

Report on the work of Youth Major group during the World Summit on sustainable Development

Youth from all around the world have gathered and collaborated in the Youth Caucus of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. During the preparatory process and actual World Summit United Nations has identified us representing Youth and subsequently we have been invited to take part in the process and at several points make presentations to the formal programme. This report is a compilation of the speeches given by the Youth major Group during the WSSD formal process.

Let it also be clear that even if our aim has been to give statements that are in line with the views of youth around the world, we can never say that the statements represent more than the views of the people who has been present at each conference and been part of creating them. On the other hand, all the youth who have been involved have been leaders for their organisations on local, national or global level.

Leif Holmberg

leif.holmberg@lsu.se

Co-facilitator for Youth Major Group for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Youth Statement for the WSSD Multi-Stakeholder Event 4 September 2002 Delivered by Catherine Kamping, Secretary General of Youth for Sustainable Development Assembly, Philippines

Note: this was the key speech delivered to Heads of State at the closing of the Summit.

In 1992, the youth message was so controversial, the microphone was cut off. So technicians: Please bear with us.

Governments of the world, once again you've asked the youth to make a statement. Frankly, we are sick and tired of the empty promises and political-posturing that we've witnessed time and time again over the past ten years. We are fed up with your bracketing and debating the placement of the commas in the Plan of Action.

The irony and hypocrisy of holding the summit here in Sandton speaks volumes for the lack of progress and flawed processes exhibited by our current world "leaders". How can you claim to be representing the whole world, when one third of the world makes less than 2 dollars a day? As the planet and the people suffer, we sit here in consumer's paradise, an enclave of the rich.

We know this room is divided. Youth are divided too. We have spent these weeks debating our issues, just as you have done. While we have many, many common concerns, we have struggled – as have you – on questions of how, how soon, how much, for whom and by whom. Though some have failed to meet their responsibilities in bringing about a sustainable world, we as youth will not evade our responsibility to ensure that the goals of Agenda 21 are achieved.

Key areas

With the aim of establishing global equality, we demand that the national debts of developing countries be immediately cancelled in order to empower them to eradicate poverty among their people. We demand that International financial institutions end their economic and political intervention, and the impositions of unsustainable economic, political and cultural models in developing countries.

Global markets must be fundamentally changed in order to redress the inequities between the North and the South. An even playing field between developing and developed countries – must be ensured in all trade endeavors. You industrialised countries: You always talk about free trade, but where is the open market for developing countries in Europe or North America? Youth call for fair trade and an end to government export and agricultural subsidies in developed countries, which directly disadvantages the agricultural production of the farmers from developing countries.

Violent conflict between peoples damages environmental and social sustainability. We must take joint action to reject the drumbeat of war and redirect funds from militarism towards sustainable development. We are appalled by the complete absence of the principle of disarmament in the plan of implementation. As youth we condemn the continuing resistance of governments in addressing human rights. We reaffirm the rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination, land and resources.

Climate change cannot be further ignored by certain developed countries. Targets and timeframes have been lost here in Johannesburg. All countries, especially the polluting giants,

must ratify the Kyoto Protocol and exceed its emission reduction targets in accordance with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Here in Johannesburg you have failed us!

Signatures do not feed people.

Words on paper do not stop deforestation.

Where are the mechanisms? Where are the time frames? Where are the commitments?

There are those who are pleased with the progress of the Summit, and also those who are ready to walk out due to a failed process. But we are working to move forward, watching, and are aware – for all our criticisms – that you, Heads of State and negotiators, are trying to work together. We are all committed to the creation of a better global community existing within the context of sustainable development.

Lets work together

At the end of the Summit, let's take our first steps together. We, as youth, implore you to take action with us, starting right here, right now, in this room. (And don't worry – this has been cleared with UN security!)

-- Youth and children: We will be around in 50 years to deal with the outcomes of this Summit. We are committed to bringing about a better world, and stand in agreement that humankind must act together in pursuit of this vital objective. Youth - please stand and remain standing.

Heads of State – don't be fooled. There are few of us here in this room, but we assure you that there are many more of us (indeed, half the world's population!) standing with us throughout the building and around the world.

-- Could Major Groups (and Educators!) and inter-agencies – with all the diversity we represent – stand up in agreement that we, as stakeholders, are responsible to take tangible actions to implement what was agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development? (Please stand)

-- And finally, could everyone stand, who agrees that sustainable development is imperative to the future of all Peoples and this Planet?

[Stay standing and] Look around the room, and etch this scene on your memory, so that it can be recreated when youth appear before you – before us – at Jo'burg + 10. Just as we are standing now, in 2012 we must be able to stand together when asked if we have reached our Johannesburg commitments.

Youth Major Group Statement on Youth Participation, Education and Employment, World Summit on Sustainable Development, 30 August 2002. Delivered by Pelin Ayan of the Secretariat of the Youth for Habitat International Network, Turkey

We, as youth, embrace our role as key partners in sustainable development - today and in the future. The youth supported the efforts of the United Nations at the Rio Summit to promote a sustainable future in a healthy environment. Ten years later, we call for real commitment and political will to implement the goals of Agenda 21.

Youth Participation

As outlined in Chapter 25 of Agenda 21 and Principle 21 of the Rio Declaration, all youth must have equal access to meaningful participation in local, regional and national forums to further the role of youth in formulating the policies that impact them and their communities. In particular, national and international governments and organisations must adequately support youth who have limited access to resources and infrastructure, especially people from developing and least developed nations, and Indigenous Peoples.

Youth participation does not mean 'youth washing'. Youth participation requires governments to take into account a youth perspective, even when these are contrary to government policy. Youth need forums led and structured for youth and by youth. These forums, such as Local and National Youth Councils, must be democratic, inclusive, independent and representative. Integration and cooperation between Youth Councils on different levels are necessary. It is important for National Youth Councils to act as umbrella organisations for youth organisations within a nation and to cooperate with Local Youth Councils to strengthen youth input to national governments in partnership with other stakeholders. Local Youth Councils must be engaged with local authorities, and together these must play a key role under Local Agenda 21 initiatives.

