

inspiration

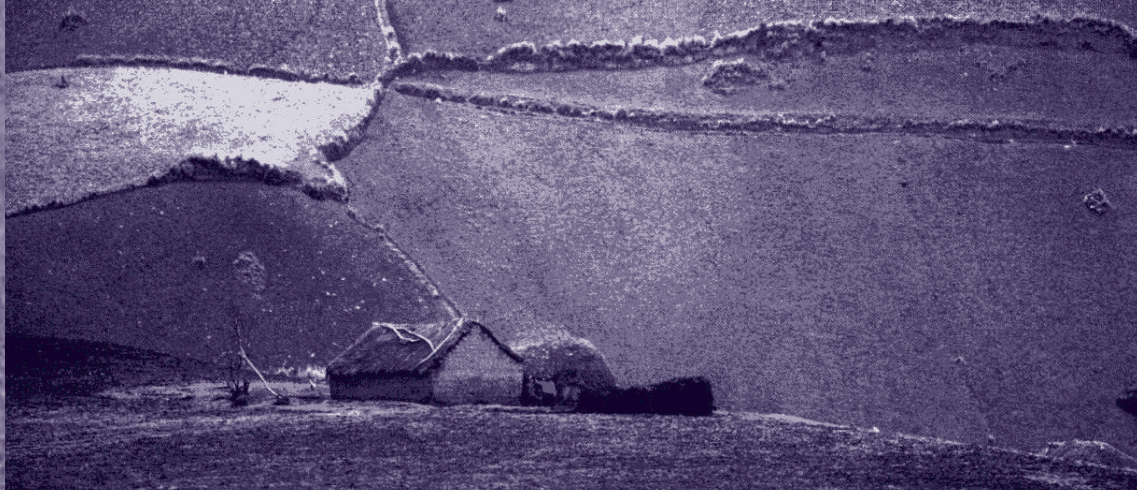
beijing

networking

rio

sustainable development

international policy-making



The Stakeholder Toolkit

A Resource for Women and NGOs

global plans of action

information

women's rights

united nations

conventions

world summits

international agreements

internet resources

women's caucus

EDITED BY

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UNED Forum • March 2001



UNED Forum

The project was carried out between 1998 and 2001, and the website is being updated on a regular basis.

The *Stakeholder Toolkit for Women* website:

www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/index.htm

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*“I cannot think of a single issue we’re dealing with
in the United Nations which is not a women’s issue”*

Kofi Annan, 8 March 1999

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Minu Hemmati & Kerstin Seliger

Part I

INTRODUCTION

What's the Stakeholder Toolkit for Women and NGOs? • *page 3*

Why deal with the UN? • *page 5*

What's the Stakeholder Toolkit for Women and NGOs?

The toolkit aims to provide information, inspiration and networking opportunities. It is designed to help effectively monitor the progress made in implementing the Global Plans for Action, which have been agreed at the UN Global Summits and Conferences since the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. It helps to understand the international agreements and is a tool for women's groups and NGOs who work to implement the global agreements and use them in their work, as well as those who aim to contribute to policy-making at local, national or international levels. We hope that the toolkit will contribute to making Global Plans for Action a reality in every part of the world.

The Toolkit comprises a large website and the present booklet, and has been the basis of developing workshop agendas and material.

This booklet mirrors some of the content of the toolkit website. The website offers easy access to relevant United Nations (UN) documents of all UN Summit processes since 1992, non-government organisation (NGO) position papers, examples of good practices and other useful information such as introductory texts on UN Summits and Conferences, UN and other intergovernmental agencies, networking opportunities, annotated links to related websites, etc. The download page offers all UN Documents from the cycle of UN conferences for quick and easy download – in one place. Searching the toolkit website allows you to search all these documents and related NGO documents at once.

You can also find the present booklet on the website and download it as a PDF file.

