

# UNGASS 19 och Sida

**En sammanfattande rapport om FNs Särskilda Generalförsamling  
om miljö och utveckling i juni 1997 och vissa slutsatser  
inför Sidas fortsatta arbete med Agenda 21**

**Juli 1997**

**Mats Segnestam**

Avdelningen för naturresurser och miljö



## Innehåll

Vad har hänt sedan Rio? .....	2
<i>Framsteg</i> .....	2
<i>Problem</i> .....	3
UNGASS 19 .....	3
Svenska positioner och prioriteringar .....	4
EU-positioner .....	4
Resultat och slutsatser .....	4
<i>Inriktning och effekt</i> .....	4
<i>Vad man sade</i> .....	5
<i>Vad man kom fram till</i> .....	5
<i>Avvikande meningar</i> .....	7
<i>Tre olika verkligheter</i> .....	7
<i>Dokumentation/material</i> .....	8
Sida efter UNGASS 19 .....	9
<u>Bilaga 1</u> : "Five Years After Rio: Where Do We Stand?"	
<u>Bilaga 2</u> : Sammandrag baserat på UNEPs "Global Environment Outlook"	
<u>Bilaga 3</u> : Förteckning över "High level dignitaries"	
<u>Bilaga 4</u> : Den svenska förhandlingsdelegationen	
<u>Bilaga 5</u> : Sveriges anförande	
<u>Bilaga 6</u> : Världsbankens anförande	
<u>Bilaga 7</u> : Några exempel på vad som sades i plenarförsamlingen under UNGASS 19	



## UNGASS 19 och Sida

1997-07-02

"UNGASS 19", "Earth Summit + 5", "Rio + 5" - kärt barn har många namn.

Representanter för världens länder samlades i New York den 22-26 juni 1997 för att redovisa vad som hänt sedan UNCED (FNs konferens om miljö och utveckling) i Rio 1992 och för att komma överens om vad som bör göras fortsättningsvis för att omsätta Agenda 21 i praktiken.

UNGASS 19 (United Nations General Assembly Special Session, No. 19) var det officiella namnet på mötet - d.v.s. den 19:e specialsessionen av FNs generalförsamling.

### Vad har hänt sedan Rio?

#### *Framsteg*

Mycket har gjorts sedan Rio. Några exempel som framkom under UNGASS 19:

- Nationella Agenda 21 eller motsvarande har formulerats i många länder;
- En tredjedel av låntagarna hos Världsbanken har börjat omsätta sina nationella miljöstrategier i praktiken;
- Mängder av institutioner har etablerats eller förstärkts för att hantera miljöfrågorna, Global Water Partnership är ett exempel på internationell nivå;
- Ett lokalt Agenda 21-arbete har startats i många kommuner på olika håll i världen;
- Många har sett över läroplaner för skolundervisningen med tanke på miljö och hållbar utveckling och i många länder finns miljöundervisning på olika nivåer;
- Lagstiftning har utvecklats och EIA-bestämmelser införts;
- Miljöcertifiering av allt fler produkter och produktgrupper pågår och antalet organisationer som arbetar med miljömärkning flerfaldigats;
- De internationella miljökonventionerna har fått stor anslutning;
- Användningen av miljöekonomisk analys har ökat avsevärt;
- Kopplingarna mellan en miljömässigt hållbar utveckling och framväxten av demokratier har börjat framstå allt tydligare och kopplingarna mellan miljöfrågor och säkerhetspolitiska frågor i vid bemärkelse tas nu på allvar.

Listan skulle kunna göras både mycket längre och mer detaljerad. Anförandena och nationalrapporterna ger ytterligare inblick i de många positiva förändringar som pågår.

Den svenska nationalrapporten till UNGASS 19 sammanfattar vad Sverige har arbetat med sedan Rio.

## *Problem*

Ett antal problem och olösta frågor kvarstår dock och har också nämnts inför och under konferensen. Ett litet urval:

- I dag är vi 400 miljoner fler människor än vi var 1992 när Rio-konferensen ägde rum;
- 3 miljarder människor lever på mindre än 2 USD om dagen, mer än 1,1 miljarder (20% av jordens befolkning ) på mindre än 1 USD om dagen;
- Mindre än en fjärdedel av jordens befolkning konsumerar 3/4 av jordens råvaror;
- En del av de stora utvecklingsländerna rör sig snabbt mot högre konsumtionsnivåer;
- Bara tre av OECD-länderna kommer år 2000 att ha nått upp till sina frivilliga reduceringsåtaganden när det gäller CO2-utsläpp;
- Maldiverna och många av världens kustområden kommer troligen att försvinna under havets yta inom en 50-årsperiod, om inget kraftfullt görs åt klimatfrågan;
- Nästan hälften av den återstående CFC-produktionen sker i Ryssland och åtskilligt smugglas därifrån till andra länder;
- En tredjedel av jordens befolkning lever i länder med måttlig eller allvarlig vattenstress, år 2025 kan den siffran ligga på två tredjedelar;
- Marin miljöförstörelse, inklusive föroreningar, av vilka ca 80% kommer från land, hotar hälsa och utvecklingsmöjligheter för många miljontals människor och 60% av världens fiskpopulationer är slut- eller överfiskade;
- Världens skogar fortsätter att minska i yta - nästan 14 miljoner hektar (en del källor anger "över 11"), ett område stort som Nepal ungefär, huggs ner eller bränns varje år;
- Biståndet har minskat från 60 miljarder USD under tidigt 1990-tal till 55 miljarder USD 1995.

Många fler exempel på kvarstående problem skulle kunna ges, se t.ex. bifogade sammanställning från FN, "Five Years After Rio: Where Do We Stand?"(bilaga 1) och bifogade sammandrag baserat på UNEPs "Global Environment Outlook" (bilaga 2).

## UNGASS 19

UNGASS 19 skulle beakta alla dessa problem och förstärka de processer som satts igång som ett resultat av Rio-konferensen.

UNGASS 19 ansågs uppenbarligen som en viktig händelse av många länder. 22 statschefer, 10 vicepresidenter, 2 kronprinsar och 21 regeringschefer deltog, inklusive Tony Blair, Bill Clinton, Jaques Chirac, Helmuth Kohl, Benjamin Mkapa och Robert Mugabe (se bilaga 3).

I den svenska delegationen, som leddes av biståndsminister Pierre Schori och miljöminister Anna Lindh, ingick sammanlagt 39 personer, från departement, myndigheter, organisationer, politiska partier och FN-delegationen. En förteckning bifogas (bilaga 4).

Ett stort antal NGOs deltog och vissa av dem hade tilldelats tid i talarstolen.

## Svenska positioner och prioriteringar

Sverige hade markerat att bl.a. följande frågor skulle uppmärksammas och ges prioritet i det fortsatta arbetet:

- Fattighedsfrågorna; Sverige kommer att öka sin biståndsnivå.
- Faktor 4/Faktor 10; En fyrfaldig och en tiofaldig effektivisering av energi- och resursanvändningen i norr skall eftersträvas, det förra inom 2-3 decennier, det senare på längre sikt.
- Vatten och energi; Sverige sätter av ytterligare 10 miljoner dollar för dessa områden, med en särskild betoning på kvinnors medverkan.
- Skog; Sverige har ställt sig bakom EUs linje beträffande en skogskonvention;
- Strategi för 2000-talet; Förslaget går ut på att FNs generalsekreterare, med utgångspunkt i resultaten och slutsatserna från alla de stora FN-konferenser som hållits under 1990-talet, skulle sammanfatta tankar och förslag inför nästa millenium i en särskild rapport. En strategi för framtiden skulle så antas av generalförsamlingen år 2000.

## EU-positioner

I det här sammanhanget har EU-medlemskapet uppenbarligen varit till fördel. Sveriges omfattande och tidiga förberedelsearbete inför konferensen har inneburit ett avsevärt, positivt inflytande på EUs ställningstaganden. Frågor som Sverige prioriterat, vatten, energi och "eko-effektivitet" (Faktor 4/Faktor10), har EU anammat och drivit vid konferensen.

EU-skrivningarna om biståndsvolymen har varit positiva, men inte så långt gående som Sverige önskat.

## Resultat och slutsatser

### *Inriktning och effekt*

Det fanns en stor enighet om att man inte skulle revidera/omförhandla Agenda 21. Talare efter talare i plenarförsamlingen bekräftade sitt lands fortsatta uppslutning bakom Agenda 21, betonade nödvändigheten av att bygga vidare på det arbete som gjorts och att förstärka och påskynda insatserna för att omsätta Agenda 21 i praktiken.

UNGASS 19 kan inte i sig beskrivas som ett stort steg framåt, men måste anses ha varit en viktig del i arbetet för en hållbar utveckling. Mängden högt uppsatta personer vid mötet antyder att processen kring Agenda 21 är väl igång. Det faktum att mötet hållits och med deltagande på hög nivå, förstärker Rio-processen, hjälper till att ge en skjuts åt hanteringen av aktuella miljö- och utvecklingsfrågor och har lagt grunden för arbetet med en del långsiktiga frågor.

Exempel på detta är att vattenfrågan har fått en starkare betoning, att ett forum för skogsfrågor tillskapats och att energifrågorna genom UNGASS 19 förts in i FN-processen - därigenom kan CSD om några år samlat diskutera energiproblem och energilösningar, något som inte skett tidigare.

### *Vad man sade*

Många länder redovisade vad man gjort under de gångna åren - och den listan blev lång.

Många av utvecklingsländerna uttryckte sin stora besvikelse över att i-länderna inte levt upp till sina finansiella åtaganden i Rio. Detsamma sades om utebliven teknologiöverföring.

Utöver Sverige markerade Finland och Storbritannien att man generellt avser att öka sitt bistånd. Andra länder, bl.a. Danmark, Norge och USA, ställde i utsikt bidrag till särskilda områden, något som även Sverige gjorde (Sveriges anförande bifogas, bilaga 5). Lichtenstein och Malaysia hörde till dem som också markerade en vilja att hjälpa andra.

Vikten av miljöekonomi - miljöekonomisk analys, internalisering av miljökostnader, miljöekonomiska styrmedel - framhölls av flera.

Miljöförstörelsens nuvarande och potentiella effekter på människors hälsa betonades starkare än någonsin.

Världsbankens president Wolfensohn höll ett mycket konkret inriktat tal som bifogas (bilaga 6), eftersom flera av frågorna berör Sida.

Zimbabwe menade att GEF i stort sett varit ett misslyckande för Afrikas del.

Third World Network presenterade en beräkning av hur CO<sub>2</sub>-utsläppen borde fördelas rättvist mellan jordens länder.

Exempel på intressanta citat ur en del av anförandena återfinns i bilaga 7.

### *Vad man kom fram till*

Inför risken att få en alltför uttunnad politisk deklARATION avstod man från en sådan (!). Ofta - men inte alltid - var det u-länderna (så som de representerades av de permanenta delegationerna i New York), som blockerade mer aktiva skrivningar.