We congratulate the governments here, in agreeing upon the finale Article of the draft plan of implementation, which supports local and national youth councils and their equivalent. However, it is essential that authorities at all levels extend this support to technical and financial support.

Education

Education is essential if youth are to participate in decision-making processes pertaining to sustainable development. Action must be taken to provide free, quality education for all. Education systems must be changed to focus on both local and multicultural perspectives.

Sustainable development education plays a crucial role in preventing social, economic and environmental damage. This is why curricula must universally include environment and consumption patterns, health and reproductive health to combat the spread of HIV/Aids among youth, good governance and human rights. These must be integrated into education curricula to achieve sustainable development. It should be recognised that such education can be both formal and informal, and inclusive of traditional knowledge held by Indigenous Peoples. To reach these goals we, as youth, commit ourselves to working within the framework of chapter 36 of Agenda 21 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Youth Employment

Youth employment is an issue of urgent concern because it is a pre-requisite for the eradication of poverty. Youth require capacity building and employment programmes at national and local levels. Governments must agree to create employment opportunities for a further 500 million young people by 2012. They must further commit themselves to the UN youth employment network.

Nation states should commit themselves to ratifying ILO core labour standards to ensure decent work for people world-wide, while preventing unsustainable livelihoods and exploitative labour conditions especially that of youth, and in particular child labour.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we reiterate that governments must act to minimise the obstacles youth face in accessing employment, education and participation.

Intergenerational justice is at the core of sustainable development. With what you are currently negotiating here at the WSSD, we ask you, the leaders of the world: Do you sincerely believe that you have here negotiated – as the slogan goes – ‘Some, for all, forever’?

Remember we are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but the partners of today... and that it is *us* you are negotiating!

Youth Major Group Statement on Governance, Globalisation, Finance and Trade, World Summit on Sustainable Development, 30 August 2002. Delivered by Linabel Segovia-Sarlat, President of the Mexican youth council of Yucatan for Sustainable Development

The commitments made at Rio were a first step towards sustainability. Ten years later, we must build upon our successes and learn from our failures. Agenda 21 was a contract between governments and their people. We, the youth, feel this contract has been broken. It is the duty of this Summit to address this failure and to establish a concrete plan of action, which must be fulfilled. We voice our concern that the commitments made here will be even weaker than the ones made in 1992. This is unacceptable. Our previous failures must not be an excuse to lower our expectations.

We recognize that social and environmental challenges, such as the immediate threats of poverty, global warming, and desertification, are matters of global concern that cannot be dealt with solely on a national scale. We call upon our governments to look at these issues in an international context, and to prove that they are willing and able to address these vital concerns.

We demand the following changes regarding global governance:

Overall

- The current network of global institutions must evolve from the current system. We demand an efficient, cohesive system of global governance, which can fulfill a mandate for sustainable development.
- We recommend the Earth Charter as a valid ethical framework for this new system of global governance, and demand respect for both cultural and biological diversity. We demand the fulfillment of all provisions within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that all governments ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The rights of all peoples, including Indigenous Peoples to participation, self-determination and informed consent must be reaffirmed.

Poverty eradication

- With the aim of establishing global equality, the national debts of developing countries must be cancelled and economies in transition must be financially enabled to change world economic order.
- Developed countries shall implement their obligation to provide 0.7% of their GNP as official development aid, and increase the volume of aid, in order to correct regional inequities in the past.
- The ecological footprint of human society must be in accordance with the carrying capacity of the planet. We demand that the consumption levels in developed countries change to reflect this.
- National sovereignty in the sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity must be recognized

International Environmental Agreements and Corporate accountability

- We demand adherence to the Rio principles and assessments of impact upon the environment, society, and human rights.
- We demand a UN binding convention on corporate accountability to regulate the behavior of transnational corporations and to promote transparency. We recommend

the creation of an international court with jurisdiction over the activities of transnational corporations.

- We demand the implementation and cohesion of all existing multilateral environmental agreements, particularly those arising from the Earth Summit in 1992. The provisions of MEAs must take precedence over international trade agreements and the rulings of international financial and trade organizations. The MEAs should be enforced through a creation of a World Environment Organization to monitor the multilateral environmental agreements.
- Climate change cannot be further ignored by certain developed countries. We call for the urgent entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and the implementation of obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries. All countries, especially the United States and Australia, must ratify the Kyoto Protocol and exceed its emission reduction targets in accordance with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) present a possible unknown danger for biodiversity and human beings. All countries shall have the right to resist the import and production of GMOs.

Trade and Financial institutions

- Global markets must be fundamentally changed in order to redress the inequities between the North and the South. An even playing field between developing and developed countries – must be ensured in all trade endeavours. Today certain developed countries preach free trade but practise close markets. Youth call for fair trade for the benefit of all countries.
- We call for an end to government subsidisation of agricultural production in developed countries, particularly the United States and the European Union, that directly disadvantages the agricultural production of the farmers from developing countries.
- The IMF, the World Bank, the WTO and export credit agencies have not met an ethical obligation for achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty. The international financial organisations must be democratised and restructured to ensure participation of developing countries and must not interfere in the national sovereignty of any country.
- We demand International financial institutions, certain northern governments, and multinational corporations to end economic and political intervention, and the impositions of unsustainable economic, political and cultural models in developing countries

The future of society and this planet lies in youth. The Youth Caucus of the World Summit on Sustainable Development feels obliged by the failure of the current world leaders to start the planning a Johannesburg + 10. We are the future leaders and as such we feel responsible to address our discontent with WSSD negotiations and results.

We demand the full implementation of Agenda 21, Chapter 25 on an international level. This includes but is not limited to democratically selected youth representation in all United Nations processes, full and informed participation in all relevant decision-making, the promotion of dialogue between youth organizations and international institutions, and financial and organizational support for youth programs, projects, networks, and organizations.

Youth Statement, Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, Prepcom 4 WSSD, May 27th 2002, Presented by Afifa Raihani, Bangladesh with assistance of Patrick Mpedzisi, Zimbabwe and Lindsay Cole, Canada

The youth has a question for all of you, why are we here and what are we doing... ten years after Rio. Will we be here again doing the same thing ten years from now?

