

Secretary-General's Advisory Panel for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Notes of the second meeting held on 5 February 2002

1. The second meeting of the Secretary General's Advisory Panel for the World Summit on Sustainable Development took place in New York on 5 February 2002. The following Panel members participated in the meeting: Kamla Chowdhry, Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Viktor Danilov-Danilyan, Jocelyn Dow, Yolanda Kakabadse, Lydia Makhubu, Geping Qu, Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker. Bert Diphooorn represented Prince Willem Alexander, who was unable to come to the meeting personally. Jane Goodall, Hisashi Owada, Moeen Qureshi and Joseph Warioba also sent their regrets. The United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, joined the Panel during the opening session of the meeting, after which Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker assumed the chairmanship. The meeting was supported by Nitin Desai, Secretary-General for the Summit and Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and DESA staff.

Remarks by the Secretary-General

2. The Secretary-General opened the meeting, explaining how governments and stakeholders shared the view that the Johannesburg Summit should result in more than a long statement of good intentions; strong commitments and practical steps towards achieving the common goal of sustainable development were needed. He referred to the list of ten broad themes he had put forward in his report to the Preparatory Committee, with "globalisation" being the first item on that list. He also made favourable reference to the UN Millennium Declaration with its emphasis on values, security, poverty eradication and the environment.
3. He therefore invited the Panel to focus its work on a practical agenda, and in particular to devise specific, practical initiatives for the Summit to consider and endorse that are linked with the broad themes identified in his report to the Preparatory Committee. Such initiatives should be designed in such a way that they carry forward the global agenda for sustainable development in a practical way, involve the main actors vital for its success, and – assuming they are endorsed by the Summit - can be monitored in terms of targets, timetables and measurable goals.
4. The Secretary-General emphasised the need for all actors to work constructively together, including civil society as well as governments and businesses. The United Nations Charter refers to We The Peoples – a broader scope than governments alone. Progress would be made through a combination of government actions, the ideas of civil society and the creativity and financial resources of the private sector.

5. Responding to the Secretary General in a supportive spirit, Panel members outlined some issues that may be considered suitable as inputs to the WSSD. These issues included, inter alia,

- Sustainable development and spirituality: the need to look beyond economic reasoning;
- Poverty, health and education as pressing problems of the least developed countries;
- A triangle of actors, public, private and civil society, which can make a difference in defending public values in a world of private sector globalisation.

Key points emerging from the Panel discussion

6. The eradication of poverty was a priority issue for the Summit, as was the issue of globalisation and redressing the balance between the rich and the poor. The international community should take specific practical measures to tackle sustainable development problems, both at the government level and through the establishment of partnerships with businesses and other stakeholders.

7. The Panel felt that it was important to look at spirituality in the context of sustainability as well as scientific knowledge. Governments cannot promote spiritual values alone; they need to work with a broad section of society, including the private sector, universities and notably grass roots organisations, including the vast network of spiritual organisations. The issue of partnerships was felt to be particularly important, and the Panel thought that the views of civil society should be incorporated into the Summit outcomes.

8. There was strong support for the Earth Charter, which had already been adopted by a number of local authorities and civil society groups. Members of the Panel agreed to help mobilise support among all constituencies for it to be recognised and formally endorsed by the Summit.

9. Consideration of this Charter should be linked with discussion on private versus public goods. Market forces cannot produce everything that society needs; governments and other stakeholders have a role to play. The challenge is to rejuvenate democracy on a global scale, so that governments are not tempted to surrender their ability to reflect people's will in the interests of international competitiveness. It was felt important to identify, analyse and restrain the challenges of globalisation to enable the benefits to be harnessed without the negative impacts.

10. The Panel felt that now was a good time to promote the relationship between security, violence and the integrity of natural resources. Degradation of those resources can lead to poverty, despair and violence.

11. Based on their own experience, panel members felt that the following issues should be included in the political deal and the implementation programme to be agreed at the Summit: the Earth Charter, corporate accountability, governance, women in decision-making, meeting the millennium targets, participation of civil society, access to information, access to & ownership of genetic resources, and peace as a proactive approach.

12. Comments were invited on the draft report on fresh water that had been submitted to the Panel by Prince Willem. Panel Members were encouraged to attend the conference on fresh water issues that would be held in Ghana. The Panel would then be invited to endorse the final report emerging after this conference.

13. The Panel decided to focus its work on the production of a statement which could be fed into the fourth PrepCom in Jakarta and also used as a tool for Panel members for dialogue with individual governments. A copy would also be sent to Minister Jan Pronk to assist his role as the Secretary-General's special envoy for the Summit.

14. The structure of the report was agreed and each Panel member was invited to provide text on sections within their expertise. See attached Annex. All contributions should be sent to the Summit Secretariat by 5 March.

15. Initiatives by individual Panel members on activities for the Summit in their respective areas of competence should be communicated to the Panel and the Secretariat via the listserver (sgpanelwssd@list.un.org).

16. The Panel received a briefing on South Africa's preparations for the Summit from Dr. Nombasa Tsengwa, Deputy Director-General, Environmental Management at the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, and Merle O'Brien, Manager of Logistics and Operations at the Johannesburg World Summit Company.

17. It was proposed that the next meeting of the Panel should be held in Jakarta during the fourth preparatory Committee for the Summit (to be held from 27 May to 7 June). The Secretariat would fix the date as soon as possible.

**Structure of Paper to be prepared by the Secretary-General's
Advisory Panel for the World Summit on Sustainable Development**

Section	Authors
1. Introduction – including discussion of shared values, support for the Earth Charter, Millennium Declaration goals	Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Jocelyn Dow, Yolanda Kakabadse, Kamla Chowdhry
2. Recollection of Agenda 21	Geping Qu
3. Globalisation & private/public nexus	Viktor Danilov-Danilyan, Yolanda Kakabadse, Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker
4. Science and technology for sustainable development , technology transfer	Ernst Ulrich von Weizsaecker, Hisashi Owada
5. Water	Bert Diphorn
6. Recommendations to the UN Secretary-General	To be extracted from each chapter