I stället presenteras resultatet från UNGASS 19 i form av ett slutdokument för den fortsatta uppföljningen av Agenda 21. Tydliga budskap om att mer måste göras och takten ökas återfinns i texten.

I slutdokumentet betonas nödvändigheten av en förbättrad resurshushållning och där görs en hänvisning till "eko-effektivitet" och Faktor 4/Faktor 10.



Där finns också text om hållbara konsumtionsmönster.

Vattenfrågan betonades mycket starkt och blir nästa fråga som behandlas av CSD.

Äntligen börjar de marina miljöfrågorna få sin berättigade uppmärksamhet. CSD skall behandla dem 1999.

Energifrågan kommer i och med UNGASS 19 att tas upp som en central fråga för FN, d.v.s. mellanstatligt, för första gången.

Klimatfrågan, vars betydelse betonades oerhört starkt av många delegater, hanteras relativt tydligt i slutdokumentet, men utan klara mål. Frågan är kontroversiell och bl.a. Sverige/EU hade mer långtgående förslag. (Den kommer att behandlas igen, mer substantiellt, vid en konferens i Kyoto i slutet av 1997.)

Frågan om skatt på flygbränsle blev till en mycket försiktig markering i texten om behov av fortsatt utredning. (EU har dock markerat att man kan tänka sig att gå vidare med frågan internt.)

Ett internationellt skogsforum bildas, vilket innebär att den politiska mellanstatliga diskussionen om skog flyttas till CSD.

Ökenkonventionen behandlades inte mycket i sak, men behovet av stöd för en global, "finansiell mekanism" framhålls.

De urbana frågorna nämns särskilt, men med en något vag profil och huvudsakligen med en hänvisning till Habitat II.

Bekämpandet av fattigdom är en av de övergripande ansatserna och skall beaktas av CSD under den kommande 5-årsperioden (se nedan).

Behovet av att stärka kvinnans roll betonas. (Men de politiska problemen från Kairo- och Peking-konferenserna, med Vatikanen o.a. som opponenter kvarstod också här.)

CSD (Commission on Sustainable Development) kommer att fortsätta sin verksamhet under åren som kommer, men med en tydligare fokusering än hittills. 1998 ägnar man sig åt vatten, 1999 åt marina frågor, 2000 åt mark-/landfrågor och 2001 åt energi. År 2002 skall man göra en mera samlad utvärdering. Avsikten är att "tvärfrågor", såsom fattigdom och livsstil, produktions- och konsumtionsmönster, skall utgöra grunden för diskussionen om sakfrågorna.

Institutionella frågor i övrigt behandlades mycket allmänt, men behovet av att klargöra UNEPs kompetens och ställning i FN-systemet framhålls. (UNEP kommer att diskuteras i särskild ordning.)

Skrivningarna kring finansiella frågor/resursöverföring blev också allmänna, utan tydliga förpliktelser för i-länderna.

Sveriges förslag om en strategi inför det 21:a århundradet vann inte tillräckligt stor uppslutning. (Frågan kommer emellertid att drivas vidare separat.)

### *Avvikande meningar*

Samsynen när det gäller dessa komplicerade frågor är av naturliga skäl långt ifrån total. Diskussionerna låter sig inte sammanfattas. Utöver vad som framgår av citatsamlingen (bilaga 7) kan några synpunkter och invändningar vara värda att återges.

Faktor 10-tanken rönt motstånd från ganska många håll - den är inte helt tydlig i sin innebörd och kan förmodligen av en del uppfattas som en möjlig hämsko när det gäller ekonomisk tillväxt.

Begreppet hållbar utveckling har fortfarande inte etablerats fullt ut. Dock fanns en skillnad mellan å ena sidan stats- och regeringschefer, ministrar och andra höga företrädare för länderna i plenarförsamlingen, där nästan alla uttryckligen bekräftade sin uppslutning bakom begreppet och å andra sidan diplomaterna i förhandlingarna, där man på ett ofta okunnigt och bitvis beklämmande sätt, markerade tveksamhet, därför att man tydligen på vissa håll fortfarande uppfattar att hållbarhetstanken hindrar ekonomisk tillväxt. Ibland uppstår misstanken att vissa t.o.m. ser begreppet hållbar utveckling som en handelsvara som kan användas i utbyte mot finansiella åtaganden av i-länder.

Inställningen till nyttan av en skogskonvention varierar fortfarande mycket. Fr. a. är en del NGOs skeptiska.

Vattenfrågan är inte bara en angelägen utan också en känslig fråga, vilket framkommer på olika sätt - Etiopien, Kenya, Uganda, Eritrea och några andra afrikanska länder, liksom Turkiet, reserverade sig mot skrivningarna om "customary uses of water".

### *Tre olika verkligheter*

En viktig och intressant distinktion måste göras mellan 1. vad som sades från talarstolen från de enskilda länderna, 2. vad som framfördes i själva förhandlingarna från olika grupperingar och 3. hur verkligheten ser ut långt borta från New York.

1. De enskilda ländernas anföranden utgår från en faktisk och politisk verklighet - de olika länderna ser mycket olika på situationen, men alla bekänner sig i princip till tesen om hållbar utveckling. Sammantaget ger alla plenaranförandena en mycket mångfasetterad bild av hur långt man kommit (det förekommer förstas en del skönmålning), av vad man betonar, hur långt man kommit i insikt om miljöaspekternas betydelse i utvecklingssammanhang och hur man ser på internationell samverkan. Särskilt påtagligt är hur olika anförandena är från olika länder inom G77-gruppen (som numera består av 132 länder!).

2. I förhandlingarna suddar gruppstillhörigheten ut skillnaderna och blir ett led i en förlegad nord-/sydförhandling, som verkar speciellt utpräglad för FN i New York. Det finns också en dragning mot den minsta gemensamma nämnaren, som gör att de

framförhandlade texterna blir onödigt tama och utslätade i förhållande till vad många länder vill. (Frågan är, om inte en förhandlingsordning, som den nu förhärskande, har spelat ut sin roll.)

3. I verkligheten pågår mängder av aktiviteter, inriktade på en hållbar utveckling, på lokal, nationell, regional och global nivå. Det finns också mängder av olika hinder för en sådan utveckling, olika från plats till plats och från tid till annan. Skillnaden mellan länder - och inom länder - är mycket stor. Dessutom pågår ju hela tiden förändringsprocesser.

En av slutsatserna av det sagda återfinns i Sidas Policy för hållbar utveckling: Det är nödvändigt att analysera miljöaspekterna på utvecklingen med utgångspunkt i den lokala och aktuella situationen. En annan slutsats är att såväl de framförhandlade texterna, som anförandena i plenum måste tolkas med eftertänksamhet.

Enkla slutsatser om tillståndet i världen eller om hur långt vi kommit i arbetet för en hållbar utveckling går inte att dra från det samlade materialet från UNGASS 19.

De internationella/globala diskussionerna tenderar att fokusera för mycket på de "globala frågorna" i stället för på ett utvecklingsarbete med lokala förtecken. De globala frågorna uppfattas då alltför lätt som primärt i-ländernas angelägenheter, både beträffande upphov och effekter, trots att fr.a. effekterna kan vara ytterligt riskabla för u-länderna. Dessutom ökar u-ländernas bidrag till de "globala problemen" mycket snabbt.

Ytterligare en observation kan göras. Kraven från en stor och heterogen förhandlingsgrupp som G77 blir alldeles för lätt slagordsmässiga, ytliga och i värsta fall en ursäkt för att inte se de egna problemen i vitögat och göra något åt dem. Ett exempel på detta är de ständigt upprepade kraven på resursöverföring/bistånd och teknologiöverföring, vilka dessutom ofta nämns tillsammans i svepande ordalag. Medan man kan instämma i att biståndet borde ha ökat och inte minskat sedan Rio, borde kvaliteten i biståndet med tanke på hållbar utveckling lyftas fram mycket mera, det egna ansvaret erkänns och det faktum att biståndet utgör en mycket liten del av de penningflöden som påverkar utvecklingen framhållas. Teknologiöverföring borde inte diskuteras i samma termer som biståndsflöden - att teknologiöverföring inte kommer till stånd har i flera avseenden särskilda orsaker. (Det är t.o.m. tveksamt om grundkonceptet är tillräckligt genomtänkt.)

### *Dokumentation/material*

En särskild konferenstidning, "Earth Times", populärt hållen, gavs ut under mötesdagarna. Den hade stor åtgång. Sida hade lämnat ett bidrag till utgivningen. Earth Negotiations Bulletin, med en mer formell rapportering om förhandlingsläget tillhandahölls också. Sverige, genom miljödepartementet, hade lämnat bidrag till utgivningen av den.

Utöver dessa fanns hundratals skrifter, broschyrer, pamfletter, tidskrifter, CD-Rom, planscher, video och annat material på de mest skiftande teman som fanns utlagda eller exponerade i anslutning till mötet. Detta - och annat ständigt tillkommande -

informerande, analyserande, diskuterande material med anknytning till hållbar utveckling är överväldigande i sin omfattning och betonar önskvärdheten av att bygga upp system med samarbetspartners som gör att mångfalden av nya tankar kan tillgodogöras inom biståndet.

Slutdokumentet från UNGASS 19 finns att tillgå bl.a. på internet. UD publicerar i början av hösten en "blåbok" om UNGASS 19.

## Sida efter UNGASS 19

Sida ligger mycket väl framme i förhållande till de tankegångar och sakfrågor som diskuterats och betonats under UNGASS 19.

Policydelen i Sidas *Handlingsprogram för hållbar utveckling* fångar upp grundläggande aspekter såsom nödvändigheten av att integrera miljö i alla utvecklingsområden och synen på ett miljötanke som en nödvändig förutsättning för en utveckling som är hållbar på sikt.

De frågor som världssamfundet prioriterar enligt UNGASS 19 - bl.a. uttryckt i programmet för CSD: Vatten, marina frågor/kustzon, markfrågor, energi, fattigdomskopplingarna - överensstämmer med sakfrågor som prioriteras i Sidas handlingsprogram för hållbar utveckling. Behovet av kapacitetsutveckling på miljöområdet har betonats under UNGASS 19 - också detta återfinns bland Sidas prioriteringar. Den avgörande betydelsen av lokalt deltagande har framhållits under UNGASS 19 och Sida prioriterar också enligt handlingsprogrammet stöd till miljöorganisationer i syd.

Betoningen på miljöekonomi gör också Sida i *Handlingsprogrammet för hållbar utveckling*.

Kemikaliefrågorna tränger sig på och ingår i flera av de sakområden som behandlats. Samarbetsavtalet mellan Sida och Kemikalieinspektionen kan sägas vara framsynt och i samband med nästa diskussion om en förlängning av avtalet bör övervägas om ytterligare aspekter eller frågor borde ingå.