The Johannesburg Summit was meant to be an 'action' summit. Our mandate is to develop an implementation plan for Agenda 21, the Rio Conventions, and other sustainable development agreements. Most paragraphs in the current Chair's text begin with 'promote,' 'encourage,' and 'suggest.' These are not action words.

Youth want to see the words 'commit,' 'act,' and 'finance' take the place of these weak words. We want to see targets, timelines and implementation plans for the activities that you are currently 'promoting.' From the youth perspective, this Summit will not be a success unless real commitments to act on sustainable development issues are made. These are our priority concerns and suggestions for improvement on governance.

Current Trade-based Approach to the Governance Discussion

Governments often assure that trade is just a means of achieving the greater goal of sustainable development. However, in the process leading up to the Johannesburg Summit, it has become clear that trade has evolved into an end in itself.

Youth are concerned that the WTO and regional trade agreements, are defining the boundaries of discussion in many international non-trade related meetings. The World Bank, International Monetary Fund and export credit agencies have greatly limited the space for implementing Agenda 21 commitments. For example the TRIPS agreement stands against the CBD. The policies of these organizations should not supersede the goals of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and UN conventions, and not the other way around.

The financial market is becoming increasingly volatile and short-term speculative. Countries are becoming less able to protect their economic well-being, as many financial market actors are not accountable to the democratic process. These problems should be addressed in the international sustainable development governance.

Speaking notes: participation from all the different groups: ethnic groups, indigenous group, religious minority group, disenfranchised youth etc. is involved in a human rights based approach to sustainable development.

Regulation of Transnational Corporations

Out of the 100 biggest economies in the world, 51 of them are corporations and 49 of them are countries. This power dynamic is of great concern to youth. It is obvious that the positions of transnational corporations are having an immense influence on the preparations for the WSSD.

Youth call for corporate accountability, not simply responsibility. We emphasize that corporate accountability has nothing to do with voluntary initiatives on corporate responsibility like the Global Compact. Binding corporate accountability should be a centrepiece in International Sustainable Development Governance. Effective international

legally binding regulations with enforcement mechanisms on transnational corporations are needed to ensure this accountability.

Speaking notes: examples of mechanisms might be an International court for regulating TNC's and a UN Convention for Corporate Accountability.

Recognizing Ecological Debt

Youth call for developed countries to cancel the foreign debts of developing countries. Ensuring an equal playing field is a prerequisite for international sustainable development governance. Formal recognition and incorporation of the ecological debt of northern countries in debt cancellation activities should be taken into account when determining debt balance.

Internalizing Ecological Service

Effective mechanisms for internalising external costs of production and consumption should be adopted, for example a global CO2 emission tax.

Eliminating Corruption

Eliminating corruption in national and local levels is a prerequisite for sustainable development governance. Initiatives should be taken to strengthen the local government.

Meaningful Participation of Youth

Fifty percent of the world's population is youth. It is critical that this large sector of society is equally and fairly represented at all levels of decision-making. In addition, all UN member countries should facilitate youth engagement in decision-making by establishing national Youth Commissions or councils. These should be at arms length from government, and should be fully and legitimately integrated into national decision-making processes. Youth should be given full participant status not only observer status in UN meetings.

We recognise the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples as a basic precondition for governance for sustainable development. We emphasize the fact that youth participation needs to be enhanced at the local level, which has not been mentioned in the Chairman's text.

The role of the ECOSOC should be improved in a way to provide for the recognition and full participation of major groups providing appropriate ways and mechanisms to ensure that their inputs are integrated in to the outcomes. ECOSOC needs to review their processes of accrediting youth NGO's.

Youth voluntary work needs to be recognised more and included in the NCSO and countries without this body should institute one.

Good Governance

The following principles are essential to good governance for sustainability:

- Community-based governance and respecting the principle of subsidiarity.
- Active participation of all stakeholders.
- Education and awareness raising regarding sustainable development and governance issues.

An expanded definition of global security

Youth in nations at war, and highly militarised nations do not have the access or capacity to meaningfully participate in international negotiations. Their perspectives are vital to effective global governance. We propose that money currently directed to the military could be spent on building the capacity of these youth to meaningfully engage in international sustainable development.

In conclusion, we recall the original promise of Rio: that of intergenerational equity.

This is the basic ethical principle of sustainable development and puts youth and future generations at the center of the whole process. Finally, we would like answer our own question: what are we doing here now? If we do not take action NOW, yes we will be meeting in ten years again on the same issues. Maybe not in Bali since it might be under water by then.

Youth Caucus Input to Political Declaration at Prepcom 4, 5th June 2002

As recommended by the Delegates of Johannesburg +10.

The Youth Caucus represents the future. We are leading the way now in making sustainable development a reality. We, the delegates of Johannesburg +10, have a concrete vision for the sustainability of the planet, and the future of humanity. We are exasperated at the inability of today's governments to address the problems that face us. We call on the Heads of States to take inspiration from our vision and lead the world toward a sustainable future. To this end, we call for the inclusion of the following key priorities as vital components for the further implementation of sustainable development.

1. Poverty Eradication

- Extreme poverty, a product of historical injustice, is one of the **biggest problems** affecting sustainable development in the developing countries.
- The basic **human right to an adequate standard of life**, including provisions for food security, must be ensured.
- **Employment and sustainable livelihoods**, especially for youth, must be created, and over-consumption patterns must be reduced.
- The **Millennium Declaration** goals for poverty eradication must be achieved.
- The Youth Employment Summit goal to launch a decade campaign of action must be met, so that an additional 500 million young adults can have a productive and sustainable livelihood.
- The **ecological debt** of the developed countries must be redressed.
- With the aim of establishing global equality, the **national debts** of developing countries must be cancelled.

2. Education

- Action must be taken to ensure **equal access** to education for all.
- Sustainable development education, including health, environment, and consumption patterns, must be integrated into curricula at all levels, especially higher education.
- Education must be restructured as a **fundamental agent for change and capacity building** in society.
- Financing for education should be a policy tool for **correcting the regional imbalances** of the past.
- **Local and cultural diversities**, and indigenous peoples' educational practices, must be taken into account when addressing sustainability issues.

