

A JOURNEY OF HOPE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR WSSD, MR EMIL SALIM ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE, NEW YORK, 8 FEBRUARY 2002

After deliberating for almost 10 days we have produced together the following:

1. Chairman's Summary of the Second Preparatory Session;
2. Chairman's Summary of the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Segment;
3. Draft Chairman's Paper;
4. Proposals for Partnership Initiatives to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21.

I. Chairman's Summary of the 2nd Preparatory Session

This summary reveals briefly all reports under the agenda of "**Comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21**" and the other outcomes of the UN conference on Environment and Development, as follow:

1. results of various conferences on
fresh water,
responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem,
implementation of global program of action for the protection of marine environment from land based activities,
the international pollution prevention summit,
future steps in the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification;
"Marrakech Ministerial Declaration" on climate change,
global conference on oceans and coasts at Rio+10;
international environmental governance;
global forum on sustainable energy;
1. Reports of regional preparatory committees from *Europe, Africa, West Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific Region, Small Island Developing States,*
2. Reports of Agency Heads of *Habitat, UNDP, WMO, UNEP, IFAD, UNFPA, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Global Environmental Facility, Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Bank.*
3. Reports and remarks by member states on the implementation of Agenda 21. In general significant achievements have been reached, such as rising public awareness, the creation of numerous environmental agencies at the government and the civil society, the numerous agreements and conventions on sustainable development. But face with the challenges that emerge and are forthcoming, more need to be done.

In conclusion it was felt that a viable program of action from the WSSD can only be effectively implemented with a clear and firm political commitment. A solid basis for all countries to support the outcome of WSSD and to advance implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration will be if the world leaders commit themselves to a strong political declaration that reflects *a shared vision, a genuine spirit of partnership and common ownership*.

II. Chairman's Summary of the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Segment

The Rio Declaration started with the *goal* of establishing a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among States, key sectors of societies and people.

As emphasized in Agenda 21, *"critical to the effective implementation of the objectives, policies and mechanisms agreed to by Governments in all programme areas of Agenda 21 will be the commitment and genuine involvement of all social groups."*

Based on this spirit of Rio Principle and Agenda 21 a multi-stakeholder dialogue segment was held involving the *women, youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, scientific community and farmers*.

In the dialogue among governments and major groups it was agreed that accountable, responsible, innovative and equal partnership are crucial for integrated approaches to sustainable development. Such partnership recognizes that the *fundamental principle of sustainable development is diversity and not seek a mono-culture of views. Rather than seeking one common vision, efforts would acknowledge diversity but agree to work on finding the areas of commonality and take action in partnership on these areas and goals*.

A framework for multi-stakeholder participation to enhance participation and facilitate partnership was considered necessary. Such a framework should ensure a level playing field, be transparent, and based on mutual trust and respect for rights.

Poverty alleviation and economic stability are key to environmental and social sustainability.

There were strong calls for increased cooperation between all actors to address issues in areas such as *mining, land ownership, resource management, privatization of public utilities (especially water sector), changing production and consumption behavior, monitoring corporate activity and reducing corruption*.

A number of barriers to progress were highlighted by different major groups and constructive proposals were made. A number of challenges and priority areas that could benefit from more integrated approaches to achieve sectoral and cross-sectoral objectives of sustainable development were identified.

Stakeholders also identified numerous barriers to enabling and promoting multi-stakeholder participation and achievement of sustainable development accompanied by a number of proposals and suggestions for future action.

Stronger interaction between governments and stakeholders in realizing outcomes, increased participation of major groups in UN processes and strengthening the *Commission on Sustainable Development* as the primary intergovernmental body dealing with sustainable development were endorsed by many participants.

III. Chairman's Paper

In preparing this chairman's paper, I am guided by the following considerations:

First, the chairman's paper must reflect the aspirations as it was revealed in the various meetings at the sub-regional level and regional level, either in seminars, eminent persons' dialogue, consultations and conferences and culminated at this Preparatory Meeting, either in the multi-stakeholder dialogue segment, inter-active discussion groups or general debate;

Second, it must use converging ideas from governments and multi-stakeholders as the basis to set the focus of our common endeavor in the next decade 2002-2010;

Third, the emphasis of the chairman's paper must be on producing a workable and doable program that must learn from the experiences of the last decade, Rio+10;

Fourth, we must be able to work together in areas of commonality that bridge the differences between North and South, East and West. We acknowledge, need and honor diversity in views. Because we have learned from ecology that diversity in eco-system gives it strength and power to survive and grow;

Fifth, facing a turbulent world in this current decade, in these Preparatory Meetings we must be successful in drawing the map for *a journey of hope* to reach for the goal of a world without poverty in a humane and live-able environment.

It is with these considerations that we start with the recognition that life of all living creatures strives on interdependency with nature and human made world. To sustain life requires the continued functioning of social, economic and environmental system. This forms the essence of sustainable development that has been called for since the UNCED held in Rio, Brazil, 1992.