Kopplingarna mellan miljöförstöring och människors hälsa är något som Sida med all säkerhet måste ägna större uppmärksamhet under kommande år.

Sida måste följa den explosionsartade idé- och kunskapsutvecklingen på området hållbar utveckling och bör därför fortsätta att utveckla en ring av samarbetspartners, inom och utom landet, dels genom miljöpolicyenhetens och POLICYs försorg när det gäller övergripande frågor, dels genom övriga enheters/avdelningars försorg, beroende på vilka utvecklingsfrågor varje enhet ansvarar för. (En god start har vi i samarbetet med t.ex. Naturvårdsverket, Kemikalieinspektionen, Kommunförbundet, Stockholm Environment Institute, Ultuna, Naturskyddsföreningen, IUCN, IIED, etc.)

I takt med den ökande internationaliseringen av hanteringen av frågor som rör en hållbar utveckling, måste Sida räkna med att tydligare utveckla sin medverkan i det multilaterala samarbetet och samspelet mellan detta och det bilaterala samarbetet. Gränserna mellan dessa områden blir allt vagare.

\* Sida måste samspela med fr.a. UD och miljödepartementet när det gäller att leva upp till Sveriges internationella åtaganden inom ramen för bl.a. konventioner - det innebär bl.a. att en kunskap om åtagandena och ramverken för dem måste finnas inbyggt i systemet.

\* Sida behöver följa normgivningsarbetet i bl.a. CSD i samråd med UD och miljödepartementet.

\* En del av de multilaterala organen är väl placerade att genomföra insatser både av metod- och policyutvecklingskaraktär och i fält - miljöaspekterna på detta bör analyseras mer.

\* Samarbetsländerna i syd - och detta gäller inte bara regeringar utan också t.ex. NGOs och forskarsamfundet - behöver mycket stöd för att delta i de internationella diskussionerna/förhandlingarna och tillgodogöra sig kunskaper på andra håll - formerna för detta behöver utvecklas i vissa avseenden.

Sida arbetar på regeringens uppdrag med att utveckla ett miljöledningssystem för sin verksamhet. Sidas Handlingsprogram för hållbar utveckling skall revideras som ett led i det arbetet och slutsatser från UNGASS 19 kan naturligt föras in i revideringsdiskussionen.





# EARTH SUMMIT+5

Special Session of the General Assembly to Review and Appraise  
the Implementation of Agenda 21

New York, 23-27 June 1997

## Five Years after Rio: Where Do We Stand?

### THE BIG PICTURE

**Positive:** Growth in world population is slowing, food production is rising, the majority of people are living longer and healthier lives, and environmental quality in some regions is improving.

**Negative:** The growing scarcity of fresh water, loss of productive agricultural land and downward spiral of poverty for many threaten to undermine these gains and cause collapse of local economies.

**Overall:** Global catastrophe is not imminent, but business-as-usual is not likely to result in sustainable development — that is, a desirable balance of economic growth, equitable human development and healthy, productive ecosystems. (Source: *Critical Trends*, UN, 1997)

### POVERTY

**Situation:** Gaps between rich and poor continue to grow, both within and between countries, attributed by some to the effects of globalization. The poorest countries have become even more marginalized. Over 1.1 billion people — 20 per cent of the world's population — live in absolute poverty, on the equivalent of less than one dollar a day.

**Action Taken:** At the 1995 Social Summit in Copenhagen, world leaders pledged to eradicate poverty by a target date to be set by each country and to increase spending on basic social services.

**Proposals:** The draft political declaration for Earth Summit+5 calls on Governments to reduce by half, by the year 2015, the proportion of people living in absolute poverty. In the draft final document, Governments are also urged to implement the Social Summit action plan.

### CONSUMPTION/PRODUCTION

**Situation:** Twenty per cent of the world's people continue to consume eighty per cent of its resources. Some large developing countries are moving rapidly toward higher-consumption lifestyles.

**Action Taken:** In industrialized countries, Governments and industry are making steady progress on recycling, using more efficient technologies and reducing waste; there is growing consumer awareness.

**Proposals:** To increase eco-efficiency, the European Union has proposed "Factor 10", a goal of ten-fold improvement in productivity in the long term, with perhaps an intermediate goal of "Factor 4", a four-fold improvement over the next two or three decades. Governments have agreed on the need to reflect environmental costs in the price of goods and services.

### POPULATION

**Situation:** Fertility rates are declining more rapidly than expected in most regions. Latest projections show many developing countries will stabilize population within the next generation or two. Some countries still face high population growth rates that strain natural resources.



**Action Taken:** The 1994 Cairo Conference adopted a strong action plan with concrete targets, including that family planning be available to all by 2015. Many Governments have strengthened national policies, although international funding committed in Cairo has not materialized.

**Proposals:** Governments are expected to reaffirm support for the Cairo goals.

## **FORESTS**

**Situation:** In spite of a recent downward trend, forest loss continues at an unacceptable rate. A total of 13.7 million hectares of forest — roughly the size of Nepal — are cut or burned each year.

**Action Taken:** Based on the Forest Principles adopted in Rio, an Intergovernmental Panel on Forests agreed to over 100 action proposals for sustainable forest management when it concluded two years of talks in March 1997.

**Proposals:** Governments have shown strong support for immediate implementation of the already agreed recommendations, but remain divided over whether to begin negotiations for a legal convention on forests.

## **FRESH WATER**

**Situation:** One third of the world's population lives in countries facing moderate to severe water stress; by 2025 that figure may reach two thirds unless action is taken. One fifth of humanity lacks access to safe water and half lack adequate sanitation.

**Action Taken:** Progress in implementing the Rio recommendations has been limited.

**Proposals:** Expressing strong concern about a possible impending water crisis, Governments have called for discussions to consider a global strategy at the 1998 session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

## **OCEANS**

**Situation:** Marine pollution — about 80 per cent of which is caused by land-based activities — threatens the health and livelihoods of the two thirds of humanity living in coastal areas. Some 60 per cent of global fish stocks are overfished or fully fished, requiring urgent action to avoid depletion.

**Action Taken:** An international agreement to combat land-based sources of marine pollution was adopted in 1995, and negotiations have begun for a treaty to control persistent organic pollutants such as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and dioxin. The UN legal agreement on fish stocks was adopted in 1994 but has not yet entered into force. Initiatives on coastal zone management and coral reef protection have spurred greater awareness and some action.

**Proposals:** Governments have agreed on the general need to eliminate overfishing, consider the impact of subsidies to fishing fleets, and strengthen implementation of existing agreements on marine pollution and sustainable use of oceans.

## **CLIMATE**

**Situation:** Global emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases continue to rise. A 1995 report by a UN panel of scientists stated that the balance of evidence suggests a “discernible human influence on the global climate”.

**Action Taken:** The UN Convention on Climate Change, signed in Rio, has been ratified by 166 countries, but few developed countries will meet the aim of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2000. The parties to the Convention have begun negotiations to strengthen the commitments, and are scheduled to adopt *legally binding targets for developed countries in Kyoto, Japan, this December.*

**Proposals:** To send a signal to the Kyoto meeting, the European Union has proposed that in the Earth Summit+5 document, Governments agree to a 15 per cent reduction in emissions below 1990 levels by 2010. The Alliance of Small Island States has called for a 20 per cent reduction below 1990 levels by 2005. Several countries prefer that specific targets be negotiated at the December meeting.

## **ENERGY**

**Situation:** Fossil fuel use in industrialized countries is slowly stabilizing, but many polluting emissions are on the increase. Rapid growth in fossil fuel use in many developing countries is leading to severe pollution. Global energy consumption is projected to more than double by 2050. Over 2 billion people, mostly in rural areas in developing countries, do not have access to commercial energy services.



**Action Taken:** No major international initiatives were taken at Rio. Some progress has been made in renewable energy technologies, energy conservation and efficiency, but few countries are pursuing alternative energy sources.

**Proposals:** Governments agree on the need for talks, under the UN, leading toward a strategy or recommendations on sustainable energy; details are under discussion. Developing countries seek commitments for transfer of clean energy technologies and concessional financing. Proposals to eliminate subsidies for fossil and nuclear energy have proven contentious.

## LAND

**Situation:** World food production continues to rise, but over 800 million people still suffer from hunger and malnutrition. Use of pesticides and poor farming methods have taken a heavy toll: 300 million hectares of farmland worldwide are now severely degraded and farming abandoned. Another 1.2 billion hectares show moderate fertility loss. Desertification (degradation of drylands) affects one quarter of the Earth's land area — 3.6 billion hectares.

**Action Taken:** The Convention to Combat Desertification — which was negotiated after the Earth Summit and entered into force in December 1996 — has spurred new approaches and aid partnerships. The 1996 World Food Summit called for at least halving the number of hungry people by 2015.

**Proposals:** Governments have agreed to combat soil degradation, promote sustainable agriculture, put the Food Summit recommendations into action, and ratify and implement the Desertification Convention. Proposals concerning the global mechanism set up to fund the Convention are unresolved.

## TOXICS

**Situation:** Toxic chemicals and radioactive wastes continue to pose significant threats to human health and ecosystems. An estimated 3 million tons of toxic and hazardous waste crosses national borders each year.

**Action Taken:** The Basel Convention was strengthened in 1995 to ban the export of hazardous wastes from developed to developing countries, but this ban has not yet become legally binding. Timetables have been set for negotiations on legal agreements obligating those countries shipping toxic wastes to obtain "prior informed consent" and regulating persistent organic pollutants. Two new international bodies on chemical safety have been established, and a growing number of domestic regulations have been complemented by voluntary industry initiatives.

**Proposals:** Governments have agreed that safe substitutes for toxics should be developed and those technologies transferred to poorer countries. The Basel Convention should be further strengthened to define hazardous wastes covered, and a protocol should be negotiated on liability for damage from hazardous wastes shipped across national borders. Governments have agreed on the need to support the clean-up of contaminated sites from nuclear activities. Still not agreed: that radioactive waste should be stored or disposed of in the country in which it is generated, and as close to its source as possible, and that Governments should clean up contaminated sites left from military activities using nuclear materials. Also contentious: that Governments should accelerate the phasing out of leaded gasoline as soon as possible.

## BIODIVERSITY

**Situation:** The current rate of species extinction and habitat loss is unprecedented. At a moderate estimate, 50,000 plant and animal species are likely to be lost each year over the next decades.

**Action Taken:** The Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified by 161 countries since Rio, obligates Governments to protect plant and animal species through habitat preservation and other means, but national action is insufficient to counter devastation from unregulated development and pollution. Treaty parties will focus on national implementation for the first time at their 1998 meeting.

**Proposals:** Governments have agreed to continue efforts to implement the biodiversity treaty, and to complete a protocol on biosafety.

