; and
- Enable the world's overfished stocks to be rebuilt, and increase the annual net benefits of capture fisheries by at least \$20 billion, including through reducing subsidies that promote overfishing.

Critical coastal and ocean habitats and biodiversity

- Halve the current rate of natural habitat loss and reduce habitat degradation and fragmentation, by applying ecosystem-based approaches to management;
- Increase marine managed and protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, to include at least 10% of coastal and marine areas; and
- Conserve and restore natural coastal habitats to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts.

Pollution reduction

- Reduce pollution to levels not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity; and
- Support implementation of the Global Program of Action to reduce pollution, particularly from marine litter, waste water and excess nutrients, and further develop consensus for achievable goals to reduce these pollutants.

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Leaping forward after Rio+20

Elizabeth Thompson

Executive Coordinator of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development

The Earth Summit of 1992 was iconic. People look back at it with a sense of nostalgia and a genuine regard for its significant achievement in creating a global dialogue and action agenda on sustainable development which was regarded as having three interlocking pillars - society, economy and environment. The conference also birthed three new conventions and a set of principles intended to address the challenges of that generation and to anticipate those which might present future problems for the global family.

When Rio+20 becomes part of 'the good old days', another generation may well remember it with nostalgia and laud its achievements. Set as it has been in a more difficult negotiating climate than existed in 1992, against the convergence and contagion of social, economic and environmental crises, the throes of which still gripped member-states. Member States that were called on to create modern and improved institutions for delivering sustainable development, were deeply divided over the green economy; its meaning and use as a tool for sustainable development and eradicating poverty; and with the usual North-South divide on finance and technology, the negotiations were complex and protracted. Despite these immense challenges, this conference still broke new ground; the child born at Rio+20 will be loved and the severity of the labour pains forgotten.

Rio+20 will be remembered as the place where Brazil's leadership as an emerging world power was further recognised, and the developing world increased its responsibility and ownership for building the future they want. The outcome document will be lauded for tackling issues not covered by the MDGs such as energy, food, water and oceans, for giving civil society a louder voice as a stakeholder and partner in development, for the engagement of unprecedented numbers of business people on social issues, as the place where governments agreed to start the process for corporate sustainability reporting and moving beyond GDP, natural capital accounting and truly mainstreaming sustainable development.

Divergent views on the strength of the outcome document aside, the shareholders of Earth Inc decided to increase their investment in human, social and natural capital and began the difficult conversation on sustainable consumption and production. The conference established a multistakeholder commitments process with an accountability mechanism, a registry of commitments dominated by pledges in energy and higher education and where finally, when few expected it, substantial financial pledges were made to fuel sustainable development particularly in energy. It is for these reasons that Rio+20 was a pivotal and historic landmark along the road to sustainable development.

In life one has to be pragmatic and rather than look back at what one hoped for, wanted, or could have had, one has to work with what one has got and keep fighting in order to secure the future.

All international agreements are words on a page. It is the parties to agreements who by their actions bring those agreements to life. It is taking action that results in the quantum leap. While governments must create the enabling environment for transformation, sustainable development is about shared responsibility. Going forward therefore, civil society must hold governments accountable and ensure they keep the commitments made at Rio1 and Rio+20, including financial commitments. Civil society, through the scientific community has a significant role to play in sensitising the public to the issues, in the elaboration of global development goals, or global sustainability goals (I actually prefer the expression GDGs or GSGs to avoid the MDG versus SDG clash). This means using sound science to influence the policy making on the targets and time frames which constitute the critical thresholds of human activity.

From the business sector we need innovation for new green technologies which will become as ubiquitous and as useful as has the cell-phone; and as integrating as social media networks. Academia must use formal and informal means to broaden understanding and increase the numbers of practitioners of sustainability in private homes and Houses of Parliament and commerce, from farmers to financial specialists, from Beijing, to Bridgetown and Brussels. One advantage is the availability of technology which gives us a global reach beyond what was imagined in 1992. This technology, the Rio+20 text when added to Agenda 21 and combined with the collaborative effort of all stakeholders will give us the platform to together make the leap forward to sustainable development, poverty eradication and in building 'the future we want' for people and our planet ■

The future we want: Following the lead of grassroots women

Katie Gillett
Huairou Commission

The phrase ‘sustainable development’ has reached its carrying capacity and is now approaching semantic satiation: the phenomenon whereby the repetition of a word causes it to lose its meaning. In looking beyond Rio+20, we must collectively also look beyond sustainability, which implies maintenance of the status quo, and move towards a new goal: resilience.