3. Human Security

- People displaced by conflicts, such as refugees, must have the **right to protection and life free from fear**.
- **Peace** and sustainable development are inherently linked; one necessitates the other.
- Access to **safe drinking water, clean air, and a healthy environment** must be guaranteed.
- **Consistency** must be ensured when responding to issues of human security.
- The UN Security Council must be restructured to ensure democracy – weaker countries must not be excluded.
- Sustainable development must be adopted into the priorities of the UN Security Council.
- Access to **basic healthcare for all must be achieved**, with a specific focus on combating communicable diseases.

4. Environment

- **Biological and cultural diversity** must be preserved and protected.
- The **ecological footprint** of humanity must be reduced to the carrying capacity of the earth.
- **Environmental justice** must be assured to all people and at all levels.

5. Participation

- **Equality of participation** must be fundamental in all governance processes.
- Full **recognition and a voice** must be given to marginalised groups such as youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, the poor, unemployed, and disabled people.
- **Access to justice**, information, and tools of information dissemination held by public and private authorities must be provided to all people.

6. Governance

- Political systems must be rebuilt for the purposes of sustainable development.
- The UN body must become an exemplary model of sustainable development practices.
- All people, particularly women, young people, and indigenous peoples, must be ensured the **rights to self-determination, land territories, and resources**.
- **Multilateral Environmental Agreements must take precedence** over the WTO, and the profit of big business.
- The international community, working with the WTO, must institutionalise economic recovery mechanisms to redress past imbalances, with specific reference to countries of the south.

7. Trade

- **Equality** – an even playing field between developing and developed countries – must be ensured in all trade endeavours.
- Financial systems must be restructured in order to prevent the damaging economic effect of **short term speculation**.
- **Global markets must be fundamentally changed** in order to redress the imbalances between the North and the South.

8. Corporate Accountability

- There must be a **UN binding convention agreement on corporate accountability**.
- There must be **transparency, accountability, and participation** of all stakeholders in international finance institutions and trans-national corporations.
- To ensure accountability, trans-national corporations must be **monitored internationally**.

9. Ethical Framework

- **Shared responsibility and interdependence**, and the prerequisite of **prior and informed consent** must be recognised.
- An integrated ethical framework of shared values, such as the **Earth Charter**, must be established to guide us toward the common good and effective implementation of the sustainable development agenda at all levels.
- Commitment to **existing global governance agreements** is essential.

Youth Speaking points for Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Type II Partnerships, 28th May, 2002, Bali, Presented by Melanie Ashton, Australia, Philip Osano, Kenya, Tzvetan Spassov, Bulgaria

I. Concerns

We, the youth major stakeholder group, reiterates the need for binding Type I agreements, supported and implemented by national governments.

As a major group, youth are divided on the issue of Type II initiatives. Some youth fear that partnerships serve to benefit multinational corporations and international financial institutions at the expense of sustainable development goals. Others feel that, under a framework of strong governmental commitments, partnerships hold potential to effectively involve all stakeholders in the implementation of type I agreements.

Overall, we seek to prevent “youth-washing” by corporations and governments who wish to profit from the images of youth and sustainable development without true commitment to addressing the challenges we face for the future.

We stress the need for the following prerequisites to the approval of any type II initiative:

- Strong commitments by government partners to binding Type I outcomes, including-clear, time-bound implementation plans
- Corporate participation is contingent upon commitment to the adoption of a binding UN Convention on Corporate Accountability
- Participation of national governments, including the United States and Australia, in partnership initiatives must be contingent upon the ratification of UN Conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Kyoto Protocol, Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination and Violence against Women (CEDAW), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

II. Principles

As the only transitory major group, we hold a variety of principles as essential to a just framework for partnerships.

- Inter-generational equity: partnerships must consider both short and long term impacts
- Self-determination: partnerships must respect the sovereignty of nations and native and indigenous peoples.
- Accountability: all partners must maintain transparency and responsibility to affected stakeholders and communities, through integrated participation and continuous consultation
- Justice: partnerships should enforce principles of social, environmental and economic justice
- Equity: partnerships must promote all levels of equity, including gender, ethnic, racial, and economic
- Equality: partnerships should strive to reduce the inequalities between partners

III. Framework

- Partnerships must fall under the authority of a UN body, such as the CSD, and governed by the framework for corporate accountability
- The framework for partnership initiatives must be designed as a flexible, continuous process
- Approval of partnership initiatives must be based upon a clear criteria for selection, including:
 - Strengthening Type I outcomes
 - Multilateral scope
 - A unique contribution to sustainable development, the success of which relies upon UN facilitation
 - Adherence to the UN Millenium Development Goals
 - Well-defined policies and plans at local, national and international levels
 - Clear timeframe for implementation with verifiable indicators
 - Guidelines for continued monitoring and evaluation at all levels
 - Review of partners (with acceptance based on fulfillment of prior partnership commitments)
- Approval of partnership initiatives must take into account geographical and issue-based balances

IV. Means of Implementation

- Partnership funding must be identified at the time of approval, including funds for monitoring and administration
- A consultation and dialogue process for stakeholders and affected communities must be incorporated into partnership plans
- Multi-national corporations seeking to enter partnerships must commit to a binding framework for corporate accountability

III. Areas for Youth Partnerships

- Education:
 - Peer education (youth-youth)
 - Science and technology – youth partnership for education and training
 - Youth incorporation into decision-making
 - National, regional and international youth strategies for sustainable development (youth-government).
- Employment and poverty reduction
 - Internship and apprenticeship programs (sustainable business council-youth)
 - Sustainable production and consumption
 - Creation of advertising free zones (local authorities, NGOs and youth organizations)
 - Sustainable agriculture and rural development (youth-farmers)
- Health
 - Sexual health education (local and national governments, NGOs and youth organizations)

Youth Discussion Paper for the dialogue on Capacity Building, WSSD PrepCom 4, Youth representatives in dialogue: Catherine Kamping, Phillipines, Maan Dagher, Lebanon, Linabel Segovia, Mexico

INTRODUCTION

- Active and meaningful participation of youth at community level sustainable development efforts (e.g. Local Agenda 21 implementation) is lacking.
- A major factor affecting this is the disintegration of youth organizations at the community level due to lack of capacity of these organizations to sustain their operations in a long term. This is especially true for youth groups in poor countries, particularly rural based youth groups.