## FINANCING

**Situation:** Despite developed country pledges at the Earth Summit to increase aid for sustainable development, official development assistance declined from an average 0.34 per cent of donor country gross national product (GNP) in 1992 to 0.27 per cent in 1995. The UN target affirmed at Rio is 0.7 per cent of GNP.

**Action Taken:** The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has channeled \$2 billion into projects since 1994. The World Bank and Paris Club have made limited progress on debt relief. Foreign investment by the private sector has risen sharply in some developing countries, but does not always promote sustainable development.

**Proposals:** Developing countries seek a recommitment to the Rio pledges. Donor countries are urged to provide new and additional resources through a "satisfactory" replenishment of the GEF. The European Union has proposed an international tax on aviation fuel to fund sustainable development. An Intergovernmental Panel on Finance has been proposed.

## **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

**Situation:** Developing countries urgently need greater access to environment-friendly technologies in order to develop sustainably. Most green technologies are held by the private sector and access is market-driven.

**Action Taken:** Some progress has been made through the UN on improving information about new technologies and encouraging financing partnerships in developing countries, but many countries continue to be marginalized from private sector investment and the technologies it can bring.

**Proposals:** Governments agree on the need to create an environment conducive to private-sector technology investment, including a legal and policy framework, and to continue promoting public-private partnerships.

## **INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

**Situation:** Better coordination and collaboration is needed among the ever-growing number of policy-setting bodies in the area of sustainable development. The on-going financial crisis affecting many UN agencies and programmes has left many hard-pressed to carry out both their original mandates and those stemming from Rio.

**Action Taken:** The Earth Summit catalysed many new institutional arrangements. The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), set up after Rio, has become a central forum to review and urge implementation of Agenda 21 and other agreements. The UN Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development now coordinates how agencies and programmes divide up responsibility on areas of expertise.

**Proposals:** Governments have agreed that the CSD should continue its central role; details of its work programme for the next five years are still being worked out. They have also agreed that the role of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) should be enhanced, and that a revitalized UNEP should be supported by adequate funding. The next major General Assembly review of Earth Summit follow-up after this year would be in 2002.

## **PARTICIPATION**

**Situation:** The Earth Summit identified nine "major groups" whose active involvement was needed to achieve sustainable development: women; children and youth; indigenous people; non-governmental organizations; local officials such as mayors; workers and trade unions; business and industry; scientists; and farmers.

**Action Taken:** Some 150 countries have established national councils on sustainable development or similar bodies, many of which bring together Government officials, business executives, environment activists and other major group leaders to recommend national policies. Over 1,800 cities and towns have drawn up a local Agenda 21 based on the Rio document. All the major groups have been actively networking and promoting public awareness of and policies for sustainable development. Through a series of dialogue sessions at the CSD, they have provided input to the Earth Summit+5 talks.

**Proposals:** Governments have agreed that input by major groups into work on sustainable development should continue to be strengthened.

### **For more information, contact:**

UN Department of Public Information  
Development and Human Rights Section

Tel.: (212) 963-1786

Julie Thompson, tel. (212) 963-4295

Pragati Pascale, tel. (212) 963-6870

Bill Hass, tel. (212) 963-0353

Fax: (212) 963-1186

E-mail: [vasic@un.org](mailto:vasic@un.org)

Internet: <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/sustdev/indexsd.htm>



## INFORMATION NOTE

### **UNEP'S GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK REPORT SAYS PROGRESS ON THE ROAD FROM RIO UNEVEN**

#### ***Governments need to adjust course and map out new strategies to meet environmental challenges in the next millennium***

**NAIROBI** -- Five years after the groundbreaking "Earth Summit" at Rio de Janeiro, "the global environment has continued to deteriorate and significant environmental problems remain deeply embedded in the socio-economic fabric of nations in all regions", concludes the *Global Environmental Outlook* report released earlier this year by the United Nations Environment Programme at Nairobi.

"Internationally and nationally, the funds and political will remain insufficient to halt further global environmental degradation and to address the most pressing environmental issues - even though the technology and knowledge are available to do so", the reports explains. The report points out that "the recognition of environmental issues as necessarily long-term and cumulative, with serious global and security implications, remains limited.... The continued preoccupation with immediate local and national issues and a general lack of sustained interest in global and long-term environmental issues remain major impediments to environmental progress internationally".

The report singles out worldwide progress in the realm of institutional development, international cooperation, public participation and the emergence of private-sector action as an indicator of growing environmental awareness. Legal frameworks, economic instruments, environmental impact assessment methodologies, environmentally sound technologies and cleaner production processes are being increasingly developed and applied. "As a result" the report points out, "several countries reported marked progress in curbing environmental pollution and slowing the rate of resource degradation, as well as reducing the intensity of resource use. The rate of environmental degradation in several developing countries has been slower than that experienced by industrial countries when they were at a similar stage of economic development".

The **Global Environment Outlook** report produced by UNEP differs significantly from the approach taken by other assessments, which have come out recently. The report approaches environmental problems from a regional perspective. This methodology stems from UNEP's unique experience in dealing with regional environmental issues over the last twenty five years.

In preparing the report, the United Nations Environment Programme identified 20 internationally renowned environmental institutions as **Global Environment Outlook** collaborating centres, and instituted a mechanism for regional consultations, four scientific working groups and United Nations agency participation through the United Nations system-wide Earthwatch. In all, some 500 experts, including many government experts, participated in the preparation of **Global Environment Outlook** report.

The report argues that although there is repeated acknowledgement of both the vicious cycle of poverty and its intrinsic linkages with the environment and the urgency to address poverty alleviation, little evidence had emerged from the regional reports that effective and concerted actions have been taken since Rio to ensure that environmental policies benefit the poorest members of society. "A vacuum still remains at the national level for linking environmental protection to social investment, such as education, better health care and employment generation for the poor, especially women", says the report.

At the same time, the report sees encouraging signs in the empowerment of communities and the growth of environment-oriented non-governmental organizations in civil society and their increasing recognition in all regions as powerful mechanisms to advance sustainable development. The tendency to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation worldwide is another heartening signal which "might well prove to be one of the most powerful mechanisms to move national and global institutions forward towards sustainable development".

The **Global Environment Outlook** identifies principal environmental issues confronting the major regions. In regions where food security and poverty alleviation are priorities, such as Africa, West Asia and parts of the Asia-Pacific region and Latin America, the primary concern is related to land - its availability, the prevention and control of land degradation, and efficient land and water management. "Half a billion hectares of land in Africa is moderately to severely degraded. Some 47 per cent of Latin America's grazing lands have lost their fertility as a result of erosion, overgrazing, salinization and alkalization" says the report. The limited availability of arable land and loss of land to urban expansion are of particular importance to small island States and the West Asia region. Degradation of drylands is an urgent global problem, placing some one billion people in 110 countries at risk, mainly in developing regions. In highly industrialized regions, ameliorating soil contamination and combating acidification are priorities.

A decline of some two per cent in the area of the world's forests and wooded land over the last decade is another aspect that the report touches upon. While the area under forest cover in developed regions remained fairly unchanged during this period, natural forest cover in developing regions declined by eight per cent. African forests are the most depleted of all the tropical regions, with only 30 per cent of historical stands remaining, the report points out. Asian timber reserves may last for no more than a further 40 years. West Asia has lost 11 per cent of its remaining forests during the 1980s. In Europe, air pollution (including acid rain), pests and diseases, and forest fires were the main causes of forest degradation. The report recognizes that, whilst total deforestation has been greatest in Latin America and the Caribbean, deforestation rates have decelerated as a result of international initiatives and national programmes to abolish subsidies, tax incentives and special credits that encouraged deforestation. Biological diversity is of particular concern in both the Latin American and Caribbean region and the Asia and Pacific region, which together house 80 per cent of the world's ecologically megadiverse countries. Worldwide habitat loss and fragmentation, the lack of biological corridors and the decline in biological diversity outside protected areas constitute the primary threats to biological diversity.

One common factor that links all regions is the problem related to either groundwater or surface water, or both. Every day, 25,000 people die as a result of poor water quality. Some 1,700 million people, more than one third of the world's population, are without a supply of safe water and, in the absence of an adequate sanitation infrastructure, the problem of pathogenic pollution is severe in many developing countries. An estimated one quarter of the world's population will suffer from chronic water shortages in the beginning of the next century. The development and efficient management of water resources are of particular concern in West Asia, Africa and Asia and the Pacific. In Europe and North America, the protection of water resources from contamination, acidification and eutrophication feature high on the agenda. *One million rural Americans are without piped water and supplies to a further 5.6 million do not meet safe drinking water standards.* Water supply to regions hosting megacities is a worldwide concern, mainly with regard to groundwater resources, the intrusion of salt into freshwater supplies and land subsidence. More than 1,500 million people depend on groundwater for their drinking water.

"Other global priorities are the equitable distribution of water between riparian countries sharing international river basins and the impacts of major dams and diversion projects. The depletion of aquifers on the western side of the Persian Gulf, for example, is leading to the loss of a unique ecosystem of natural freshwater springs. Many countries in West Asia suffer from water scarcity, with Bahrain having less than 18 per cent of the minimum threshold; yet levels of water consumption are now very high - ranging from 300 to 1500 liters a day per capita", the report points out. Currently, Africa has 19 of the 25 countries that have the highest percentage of populations without access to safe drinking water.

The report points out that one third of the world's coastal regions are at high risk of degradation, particularly from land-based activities. Currently, about 60 per cent of the global population lives within 100 kilometres of the coastline and more than three billion people rely on coastal and marine habitats for food, building sites, transportation, recreation, and waste disposal. European coasts are the worst affected, with some 80 per cent at risk, followed by Asia and the Pacific, with 70 per cent at risk. In Latin America, some 50 percent of the mangrove forests are affected by forestry and aquaculture activities. Oil spills are particular threats in West Asia and the Caribbean, while infrastructure development for the tourism industry is placing severe stress on natural coastal areas around the world, particularly in small island developing states. There is widespread anxiety in Asia and the Pacific, North America, Europe and West Asia regarding the over-exploitation of marine fisheries and the consequent decline in stocks of commercial fish species. Globally, over 60 per cent of marine fisheries are heavily exploited.

Acid rain and transboundary air pollution, once considered a problem only in Europe and parts of North America, are now increasingly apparent in parts of Asia and the Pacific and Latin America. Large regions are at risk from the effects of both climate change and acidification. All major cities in the world suffer urban air quality problems. In Eastern Europe, air quality is considered the most serious environmental problem. Despite coordinated action worldwide, damage to the ozone layer continues faster than expected, with the next ten years predicted to be the most vulnerable. Non-compliance and growth in illegal trade in ozone depleting substances are emerging problems. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay experience the effects of increased ultraviolet-B radiation due to ozone depletion more acutely than any other inhabited region. All regions express concern over global warming but special emphasis is placed by the developing countries on the need for adaptive mechanisms to cope with accompanying climate variability and sea-level change.