In their work on the ground in their own communities, organised groups of grassroots women have been working towards resilience, which they define as:

“a community’s capacity to organise itself in order to reduce the impacts of natural hazards and climate change by protecting resources such as lives, livelihoods, homes, assets, services and infrastructure. Resilience includes a community’s capacities to advance these development processes, social networks and institutional partnerships that strengthen our ability to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from disaster.”

Community resilience depends on building the capacity of the communities most affected by environmental degradation, natural disasters, and climate threats. As women Heads of State and governments collectively declared in their Call to Action titled ‘The Future Women Want’:

‘Women and girls continue to disproportionately bear the brunt of today’s global challenges and deepening inequalities, including through the feminisation of poverty, hunger, vulnerability to conflicts and natural disasters, disease and the burden of unpaid care work.’

However, despite these perceived disproportionate vulnerabilities, grassroots women are reframing the issue as one of political participation. According to Haydee Rodriguez of the Union of Cooperatives Las Brumas, a collective of women’s cooperatives made up of 1,200 farmers in Nicaragua, “Women aren’t vulnerable; women live in vulnerable communities which we struggle to strengthen! We aren’t victims - we are active agents, and we want to be part of the team. We negotiate as grassroots women, because we are the ones who know the reality, and we feel, in flesh and bone ‘where the shoe is rubbing our foot.’”

At the local level – as small farmers, slum dwellers, indigenous people, vendors and traders – grassroots women have led a series of development initiatives that reduce the poverty and vulnerability of their communities and conserve environmental resources, while transforming the position of women in the eyes of their families, communities and governments. These initiatives range from practicing sustainable agriculture that ensures food security, reduces soil erosion and protects the water tables in rural areas, to recycling waste and improving sanitation in urban informal settlements.

One example of an innovative practice is the Community Resilience Fund (CRF), developed by the Huairou Commission and GROOTS International, a coalition of women’s organisations in more than 50 countries in the Global North and South that focuses on development led by organised groups of women and their partners. Through CRF women own, manage and monitor funds, which are replenished through community contribution, repayment of loans, and leveraging government resources. “Women were not previously able to access credit through government or other financial channels. Now women have obtained credit, produced crops last year, and continue production. Women have tools, grow food for food security, have reforested their parcels of land, and produce native seeds. Furthermore, women now have space in the local market and have strengthened the leadership of other women,” said Rodriguez.

Another innovation showing tremendous potential is partnerships led by grassroots women. Las Brumas was also able to develop a formal partnership with the Municipality of Wiwili, which signed a resolution to set aside 5% of the budget to address priorities identified through a risk mapping project carried out by the grassroots women. In Peru, women in informal settlements of Lima are accessing municipal funds to build canals that reduce the impact of floods and landslides. In the Philippines, DAMPA, a federation of peoples’ organisations, has forged partnerships with agencies like the Filipino Coconut Authority, Bureau of Fisheries and Industry, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to manage solid waste in their regions.

As Jhocas Castillo of DAMPA stated in her statement at the UN Women’s Leadership Forum at Rio+20: “We grassroots women from all corners of the world call on government and international organisations to recognise women’s solutions as vital to sustainable development and resilient communities.” Grassroots women have already moved beyond semantics. Looking beyond Rio, they need increased and continued support from institutions, governments, and the private sectors to share the solutions they’ve already developed ■



Beyond Rio+20: Let's mobilise for a better world

Kumi Naidoo
Greenpeace

There is an upsetting sense of déjà-vu as I write this. At the end of Rio+20 its plain for the world to see that the transformational change we need was not delivered. We saw an epic failure of responsibility at Rio. Rio+20 should have been about zero deforestation, an energy revolution based on renewable energy and energy efficiency, about healthy oceans, liveable forests, and ecological food for all. Instead, it delivered no action, no targets and too many weasle words. Governments were selling us their failure as a success, Rio+20 will therefore become known as Greenwash+20.

We know the feeling. Back in 1992, we said that the Earth Summit had 'sold out' the planet to vested interests. 'Sustainable development' had been co-opted and mangled beyond recognition. The same can be said about the Green Economy at Rio+20. Indeed, looking back, there was more action on a Green Economy in the Agenda 21 adopted in 1992 than there is in the Polluter's Charter coming out of Rio+20.