The Toolkit Workshop

The national workshop held in Kajiado, Kenya in December 1999, was a collaborative effort between GROOTS Kenya and UNED-UK. Attended by over eighty grassroots women leaders from different parts of Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Tanzania, the meeting provided a platform for grassroots women to meet and share experiences on sustainable develop-

NGOs

A non-governmental organisation (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group that is organised on a local, national or international level. NGOs perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions, bring citizens' concerns to Governments, monitor policies and encourage political participation at the community level.

ment. At the workshop, participants discussed implications of recent global agreements on the lives of grassroots women and to evaluate their involvement in global fora, especially UN Conferences where many of these agreements are made. Presentations provided grassroots women with information on international agreements that relate to sustainable development and the day-to-day work of grassroots women within their own communities. Participants discussed strategies for grassroots women to participate effectively in global meetings e.g. advocacy, lobbying and communication skills, and developed strategies to strengthen and expand peer learning and exchanges for capacity building.

The Toolkit was used as a basic material for this workshop, providing information about international processes and agreements, women's activities and networks, and compilations of international agreements on issues of particular relevance to the participants. The full report of the workshop is available at <http://www.unedforum.org/publi/kajiado/kajiadoreport.htm>. Contact UNED Forum if you wish to work on a similar workshop based on the toolkit.

Focus on Women and Sustainable Development

The present booklet focuses primarily on **women's involvement in sustainable development**; hence a lot of examples are drawn from the so-called Rio-process on environment and development. The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 adopted sustainable development as an over-arching theme of international policy-making. The Earth Summit was also the starting point for a number of UN Summits and Conferences in the 1990 (the so-called "cycle" of UN Conferences). Finally, the world is at this point

THE TOOLKIT WEBSITE:

www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/index.htm

preparing for the next major UN Summit – the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002 – a 10-year review of Agenda 21 and a forward looking Summit conference. This will be the first major UN Conference since the Food Summit in 1996.

Sustainable Development

can be defined as development that allows the present generation to meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

Sustainable development needs to balance three goals: environmental protection, healthy economic growth, and social equity.

Stakeholder

Stakeholders are those individuals or groups who have a stake in a certain policy or decision – they are impacting the decision or policy and/or are affected by it.

Agenda 21 recognises nine stakeholder groups (so-called “Major Groups”, see below), and women are one of them.

Major Groups

Major Groups are groups of stakeholders in society whose involvement is essential to sustainable development. Agenda 21 acknowledges 9 Major Groups: women; children & youth; indigenous people; NGOs; local authorities; trade unions; business & industry; science & technology; farmers.

Many activities of governments, NGOs, women’s groups, business and industry, trade unions, local authorities, Indigenous Peoples groups, and other stakeholders are focusing on the preparations for this Summit, aiming to ensure that the spirit of Rio is re-kindled and to achieve feasible outcomes that will help the world to move towards sustainable development.

Women have a major role to play in sustainable development. In Rio, women were considered a “Major Group” whose involvement is necessary to achieve sustainable development. Today, there is a growing emphasis on “gender mainstreaming” – integrally incorporating both men’s and women’s concerns

and participation in the planning, implementation and monitoring of all development and environmental management programmes.

Women and sustainable development issues are an essential component of Agenda 21 and other international agreements. Chapter 24 of Agenda 21 – “Global Action for Women Towards Sustainable and Equitable Development” – outlines strategies to achieve the necessary full and equal participation of women in order to bring about sustainable development. In addition to the Chapter, women’s and gender issues are being addressed throughout Agenda 21, reflecting the “gender mainstreaming” approach. There are over one hundred references and recommendations pertaining to women in the final agreement, recognising the importance of women’s full and equal participation, their rights and roles in relation to sustainable development in sectoral as well as cross-sectoral areas.

“Human development, if not engendered, is endangered.”

(UNDP Human Development Report 1995: 1)

example

MAMA-86, an NGO founded after the accident at the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, Ukraine, has been working to provide information on air, food, and water quality, particularly for women. MAMA-86 has also used the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (popularly called the Aarhus Convention because it was adopted in Aarhus, Denmark, in 1998) for their work. For example, they have provided information about the Convention and its implications for local governments to local authorities in the Ukraine (a signatory to the Aarhus Convention), raising awareness about the rights of citizens to access information about the quality of their environment. At the same time, MAMA86 has supported local groups in forwarding inquiries to their local authorities about environmental quality. The group has thus helped the implementation of the Convention by empowering the citizens, environmental NGOs and women’s groups, as well as local authorities.

