

NETWORK 2005

PEACE & SECURITY IN A WORLD WITH NEW BORDERS MARCH 2004

Interview with David Hannay Secretary General' Panel on Peace & Security

Last Month's Network 2005 led with an article on the importance of 2005 to multi-lateralism. A key building block to that process is the UN Secretary General's Panel on Peace & Security, which will report that year. This month Network invites Panellist Lord David Hanney, former Permanent Representative for the UK to the UN, to share his views on the importance of the Panel's work as well as its contribution to the 2005 agenda.

N2005: In his address to the General Assembly concerning the Panel on Peace & Security, UN Sec Gen, Kofi Annan, set out a complex and integrated agenda of challenges. What will be the Panel's primary objective?

DH: Kofi Annan sounded a note of alarm in his September 2003 address to the General Assembly. Since the cold war the UN's has muddled through on peace and security to the extent that failures have started to outnumber successes. This can't go on. We need to make choices to make the UN a more effective organisation on these issues. The remit of the panel will therefore be to analyse the threats of the 21st century and make policy recommendations on how the UN can effectively confront these threats. This will include threats both old and new, including Weapons of Mass Destruction, Terrorism and even HIV/AIDS, environmental degradation and extremes of poverty. Essentially, the Panel scope includes all problems that undermine peace and stability.

N2005: Why is the Panel important?

DH: During the cold war the UN was often marginalised, which those working for it accepted unhappily. Since the cold war, however, those constraints have dropped away. As a result of this change of events, more is now expected of the UN which brings with it more opportunities and, so far, more disappointments.

Nobody had thought carefully about what role the UN should play in this new century and what backing it would need. If we are to cease muddling along, these questions need answers. That is why the Panel is important.

N2005: Events over the past 18 months have led some to suggest that there is a crisis in multi-lateralism. How can the panel contribute to resolving this situation?

DH: It is correct to say that there have been some very serious setbacks to collective action and response. Often there is dispute or deadlock on how to organise a collective approach, and how to make collective responses more effective than unilateral action. To overcome this we need to achieve a set of shared objectives, and then apply them pragmatically. The tension between unilateralism and collectivism is not ideological; we are dealing with politics, and we need to be practical. We need to be able to show that what works best is a collective UN response, based on a shared agenda, and that this provides a more effective response than a unilateral approach.



Police Me!

N2005: Sir Brian Urquhart once argued for a permanent army made up of the Security Council's P5. Do you think this would be a viable and constructive idea at this time?

DH: What Sir Brian has suggested is a rapid reaction force, not just of the P5, able to go in when needed. The idea of a P5 force dates back to San-Francisco in 1945, and has largely been overtaken by events. This wouldn't be viable or acceptable now. A Secretary General's rapid reaction force would be wonderful, but is not, I fear, practical. No state would give the Secretary General final say on the deployment of their troops. There is notably more mileage in utilising the rapid reaction capabilities of the EU or NATO.

N2005: The Panel will be looking at the institutional arrangements of the UN system in relation to Peace and Security, including those dealing with Economic & Social issues. As two of the pillars of Sustainable Development – how do they relate to the Panel's work?

DH: Institutional aspects of the UN are important and must be looked at carefully. The work of the panel is to make policy recommendations, and not just driven by New York based anoraks. Any policy changes will need effective institutions.

N2005: The Sec. Gen. highlighted the link between the Panel's



work and the Millennium Declaration to which governments committed to in 2000. In 2005 there will be a review of the implementation of the Declaration's Millennium Development Goals, as well as the publication of the Panel's report. How will both these agenda's be combined?

DH: I think these agendas will naturally converge; and 2005 will be an important year. There will be a newly elected US President. I don't anticipate incoherence between the Panel and the MDG's, indeed Kofi Annan asked the panel to work within the framework of the Millennium Declaration.

N2005: Also in 2005 the WTO is supposed to be completing its current Doha Trade Round. What links can the Panel make between Peace & Security and other processes outside the UN system?