Looking back, Rio 1992 did another good thing. It brought together the discourses of environment and development. We at Greenpeace honour this legacy today by focusing on the strong links between environmental protection, poverty eradication and social justice. Governments, however, are failing to honour that legacy. At Rio+20 they have failed on ecology, equity and economy. They have only 'noted' the problems of our world, not acted on them. The governments we want are governments that make tough choices. It is easy and cheap to talk about promoting 'sustainable development' or the 'green economy'. But such words are meaningless unless governments act to put an end to unsustainable practices. An economy based on nuclear energy, oil and coal, genetic engineering, toxic chemicals or the overexploitation of our forests and seas will never be sustainable or green.

There is no good news in the official negotiation outcome. But today, unlike 20 years ago, more solutions are proven and exist at scale. The energy sector is already changing, for example. Twenty years ago, few would have honestly expected the renewables industry to be as strong as it is today. In Germany, 81% of all installed power capacity in the last decade was renewable. Last year, investments in renewable energies globally were higher than investments in old and dirty fossil fuel technologies. China has proven that renewable energy can be upscaled quickly and Brazil, too, has experienced an exciting boom in wind energy. Some governments are taking right steps, such as phasing out nuclear power (Germany), suspending the development of genetically engineered rice (China) or brinjal (India), or acting to collectively protect their tuna stocks (Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu). Some companies are also starting to lead, with Google investing heavily in renewable energy, Nike and H&M eliminating toxic chemicals from their supply chains, supermarket giant Sainsbury's investing in the responsible sourcing of seafood around the world and backing Marine Reserves, or Indonesian Golden Agri Resources, the world's second largest palm oil producer, committing to no more deforestation for oil palm expansion.

They do so because action for the environment is popular. That is why citizen power is achieving real change around the world. A referendum in Italy stopped nuclear power last year. Old coal-fired power stations in the US are being decommissioned and new ones stopped by an unprecedented alliance of grassroots groups, federal regulators and investors who no longer believe the lie that 'coal is cheap'. In Brazil, President Dilma may have failed to protect the Amazon through a complete veto of the new Forest Code law, but Zero Deforestation can still be delivered by 2015. Over 340,000 Brazilians have already put their name to a Zero Deforestation law; once 1,4 million Brazilians demand a Zero Deforestation law, the Brazilian parliament is forced to vote on it. As the warnings of 20 years ago are turning into reality, and the Arctic is melting at a shocking speed, opposition is also building against oil companies drilling for oil where ice once made that impossible. Here at Rio, Greenpeace launched a new mobilisation to save the Arctic yesterday. It is our signal of hope against the despair of the official outcome. After Rio+20 the world needs people to mobilise and force change. The Arctic will be a first key battleground. It needs masses of people from around the world to stand up and demand action to protect it. A ban on offshore oil drilling



and unsustainable fishing would be a huge victory against the forces that won out at Rio+20 and would provide a future for the four million people who live there.

Beyond Rio+20 does not lie in despair. While much could have been achieved over three days in Rio to put the world on the path of sustainable development, real decisions are taken each and every day in capitals and board rooms around the world. We still need a global deal for our climate, we need global governance to support and foster a great transition where equity, economy and ecology are not in competition but in harmony to deliver sustainable development. Indeed, beyond Rio+20 lies a road worth taking: Through a groundswell of public mobilisation,

social movement alliances, smart businesses investing in the future and enough governments daring to lead by regulating effectively and banning unsustainable practices, a liveable future for our children is still in our grasp ■

MORE INFO

Kumi Naidoo is Executive Director of Greenpeace International

www.greenpeace.org/earthsummit

www.savethearctic.org

www.greenpeace.org/international/Global/international/publications/RioPlus20/Beyond-UNCED-2012.pdf



The challenge that awaits us

David Woollcombe

Peace Child International (PCI)

While welcoming the ‘Deep concern’ expressed in Clause 24 of the Outcome Document about youth unemployment, the absence of any kind of commitments by government to address that concern means that the problems my organisation came into the Rio+20 process seeking solutions to, remain. Young people express it thus:

“My life will start when I get a job: marriage, children, a home, food - dignity! - I can get none of these things without a job...”

Daniel, Sierra Leone

“They tell me: ‘Start a company, make your own job!’ But nothing in my schooling taught me how to do this. I don’t know where to start...”

Paul, Kenya

“I can’t get a job without experience. But I can’t get experience without a job!”

Rahul, India

The problem is much deeper than youth’s inability to access capital. It is a systemic failure of our school system to train young green entrepreneurs. That, sadly, can be traced back to the school system developed in Britain in the 19th Century which has been replicated pretty much all over the world: it is a system designed to deliver obedient officers to run an empire, encouraging youth to listen politely and re-gurgitate information supplied by their teachers and their set-books. It is absolutely NOT the system that can create courageous, risk-taking young innovative green entrepreneurs.