FACTS on Women in Political Life: the Bad News

- In 1998, only ten of the world's heads of State were women. (*Contemporary Women Leaders, July, 1998*)
- As of 1994 just twenty-four women had been elected heads of state in the twentieth century, half of them in the 1990s alone.
- In 1998 only 12.7% of the world's cabinet ministers were women (*Inter-Parliamentary Union: July 1998*). As of March 1998, the number of women in senior management at the United Nations Secretariat was 28.7%. (*Focal Point for Women in the Secretariat, "Gender Distribution of Staff in the United Nations Secretariat", New York: United Nations, March 1998*)
- Women occupy less than 5% of the top positions in international organisations, including the United Nations and the European Community.
- At the end of 1993 the number of women in senior management at the United Nations Secretariat was only 13%.
- Even when women are appointed to high positions, they are mainly assigned to jobs related to "women's issues" such as education, health and social welfare.
- Although women have contributed to many political revolutions throughout the world, they have rarely been appointed to political office in the new governments born of those struggles.
(*All above from United Nations Fact Sheets, Press Kit for the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 1995*)
- In 1993 the Dutch right-wing Protestant party SGP banned women from membership because the members believe the Bible forbids women to be politically active. (*Newsheet, Women Living under Muslim Laws, Vol. VI, No. 2, 1994, p. 28. France, Women Living Under Muslim Laws*)
- In Eastern Europe women's participation in parliament has dropped sharply recently from 22% in 1987 to 6.5 % in 1993.
(*United Nations, Department of Public Information, The Advancement of Women: Notes for Speakers, January 1995*)

<http://www.whrnet.org/issues.html>

Gender Mainstreaming

"Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality."

(E.1997.L.10.Para.4. Adopted by ECOSOC 17.7.97)

None of the three aspects of the goal of sustainable development or their balance can be achieved without solving the prevailing problems of gender inequality and inequity. Clearly, without gender mainstreaming of all work towards sustainable development, we will not be able to bring about sustainable development.

Why Deal with the UN?

How the UN affects women's daily lives: UN resolutions are a main backbone for the formulation of policies that impact directly and indirectly on the development of communities. International agreements have to be implemented at the local level depending on culture and other local conditions. For that to happen everybody has to know about them and governments and donors have to provide support for everybody concerned to get involved in implementation. That is the main reason why women should be informed about what has been agreed at the international level and use these agreements in their communities.

example

IN KENYA, grassroots women's groups have used international agreements dealing with women's rights to own and inherit land, and to access and control land, in arguing for their requirements and to defend their rights towards their local authorities, traditional chiefs, and municipalities. For example, a group of women from a Kenyan village shared a small roadside business, selling food and drinks to travellers on the road between Nairobi and the Tanzanian border. When the local authority demanded that the group remove their stall and discontinue their business, they informed them about various agreements which the Kenyan government had signed up to. Locally, nobody had been aware of these agreements, which formed the basis of the group arguing to keep their stall and business. The international agreements proved a powerful tool for these women to argue their case.

Part II

THE UNITED NATIONS

- What is the United Nations?** • *page 9*
- Institutions, Organisations, Commissions** • *page 12*
- Other Intergovernmental Fora** • *page 28*
- The United Nations World Conferences** • *page 30*
- Introduction to the Summits** • *page 32*
- Example: The Rio Process* • *page 35*
- Earth Summit 2002 Resources** • *page 38*

What is the United Nations?

The United Nations was established on 24 October 1945 by 51 countries committed to preserving peace through international cooperation and collective security. Today, nearly every nation in the world belongs to the UN: membership now totals 189 countries. The United Nations was (similar to its predecessor, the League of Nations) founded in the aftermath of a World War, aiming to secure peace and harmony among the nations of the world through agreeing basic principles of international relations, human rights, and development.

When States become Members of the United Nations, they agree to accept the obligations of the UN Charter, an international treaty that sets out basic principles of international relations. According to the Charter, the UN has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security
- to develop friendly relations among nations
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights
- to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations.