**"The rapidly rising demand for energy to fuel economic development will aggravate these problems," states the report, "particularly in Asia and the Pacific, where a 100 per cent increase in energy use is predicted for the period 1990 - 2010 and in Latin America, with a predicted energy growth of 50 -77 per cent for the same period".**

Currently, the impacts of current consumption and production patterns and associated waste generation, particularly on personal health and well being, are high on the priority list of both North America and Western Europe, and of concern to the other regions as well. Subregions with emerging economies, such as those of Eastern Europe, South-East Asia, and parts of Latin America and West Asia, face problems associated with rapid industrialization. The accumulation of radioactive waste and the continued impacts of the Chernobyl disaster and the effects of past radioactive spills remain of particular concern in Eastern European countries. These problems are compounded by rapidly increasing urbanization, particularly in coastal zones, and the widening gap between the rich and the poor.

The polar regions, representing the largest remaining natural ecosystems on Earth are also coming under increasing stress, particularly from long-range pollutant transport and deposition. "Their crucial role in climate regulation and the vulnerability of their fauna and flora warrant special attention", recommends the report.

The **Global Environment Outlook** identifies seven fundamental global environmental trends that could be crucial in halting environmental degradation and implementing sustainable development:

- (a) Current use of renewable resources, land, forest, freshwater, coastal areas, fisheries and urban air which is beyond their natural regeneration capacity and therefore unsustainable;
- (b) Emission of greenhouse gases which are still being emitted at levels higher than the stabilization targets internationally agreed upon under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (c) Natural areas, and their attendant biological diversity which are diminishing as a result of the expansion of agricultural land and human settlements;
- (d) The increasing, pervasive use and spread of chemicals which are causing major health risks, environmental contamination and disposal problems;
- (e) The continued heavy reliance on hydrocarbons in the energy sector to fuel economic development - a practice which is clearly unsustainable;
- (f) Rapid unplanned urbanization, particularly in coastal areas, which is placing severe major stress on adjacent ecosystems; and
- (g) Interactions among global biogeochemical cycles which are leading to widespread ecosystem damage and change.

The report also explores four key priority areas for action by the global community that emerge from the **Global Environment Outlook** report. "Current patterns of energy use require drastic changes, because of their destructive impacts on land and natural resources, climate, air quality, rural and urban settlements, and human health and well-being. Alternative energy sources need to be vigorously pursued and their application enhanced. Energy efficiency still needs to be greatly improved, and emissions need to be reduced". The second priority relates to the need for a wider dissemination of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies worldwide. "Despite years of deliberation, countries have yet to agree on how to reach consensus on international mechanisms to serve the vital interests of both developers of technologies and those countries that need access to them, as well as on international finance mechanisms".

The report lists global action on fresh water as its third priority. Greater efforts are needed to resolve issues related to land-based sources of pollution, non-point source runoff from agricultural and urban areas, protection of groundwater reserves, water pricing, the impact of development projects on ecosystems, and competing demands for water among different social sectors, among rural and urban communities, and among riparian countries. Fourthly, the report identifies the need for investment in new and better national data collection methods and in the acquisition of global datasets and in enhanced capabilities for integrated assessment and forecasting, and the analysis of the environmental impact of alternative policy options.

Releasing the report, UNEP Executive Director, Ms. Elizabeth Dowedswell said, "The analysis of the state of the environment in the **Global Environment Outlook** takes us into several fields. It takes us into politics, because environmental policy is made in an intensely political atmosphere where interests and values often collide. It takes us into science, which enables us to understand problems and attempt to solve them. It takes us into the field of ethics, because few areas of policy present more difficult choices: how to preserve shared resources, how to distribute costs and benefits, how this generation's actions will affect future ones. It also takes us into economics, because a society's choices about the environment relate directly to how it produces, consumes and preserves its resources".

"Solutions to environmental problems do not come from awareness alone", Ms. Dowedswell remarked. "They have to be relentlessly sought after and striven for. Rio was the start of a process: a unprecedented basic framework was agreed upon and many important commitments were made, but some vital issues remained to be set in place. UNEP's Global Environment Outlook report confirms that there still remained an unfinished agenda".

*For further information, please contact:*

<i>Veerle Vandeweerd, Chief State of the Environment Reporting UNEP, Nairobi Tel: 254-2-62-3527 Fax: 254-2-62-3943/4 E-Mail: geo@unep.org</i>	<i>Jim Sniffen Information Officer UNEP New York Tel: 1-212-963-8094 Fax: 1-212-963-7341 E-Mail: sniffenj@un.org</i>
---	--

***Please Note:***

*Global Environment Outlook is co-published with Oxford University Press. To order a copy, contact:  
Oxford University Press, Order Department, 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513, USA. Tel: +1 800 451 7566, Fax: +1 919 677 1303, Email: orders@oup-usa.org*

*Hardback: US\$ 39.95 (plus mailing costs)  
Paperback: US\$ 24.95 (plus mailing costs)*

*Where GEO-1 can be accessed on the Internet:*

<i>Japan</i>	<i><a href="http://www-cger.niesgo.jp/geo1/">http://www-cger.niesgo.jp/geo1/</a></i>
<i>Kenya</i>	<i><a href="http://www.unep.org/unep/eia/geo1/">http://www.unep.org/unep/eia/geo1/</a></i>
<i>Mexico</i>	<i><a href="http://www.rolac.unep.mx/geo1/">http://www.rolac.unep.mx/geo1/</a></i>
<i>Norway</i>	<i><a href="http://www.grida.no/geo1/">http://www.grida.no/geo1/</a></i>
<i>Switzerland</i>	<i><a href="http://www.grid.unep.ch/geo1/">http://www.grid.unep.ch/geo1/</a></i>
<i>USA</i>	<i><a href="http://grid2.cr.usgs.gov/geo1/">http://grid2.cr.usgs.gov/geo1/</a></i>

*UNEP Information Note 1997/1*





0157-1 J

**HIGH LEVEL DIGNITARIES  
ATTENDING THE NINETEENTH SPECIAL SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEATING ORDER  
(23-27 JUNE 1997)**

**HEADS OF STATE**

KAZAKSTAN	Mr. Nursultan A. Nazarbaev
MALDIVES	Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
MARSHALL ISLANDS	Mr. Imata Kabua
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA	Mr. Jacob Nena
NICARAGUA	Dr. Arnaldo Alemán Lacayo
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Mr. Kim Young Sam
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	Dr. Cuthbert Sebastian
SURINAME	Mr. Jules Albert Wijdenbosch
UKRAINE	Mr. Leonid D. Kuchma
UNITED REP. OF TANZANIA	Mr. Benjamin William Mkapa
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Mr. William J. Clinton
ZIMBABWE	Cde. Robert G. Mugabe
ARGENTINA	Dr. Carlos Saúl Menem
BOLIVIA	Mr. Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada
BOTSWANA	Sir Ketumile Masire, N.Y.B., G.C.M.G., M.P.
BRAZIL	Mr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso
COSTA RICA	Ing. José María Figueres Olsen
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	General de Brigada Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo
FRANCE	M. Jacques Chirac
GUATEMALA	Lic. Alvaro Arzú Irigoyen
GUYANA	Mr. Samuel Hinds
HUNGARY	Dr. Arpád Göncz

**Total number of HS 22**

**VICE-PRESIDENTS**

KYRGYZSTAN	Mr. Ishenbay Abdurazakov
PERU	Mr. Ricardo Márquez
MALAWI	The Right Honorable Justin Malewezi
SOUTH AFRICA	Mr. Thabo Mbeki
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Mr. Albert Gore Jr.
COLOMBIA	Sr. Carlos Lemos Simmonds
CUBA	Mr. Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Sr. Jaime David Fernández Mirabal
EL SALVADOR	Sr. Enrique Borgo Bustamante
GAMBIA	Mrs. Isatou Njie-Saidy

**Total number of VP 10**

CROWN PRINCES

MONACO  
MOROCCO

H.S.H. Crown Prince Albert  
H.R.H. Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed

Total number of CP 2

HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

ITALY  
JAPAN  
LITHUANIA  
NETHERLANDS  
NORWAY  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
SINGAPORE  
SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
UNITED KINGDOM  
BELGIUM  
BENIN  
CANADA  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
GABON  
GERMANY  
ICELAND  
IRELAND

M. Romano Prodi  
Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto  
Mr. Vytautas Pakalniskis (Acting PM)  
Mr. Wim Kok  
Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland  
Mr. Antonio Guterres  
M. Victor Ciorbea  
Mr. Victor S. Chernomyrdin  
Mr. Goh Chok Tong  
Dr. Janez Drnovsek  
Don José María Aznar  
The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, M.P.  
M. Jean-Luc Dehaene  
Mr. Adrien Houngbedji  
The Rt. Hon. Jean Chretien  
Mr. Poul Nyrup Rasmussen  
Mr. Mart Siimann  
Dr. Paulin Obame Nguema  
Dr. Helmut Kohl  
Mr. David Oddsson  
Mr. John Bruton

Total number of HG 21

GRAND TOTAL 55

## Sveriges förhandlingsdelegation till UNGASS

### A. Statsråd

Statsrådet Schori, delegationschef  
Statsrådet Lindh, bitr. delegationschef

### B. Representanter för de politiska partierna

Olof Johansson, Centerpartiet  
Lennart Daléus, Centerpartiet  
Sinikka Bohlin, Socialdemokraterna  
Berndt Ekholm, Socialdemokraterna  
Eva Eriksson, Folkpartiet  
Gudrun Lindvall, Miljöpartiet de Gröna  
Alf Samuelsson, Kristdemokraterna  
Örjan Nilsson, Modera Samlingspartiet  
Staffan Norberg, Vänsterpartiet

### C. Myndighetsrepresentanter

Mats Segnestam, Sida  
Elisabeth Wickström, NV  
Gunnar Bengtsson, KEMI  
Rolf Lindell, Agenda 21 Kommittén

### D. Intresseorganisationer och enskilda organisationer

Sven Nyberg, LO  
Per-Erik Boivie, TCO  
Inger Strömdal, Industriförbundet  
Ulla Ölvebro, Kommunförbundet  
Gunnel Hedman, Naturskyddsföreningen  
Staffan Danielsson, FN-förbundet/q2000

### E. Politisk sakkunnig och informationssekreterare

Birgitta Sillén, UD  
Elisabeth Wallton, UD  
Eva Franchell, M

F. Övriga tjänstemän i departementen

Bo Kjellén, M, förhandlingschef  
Malin Kärre, UD, bitr. förhandlingschef  
Sture Persson, M  
Michael Odevall, UD  
Stellan Kronvall, M  
Susanne Jacobsson, UD  
Astrid Bergquist, N  
Per Enarsson, UD  
Ulf Ottosson, M

G. Tjänstemän vid FN-delegationen

Peter Osvald  
Henrik Salander  
Hans Lundborg  
Helen Eduards

H. Sekretariat

Maria Frick, M  
Christina Mattsson, UD

DILAGA 3

# SWEDEN



The Special Session of the General Assembly  
for the purpose of an overall review and  
appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

## STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr Pierre Schori

Deputy Foreign Minister  
Minister of International Development Cooperation

23 June 1997

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -



Mr President,

All over the world, millions of people give substance to the concept of sustainable development.