We need a different kind of education system, at least through secondary school. And – for PCI – the answer is to add a “Be the Change Academy (BTCA)” to every high school on the planet. The idea, like the name, came from India, but the first pilot one, funded by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), was started in Kisumu, Kenya. Attached to a High School, the BTCA offers free, after school business training to any student with the seed of a business idea and one-on-one business plan development. The best plans are then put to an independent ‘Dragon’s Den’ selection panel, and their selections are funded through the BTCA’s revolving loan fund. Some are then incubated in the BTCA so that the next intake of trainees can learn from their peers the practical challenge of starting a new business. Like everything else PCI does, the BTCA is youth-run, giving those involved ownership of, and confidence in, the programme. The BTCA is youth-friendly and, in the case of the Kisumu BTCA, has proved extremely successful.

The challenge for PCI – come Monday – is to open another ten of them by the end of the year to meet the calls by youth around the world for the opportunity they provide. That opportunity is to leave school with an operating business, and a paying job, to go to. Long-term, BTCA students and teachers will start to persuade teachers and time-tablers, to infiltrate entrepreneurial training into mainstream subjects – so that the education revolution we need will happen, imperceptibly, from within ■

MORE INFO

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All the ingredients for the future we want

Sue Riddlestone and Freya Seath

BioRegional

A coalition of the willing

Every country and interested member of civil society will be reviewing the Rio+20 Outcome Document and thinking 'what shall we do next?' Although light on concrete commitments, there are enough ingredients to create a future we want. As one of the two Rio+20 Executive Coordinators, Brice Lalonde, stated, "we can go forward with a coalition of the willing", a coalition BioRegional and its partners will join. After nearly two years of Rio+20 involvement, BioRegional is keen to play its part as expert practitioner on sustainable living. Developed over 20 years, BioRegional was set up to co-create and implement sustainable communities, products and services, enabling the achievement of One Planet Living in cost effective ways.

SCP, sustainable cities and human settlements

BioRegional made a voluntary commitment for Rio+20 to train 10,000 people to use the One Planet Living framework. The agreement at Rio+20 to adopt the 10 Year Framework Programme (FWP) on sustainable consumption and production (SCP), outlined in paragraphs 224-6 of the Outcome Document, could help to spread civil society implementation initiatives such as this.

Many nations have asked BioRegional to help them build sustainable one planet communities in their countries. A Rio+20 commitment was made to work with a favela community in Rio to develop an aspirational programme of good living within planetary means. A workshop held last weekend with residents resulted in lots of ideas to improve their neighbourhood and identified numerous green job opportunities. The UN friends of sustainable cities initiative and UN Habitat would be well suited to support the text on this subject in paragraphs 134-7. In addition, paragraph 125 on sustainable energy provides an important interrelated area for implementation.

Green Economy and Environmental-Economic Accounts

Practical experience tells us that if you set out to deliver sustainable living within the natural limits of the planet, a huge array of new economic opportunities present themselves. The workshop in the favela is a case in point. Paragraphs 56-75 set out important principles for a green economy.

Implementing One Planet Living generally starts with measuring impacts and available resources. As Helen Clark, Director of UNDP put it at their 'beyond GDP' side event on Wednesday, 'governments need better indicators to make better decisions'. Ms Clark also reminded us of social progress indicators such as the UN Human Development Index. Paragraph 38 asks the UN Statistical Commission, with UN bodies, to develop broader measures of progress to complement GDP. The System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) as agreed in Agenda 21 could support such a development. This can also contribute to measuring progress towards

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) once they are established. Commitment to this has already been demonstrated this week by 57 governments at the UK High Level dialogue on Natural Capital accounting on Wednesday. That is 30% of the United Nations! On Thursday the USA and Brazil also committed to SEEA.

Leadership with participation of civil society

The commitments to SEEA demonstrate how it is now up to governments to show leadership in implementation – but not alone. Creating the future we want will only happen through partnership between business and civil society – something which has come out clearly in paragraphs 42-55. In this regard, it is worth noting that more businesses attended Rio+20 than any other previous UN summit.

SDGs

The SDGs are found in paragraphs 245-250. These will presumably be developed as part of a post-2015 framework. Hence most countries may likely wait until then to implement them. BioRegional has championed the SDGs since their conceptual inception as a powerful step forward in conceptualising the future and its development potential. In addition to their novelty, the SDGs complement BioRegional's ten simple One Planet Living principles. Together, SDGs and the One Planet Living principles could create a common language for sustainability.