UN Member States are sovereign countries. The United Nations is not a world government, and it does not make laws. It does, however, provide the means to help resolve international conflict and formulate policies on matters affecting all of us. At the UN, all the Member States – large and small, rich and poor, with differing political views and social systems – have a voice and vote in this process (1 country – 1 vote). That makes the United Nations the only truly democratic global institution. (See also: <http://www.un.org/Overview/brief.html#works>)

The UN Family of Organisations:

The United Nations consists of a whole family of organisations:

1. *The UN as such, made up of six main organs:*

- General Assembly (GA)
- Security Council (SC)
- Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Trusteeship Council
- International Court of Justice
- Secretariat

Treaties

The term “treaty” can be used as a common generic term or as a particular term that indicates an instrument with certain characteristics.

- (a) **Treaty as a generic term:** The term “treaty” has regularly been used as a generic term embracing all instruments binding in international law concluded between international entities, regardless of their formal designation. Both the 1969 Vienna Convention and the 1986 Vienna Convention confirm this generic use of the term “treaty”. The 1969 Vienna Convention defines a treaty as “an international agreement concluded between States in written form and governed by international law, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation”. The 1986 Vienna Convention extends the definition of treaties to include international agreements involving international organisations as parties. In order to speak of a “treaty” in the generic sense, an instrument has to meet various criteria. First of all, it has to be a binding instrument, which means that the contracting parties intended to create legal rights and duties. Secondly, the instrument must be concluded by states or international organisations with treaty-making power. Thirdly, it has to be governed by international law. Finally the engagement has to be in writing. Even before the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the word “treaty” in its generic sense had been generally reserved for engagements concluded in written form.
- (b) **Treaty as a specific term:** There are no consistent rules when state practice employs the terms “treaty” as a title for an international instrument. Usually the term “treaty” is reserved for matters of some gravity that require more solemn agreements. Their signatures are usually sealed and they normally require ratification. Typical examples of international instruments designated as “treaties” are Peace Treaties, Border Treaties, Delimitation Treaties, Extradition Treaties and Treaties of Friendship, Commerce and Cooperation. The use of the term “treaty” for international instruments has considerably declined in recent decades in favour of other terms.

<http://untreaty.un.org/english/guide.asp>

Charters

The term “charter” is used for particularly formal and solemn instruments, such as the constituent treaty of an international organisation. The term itself has an emotive content that goes back to the Magna Carta of 1215. Well-known recent examples are the Charter of the United Nations of 1945 and the Charter of the Organisation of American States of 1952.

<http://untreaty.un.org/english/guide.asp>

Declarations

The term “declaration” is used for various international instruments. However, declarations are not always legally binding. The term is often deliberately chosen to indicate that the parties do not intend to create binding obligations but merely want to declare certain aspirations. An example is the 1992 Rio Declaration. Declarations can however also be treaties in the generic sense intended to be binding at international law. It is therefore necessary to establish in each individual case whether the parties intended to create binding obligations.

Ascertaining the intention of the parties can often be a difficult task. Some instruments entitled “declarations” were not originally intended to have binding force, but their provisions may have reflected customary international law or may have gained binding character as customary law at a later stage. Such was the case with the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

<http://untreaty.un.org/english/guide.asp>

All are based at UN Headquarters in New York, except for the Court, which is at The Hague, the Netherlands.

2. The UN programmes and funds such as:

In the area of the advancement of Women:

- United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

In the area of human rights:

- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

In the area of humanitarian relief:

- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

In the area of development:

- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

In the area of environment:

- United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP)

What does the UN do to Promote the Equal Rights of Women?

The UN has been instrumental in improving the status of women by spearheading change and raising awareness of their rights throughout the world.

The equal rights of women were enshrined in the Preamble to the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, thereby legally establishing gender equality as a fundamental human right. The UN has set international standards on women’s rights and has created instruments to monitor how such rights are observed around the world. It adopted in 1979 the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) – an international bill of rights for women, as well as a blueprint for action by countries to guarantee those rights. More than 160 countries have ratified the Convention, legally committing them to ensuring women’s equality. A special UN committee of independent experts monitors implementation of the Convention.