DH: It is important that the Doha round is concluded, but this is unlikely to occur in 2004. Therefore it would be a good thing if WTO members put their backs into concluding the round by the end of 2005.

It is not the Panel's job to take decisions on WTO affairs, but it can say that an important component of the international system is to provide prosperity. The need for this trade round to deliver tangible benefits, especially to developing countries, is likely to be referred to in the Panel's work.

N2005: Given that these agenda's converge in 2005, and hoping for an integrated approach between each, where should the multi-lateral system be in January 2006 if progress is to be made?

DH: I don't want to be prescriptive at this early stage. It is early days, but I would ask where the international community will be if no progress is made in 2005 and if the work of the Panel is overlooked or ignored? The Secretary General raised the stakes in his September speech by seeking improvements in the UN's work on peace and security. A lot is riding on this agenda. If it fails, public support for the UN will drop.

Ultimately, though, it is in the hands of the member states. The UN is not a disembodied organisation, but a joint collective venture with more than 190 shareholders. The duty to deliver results is on those shareholders.

Interview by T. Middleton

Network 2015

Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development

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Editorial

A quick scan of the international pages of any quality press can make for grim reading. Bloodletting around the world continues as fragile democracies are challenged by less than democratic means.

While there are a range of causes of the sparks that are lighting these touch papers, immediate concerns focus on dampening the unrest, and for that all eyes invariably turn to the same place - the peace keeping capabilities of the UN.

As our lead article outlines, the demands placed on the UN in this new millennium have evolved from those it faced in its first 50-odd years. A decline, though admittedly not elimination, in cross boarder tensions has been met with an increase in internal instability as well as trans-national economic and social imbalances as viewed on the global scale. The causes of these kinds of unrest are much more complex and difficult to treat than conventional cold-war stand-offs.

As important as nation state versus nation state are now concerns over building of democracies, social exclusion, environmental hazards and stress, religious divide, and the imbalance in the distribution of benefits afforded by globalisation. The challenge facing the Secretary General's Panel on Peace and Security will be to plot a course for the UN through this minefield.

For this process to succeed it needs others to take notice. As our interviewee notes, governments as shareholders of the UN system must take principal responsibility. In addition institutions themselves, both within and outside the UN family must get on-board.

Trade, social, economic and environmental agencies should consider not only how their respective sphere of expertise has to adapt, but also how it must integrate. This newsletter has in recent months, and will continue to in future, sing the praises of 2005 as the year that might be, could be and should be the focal point for this integration. And the stepping stones start now.

Later this month UNEP will convene Ministers of the Environment on the issues of Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements. The Cardoso Panel on Civil Society and the UN is due to present its findings to the Secretary General in April. The UN CSD will follow-on with its annual session next month too. The WTO has just begun a rigorous agenda of committee meetings running to the end of the year to take the Doha process forward. UNCTAD meets in June to discuss the links between Global and National trade agendas. The UN Commissions on Social Development and the Status of Women will be considering the 10 year reviews of their respective summit processes later in the year. Finally, amongst this all, the Peace and Security Panel will undertake its work throughout the year.

The agenda is there. The opportunity is unique. Whether that opportunity will be realised depends on all those promises being kept. Not the ones about water, poverty, education and the like. No, I'm talking about the ones to enable the international architecture of the 21st century to deal with the challenges facing it effectively.

Now that really would be something to get excited about.

T. Middleton, Editor

SUSTAINABLE NEWS

GMEF Civil Society Forum and Global Ministerial Environment Forum - and Online Debate

UNEP will host the world's Environment Ministers at its Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Jeju, South Korea. From March 29th to 31st, over 100 assembled Ministers will meet to discuss global priorities on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements.