The Outcome Document provides a framework for national action. As we all know, this meeting in Rio is not the end, but a beginning of the next stage on our journey to deliver on sustainable development. BioRegional, and others from civil society, look forward to working together to create 'The Future We Want' ■

MORE INFO

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Traffic plagues Rio+20

The Prince's International Sustainability Unit: Putting talk into action

Charlotte Cawthorne

The Prince's International Sustainability Unit (ISU)

In order to ensure that Rio+20 leads to concrete actions, it is critical that we make a strong link between sustainable development and more immediate political and economic priorities. This link is particularly strong in relation to the future of food, as in order to ensure food security we must not continue to undermine the ecosystems and natural resources that underpin the global food production system both on land and in the ocean.

The Prince's International Sustainability Unit (ISU) was established by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales in 2007 to help build consensus around solutions to some of the major environmental problems facing the world. Since that time, the ISU has convened leaders, governments, civil society, academia and the private sector to develop an understanding of the sustainability and resilience of food systems. The ISU's core focal areas are marine ecosystems, forestry and food security.

While the transition to sustainable models of food production will differ markedly on land and in the ocean, there are a couple of important similarities. The

first concerns the need for countries to gain a critical systems-based understanding of their food security, more specifically the economic implications of natural capital use on food security. Taking this progressive and linked approach to food security would also allow countries to address poverty and reduce the threats to integral parts of the food system such as water and energy security. The second similarity is the importance of learning from best practice and then working to scale and replicate these models. Given that, the ISU's Marine Programme is facilitating a consensus to scale and replicate sustainable fisheries management around the world.

Following 18 months of research and consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, the ISU's Marine Programme officially launched in February 2012 with the publication of two reports – *Transitioning to Sustainable and Resilient Fisheries* and *Fisheries in Transition*. The former summarises the narrative and philosophy of the Marine Programme, outlining the enormous social, economic and environmental benefits of making the transition to sustainable fisheries and the need for an ecosystem approach to fisheries, robust management and sound economic incentives to realise this opportunity. The reports compliment research done by the World Bank and FAO, which estimates that as much as US\$ 50 billion is lost per year through mismanagement of the world's fisheries. In many places, this opportunity has already been unlocked, with more profitable and sustainable fisheries supporting secure jobs. To highlight some of these success stories, *Fisheries in Transition* provides a synthesis of fifty interviews with fishermen around the world about the benefits they have experienced from making the transition to sustainability.

Looking ahead to what will happen on Monday, the ISU's Marine Programme is embarking on two main areas of work, to help scale and replicate best practice.

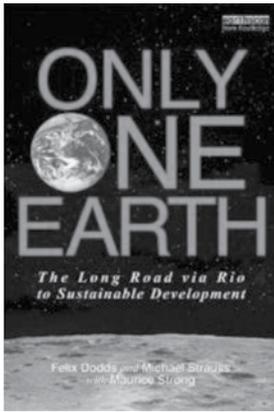
Firstly, we are working towards creating a benchmark or standard for Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIPs), with the aim of encouraging the proliferation of high quality FIPs that can be undertaken by any fishery with assistance from a wide range of stakeholders.

Secondly, we are working to create a series of 'seeing is believing' workshops with the World Bank, OECD and FAO. These regional workshops will convene policymakers and the fishing industry from regions that have sustainable fisheries with their counterparts in regions where there is less willingness to change or understanding about the benefits that sustainable fisheries can bring.

To find out more you can hear from the ISU at the Stakeholder Forum's "What Happens on Monday" event on 22nd June ■



New book: Only One Earth



By Felix Dodds & Michael Strauss with Maurice Strong (published 1st June 2012)

Forty years after the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, the goal of sustainable development continues via the Rio+20 conference. This book will enable a broad readership to understand what has been achieved in the past forty years and what has not. It

shows the continuing threat of our present way of living to the planet. It looks to the challenges that we face twenty years from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, "The Earth Summit," in Rio, in particular in the areas of economics and governance and the role of stakeholders. It puts forward a set of recommendations that the international community must address now and in the future. It reminds us of the planetary boundaries we must all live within and what needs to be addressed in the next

twenty years for democracy, equity and fairness to survive. Finally, it proposes through the survival agenda a bare minimum of what needs to be done, arguing for a series of absolute minimum policy changes we need to move forward.

For more information and our press release, visit our site: <http://bit.ly/L7Rs4F>

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"40 years ago Olof Palme reminded us that we must share and shape our future together - it is a shared responsibility containing difficult choices. A transition towards a green economy is one of those difficult choices. One that requires political leadership. It will not happen unless we make it happen. Let's put the world economies to work for a common, sustainable future - we can't afford otherwise. Dodds, Strauss and Strong provide... suggestions on how we might address these future challenges."