An unprecedented world-wide effort from civil society drives the Rio-process forward.

This places a heavy obligation on the governments present here today.

After the cold war we no longer have enemies. We have threats and a deteriorated environment threatening the security of the planet, of nations and of the individual, through global warming, loss of biodiversity and use of hazardous chemicals.

Twenty-five years after Stockholm, ten years after the Brundtland Commission and five years after Rio, we are far from having secured a sustainable development that holds the key to better and full lives for all people.

Never before have so many people taken the step out of poverty.

Never before have so many taken control of their lives.

Never before have so many nations made such progress to establishing democratic cultures. There in lies our hope.

But never before have so many children been born into poverty. Never before have inequalities been so glaring between nations and within nations. There in lies our challenge.

Mr President,

The old slogan "Think Globally, Act Locally" is more valid than ever. In my country all 288 municipalities are working on local Agenda 21 plans. From children in schools to both public and private sectors of community life - everyone is involved. As a gift from the Swedish Agenda 21 Network we would like to offer to the United Nations this symbol of commitment with the names of all Swedish municipalities. The work in Sweden is presented in the National Report of Sweden, "From Environmental Protection to Sustainable Development", which is available at this meeting.

The Government of Sweden has adopted the fundamental objective of transforming our country into a sustainable society. This spring we launched a comprehensive programme to support sustainable investments and technical development in Sweden. We also expect this to create new jobs, support economic growth and improve competitiveness of Swedish business.

An improved environment and sustainable development is also a regional issue. The Governments around the Baltic Sea have launched a project that soon will result in a regional Agenda 21 - the Baltic 21.

Mr President,

Poverty is the enemy to peace today. The liberation from poverty can only be the work of the poor themselves. But the struggle of poor people and developing nations must be supported by a strong international system - with a renewed UN at the centre and with new and additional resources at its disposal.

The Earth Summit in Rio recognized this and Sweden fully subscribes to it. Today official developing assistance has hit historical lows. We are further away from the 0,7 per cent target than ever. Global trade and private investment flows cannot on their own achieve a stable world. Development assistance can never on its own be the full answer, but all experience shows that in the right environment, it is indispensable.

Many donor countries have in the past years faced extraordinary budgetary pressures. So have we. But now that our public finances are in shape again, the Government of Sweden has decided to increase our aid level.

Environmental concern has to permeate practically all aspects of development co-operation. And there is need for much greater coherence between governments development, environment and overall economic policies. To further spearhead work to the benefit of the least developed countries in the field of fresh water and energy, Sweden will set aside another 10 million dollars, with a special focus on women.

Military activities cause environmental degradation, both in peace and war. Sweden would like to see a more thorough follow-up by responsible authorities



in accordance with decisions taken at UNCED, for instance by developing environmental plans for the national defense, as is the case in Sweden.

Consumption and production must be sustainable. The industrialized countries have a clear responsibility. They must take the lead and learn how to do more with less input of resources and energy. A greater use of economic instruments can enable us to improve eco-efficiency. It goes for everything - from cans to cars, from radios to refrigerators. In the long run we need to make the use of energy and resources ten times more efficient than today for the same volume of production. This is the vision of Factor 10.

Mr President,

We will not succeed with the tasks that we set out at the Earth Summit in Rio five years ago unless we radically improve the way we cooperate in the world.

The coming millennium milestone offers a unique possibility to unite the international community around A Strategy for the Future based on common security and international solidarity. Such a document would draw to the attention of all peoples and their leaders at the highest level the compelling issues of human survival.

We therefore ask this Special Session to the Secretary-General to elaborate a report with respect to strategies for a sustainable future. In preparing the document contributions from all parts of society and the international system should be sought, including civil society, business and the academic world. The report would be considered at the highest possible level by the General Assembly in the Year 2000.

It is today we must find the solutions for the coming generations.

Thank you, Mr President.



SILTA 6  
X

Check Against Delivery



The World Bank Group

Statement By  
Mr. James D. Wolfensohn  
President

At the United Nations General Assembly  
Special Session

*“Towards Global Sustainability”*

June 25, 1997



**James D. Wolfensohn**  
**Remarks to the United Nations Special Session**  
**June 25<sup>th</sup> 1997**  
**TOWARDS GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY**

1. Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, Distinguished Heads of State, National Delegates, and colleagues from the U.N. system.
2. Five years ago in Rio, governments from around the world came together and committed themselves to a more equitable and sustainable world.
3. Five years later the picture is very mixed. As an institution dedicated to reducing poverty, we at the Bank are more aware than ever of the continuing link between the degrading environment and the poverty still afflicting so many of the world's people. Less than a quarter of the world's people consume three-quarters of its raw materials, while 3 billion people still live on less than \$2 a day.
4. At the global level we have not achieved our objectives.
5. Today, however, at the national level, we have seen a highly positive shift toward environmental responsibility, with a third of our client countries implementing national environmental strategies.
6. On a positive note, the GEF has become an effective financing mechanism to address global environmental issues. It must be replenished generously this year. The World Bank, as an implementing agency for the GEF and Montreal Protocol and in its own lending portfolio, has worked to help countries fulfill their global commitments, but is committed to doing more, as I believe we all must. Today I will outline a plan of action in 5 areas where I believe the Bank - working in partnership with many of you here - can make a real difference.
7. **First on Climate Change.** Progress has clearly been inadequate. Only 3 of the OECD countries are likely to reach their non-binding commitments under the Convention for the year 2000. It is essential that at the Kyoto meeting later this year industrial countries make a strong commitment to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions -- and that these commitments be implemented.
8. Continued global warming is in nobody's interest but the simple facts of the matter are that the developing countries will suffer the most damage, and their poor will be at an even greater disadvantage. I see the Bank's role in Climate Change as providing every opportunity to developing countries to benefit from the huge investment the OECD must make in reducing climate change.

9. I believe that progress would be facilitated if Joint Implementation with crediting were permitted under the Convention. I recognize that this is a sensitive issue, but I believe the gains for both the global environment and our client countries could be substantial. Under this voluntary mechanism, which need not imply aggregate emission limitations for developing countries, tens of billion of dollars could be saved annually by 2010. Of course, the savings must be shared equitably between our client countries and the OECD countries. Developing countries could apply these savings, as they choose, to facilitate expanded development financing and technology transfer. These savings must also result in larger binding commitments to reduce emissions on the part of industrial countries.

10. To help make these gains a reality, the World Bank would be willing to launch a Carbon Investment Fund, should Parties to the Convention find this helpful.

11. In addition, to promote renewable energy, we are exploring a broader strategic partnership with the GEF and other financiers that would move us towards a large-scale program of renewable energy investment.

12. **Second, on biodiversity;** we simply won't succeed unless environmental values can be reflected in the marketplace.

13. With this in mind, the Bank is creating "Market Transformation Initiatives" with the private sector and NGOs to move the forest and marine products industries to a truly sustainable base.

14. As a first step, I am inviting the CEOs of some of the world's leading forest products companies and conservation organizations to join forces with the Bank to arrest the current unacceptable rate of forest degradation.

15. I am also pleased to announce a global alliance between the Bank and WWF to help arrest the loss of forests globally. We are committed to work together, and with others, towards achieving by the year 2000 a representative network of protected areas amounting to at least 10% of each of the world's forest types. And, in Bank client countries we will strive to achieve an additional 50 million hectares of forest ecosystems under strict conservation, and an additional 200 million hectares of tropical, temperate and boreal forests under genuinely sustainable management with independent certification, by the year 2005.

16. **Third, let me turn to ozone depletion** - the major bright spot in dealing with global environmental issues - but even here, much more needs to be done.

17. A major remaining challenge is to eliminate CFC and other ozone-depleting substance production in Russia. This accounts for nearly half of remaining CFC production world wide and, through illegal smuggling to other countries, is threatening to undermine the effectiveness of the Montreal Protocol.

18. The Bank, in collaboration with the Russian CFC producers and government, has developed a program to eliminate CFC production in Russia by 2000.
19. We now need to complete the necessary fund raising, and we seek your support in this critical endeavor.
20. **Fourth, addressing desertification** is essential for poverty reduction and food security in developing countries.
21. The Bank is already the largest financier of drylands investment, but we can and must do more.
22. We have embarked upon a revitalized Rural Strategy -- in which the links between poverty and land degradation are given special emphasis. We are helping introduce improved agricultural techniques to stem the spread of further desertification, and to restore degraded land.
23. We offer to assist the Desertification Convention -- in partnership with others -- in establishing mechanisms for mobilizing financing, and coordinating implementation.
24. **Fifth, the water crisis.** Twenty countries now are water scarce or stressed, and the number will double by 2020.
25. Developing countries will need to invest about US \$600 billion over the next decade on water. The Bank expects to lend about US \$35 billion during this period, following the Dublin principles.
26. The Global Water Partnership offers an opportunity to solve water issues in a more holistic way, and to raise additional financial resources. We are committed to make this work, and to continue working in partnership on the Regional Seas Programs.
27. **In all these areas,** the World Bank will work in partnerships with others.
28. We will expand our work with the private sector to promote practical business opportunities for sustainable development.
29. We will join others to promote higher standards of environmental and social performance for private and public investments around the world. As an example, with the World Conservation Union, we are launching an International Advisory Commission on Large Dams to help raise standards for all large dams.

30. I recognize that we must work harder to make absolutely sure that our own house is in order.

31. **With this in mind I would like to inform you of two important changes in our own organization.**

- **First**, we will be consolidating the supervision of our environmental and social activities across the entire World Bank Group including IFC and MIGA. With our private sector operations assuming greater prominence, it is vital that all of our activities have the same high standards.
- **Second**, we will be establishing a stronger system of compliance monitoring for environmental policies within our own operations. Details will be announced in the near future.

32. Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, Distinguished Heads of State and colleagues, the growing global problems of climate change, biodiversity, forest loss, desertification and water are seriously threatening the long-term development of many of our client countries - with the poor paying the highest price.

33. These are not fringe activities. They are central to meeting human needs and reducing poverty. I wholeheartedly commit the Bank to do all it can to forge a global partnership to promote equitable approaches to global environmental issues, and to do so quickly. Time is not on our side. This agenda cannot afford to wait.



## Några exempel på vad som sades i plenarförsamlingen under UNGASS 19

Det följande är ett högst subjektivt urval av citat för att spegla lite av UNGASS 19s innehåll och karaktär. Särskilt intresserade hänvisas vidare till den stora mängd anföranden som hölls under fem dagar.