The Ministerial follows a recent meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which dealt with a number of related themes, and precedes the 12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

UNEP's Executive Director, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, outlined the strategic importance of the Ministerial in relation to this agenda of events, stating:

"The Ministerial Consultations will consider the theme Environmental dimension of water, sanitation and human settlements as it relates to the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and in preparation for CSD 12. WSSD identified the scarcity and quality of water as one of the most critical issues requiring attention in the 21st century. In light of the objectives of sustainable development and targets set by the Millennium Development Goals, an ecosystem approach to the management of water, sanitation and human settlements is no longer an option, but a requirement."

Ministers are expected to produce a number of recommendations, usually in the form of a Declaration, committing high-level support to international efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) related to water, as well as the on the implementation of the agreements made at the WSSD.

Governments will be under scrutiny to explain how they intend to achieve MDGs by 2015, when little progress has been made since their drafting 4 years ago. This question is unlikely to be fully answered until the outcomes of this political forum are matched to those due at the CSD, which will review progress to-date and be more inclusive of stakeholder implementation initiatives and partnerships.

The 3 days of Ministerial sessions will be accompanied by a number of parallel and side events, including:

- Environmental Technology Transfer;
- Women & Water;
- Small Island Developing States.

The Ministerial will also advance UNEP's ongoing consultation on Environmental Governance. This will include discussions on revising UNEP's status to Universal membership as apposed to its current voluntary status. The principal outcome of this would be to strengthen UNEP's position within the UN family and to greater secure its funding base.

Civil Society

Preceding the Ministerial, UNEP will convene its 5th Global Civil Society Forum (CSF). Following a number of regional

preparatory processes, the CSF offers a global platform for NGO's, Local Authorities, Trade Unions, Women and Youth to table their recommendations on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements. Participants will contribute towards the drafting of a statement, including these recommendations, to be presented at the Ministerial.

Online Debate

Stakeholder Forum will be convening an online debate on the themes of Water management & governance, and Water & Sanitation. Running from March 8th - 17th, subscribers are invited to share their views on the following issues: The Ecosystem Approach; Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM); Freshwater/Coastal Inter-linkages; Sewage and Wastewater Management. There will also be expert contributions on these issues for you to comment and respond to.

The debate is now open for subscription, with contributions welcomed from the 8th, at: www.stakeholderforum.org/debate/ A report on the outcomes of the debate will be published in next months network as well as in the sister daily conference newsletters, Outreach 2005, and submitted at the CSF and Ministerial.

4th Global Forum on Sustainable Energy

The Fourth Meeting of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE-4) was held from 18-20 February 2004, in Vienna, Austria. The meeting considered the theme of "Energy for sustainable development: reconsidering the role of incentive measures" The prime focus of the forum was renewable energy issues which will provide valuable input to *renewables 2004*.

GFSE-4 also facilitated an interactive platform for various energy initiatives announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg 2002. A working meeting was convened on 17 February 2004 in which some 15 energy initiatives shared information and discussed ways of collaboration and coordination.

In addition the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD), the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC), the EU Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (EUEI) and the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) held consultations and working meetings in the margins of GFSE-4.

The convenor for GFSE-4 was Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl, Special Representative and Assistant Director-General for UN Affairs at the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), with the Austrian government, the Austrian Federation of Industry, the City of Vienna, the Austrian Energy Agency, UNDP and UNIDO co-sponsoring the event. Approximately 250 participants attended, representing governments, UN bodies and representatives of civil society, including business and industry, non-governmental organizations and academia from all regions.

For further information see www.gfse.at/publ/word/gfse4_rec.doc

BIODIVERSITY

Convention on Biological Diversity: 7th Conference of the Parties

The 7th Conference of the Parties (COP7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, between 9th and 20th February 2004.

The CBD is a well-established convention established in 1992 and currently has 188 “Parties” to it, with a budget of over \$10 million. It has three aims: To promote,

- the conservation of biological diversity
- sustainable use of its components
- the fair and equitable use of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources

This COP7 meeting had over 2300 participating delegates including 161 governments and adopted 33 decisions with a challenging focus – to respond to the outcomes of the 2002 WSSD, particularly the target of:

“significantly reducing the loss of biological diversity by 2010”.

