

9 May 2002

Letter from the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the WSSD

Dear friends and colleagues,

At the end of the third session (25 March-5 April 2002) of the Preparatory Committee for World Summit on Sustainable Development, I was given the mandate to prepare on the basis of the various inputs and the discussions held during the PrepCom, a concise, action-oriented and pragmatic document. The document, to be circulated in the first week of May, would be the basis of reaching consensus during the fourth session of the PrepCom to be held in Bali.

In fulfilling the task entrusted to me by the Committee, my work was guided by four major considerations. Firstly, the document should faithfully reflect the proposals and comments made during the last session of the PrepCom. To achieve this objective, I greatly benefited from the excellent work done by the co-chairs of Working Groups I and II. They very skilfully prepared a balanced document that captured the essence of the proposals and richness of the discussions. I am grateful for their contribution in facilitating my task.

Secondly, every effort should be made to find formulations that would facilitate agreement during the fourth session of the PrepCom. Thirdly, recognize the issues where candid discussions rather than creative drafting would be more effective in building bridges. Paragraphs dealing with such issues have been reflected in **bold and brackets**. I would like to emphasise however that consensus on these issues can be achieved through better understanding of each other's concerns.

Fourthly, minimize the need for changes to my text. That is why in the new text, I have tried to be as inclusive as possible to ensure that views are properly reflected. I hope this will obviate the need for proposing major changes to the text or for protracted negotiations in Bali.

With these considerations in mind, I have prepared the attached text of the implementation document that will be discussed in Bali beginning 25 May. I am confident that with your support and cooperation, we can and should achieve consensus on this document at the latest by 31 May and then focus our attention on the elements of the political declaration.

In the end, I urge you all to look at points of convergence and areas where we can work together and make a difference in the lives of the people.

I look forward to seeing you all in Bali.

Emil Salim