Much has been achieved since Rio, such as the increased awareness of the public, the growth of numerous institutions, the provision of basic physical and social infrastructure and international as well as regional conventions related to the implementation of sustainable development.

But more, much more need to be done to address the numerous challenge in social, economic and environment field that requires renewed commitments on sustainable development.

We therefore must reconfirm our commitment to the Rio Principles and the full implementation of Agenda 21 to reach the UN Millennium Declaration on goals of poverty eradication.

Recognizing the fact that challenges in the social, economic and environmental fields are severe and increasing, we need to focus our efforts on reaching the overarching goals in these respective fields through a holistic and inter-sector approach of sustainable development.

The overarching goal in the social field is *poverty eradication* to strive for halving the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day through efforts to reach other poverty related goal of the UN Millennium Declaration by 2015.

The overarching goal in the economic field is *changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production*. It implies a sustainable production pattern that raise higher value added per reduced unit of natural resource use, recycling, pollution control, energy efficiency and the increase use of renewable energy, increase eco-efficiency. It also means healthier and better healthier and working environment, increase jobs, education and capacity building and humane standard of wages and fringe benefits.

It is combined with sustainable consumption pattern that provide basic needs for all, eliminating waste, reduce through taxation over use of resource based consumption, shifting consumption from products to services. And all this supported by responsible marketing and advertising.

The overarching goal in environmental field is *sustainable management of natural resource for development*. This requires a holistic ecological approach in natural resource use for development.

All these three overarching goals in social, economic and environment require an interdependent and inter-sector approach through sustainable development.

All this are accomplished in a globalized world that also require change. Thus far the realities are that globalization has marginalized developing countries and has raised instability in the international economic and financial system.

This must be changed. Based on the World Trade Organization Conference in Doha and the International Conference on Finance for Development in Monterey, we must move a step further and put the achievements of these conferences in a broader perspectives of sustainable development in which social, economic and environmental needs are merged into one.

For trade and finance to become instrumental in sustainable development reaching for a world with peace and stability, world leaders must strive for a level playing field that put

the developing countries at equal base with the developed countries. This spirit is driving the chapter on *Sustainable Development in a Global World*.

Globalization has also brought new dimensions in health due to increased contact among people of the world. The improvement in health is becoming a major factor in poverty eradication and the enhancement in quality of human beings.

Meanwhile numerous activities have grown among stakeholders, governments and international institutions that open the way for joint cooperation and partnership endeavors.

Poverty is unique in nature, degree and incidence in Small Island Developing States. Most small islands developing states are constrained by geographic remoteness, limited human and natural resources. They are susceptible to natural disasters and the general vulnerability to economic fluctuations. On global scale they bear the brunt of global warming and climate change through increased incidence and intensity of tropical cyclones, droughts and accelerated sea level rise. With these considerations in mind sustainable development requires a unique approach for the small island developing states.

The clear and genuine need for sustainable development is in Africa, who as a continent has suffered the most in the last fifty years. Africa also needs a deviation from the conventional pattern of development pursued thus far, which follows the normal pattern of sector based approach of development. Sustainable development initiatives for Africa, as revealed in the New Partnership for Africa's Development, must be made effective and successful in meeting the challenge of poverty eradication in Africa.

All these programs must be workable and effective. In *Means of Implementation* activities in finance, official development assistance, new innovative mechanism of financing, debt relief, transfer of technologies, capacity building, education and partnerships are ways of working together to implement various programs.

Ideas that are incorporated in this paper serve as a *base* to develop further in the various initiatives and partnership programs.

IV. Partnerships and Initiatives

The purpose is to invite the public and the world at large to develop initiatives for public-private partnership to promote sustainable development in action. Few of the examples are:

1. Global network of related institutional support structures, including information systems, technology centres, and research and development institutions to promote greater transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.
2. Partnerships to develop cleaner production technologies and accelerate the commercialisation and diffusion of these technologies.

3. Public-private partnership to provide incentives to larger companies and transnational corporations to facilitate process of SMEs to environmentally sound technologies, for example by including and supporting them in production and supply chains.
4. Partnership to establish a technology and scientific network.
5. Global initiative for the provision of financial and technical assistance for the phasing out of lead in gasoline and the reduction of sulphur and benzene in fuels and particulate in vehicle exhaust to reduce health impacts.
6. Global partnership to improve human settlements including through capacity building.
7. Global initiative to promote investment in the development of mass public transport systems.
8. Global partnership to promote development and dissemination of affordable and safe biotechnologies, particularly for agricultural production.
9. Partnerships to realize the Millennium Declaration target of reducing by half the number of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water by 2015.
10. Global initiative to assist vulnerable countries in mobilizing all resources for adaptation to climate change including rehabilitation of communities following natural disasters related to extreme weather events.

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