Ecosystem Approach (EA)

Identified as the primary framework for action under the CBD, the Ecosystem Approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. The implementation of its 12 principles are seen as key to the achievement of the 2010 target.

Protected Areas (PAs)

Existing PAs are seen as the reservoirs and final refuges for much wild biodiversity and as primary building blocks for any future expansion. COP7 adopted an ambitious work programme with the objective of establishing and maintaining effectively managed and ecologically representative national and regional PA systems, by 2010 for terrestrial areas and by 2012 for marine areas. These to form the basis of a global network of protected areas which could be enhanced by ecological corridors and networks, buffer zones and the integration of PAs into broader landscapes, seascapes and sectors.

Marine and coastal biodiversity

Further to significant steerage given by WSSD in Johannesburg, COP7 was active in debating ways to implement a global network of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) by building on national and regional systems with a range of levels of protection. The difficult subject of marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction should be dealt with within the legal framework of the law of the sea but there was a call for urgent UN action on identifying, assessing and monitoring deep seabed genetic resources and the elimination of destructive practices that currently exploit them.

Biodiversity and climate change

COP7 noted that climate change mitigation and adaptation activities can be implemented synergistically between CBD and other conventions (notably UNFCCC) and that the ecosystem approach provides a useful framework for this.

Inland water ecosystems

An important cross-cutting subject area encompassing such issues as integrated water resource management. COP7 decided to encourage synergies with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and called for reliable baseline data and regular national assessments on inland water biodiversity, with the objectives of the work programme incorporated into national plans by 2005.

Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands

To help address loss of biodiversity in these areas and in addition to the existing work programme for dry and sub-humid lands, COP7 adopted a process for periodic assessment, recognising the urgency for action needed for countries affected by land degradation and focusing on strengthening capacities to conduct assessments at a national level.

Forest biodiversity

In the face of continued global deforestation and illegal logging of tropical hardwoods COP7 reinforced an existing work programme on forest biodiversity and stressed the urgency of the need for the strengthening of insufficient forest law enforcement and encouraged regional level cooperation.



Will 50% of this bio-diversity be around in 6 years time?

Mountain biodiversity

Particularly vulnerable ecosystems containing much endemic biodiversity as well as unique human cultures, mountains were given a priority position in negotiations. Eventually, after debates over references to mutual supportiveness to trade-related instruments to avoid distortions to international commodity trade, a programme of work for mountain biodiversity was adopted.

Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

Introduced plant and animal species are out of control in many places, out-competing native species and costing millions in management attempts. Other than welcoming the recent Convention on Control of Ballast Water from shipping (a significant route for introducing alien species), COP7 was unable to reach a consensus decision on this subject owing to arguments that the formulation of the precautionary approach and risk analyses to prevent the introduction of IAS could be used by countries to avoid their obligations under trade-related conventions.

Access and benefit sharing (ABS) and Article 8(j)

Access and benefit sharing concerns the property rights of individuals and countries of genetic resources. This includes the need for an international regime to regulate current practices in “bio-prospecting” and “bio-piracy” Similarly, Article 8(j) is concerned with the respect of indigenous land rights, traditional knowledge protection,

the impacts of GMO technology on local farming practices and participation of Indigenous People in decision making and the CBD process. Progress was made in furthering these complex issues and decisions made on advancing the promotion and implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on ABS and Akwe: Kon Guidelines.

Kuala Lumpur Ministerial Declaration

Government ministers signed up to the Kuala Lumpur Ministerial Declaration which, inter alia:

- **urges** governments to ratify the CBD and the Bio-safety Protocol
- **reaffirms** the significant role of Indigenous People and local

communities in the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources

- **commits** ministers to the development of an international regime on ABS
- **commits** governments to integrate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into socio-economic development
- **urges** governments to establish PA networks and develop indicators and incentives to meet the 2010 target

Generally, COP7 is being hailed as an important step towards the 2010 target, with much of its ambitious agenda achieved and translated into work programmes.