### *Om Rio-processen...*

While the overall assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 on a global scale is mixed, there is agreement that notable progress has been achieved especially by developing countries. *(Tanzania)*

Five years on from Rio, we face a major recession; not economic but a recession of spirit, a recession of the very political will that is essential for catalyzing real change. The visionary ambition of Agenda 21 is tempered by some dawning statistics which show that we are heading further away from and not towards sustainable development. *(Ordf. GA)*

In the past five years we have made much progress. We have negotiated international agreements to protect critical fish stocks, ban ocean dumping of nuclear waste and stem land based sources of marine pollution. We have forged a new global consensus on population and gender equality. We know that women's empowerment -- education, health-care and economic opportunity -- is essential to building a healthy future. We have fostered democracy and increased stability around the world. We have witnessed a dramatic and inspiring rise in environmental awareness across the globe. ... And yet, enormous challenges remain. Many of the goals of Rio remain to be achieved. *(USA)*

The euphoria and optimism that characterized Rio in 1992 have long since given ay to disappointment and uncertainty. The expected implementation of Agenda 21 and the other substantive outcomes of the Conference are still far from being realized. Notwithstanding such disappointments, we fully recognize the the continued validity and efficacy of these outcomes. Consequently, we see no alternative to the global partnership that was forged in Rio for effectively promoting sustainable development. *(Indonesien)*

These past five years have proven that the underlying philosophy of the Brundtland Commission's report is still valid. Environment and development are even more closely linked together. What concerns us is that most indicators prove that the state of the global environment is worsening. Better future depends on genuine political will. To make sure that in Rio + 10 we can witness a turning point we have to multiply our efforts. *(Finland)*

Our acceptance at Rio of the notions of a shared, a just and a prospering peoples' world, one which remain habitable, fertile and clean marked the high point of an ecological transition. It was a shift that would have taken us, if supplemented by action, from treating the Earth as a limitless reservoir of resources and as a bottomless disposal sink to respecting our planet, in all

its richness, as the sanctuary of life. Five years down the track, we find that we have made little progress. It is true that in some countries, local authorities, businesses, the professions and NGOs have taken the first steps, but governments have woefully lagged behind. *(Maldiverna)*

...I am convinced beyond doubt that a world that is incapable of taking care of its own environment also lacks the basic respect for its own inhabitants, and therefore incapable of bringing about a world peace that is fair and just. *(Marshallöarna)*

The younger generations are impatient. They have a right to be so. It is our responsibility to leave the next generation with at least the same opportunities as we had. Their pressure for change should guide our action. *(Norge)*

### *Om i-land kontra u-land...*

Since Rio we have seen a further continuation of North-South trench politics. Governments and NGOs's from the developed world vigorously promote environmental protection, without shouldering the greater burden of adjustment of consumption and production patterns. Nor do they emphasize with equal balance of fulfilling global responsibilities with national ones. Meanwhile many developing countries continue to emphasize their right to development, without placing sufficient stress on social equity and transparent, participatory decision-making. Neither approach bodes well for the future. *(Ordf. GA)*

It is totally unjustifiable that the developing world is asked to pay the price of environmental degradation historically perpetrated by the industrialized nations, who continue to date to have the largest share in polluting our environment, notwithstanding their propaganda on environmental preservation. *(Iran)*

Our efforts to collaborate on Rio commitments have been often hindered by sterile debates about relative gains. But, Mr President, Agenda 21 will not divide the world between victor and vanquished. Rather, depending on how we respond to it, we will either be *all* winners, or *all* losers. *(Maldiverna)*

### *Om hållbar utveckling och Agenda 21...*

Sustainable development is not something that governments or international bodies do to people. Sustainable development is something people do for themselves, and for their children. Sustainable development is not something people can effectively do for themselves by just acting individually, or even sectorally. It is not something that government can accomplish alone, nor is it something that civil society can achieve in spite of government. *(Filippinerna)*

...the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other commitments of Rio require a profound internalization of the concept of sustainability at all levels and areas of activity and public policy... *(Chile)*

The transition of our country to market economy and the radical social transformations make it possible to enhance responsibility for the state of environment in the course of the economic reform and to combine more flexibly state regulation with market mechanism. *(Ryssland)*

We have set up a national commission for sustainable development, grouping all sectors of development, and through it we have confirmed Tunisia's Local Agenda 21, associating all social partners in this effort and opting for concerted action and national dialog. *(Tunisien)*

We do not want to follow the "grow now, clean up later" formula seemingly taken by others whose economies grew faster than us in the past. ... We are trying to keep our economy growing continuously at a comfortable rate without the litter and waste of those who industrialized at an overheated pace. *(Filippinerna)*

With respect to our national agenda, our development strategy incorporates in every sector, the spirit of Agenda 21. This strategy looks to combine economic growth with social justice and equality, and the preservation of the environment and the improvement of the quality of life for all Chileans. *(Chile)*

...to develop a comprehensive national strategy for sustainable development. The process of formulation of this strategy has involved over a thousand participants nation-wide, has taken 2 years to complete and has focused on integrating economic, social and environmental development into a single policy package to ensure that sustainable development will become a reality in Indonesia. ... it [also] represents the beginning of a critical period of adjustment in which the new development paradigm of sustainability will be introduced at all levels of Indonesian society and into all activities of daily economic life. *(Indonesien)*

... Russia does her best to support the efforts of the international community to solve these priority global problems. The Decree of President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin of April 1, 1996, spelled out the substance of our concept of the country's transition to sustainable development. On May 8, 1996, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted a resolution on drafting a state strategy of sustainable development. *(Ryssland)*

For government, the first step is to sincerely extend an open hand. For civil society in turn, it is to sincerely take hold of that hand. Without this partnership, any effort towards sustainable development simply cannot be sustained, and will eventually fail. We are proud that we are making this partnership work in the Philippines, for the sake of sustainable development. This is the new *Asian miracle* that the Philippines would like to share with the world. *(Filippinerna)*

... developing countries, while actively seeking international support and assistance, should fully tap their own potentials. They cannot and should not follow the same old development patterns of developed countries in "pollution first and treatment later", but rather take the road of sustainable development right from the initial stage of development. *(Kina)*

As a region, to the extent that we can, we are continuously striving to achieve new bases for human happiness. *(Marshallöarna)*

### *Om miljöekonomi...*

We undertook environment and natural resource accounting, and adopted it officially as part of our system and national accounts - one of the first countries in the world to do so. *(Filippinerna)*

Our country has introduced the financial and tax incentives necessary to eliminate pollution and support non-polluting investment, alongside a number of mechanisms aimed at ensuring a *healthy environment for economic activity and for life in general*. *(Tunisien)*

Within Europe we will discourage inefficient use of scarce raw materials and energy. Prices should reflect environmental costs. *(EU)*

One such measure ... would be to increase taxation of resource use and to decrease taxation of labour. Austria is very active within the European Union to promote a common approach to tax reform. *(Österrike)*

There is an *urgent need for a change of signals*. Today, the tax burden lies on labour or creation of wealth. Simultaneously, agricultural, water, and fuel subsidies are enormous. Our societies will have a growing structural unemployment along with a great waste of water, fuel, and natural resources. This nonsense must stop, even if it is politically difficult. *(WBCSD)*

We are in danger of passing thresholds beyond which serious damage will occur, some of it irreversible. And even if part of the damage would be repairable, it would be against an unnecessarily, or even unaffordably high price. *(EU)*

### *Om konsumtionsmönster...*

... there is also a need to find solutions to critical sectoral issues such as environmental degradation caused by unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in the developed economies. *(Tanzania)*

We must change our lifestyles. *(Japan)*

It is also undeniable that the biggest issue posed by the challenge of environment is that of *resources versus consumption*. If we, particularly the affluent societies, maintain the present consumption pattern, and expect a higher material well-being year after year, we surely will be creating environmental debt for our children. *(Thailand)*

### *Om eko-effektivitet...*

The European Union has proposed to study the feasibility of a fourfold increase in eco-efficiency which should be achieved within two to three decades. *(EU)*

First, our development of the concept of eco-efficiency, meaning that waste and pollution do not make sense from a business perspective. ... Financial results improve as we become eco-efficient. *(WBCSD)*

*Om miljökonsekvensbedömningar...*

We improved the policy and regulatory framework for the environmental impact assessment and environmental clearance system in our country. *(Filippinerna)*

It is estimated that in the next 12 months around 1.000 projects representing investments of nearly USD 16.000 million, which is equivalent to 80% of the annual investment of the country, will be subject to environmental impact assessment. *(Chile)*

*Om institutionella arrangemang...*

Sustainable development can not be achieved without adequate international institutional arrangements. In my view, there are two broad areas of institutional issues tht need to be urgently tackled: how to unify the global environmental governance system and how to strengthen operational activities in order to mobilize the entire UN system for the implementation of Agenda 21. *(Finland)*

We may need a World Environment Organisation to provide a clearer and more authoritative voice on environmental contributions to sustainable development. Let us make this a part of the UN reform process. *(Norge)*

*Om finansiella frågor...*

The realization of the Rio commitment on substantial, new and additional resources has fallen far short of expectations. *(Indonesien)*

ODA has sharply declined from 55 billion dollars to less than 50 billion dollars since Rio. There are no signs the decline will be reversed and this remains a blow to international cooperation. This figure is less than a third of the 150 billion dollars spent on average each year by the industrialised countries to procure, research and develop weapons of war. We must be warned that market mantras alone will not secure sustainable development. *(Ordf. GA)*

... while we had agreed at Rio to reach the United Nations target of developed countries contributing 0.7 per cent of their GNP towards Official Development Assistance (ODA), that contribution has in fact declined substantially since Rio in 16 out of the 21 members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD. ... Yet, we had all agreed at Rio that for quite some time to come, the capacity of developing countries to implement Agenda 21 will depend critically on increased flows to the of net ODA. *(Tanzania)*

Offering the full range of reproductive health services is cost-effective in terms both of technology and of national capabilities. ... All countries must continue and intensify their work, including the requirement for additional resources: \$17 billion a year from all sources by the year 2000. The developing countries are two-thirds of the way to their target for the year 2000. The donor countries are less than a third of the ways towards their agreed goal. *(UNPF)*

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China I should like to thank the four OECD countries that have attained, and surpassed, the UN target of contributing 0.7% of their GNP to ODA. *(Tanzania)*

We will do our best at least to stop the downward trend in development assistance and we will do our utmost to reverse this trend, in order to reach the 0.7% ODA target. *(EU)*

Only seven years ago, ODA exceeded foreign direct investment to developing countries by over 30%. Today, the balance has changed dramatically. Foreign direct investment exceeds ODA by over 300%. As a result, the role of markets has moved to centre stage. Left by themselves, however, markets can not solve the problems of the global commons, a reality recognized by the emergence of international environmental regimes. ... we have to complement market mechanisms with policies designed to manage and steer the process in the right direction. *(UNCTAD)*