Ida Auken, Minister for the Environment of Denmark.

People Matter!

Advancing national & global action to strengthen learning & skills development for a green transition

Achim Halpaap and Amrei Horstbrink, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

The transition to inclusive, green and climate resilient development creates unprecedented needs, challenges and opportunities for strengthening human resources and skills. This critical human capacity development dimension of green progress has received specific attention in several recent international flagship reports, including the 2012 report of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability (GSP), 'Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future Worth Choosing'.

Some progress on the topic was made in Rio. The Outcome Document stresses the importance of ensuring that workers are equipped with the necessary skills, including through education and capacity building. It also calls for promoting the exchange of information and knowledge on decent work and job creation for all, including green jobs initiatives and related skills development.

The UNCSD side-event 'Learning and Skills Strategies to Advance a Green and Climate Resilient Transition', addressed the issue from an action-oriented perspective. Organised by UNITAR in partnership with the GSP Secretariat and UN CC:Learn, the side event highlighted that learning and skills development need to be included in national investment plans and budgets. It also noted the need to engage all key sectors, stakeholders and learning institutions, and acknowledged that a green jobs and skills transition needs forward-looking, innovative and critical thinking.

Training and capacity development to advance a green transition certainly needs to be scaled up and international organisations are ready to make their contribution. Existing collaborative initiatives include, for example, the Interagency Working Group on Greening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Skills Development, and UN CC:Learn, a One UN Initiative involving 32 multilateral organisations that supports five pilot countries (Benin, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Malawi and Uganda) in developing a strategic approach to learning with support of the Swiss Development Cooperation.

As a concrete contribution to international action, UNITAR will team up with ILO, UNESCO and other international partners in organising in 2013 an 'International Knowledge Sharing Forum on Training and Skills Development for Green and Climate Resilient Jobs'. The event will bring together international and national organisations offering relevant training services with representatives from partner countries, to take stock of existing activities and share knowledge on how training approaches and resources can best meet country needs. Coordination of the event will be undertaken through the Inter-agency Working Group on Greening TVET and Skills Development, as well as other interested stakeholders ■

MORE INFO

Contact unccllearn@unitar.org or visit www.unccllearn.org



Rio+21 Partnership: Step up implementation of Agenda 21

The Rio+21 partnership process is a call for collaborative actions over the next 21 months by citizens, local, regional and national governments, NGOs, Business, Trade Unions and all other stakeholders, to accelerate implementation of global commitments towards sustainable development made at the first and second Earth Summits in Rio in 1992 and 2012.

The partnership is spearheaded by an alliance of like-minded organisations who have been active in the Rio+20 process and are committed to turning words into actions, and build multi-stakeholder partnerships in 150 countries, 2015 localities (provinces, districts, regions, cities) and 20150 communities around the world. The core group of organisers is supported by an inter-generational coalition of individuals located in New York, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Colombo, Rio, Johannesburg, Klagenfurt, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Kobe, Canberra, San Francisco, and Christchurch. Its central call for action is:

Step up implementation of Agenda 21 to achieve the future we all want

What is Agenda 21? In June 1992, people of the world met at the first Earth Summit – the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and 178 governments endorsed a visionary document entitled Agenda 21, to be implemented over the 21st century, as well as two transformative global Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity. Implementation of Agenda 21 has proceeded at different rates in different countries. 2013 is the year when our oft forgotten visionary agenda for the 21st century comes of age.



What happens on the Monday after Rio? The Rio+21 process begins to gain steam

Unlike Rio+20, which ends on 22nd June 2012, our action does not. It is the work we do over the next 21 months – until 28 February 2014 (and beyond) – that is important, when multi-level governments, Major Groups and civil society movements take the Rio+20 outcomes back to our countries, provinces, cities and communities and prepare action programs for the 12 years up to 2025 to implement the future we want. We must uphold a focus on 'stepping up' and accelerating implementation of Agenda 21 in each and every country, province, city and community around the world. Rio+21 will include revival and consolidation of the Local Agenda 21 implementation that began in many places across the world in 1993. It will not be another conference or negotiation, but action anchored in both national and local processes and institutions. These actions should be nationally and sub nationally driven, and directly linked to the national review processes on MDG implementation.