Chris Mahon, Cheshire Wildlife Trust

WATER PARTNERSHIP

White Water to Blue Water

A Partnership to Link Freshwater and Oceans

The White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Initiative, first announced at the WSSD, is underway in the Wider Caribbean Region. Recognizing the fragile state of the coastal and marine environment of this region, WW2BW has been launched to stimulate partnerships to promote integrated watershed and marine-based ecosystems management in of sustainable development within the Wider Caribbean Region. WW2BW specifically focuses on enhancing integrated approaches in areas such as wastewater and sanitation, sustainable agricultural practices, integrated coastal management, sustainable tourism, and environmentally sound marine transportation. The initiative strives to create dynamic partnerships between public and private entities and funding sources to promote its goals as well as to implement international agreements such as the GPA, International Coral Reef Initiative, Convention on Biological Diversity and others. The GPA and many other global, regional and national partners will support WW2BW.

A WW2BW conference is planned for 21-27 March 2004 in Miami, USA, to offer a forum for partnership development and program implementation. The conference will be focused on four themes: Integrated Watershed Management, Marine Ecosystem-based Management, Sustainable Tourism, and Environmentally Sound Marine Transportation, and will offer an opportunity for global and regional experts to exchange best practices and encourage

management innovation in the Caribbean. WW2BW seeks to create multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary partnerships within and across these thematic areas. WW2BW also will include a focus on several cross-cutting topics – Education and Training, Green Markets, Climate Change and Natural Hazards, and Marine Science.

The conference will not result in a negotiated text or “Miami Declaration;” rather, it is designed to address management issues and gaps from a cross-sectoral point of view and to result in the development of better communications, increased capacity and better use of existing and potential resources on the national and regional levels. The goal is to produce partnerships and the networks necessary to support collaborative and innovative problem solving for watershed and marine ecosystem-based management issues at the national and regional levels.

A variety of web resources exist for to assist in the delivery of this partnership programme. The partnership website (www.ww2bw.org) provides background information on the thematic areas and projects part of WW2BW are clustered according to these. The projects are searchable according to agencies involved, project keywords and are available in French and Spanish. The NOAA website (www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw/) provides background thematic information and links to steering committee details. The conference website (www.umiami.edu/ww2bw/) provides information on the conference event itself. The outcomes of the conference will be publicised through these websites and will feature in an upcoming edition of this newsletter.

White Water to Blue Water is a partnership to link freshwater and oceans

Objectives

Strengthening national and regional institutional capacity to implement cross-sectoral watershed and marine ecosystem-based management.

Facilitating closer cooperation and good governance within and among nations, regional agencies and civil society in coastal and marine resource management, water management, health, environmental protection, agriculture, and urban planning.

Engaging business partners in the major growth sectors, such as tourism and marine transportation, to promote best business and environment practices, and to support regional activities in watershed and marine coastal management

CSD STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

Major Group Papers Review

On April 19-30, the Commission Sustainable Development (CSD) will meet in New York to review the progress towards, and identify the challenges of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Agenda 21. The international gathering also begins the two-year emphasis the CSD has placed on the water, sanitation, and human settlements. Five of the nine stakeholders involved in the commission - Women, Science and Technology, Trade Unions, Non-government Organizations, and Local Government - have released their dialogue papers for the upcoming commission. Each paper cites the problems and solutions they would like the CSD to discuss in April.

Although each organization has their own unique point of view and agenda related to the solutions and problems of water, sanitation, and human settlement, many of the same themes appear in a variety of the documents.

The negative effects of privatisation of water resources, the need for more public involvement, and the recognition of women's important role in the solution process were the most commonly addressed issues. The need to continue the efforts to make the right to safe water an international human right was also a reoccurring theme throughout the releases.