ISSUES

- Lack of access to information on community sustainable development approaches and technologies
- Lack of access to equal opportunities to link with other groups and institutions at all levels (local, national, international) to gain resources (financial, technical, human resource, others) for their implementation of community sustainable development initiatives
- Lack of necessary operational and administrative skills on youth organizing, sustainable development planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and other necessary skills in community level organizing/ mobilization (e.g. conflict management, resource mobilization, community information sharing and others)

ACTIONS NEEDED

Institutionalize Programs at the Local National, Regional and Global levels to improve capacity building of youth groups in involvement in sustainable development, especially at the local community level.

TIMEBOUND MEASURES TO BE UNDERTAKEN

1) Set up National and Sub-regional Information Clearing House (ICS) Mechanisms on Youth Involvement in Sustainable Development by 2005.

- Youth Websites link/integrated with local community information sharing mechanisms (such as community radios, production of popular materials-community and national youth in sustainable development newsletters, community youth meetings, others)
- The conduct of continuing research to develop a regularly updated Compendium of Information on Youth Involvement in Sustainable Development

2) Annual Youth in Community Sustainable Development Training Camps and Community Immersions starting 2003

These are regular local and national summer leadership training youth camps on:

- Community sustainable development planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation including community-based natural resource management
- Sustainable development advocacy
- Youth organizing and mobilization (including youth volunteer formation and mentorship)
- Community Immersion in successful areas where community-based sustainable development has been implemented

3) *Youth Exchange Programs (inter-country, inter-region, inter-cultural) on Youth Involvement in Sustainable Development starting 2004 among national youth organization and networks.*

These are opportunities to link up and learn from each other and amidst cultural, political and institutional diversities programmatic and strategic learning on approaches and mechanisms for youth involvement in sustainable development.

INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Integration in National and International Youth Development Platform

Capacity Building for Youth Involvement in Sustainable Development (at the local, national, regional/global levels) must be integrated as part of the National and International Youth Development Platform in order to build on existing institutional support from government and inter-government programs and mechanisms. This should be taken up in the succeeding UN system-wide World Youth Forum (WYF) and its regional preparatory committees through the UN Youth Unit and in consideration of the regular monitoring and review of the “Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.”

Integration in National Educational Programs

The Public Educational system is still the more far reaching and comprehensive institutionalise mechanism to raise awareness and mobilize youth people in sustainable development work. Therefore capacity building in terms of providing the necessary information and opportunities must continue to be integrated in these formal educational system. School-based youth organizations and organizing must be link with community youth in sustainable development initiatives through community extension and education.

Mobilizing Existing Community Mechanism/Institutions (e.g. Families, Church)

Particularly in the Asian community context, utilizing the usual traditional institutional mechanism remains the most effective way of integrating new approaches for community development. Thus, while it is highly recommended that capacity building for youth organizations in involvement in sustainable development through new and independent mechanisms (such as national training programs, exchanges), at the community level, the influential realm of families, immediate community peers, the church and others must be utilize.

FINANCING MECHANISMS

Debt Swap for Sustainable Development to Include Youth Development

To creatively finance youth involvement in sustainable development, efforts must be made to secure a portion of proposed Debt Swaps for Sustainable Development intended for long term movement building through youth development programs.

Prepcom 2, 29th of January, 2002, General discussion on the overall progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21, presented by: Linabel Segovia Sarlat, Mexico and Shalala Sepiso, Zambia

We, the young people, are the force of the change!

50% of the population of the world is youth and children. 85% of them live in developing countries and more than a half in rural zones. We, the youth caucus at the World Summit on Sustainable Development Preparatory Committee Second Session in New York, would like to thank you for the opportunity to address this important meeting. As young people we are fully aware of the importance of this process and dialogue. In as much as we place great trust in all of you to further the goals of sustainable development. We are prepared and willing to take the responsibility of this world and our future. For decades youth used to be looked at as tomorrow's leaders, but we all know now that youth are pioneers of change, great implementers, current partners and are already some of the leaders of today. Young people can often contribute with more creative and imaginative solutions to problems and development.

For the past several decades, the international community has made great strides towards building societies that can sustain themselves. Agenda 21 has served as the blueprint to accomplish this goal. Since 1992, many leaders, countries and coalitions have taken the challenges of Agenda 21 to heart, achieved dramatic successes. Others have also responded, but not addressed the real causes of the problems. And others have caved to political and economic pressures, and done nothing at all. The situation is getting worse;

- Millions of young professionals are graduating every year without any knowledge of sustainable development.
- 70 million youth are unemployed, and millions of the youths that are employed have not seen the inside classroom and are paid inhuman wages for oppressive work.
- Many more young people are being used as soldiers in wars they do not even understand.

Successes and Failures

One success is the initiation and implementation by youth for youth, initiatives, programs that youth friendly, youth-led and youth oriented. One such sector is the HIV/AIDS sector. However, arresting the spread of HIV/AIDS is yet to be a success due to insufficient funding towards these programs of misuse of funds.

-Youth engagement in political decision-making is progressing in some countries on some levels of government and we see it as a success for Sweden, Canada, Turkey, South Africa, Mexico and Holland to include official youth delegates on their delegations and we see it as a failure for the over 150 countries not to include youth delegates. In fact most countries do not have effective processes for youth to be able to input into local and national political policy-making.

- One failure is the implementation of delivery of ODA 0.7% of GNP as promised in Agenda 21. In 1992 the average ODA was 0.35% of GNP; in 2002 the average is 0.22% and the difference between this 0.22% and 0.7% in financial terms is US \$100 billion.

Another failure is. The lack of meaningful and inclusion of children issues and children into the realization of sustainable development as well this WSSD process. As youth we are not very equipped to represent children and they are unduly represented.

Furthermore it is a failure that many important international agreements have not been ratified or signed on to by several key states such as the Kyoto protocol and the Bio-safety Protocol. Another failure is that developed nations are not addressing their consumption patterns effectively and inequalities in many facets of the world are getting worse.