Youth born in 1992 are coming of age, along with Agenda 21, and will be key leaders of 'generation '92'. The Children & Youth Major Group, UNEP's TUNZA children's programme, model UN clubs & youth parliaments worldwide will be key actors in Rio+21, with generation '92 serving as key mobilisers to lead activities.

What can a participating organisations and individual do? Make a commitment to step up Agenda 21

- Catalyse the creation of national multi-stakeholder coalitions for sustainable development, similar to the national coalitions affiliated to the Global Call for Action on Poverty (GCAP); work with national governments to review implementation of Agenda 21 in your country; and work with provincial and local government to review implementation of Local Agenda 21.
- Catalyse the creation of city level coalitions of youth for sustainable development inspired by NY+21 and Mumbai+21; link to a Facebook page, LinkedIn group, and create other spaces – both virtual and real - for young people to express their concerns and act on their convictions; and host a community forum for residents to plan to implement Agenda 21 locally.

Let us make the 21st birthday celebrations of Agenda 21 in 2013 a year of accelerated implementation at both the national and local level.

MORE INFO

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ECO Corner

ECO Corner is produced by the cooperative efforts of Climate Action Network members at the Rio+20 Conference

The Rio Gap

One of the key obstacles to achieving sustainable development is agreeing who will carry the burden. Stopping environmental degradation requires resources. Some argue those resources could be needed somewhere else, such as eradicating poverty. So it could appear that the need to eradicate poverty and the need to stop environmental degradation are in conflict.

ECO does not buy into this argument, at all. Environmental degradation is fast becoming the biggest contributor to increased poverty. If we want to eradicate poverty, then we need to also invest in what is leading to more poverty, which includes fighting environmental degradation.

The more scarce resources become, the more sustainability must be at the centre of poverty alleviation. The world has no choice but to choose a path that would combine them. In fact, many developed and developing countries are already providing good examples at the national and subnational levels, such as developing efficient public transport that reduces CO₂ emissions while at the same time increases mobility and affordability, which is needed for economic development.

Now that governments have agreed as little as they have, given the existing and rather pathetic political will now available, the question is what will they do when they go back home. The current Conference document, with all its weaknesses, has nonetheless indicated many potential opportunities for further action. There are no hard numerical commitments and actions in the text, but it provides processes for governments to develop these commitments and actions. Such processes include:

- establishing an intergovernmental high level political forum that will follow up on the implementation of the sustainable development commitments contained in Agenda 21;
- committing to promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements;

- committing to maintain and restore marine resources to sustainable levels with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis by 2015;
- adopting the 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on sustainable consumption and production (SCP); and
- resolving to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on SDGs that is open to all stakeholders.

There are many other opportunities highlighted within the existing text for governments to take us forward. Nevertheless, this will not happen unless political reality on the ground changes.

The failure of the international process is not because multilateralism is wrong. The process is good. What we lack is political will. The international process can only work within existing political will. If there is no new political will to capture, the process will not do anything.

Political will is not created at international venues, it is created back at home, and on the streets. It is up to the youth and civil society movements to take it forward.

But reality can change, and we saw it during the Arab Spring. What is needed is persistence, and continued action. Civil society campaigned for years in Egypt to achieve political change against harsh suppression, but they never gave up. Then a tipping point was reached, and everything changed in only one day.

Civil society must use all the anger that exists as a result of the Rio+20 reality check, and then alter that reality. After all, we are running out of time.

So ECO is going home for now. We are angry, but that will focus our energy, and we will organise. Because as Nelson Mandela so wisely said: "it always seems impossible, until it is done" ■



Rio+20 will be a 'PaperSmart' conference so we are encouraging our readers to move online and access Outreach on our newly optimised website: www.stakeholderforum.org/sf/outreach or download each daily edition using a Quick Response (QR) code displayed here.

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What happens on Monday?

Don't miss Stakeholder Forum's event that will bring stakeholders together for an interactive dialogue on what they will do after Rio +20