Foreign private investments are increasing in the developing world, and that should be welcomed. But private investments tend not to reach the poorest countries. *(Norge)*

...in these days and age of privatization, foreign direct investment is often encouraged by developed countries as a substitute for ODA. But this can be valid for some countries and also only to a certain extent. For most countries not yet attractive enough for the privatization, not only environmental programme but also economic programme cannot be implemented for lack of funds. *(Thailand)*

But true to the private entrepreneurial spirit, FDI's focus is always on projects that yield quick returns, and not necessarily those compatible with the Rio goals of sustainable development. Secondly, not all developing countries have in place that level of human resource capacity and infrastructural development necessary to be attractive to FDI. Most of such countries are in sub-Saharan Africa. *(Tanzania)*

No matter how important development assistance may be, it should never be seen as a substitute for the mobilization of domestic resources and foreign investment. Foreign direct investment to developing nations has multiplied sixfold during the nineties, but it still reaches too few recipient countries. *(EU)*

In terms of development financing, FDI and ODA are in completely different leagues, and they cannot be interchangeable. *(Tanzania)*

In addition to the UN system, the role of International Development Financing Institutions in the implementation of the global agenda is crucial. For example the Asian Development Bank has taken a positive step by allocating 50% of its funds to the social and environmental sector. *(Finland)*

*Om skuldfrågan...*

No area perhaps deserves more urgent attention than the external indebtedness of developing countries, an indebtedness that stifles growth and consigns the developing world to the vicious cycle of debt and poverty. It should now be acknowledged, for example, that Africa's external

debt is unsustainable and a major drag on whatever initiatives for growth, development, and environmental conservation we might undertake. *(Tanzania)*

To address the problem of indebtedness of developing countries is to contribute to strengthening the effort for environmental protection. This we have underscored in our appeal to the wealthy countries to recycle the debt into financing projects for environmental protection, in the aim of favouring sustainable development in the different region of the world. We take this opportunity to thank the governments of Sweden and the Netherlands for responding favourably to Tunisia's appeal regarding recycling of the debt. This has opened the way for the concrete establishment of solidary international partnership in favour of the environment. *(Tunisien)*

### *Om handel och miljö...*

Since Rio, globalization and liberalization have accentuated the close relationship between trade, investment, technology and sustainable development and the need for their integrated treatment. *(UNCTAD)*

Till now, most developed countries have not made good their commitments. The percentage of their ODA in GNP has dropped to the lowest level in 25 years. What is more worrisome is that some developed countries are pursuing new trade protectionism under the pretext of environmental protection, which have a very negative impact on the external environment for the sustainable development of developing countries. ... The most important issue at present is to overcome trade protectionism of various kinds and to establish an equitable, rational and integrated multi-lateral trading system so as to facilitate the positive interaction of trade and the environment. *(Kina)*

The Commission on Sustainable Development should encourage and contribute to the important debate on trade and the environment, given the increasing inter-relationship between trade, the environment and development. *(Sydafrika)*

### *Om befolkningsfrågan...*

It helps in our review of Agenda 21 that there is now a clear understanding that environmental and population approaches to sustainable development are not alternatives: they are opposite sides of the same coin. *(UNPF)*

Six out of ten women have access to a range of reproductive health choices. As a result, the global population is now growing by 1,5 per cent a year, rather than the 2 per cent growth rates of the 1960s and early 1970s. Yet population continues to grow by 81 million a year. Annual additions are declining slowly but will remain over 75 million a year for another decade. High rates of growth are concentrated among the lowest-income countries. *(UNPF)*

There is only one effective way to ensure that population growth rates are low and stay low, and that is to ensure that every man and every woman can exercise their reproductive rights. ...Bringing the full range of choices to all, and making it possible for all to exercise choice, should be a priority for all countries. *(UNPF)*

### *Om gender och jämställdhet...*

The gender issue is a key to sustainability. Commitment to the empowerment of women and their full participation are preconditions of sustainability. *(Finland)*

...we are cognizant of the inalienable rights of women to participate equally in the process of sustainable development. It is inconceivable that at this stage in the evolving maturation of a world community that women, constituting no less than fifty percent of the world population are, by virtue of their gender, restrained from unleashing their full potential. *(Marshallöarna)*

### *Om teknologiöverföring...*

It is, therefore, imperative that we arrive at internationally agreed modalities on how to transfer technology from developed to developing countries on a predictable and sustainable basis. *(Tanzania)*

Norway is giving priority to the allocation of additional funds for the transfer of [environmentally sound] technology. Together with UNEP and UNDP we are preparing concrete programs of technology transfer. ... allocate a package of an additional 15 million dollars to finance such programmes. *(Norge)*

It is, however, our belief that technology transfer cannot be achieved through market forces, or the private sector alone. For this reason, it is necessary to initiate and promote publicly funded technology and Research and Development projects, including the establishment of regional technology centres, which would encourage development and transfer of technology, on concessional terms. *(Tanzania)*

Technology transfer is a complicated process requiring adaptability and flexibility. The enormous increase in foreign direct investment already facilitates technology transfer on an impressive scale. ... We are ready to engage ourselves to promote technology transfer in a multilateral framework, such as UNDP or UNEP. *(EU)*

### *Om vatten...*

There is a liquid more precious than oil. Water. *(UK)*

In many regions of the world, water resources are threatened by unsustainable patterns of use and by degradation of aquatic environments. Of utmost importance to many countries in Africa and other semi-arid areas in the world, the protection and sustainable use of water resources are essential if we are to meet basic human needs, achieve social justice and equality and harmonise economic development, human welfare and environmental protection. *(Sydafrika)*

Let us together decide that in ten years time, every village in the Third World, in Africa in particular, must have its own well or access to drinking water. *(Frankrike)*



It is urgent that we take the necessary decisions to ensure access to, and protection of, fresh water. That must be the focus of Agenda 21. *(Danmark)*

...France, which has welcomed the World Water Council to Marseille, proposes to host at the beginning of next year a conference attended by all the actors in water management policy-making: governments, local authorities, international organisations, firms. *(Frankrike)*

Britain will play its part in developing an action plan to ensure universal access to clean water and sanitation. *(UK)*

### *Om klimat...*

Five years ago, my predecessor ... stood before the Rio Summit and described the frightening dangers which our country and many of the low-lying island nations of the world faced from sea level rise and climate change. He described our fears and our acute sense of helplessness. *(Marshallöarna)*

Ten years ago, I stood at this podium and spoke about the impending dangers to my country, the Maldives, from sea level rise. Much has happened since then, but the threat to my country has remained as alarming and as urgent as ever. The irony, too, is no less painful: my country is amongst the least contributors to environmental degradation; but it would certainly be amongst the most helpless in dealing with the potential catastrophic effects of climate change and global warming. ... For small island states the biggest environmental threat would stem from climate change. *(Maldiverna)*

But the threat is not limited to tiny island states with small populations. By the same magnitude of sea level rise, extensive areas of Bangladesh, China, Egypt, and many other countries will be seriously affected. Cereal production would fall sharply and prices will soar. By the middle of the next century, climate change alone would increase the number of those affected by hunger by nearly 200 million. Developed countries would not be left unharmed either. *(Maldiverna)*

...to accelerate with international cooperation, efforts to prevent global warming, I would like to propose an initiative, to be called the Comprehensive Strategy for the Prevention of Global Warming, or Green Initiative. It will consist of two pillars: Green Technology and Green Aid. *(Japan)*

### *Om energi...*

Our energy policy goals call for an exclusive use of clean and renewable sources of energy for the year 2010. In addition, we implement conservation and demand side programs, with substantial reductions up to 5 % of the local consumption of electricity. *(Costa Rica)*

Austria attaches particularly great importance to a strong recommendation of the Special Session on sustainable energy. We repeat our proposal to launch a decade on sustainable energy starting with the year 2001. ... Austria stands ready to further advance international cooperation on sustainable energy by hosting an international conference of experts and policy-makers on renewable energy. *(Österrike)*

Many developing countries have come up with solar energy projects that could be very useful in that regard. I call upon developed countries and the wider donor community to actively and practically support the implementation of those projects. *(Tanzania)*

We consider it as a high-priority goal to restructure the power sector which would help reduce its negative impact on the environment and increase the efficiency of energy use. *(Ryssland)*

### *Om försurning...*

Japan will promote the establishment of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia. *(Japan)*

### *Om transporter...*

Austria will also strive to intensify cooperation with the countries in Central and Eastern Europe. A major area of cooperation will be transport. Transport is a sector where developments currently go from bad to worse... *(Österrike)*

All of us in the UK - business, consumers, government, and individuals - will need to change our ways of living and doing, to achieve this target. New forms of energy. A new approach to transport, in particular the promotion of public transport. *(UK)*

### *Om ozonskiktet...*

Thailand became the first developing country to phase out the use of CFCs in refrigerator manufacture, and to use trade measures to protect the atmospheric environment. Government regulations banned the import and production of CFC refrigerators in Thailand after 1 January 1997, and reduced import taxes on some materials used in the production of CFC-free refrigerators. The process was of course costly, and painful, and not without resistance. *(Thailand)*

Russia is firmly committed to the principles of the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Despite the prevailing difficulties connected with the introduction of other technologies and alternative substances we will continue to exert every effort on the field counting on the real support on the part of the world community in achieving this - rather difficult for us but priority - goal. *(Ryssland)*

### *Om skog...*

We have heard two opposite opinions: some say that the forest convention would only be a so called "chain saw convention", allowing overlogging. Others are afraid that it will prevent all use of forests. We believe that there is a third way - sustainable forestry. *(Finland)*

*Om kemikalier...*

We advocate effective harmonization of international legal documents regulating the use of persistent organic pollutants. *(Ryssland)*

*Om framtiden...*

This is my fifth international meeting in eight weeks in office. My three young children in London complain I am never at home. But if there is one Summit they would want me at, it is this one. *(Tony Blair, UK)*

The stakes are high. Fifty years ago, Albert Camus remarked that for the first time in History, mankind had made collective suicide a distinct possibility. Nuclear war is now perhaps less of a threat than in Camus' days and the world did not end with a bang. It is however the cause of this and future generations to ensure that the world will not end with a whimper, that life shall not perish from Earth because of our selfish insouciance. *(UNCTAD)*

The cost of delaying action is incalculable and can prove devastating to mankind. *(Thailand)*

A sustainable future is an ecological future. *(Danmark)*







STYRELSEN FÖR INTERNATIONELLT UTVECKLINGSSAMARBETE  
105 25 Stockholm, Sweden  
Tel: 08-698 50 00. Fax: 08-20 88 64  
Hemsida: <http://www.sida.se>

ISBN - 91586-75345