Since Rio '92, we have had many non-binding agreements while conferences after conferences have been with little or no action or follow-up.

As with any global consensus to address a problem, Agenda 21 is only words until it translates into local action.

Today, poverty continues to ravage our world. More than 1 billion people live on still live on less than \$1 per day. Eradicating abject poverty is the most important step the international community can take to build a sustainable future. The international community must properly address the far-reaching problem of poverty. This means that we must see a greater commitment from developed countries financially, but it also means that developing nations must distribute this aid justly.

Education or lack thereof, also continues to be a major obstacle to a sustainable future. The word 'education' is mentioned over 600 times in Agenda 21; second only to the word government. The importance of education -formal and non- formal -to making forward progress towards sustainable development is recognized in nearly every chapter. Yet many governments have yet to take concrete, decisive steps towards developing effective formal and non- formal strategies for sustainable development. Young people make up more than 50% of the population. Yet 130 million of those children are currently not enrolled in school. Youth who are not given the opportunity to learn how to read or even acquire the most basic formal education cannot be expected to lead their societies in building sustainable communities.

Corrupt governments and civil strife also serve as a major deterrent to sustainable societies. Hazardous economic and environmental policies are often implemented by corrupt governments, whose lack of concern for their own citizens can lead to the worst forms of environmental degradation and human suffering.

Demands:

1. That governments of all nations have fully operational governmental departments or agencies such as youth ministries, commissions, and councils by 2005 in order to empower young people in implementing policies that will shape their future. We further demand that governments ensure these are fully funded.
2. We demand that 20% of ODA contributions go towards sustainable development education and the financing of youth initiatives.

3. We demand that children be recognized as a major group and hence be included in the delivery of sustainable development and the WSSD Process.

4. That youths and Children be given two hours of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Giving two hours of the one-week of the WSSD for Youth and Children who represent more than half the world's population is not something difficult to do.

5. That there be a youth summit immediately prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

6. That governments include youths in their national processes on sustainable development and preparations for WSSD including having youths as official government delegates to the Johannesburg Summit.

Therefore, we humbly commit ourselves, in solidarity with each other and the international community, to lead our societies into a sustainable future. Thank you.

Prepcom 2, Progress achieved in enabled multi-stakeholder participation in sustainable development institutions and mechanisms. Presented by Kristen Hite, USA, Adriana Valenzuela, Colombia

(note: this is the original version of Adriana's speech, which was subsequently translated to Spanish and partially modified during the actual dialogues, but should nevertheless represent most of the main points made).

INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Youth and children comprise 50% of the world's population. We are not only the future; we are the present. For this reason we address multistakeholder participation with respect to the following issues: Ensuring substantive, integrated youth involvement in ALL aspects of decision-making at the local, national and international levels.

The involvement of today's youth is critical to the long-term success of Agenda 21. To this end, meaningful dialogues and information exchange should be ensured among youth of all nations, between youth and all levels of government. Recognising that youth has lack of access to information to understand the context of decision – making mechanisms we urge the following:

- Promotion of information exchange,
- Acknowledgement of youth inputs and integration of them such as but not limited to World Program of Action for youth for the Year 2000 and Beyond, Braga Youth Action Plan, Lisbon Declaration by Ministers Responsible for Youth, Dakar youth Empowerment Strategy into programs, action plans and strategies for sustainable development,
- Encouragement and improvement of equitable, free and easy use of information and telecommunication techniques, will empower youth to understand the decision-making processes and substantively contribute to policy formulation.

As youth, we are deeply concerned that the increasing reliance of governments on website portals as a means of consultation is limiting the period of input, deteriorating effective and interactive discussions between governments and civil society and often existing without significant awareness. They can not be viewed as an adequate strategy to involve youth and civil society and should not be replaced totally with other means of information dissemination and communication.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

We call upon governments to provide a legislative framework and youth participation policy for integrating youth opinions, needs and votes in all areas of sustainable development, particularly with respect to consumption, education, and employment.

We applaud those governments who have initiated local and national youth councils and challenge other nations to follow suit. Specifically, you remind their governments of the promise signed in Agenda 21, Chapter 25, paragraph 9h, to include a youth delegate on their delegation at every national and international meeting, particularly, but not limited to, the world summit on sustainable development.

We are critical of those governments who invite youth to be a part of their delegation as a token position instead of promoting integrated consultation that allows for substantive dialogue. Youth also challenge non-governmental entities, including international financial institutions, to include official substantive youth dialogue in all levels of negotiations.

As young people, we are deeply concerned with issues in sustainable development related to the well being of our generation as well as future generations that are not effectively addressed by our governments. These include the following issues areas:

Sustainable Energy Sources.

We call on nations to carefully implement programs and allocate funds supporting increased reliance on clean energy sources, thereby furthering the aims of the Kyoto Protocol in the reduction of global warming.

Violence and Conflict

We call on nations to protect young people, and particularly those most vulnerable in our societies from any form of violence and conflict.

Trade Issues

Understanding that development should be good for people as well as for the environment, we urge all nations of the world to form international fair trade strategies that observe environmental concerns that will enable the poorest nations of the world to develop.

Corruption

We call on each of you to work always to eliminate corruption in governments and corporations to build free and just societies. Therefore as youth, we strongly encourage all nations to consider the NGO and trade union group positions to combat corruption.

Production and Consumption

Youth encourage a reevaluation of our current consumption patterns that ensure that each person might live in a manner commensurate with his or her inherent dignity for generations to come.

Finally, we want to emphasize that young people are the world's greatest resource. We ask the nations of the world to decisively assist us so that we will be ready to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

Prepcom 2, 30th of January 2002, Progress achieved in applying integrated approaches to sectoral and cross-sectoral objectives of sustainable development, Youth Representatives: Merel Bierkens, The Netherlands, Bremly Lyngdoh, India, Sayana Bartanova, Russia

Addressing the concerns of young people worldwide is critical to the success of sustainable development programs because they are current and future leaders of our communities. Youth transcends all sectoral groups. It is essential for governments and all multistakeholders to engage youth in all levels of decision-making and civic activities. Investing in youth's key concerns must be an urgent priority. In our common deliberation we have identified five cross sectoral issues:

Education for Sustainable Development:

Education is essential to development issues. It must also aim at concrete action of responsible stewardship. Therefore,

The Youth Caucus encourages all major groups to cooperate in order to produce a program of education for sustainable development to be presented in Johannesburg including literacy targets as set out in the millenium plan.