TIME	PAVILION T-1
1.00 PM	<i>Light lunch served</i>
1.20 - 1.30 PM	WELCOME Farooq Ullah- Executive Director Designate, Stakeholder Forum Kirsty Schneeberger- Senior Policy Officer, Stakeholder Forum
1.30 - 2.00 PM	TAKING STOCK Elizabeth Thompson - Executive Coordinator of Rio+20 Secretariat Ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez-Robledo - Deputy Foreign Minister of Mexico
2.00 - 2.45 PM	PANEL PRESENTATIONS ON SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES Mary Barton-Dock - Director of the Environment Department, World Bank Charlotte Cawthorne - The Prince's Charities' International Sustainability Unit Rodrigo Martinez - Rare Conservation Anabella Rosenberg- Senior Policy Adviser, ITUC Achim Halpaap - Head of Environment Unit, UNITAR Maruxa Cardama - Secretary General, nrg4SD
2.45-3.00 PM	<i>Networking break</i>
3.00-3.45 PM	MOVING FORWARD: REVIEWING COMMITMENTS MADE Jacob Scherr - Natural Resources Defense Council Brice Lalonde - Executive Coordinator of Rio +20 Marco van der Ree - UN Volunteers
3.45-4.30 PM	MEASURING IMPACT Helen Marquard - Executive Director, SEED International Veerle Vandeweerd - Director Environment & Energy, UNDP Nelson Muffuh – UN Millennium campaign
4.30-5.00 PM	FINAL REFLECTIONS AND CLOSING



Rio+20 side event calendar

Date	Time	Venue	Title	Organisers
FRIDAY 22nd JUNE	09:00 - 11:00	t1d, Dragao do Mar	Voices from Fukushima: Calling for a Nuclear Power Free World for a Sustainable Future	Peace Boat
	11:00 - 12:30	RioCentro T-4	U.S. Priorities for Rio+20	United States of America
	11:00 - 12:30	RioCentro T-9	Sustainable Global Transformation and Inclusive Green Growth	German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU)
	11:00 - 12:30	RioCentro T-6	Partnership for Sustainable Development of Afghanistan	Afghanistan
	11:00 - 12:30	RioCentro T-2	UN System: Together for the Future We Want	UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)
	12:00 - 13:00	UNEP Pavilion	Partnership and Implementation of Sustainable Development: What has worked?	UNEP
	13:00 - 14:45	UNEP Pavilion	Global MEAs for Atmosphere, Hazardous substances and Biodiversity: What are the lessons for Future Synergies?	UNEP
	13:00 - 14:30	RioCentro T-9	Enhancing science-policy links for Rio+20: The Future Earth Initiative	International Council for Science (ICSU)
	13:00 - 14:30	RioCentro P3-F	Decent Work and Social Protection Floors for Sustainable Development	International Labour Organization (ILO)
	13:00 - 17:00	RioCentro T-1	What Happens On Monday?	Stakeholder Forum
	13:15 - 14:45	UN2 Barra Arena	Roots of Equity : what rights and safeguards do women need who are dependent for their livelihoods on forest, biodiversity and subsistence farmers.	Women Major Group
	15:00 - 17:00	UNEP Pavilion	Advancing the Sustainability Science Agenda: To Support Sustainable Development and the Green Economy	UNEP
17:00 - 19:00	UNEP Pavilion	Synergies among the Rio Conventions: Exploring opportunities for a more integrated reporting to the Rio Conventions by LDCs and SIDS	UNEP	

Reflections from Rio+20, Thursday 21 June

Nick Meynen

ANPED, Northern Alliance for Sustainability

Thursday, 1:05pm, in the heart of Riocentro. Some hundred people start cheering when two young people show up with a huge banner stating that the conference has been sold out to corporations. Amid the sudden tumult, a group of young people raise their hands and hold up a mock up of the 'The Future We Want' that they tear apart. And then it happened.

An 11-year old girl climbed on a table. She said she was Ta'Kaiya Blaney, an indigenous girl from British Columbia. She first explained that her country is being destroyed by the exploitation of oil from tar sands. She urged world leaders to act now to ensure that we have a tomorrow. All her words were repeated by the human microphone: by now some two hundred people echoing loudly what she just said. And then she sang a song; the earth revolution song. Tears were flowing at the entrance to the plenary hall, while several television camera's from national and international stations, broadcast this moment to millions of people all over the world.

What followed was an unauthorised demonstration: Occupy Rio. People sat down and despite repeated calls from UN security that badges could be confiscated, the peoples'

assembly repeatedly responded with a democratic vote that they decided to stay. For me, this was by far the most emotional event that has happened at Riocentro over the past two weeks. Our leaders have apparently come here just to read some statements and sign a flawed document that lacks the ambition we need. But a generation of people have shown a persistent will to fight for a future where we can all live our lives in dignity, with respect for each other and within the limits set by the earth we all depend on. As the governments at Rio+20 are not going to give us a future we want, the people will have to build it themselves from the bottom up ■



Thank you from the Outreach Team

As our stay in Rio comes to an end and we head home to recoup and regroup, we would like to thank all our readers, writers, reporters and friends who have been burning the midnight oil with us. We look forward to seeing you all again – and hearing how you have taken Rio home ■

Outreach is made possible by the support of