Women, NGO's, and Trade Unions speak very clearly about the negative outcomes of the privatisation of water resources. The Women's paper states that the trend toward privatisation of traditionally public resources "has reduced the democratic involvement of both citizens and government in water management decisions," proposing that it increasingly infringes on people's rights and livelihoods, especially those of poor women and girls. Similarly, Trade Unions state water privatisation is a threat to the basic services of water and sanitation and that it has not fulfilled its promises of affordable, accessible service in the past.

Equally strong to the cry against water privatisation is the call to involve the public sector at all levels of policy and decision making. NGO's cite in their opening introduction, "avenues for public participation...will be essential to ensuring better

governance and less conflict among nations." Trade Unions hope the CSD can "reassert a people-centred model of development" based on the results of their six in-depth reviews. They also place the need for public involvement in their closing statements, asking the CSD to take measures to strengthen the public sector's role in sustainable development.

The need to strengthen women's role in policy and decision making and to stress to governments that the right to water as a basic human right were strong, common themes in the Women, NGO, Local Government and Trade Union papers. NGO's make the strong statement that "women are the most vital of all links in the sustainability chain" and the need for training, teaching, and requiring women's input is strong in all four papers. The Women's paper gives justification to this common consensus with specifics and expanded explanations of women's important role. Their paper also makes the strongest case for the need to strengthen the human right of safe drinking water and is supported by similar assertions from NGO's and Trade Unions.

The five major groups make many other requests for consideration to the CSD and raise other issues that need deliberation at the upcoming commission. NGO's and Science and Technology both make strong cases for continued education about sustainable development in schools. Better urban planning efforts as well as a continued emphasis on the ecological approach to sustainable development are also cited as important by the major groups. Each group also requests that more attention be given to proper and sufficient funding to improve access to safe water services.

Each of the five major groups hopes that their paper, the product of regional meetings, much labour and research, will help to guide the twelfth meeting of the CSD to discuss and address the issues that they see vital to water, sanitation, and human Settlements. Contributions from Youth, Business, Indigenous Peoples will be published soon.

Contact: www.stakeholderforum.org/update/csd12.php

Kendra Buckles, Stakeholder Forum

PROJECTS UPDATE

H2O National Stakeholder Consultations

Stakeholder Forum is working with the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) (for which UNEP provides the secretariat) in the provision of outreach services. This outreach focus on increasing the profile and implementation of the GPA and highlighting the issue inter-linkages between the GPA and other water related UN programmes and partnerships. These meetings include the 8th Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) of UNEP, the Twelfth Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the Hilltops-to-Oceans (H₂O) Initiative, which is holding a launch conference in May 2004.

Stakeholder Forum, in conjunction with Defra (UK's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), are hosting a one day workshop for engage stakeholders in the H2O meeting. Workshop attendants will be provided with briefing papers for discussion and expert practitioners will be attending the event to facilitate issue-based break out groups. This opportunity provides the UK government with an understanding of stakeholder priorities, and enables stakeholders to actively participate in preparatory processes for H2O. The roundtable will be held in early April and all stakeholders are encouraged to voice their views on the following implementation issues: integrated coastal management, ecosystem approach, partnerships for environmental management, institutional capacity and enhanced involvement of the private sector and civil society in addressing problems of river, coastal and marine pollution. Stakeholders are encouraged to make submissions to the below address as part of

this engagement process.

For more information on the Defra roundtable contact: kdickinson@stakeholderforum.org

For more information on the H2O conference visit: www.hilltops2oceans.org/

International Renewable Energies Conference

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue for *renewables 2004*

An International Advisory Group (IAG) has been appointed for the outreach to different civil society groups (www.stakeholderforum.org/practice/renewables/iag.pdf). The members of the IAG may serve as focal points for MSD preparations of the respective stakeholder group. The membership of the IAG reflects the range of actors with interest, expertise, and experience in renewables. It also aims to reflect the appropriate gender and geographical balance. The stakeholder groups / entry points to the dialogue for *renewables 2004* are as follows:

- Women
- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Local and Regional Authorities
- Trade Unions
- Business & Industry (including the financial sector)
- The Scientific and Technological Community
- Farmers
- Consumers
- Renewable Energy Manufacturers and Suppliers (including renewable energy associations)
- Actors in Development and Poverty Alleviation

The IAG will propose the themes of the MSD and coordinate the input from their constituency base.