Education policies must be strengthened at all levels and sectors of society in order to fully realize the unique human potential of all young people of the world. These policies shall embrace an all-encompassing approach including formal and non-formal education as well as the media, stressing particularly the girl child, indigenous people and the disabled where necessary.

Special programs on sustainable development shall be offered by institutes and universities as has been done successfully in several countries. The Youth Caucus also encourages the establishment of a global center for Science and Education in this field.

Sustainable Production and Consumption:

We encourage Governments to enact environmental laws, remove subsidies for polluting processes, institute green taxes, ratify the Kyoto protocol, support models of eco-villages and launch public eco-campaigns. We address this especially to the developed countries due to their greater consumption and obligation to meet high standards.

We also call on governments to save more areas and natural resources from being exploited of production which is necessary in order to safeguard biodiversity and quality of life. We encourage increased access to landowning for youth and young families.

Youth is a major target for the market of commercials, which exacerbates excessive consumerism. We suggest more advertisement free zones, in cities, public places, and media.

Youth employment in Sustainable Development:

We urge governments and employers to strongly support and implement the Decent Work Agenda of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in particular the ILO declaration on the "Fundamental Rights at Work,"

We welcome and support the UN/ILO/World Bank "High Policy Network on Youth Employment" initiative. We would urge governments to support and incorporate into their own national employment and education policies and programs the recommendations of this Network, which were presented to the UN General Assembly in 2001 particularly in regard to job creation.

We welcome initiatives by youth groups on “Youth Employment” and we duly note the present work being undertaken by the Youth Employment Summit 2002 Initiative and urge governments to support it.

Young people are ready and will to help shape youth employment policies and programs at a national, regional and international level. We urge governments and international institutions to work in partnership with young people in developing and implementing youth employment policies and programs. Particularly they should urge more young people to undertake training for careers in the renewable energy sector so the necessary skills are available in the future labor market to support the implementation of the “New Deal” that emerges from WSSD.

Financing for Sustainable Development:

We urge governments to promote greater access to finance and markets to young entrepreneurs.

As a follow up to the FFD process the conference should agree to launch an open ended consultation with youth and all relevant stakeholders.

We urge governments to increase not reduce their funding to the local authorities to implement sustainable development programmes and policies at the local level.

The FFD conference must launch a major campaign aimed at getting all industrial countries to reach the target of 0,7% of GNP to ODA and for the coordination of efforts to reach the international development targets agreed by the United Nations.

Corruption:

We call on each of you to work always to eliminate corruption in governments and cooperation to build free and just societies. Therefore as youth, we strongly encourage all nations to consider the NGO and trade union group positions to combat corruption.

Prepcom 2, 31st January 2002. General discussion on opportunities for new implementation initiatives that respond to the identified hotspots, constraints and participatory needs. Youth representatives: Benjy Mokgothu, South Africa and Yasemin Uyar, Turkey.

Introduction

We would like to express our appreciation for the multi-stake holder dialogue and hope that it will lead up to WSSD with tangible results. The Rio summit in 1992 resulted in a number of agreements and protocols placing sustainable development as a vision for the 21st century. As we meet here today, nearly 10 years after Rio, it has been very limited progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. As youth we have the following priority issues that we want to bring to the attention of the governments and the other major groups for considerations.

Participation

Although much as you may as governments be tired of hearing and much as youth we are not tired of saying, we want to once again but not last time state that youth should be fully empowered to participate at all levels. This participation should be based on the following very concrete issues and ideas.

- At international level, systematic and democratic inclusion of youth delegates in national delegations should be ensured.
- At national level, youth should be taken as full partners in the formulation and implementation of national policy formulation. Specific regard should be given to integration of youth input to policies and action plans, programs and strategies towards sustainable development.
- Furthermore operational agencies for youth, such as ministries responsible for youth or national youth commissions should be established were they do not still exist.
- At the local level, youth should be empowered in local governments via establishment of and/ or enhancement of local youth councils or parliaments with the full capacity to participate in decision making.
- Participation should not be for the sake of participation but should be provided with the necessary legal and political framework to be realized.

Education

We thank the governments and the other major groups for their strong support for our efforts to emphasize the importance of education for sustainable development. Relying on your support we summarize:

- We request all governments to implement sustainable development education programs at all levels.
- Sustainability awareness should be integrated into all educational programs at all levels in order to make it impossible to graduate without an understanding of sustainable development.
- We call upon our governments to recommit to achieving the millennium declaration literacy goals and ensure basic education for all children.
- Based on the experiences of local research centers for sustainable development, we suggest the establishment of a global center for science, technology and education for sustainable development.

Poverty

Over one billion people are not bound to be poor. We want draw governments attention on poverty eradication, we propose three steps to achieve this.

- Through access to natural, financial and other kinds of resources so we can carry out the tasks to achieve poverty eradication.
- To get education, vocational training and micro-credits so that we understand how processes of sustainable development work.
- To be involved in sustainable development planing so that we will be able to use the education we received and to play an active role in poverty eradication programs.

Youth Employment

- We strongly urge governments to implement employment policies targeted at youth, women and people with disabilities.
- We underscore the specific aspects of youth employment and we urge employers to pay attention those aspects bearing in mind the necessity to give young workers the opportunity to train and improve their skills, particularly through the concept of life long learning.
- We support the commitment to more cooperation between governments, employers, trade unions, international institutions and stakeholders in civil society to advance the research, education and capacity building for young workers.
- We welcome the "decent work agenda" of the international labor organization in particular the ILO declaration on "fundamental rights at work". And we also welcome initiatives by the youth employment summit.

Consumption and production

- We encourage governments to acknowledge and promote sustainable production and consumption patterns proposed by all the major groups in the previous dialogue sessions.
- We also call on government to save more areas and natural resources from being exploited of production, which is necessary to safeguard bio-diversity and quality of life. We encourage increase access to landowning for youth and young families.
- We are concerned that youth are the target for commercial unsustainable advertisements that fuels excessive consumerism.

Finance and corporate accountability

- The Finance for Development conference must launch a major campaign aiming at getting all developed countries to reach the target of 0.7% of GNP to Official Development Assistance and for the coordination of efforts to reach the international development targets agreed by the United Nations.
- We emphasize on reliance on corporate accountability rather than corporate responsibility and furthermore this should be promoted among all the corporate sector.

Youth Summit in Johannesburg

The global youth summit in Johannesburg that we urge, will provide young people with the unique opportunity to raise concrete actions for the implementation of Agenda 21. The summit will ensure that youth participate in substantial way and will complement intergovernmental and the other major groups' plans for addressing global crisis facing sustainable development.

Youth vision for Earth Summit

The time for collective efforts to implement Agenda 21 has arrived. The outcome of Johannesburg must be a new form of partnership or a global deal for sustainable development.

Such a deal will constitute the high level of agreements on the action needed to combat the growing crisis facing sustainable development with clear focus on poverty eradication and environmental protection. We propose the agreements to be between governments, civil society and the business community.

The global community must emerge from Johannesburg with a plan of action, which will have clear time frames and implementation mechanisms. We believe that this deal will require strong coordination and monitoring at the local, national, regional and global level.

Conclusion

- As youth having the potential to meet the challenges in achieving sustainable development goals, we strongly believe that the outcomes of this multi-stakeholder dialogue will be utilized in the following preparatory process towards the world summit. We also think that this dialogue sessions shows that major groups are also creating solutions and as youth we are committed to engage in the partnerships emerging out of this process.

Youth Statement, Multi-Stakeholder Panel, Prepcom 1, 30 April 2001
Presented by Julie Larsen, Canadian Youth Summit Team

Mr. Chairperson, thank you for this opportunity to speak. First, let me begin by specifying that we, the youth, speak to you today on behalf of a newly created inter-governmental Ministry. This is the Ministry of Holism, a forever absent, cross-sectoral government department with holistic views that is essential to sustainable development.

As Ministers of Holism, it is necessary to begin by pointing out how few youth there are here. When we sit down for our discussions, it is unfortunate that more than half our table is missing. We, who have written this speech, recognize that we are not at all representative of global youth, but have made an effort to include a range of perspectives.

This is our first call. We need your support so that we can be representative at all the upcoming PrepComs. A youth caucus consisting only of young people from Europe and North America cannot represent African, Asian and South American youth. Let us make our first concrete proposition. Each industrialized, or as we prefer to call them, over-developed country, should pay for the participation of one Southern youth or World Summit preparatory conferences.

True to our energetic reputation, youth are well along in their preparations for the World Summit. Both UNEP's youth council and Habitat youth have begun their building of networks. In many countries, national youth projects towards the World Summit are well-underway. The meetings of the Youth Caucus at CSD9 have been enriched with presentations of these national initiatives. In Canada, for example, a Youth Agenda 2002 is underway and a twenty-member Youth Summit Team has begun drafting actions on local to international levels and is preparing to undertake a youth review of Agenda 21. The youth at the International Student Festival in Trondheim, Norway, has put forth an excellent proposal to place greater emphasis on education and its role in realising the commitments in Agenda 21 and beyond. These youth initiatives are ready to be called upon by their governments to be involved in their national preparations.

There are several planned international youth meetings dedicated to World Summit preparations. At the end of next month, 250 youth from nearly 100 countries will be gathering in Sweden for the first youth event concentrating specifically on World Summit preparations. The work accomplished here will then be built upon at subsequent youth conferences, such as the ones being planned in Senegal, Kazakhstan and Denmark. The participants at these conferences will come home a great resource for your governments when you seek to involve civil society in your preparations.

When we look at Agenda 21, we see many possibilities for progressive change. However, last week we observed the discussions around issues very pertinent to the implementation of Agenda 21. It was not encouraging. The discussions that we heard were dominated by deliberations of the meaning of "considered to" versus "are encouraged to" or "are encouraged to consider". When we lack clean air to breathe and clean water to drink, we will be sure to appreciate the importance of these semantic clarifications.

Given the ecological state of the planet and the obvious disparity between its peoples, the debates seem trivial. At the World Summit, youth do not wish to reopen Agenda 21, but rather focus on the removal of obstacles for its implementation. We need decisive action - not more

meetings, more negotiations, or more non-binding agreements. If governments only did what they said they were going to do, they would be too busy for more negotiations.

As young Ministers of Holism, we will highlight just a few more of our concerns.

Poverty Eradication – All actions at the World Summit need to contribute to this end. To arrive at real social justice, we ask you to recognize the link between poverty, over consumption and the environment. As such, we ask you to immediately push for debt cancellation, so that developing country can utilize their resources for sustainable development and to meet an ODA commitment of 0.7% contribution of GNP.

To this end, it must be addressed that present international trade structure is exploitive. Put quite simply, we need to make it ever so clear that people and planet come before profit. For this message to be heard by the right people, youth would like to insist that Ministers of Trade and Finance partake in the World Summit and really consider the issues in partnership with other stakeholders.

Likewise, around the issue of corporate partnerships, youth are very concerned about corporate influence over the Summit. At the very least, we need a template for evaluation, as well as transparency and accountability. Youth call upon the Organizational Bureau for the World Summit to recognize a business community beyond multi-nationals, to create local partnerships, and to recall that ultimately, economies should serve communities, and communities should not serve economies.

Concerning consumption, the Western lifestyle must be on the Agenda for consideration at the Summit. It is by no means a model for developing countries because it is highly unsustainable. Remember, youth are heavily targeted as consumers, often are raised as consumers and we will be critical for a global paradigm shift.

Education is a forgotten area. It is highly problematic that young economists and engineers can still graduate from university without have learnt anything about how to integrate sustainability in their work. Don't let our generation slip through the cracks. Sustainable development has to be integrated as a cross-sectoral approach in all types of education, as originally declared in Agenda 21.

Lastly, we call for a real review of Agenda 21. Regardless of unrealistic timelines, let each country use the World Summit to engage their people in looking at Agenda 21, how far they have come and how far we have yet to go.