On January 30 2004, the MSD International Advisory Group had a teleconference meeting to discuss the themes and structure for the 2 MSD sessions at the Conference. The International Advisory Group (IAG) is responsible for proposing the themes for the MSD sessions: this will enable the 2 sessions with the ministers / senior officials to be used most effectively.

The starting point for the discussions is the Conference Issue Paper (latest draft to be published on the Stakeholder Forum website next week): this paper concentrates on the most important issues to be addressed at the Bonn Conference and will provide guidance to the thematic and political discussions. The IAG identified areas for potential focus and also areas which they felt needed further emphasis.

There was concern for stakeholder representation from Less Developed Countries (LDCs) and Countries in Transition. There must be a concerted effort to inform and involve civil society from these countries. The IAG is comprised of members from international institutions who will aim to consult with their constituents across the globe. However, if you know anyone who may benefit from this, please send let us know their contact details and we can add them to the listserv for the Renewables

2004 MSD newsletter.

The conference conveners have issued a call for actions and commitments with information on the arrangements for contributing to the international action plan. Proposed actions and commitments should be significant in terms of their expected impact.

Governments, international organisations and other stakeholders wishing to contribute to the international action plan may use the following document (www.renewables2004.de/pdf/call-for-action.pdf).

For more information about the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue process for *renewables 2004* please visit:

www.stakeholderforum.org/practice/renewables2004.php



Media 4 Sustainable Development Service Launched

Stakeholder Forum will soon be offering a dedicated news service for the media. Focussing on the needs of journalists reporting on sustainable development issues, Media 4 Sustainable Development will provide regular, free, e-briefing notes via list serve. This will include executive summaries of key international meetings dealing with the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development's Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the delivery of the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2005 the international community will review progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, as this newsletter reported last month, a number of other processes will conclude next year.

The Media 4 Sustainable Development e-briefings will provide clarity to this agenda. In addition to giving succinct and detailed information on these events, the briefings will also include:

- Links to related intergovernmental bodies;
- Links to papers and documents;
- Links to key decisions and agreements;
- Links to other key stakeholder organisations;
- A diary of upcoming and related meetings.

Media 4 Sustainable Development will be launched virtually on March 22nd. The first issue will focus on UNEP's Global Ministerial Environment Forum. This will be followed in April with issues focussing on the 12th Session of the UNCSD and UNEP's Hilltop's to Oceans meeting.

If you would like to subscribe to Media 4 Sustainable Development, please email:

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CONFERENCES & EVENTS

2 - 5 March	Global Biotechnology Forum. Concepcion, Chile. Contact: www.gb2004.cl/index1.html
4 - 6 March	International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development. Rome, Italy. Contact: visconti.gloria@minambiente.it
15 - 17 March	Sustainable Development Conference. Johannesburg, South Africa. Contact: www.bembani.com/main/conference.html
17 - 18 March	World Resources Institute 7th Annual Sustainable Enterprise Summit. Washington DC, USA. Contact: www.summit.wri.org
21 - 27 March	White Water to Blue Water Regional Partnership Conference. Miami, USA. Contact: www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw/meetings.html
25 - 26 March	Meeting on Trade, Environment & Sustainable Development. Cheju, South Korea. Contact: www.unep.org
29 - 31 March	UNEP's Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Cheju, South Korea. Contact: www.unep.org
14 - 16 April	CSD Acting as the PrepComm. for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action on Small Island Developing States. New York, USA. Contact: www.sidsnet.org
19 - 30 April	12th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. New York, USA. Contact: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm
2 - 6 May	Forth World Fisheries Congress. Vancouver, Canada. Contact: www.worldfisheries2004.org
11 - 14 May	Hilltops2Oceans. Cairns, Australia. Contact: www.hilltops2oceans.org/

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