Established in 1946, the UN Commission on the Status of Women meets annually on matters concerning women’s rights, making recommendations on problems requiring immediate attention and initiating international legislation to promote women’s rights. The UN has helped mobilise women around the world. To focus attention on women’s rights, the UN declared 1975 to be ‘International Women’s Year’ and 1976–1985 the ‘UN Decade for Women.’ The UN has also provided a forum for women from around the world to join together to promote their rights. During the Year, it convened in Mexico City the first global conference ever held on women, followed by world conferences in Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995). The UN General Assembly met in a Special Session to review progress since Nairobi and Beijing in New York in June 2000 (Beijing +5).

Two UN bodies are devoted exclusively to women’s issues. The UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) funds innovative development

activities to benefit women, especially in rural areas of the developing world. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) supports women's full participation in the economic, social and political spheres through training, research and information. <http://www.un.org/geninfo/ir/ch4/ch4.htm>

Turn to Part IV for information on international agreements pertaining to women's/gender issues.

UN Finances

Individual Member States pay dues to the United Nations to allow the organisation to function. Dues are determined by the General Assembly's Committee on Contributions, through estimating their gross national product (GNP), and making a number of adjustments, including for countries with low per capita incomes. Each Member State is then assigned a percentage share of the budget, ranging from a minimum of 0.001 per cent to a maximum of 25 per cent.

Top 10 per capita contributors to the UN regular budget, 1998

Liechtenstein	\$ 1.77
Luxembourg	1.76
Japan	1.52
Norway	1.48
Denmark	1.39
Sweden	1.33
Iceland	1.28
Germany	1.26
Austria	1.25
France	1.19

The UN is in financial crisis because Member States do not pay their share of costs for programmes they themselves have agreed to. Some countries fail to pay their dues on time due to budgetary technicalities or simple poverty. Others have withheld payments as a way to exert pressure on the UN or to make a political point. No State or private company could function under such conditions, particularly as Member States continue to ask more and more of the UN, even as dues are withheld.

Women Heads of State or Government *

Country	Presidents	Years in Office
Argentina	Maria Estela Martinez de Peron	1974–1976
Bolivia	Lydia Gueiler Tejada	1979–1980
Finland	Tarja Halonen	2000–
Germany (former Dem.Rep.of)	Sabine Bergmann-Pohl	1990
Guyana	Janet Jagan	1997–1999
Haiti	Ertha Pascal Trouillot	1990–1991
Iceland	Vigdís Finnbogadóttir	1980–1996
Ireland	Mary Robinson Mary McAleese	1990–1997 1997–
Latvia	Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga	1999–
Liberia	Ruth Perry	1996–1997
Malta	Agatha Barbara	1982–1987
Nicaragua	Violeta Barrios de Chamorro	1990–1996
Panama	Mireya Moscoso	1999–
Philippines	Corazon Aquino	1986–1992
Sri Lanka	Chandrika Kumaratunge	1994–
Switzerland	Ruth Dreifuss	1999

Country	Prime Ministers	Years in Office
Bangladesh	Begum Khaleda Zia Sheikh Hasina Wajed	1991–1996 1996–
Bulgaria	Reneta Indzhova	1994
Burundi	Sylvie Kinigi	1994–1993
Canada	Kim Campbell	1993
Central African Rep.	Elisabeth Domitien	1974–1976
Dominica	Mary Eugenia Charles	1980–1995
France	Edith Cresson	1991–1992
Guyana	Janet Jagan	1997
Haiti	Claudette Werleigh	1995–1996
India	Indira Gandhi	1966–1977 1980–1984
Israel	Golda Meir	1969–1974
Lithuania	Kazimiera Prunskiene	1990–1991
New Zealand	Jenny Shipley Helen Clark	1997–1999 1999–
Norway	Gro Harlem Brundtland	1981; 1986–1989; 1990–1996
Pakistan	Benazir Bhutto	1988–1990; 1993–1996
Poland	Hanna Suchocka	1992–1993
Portugal	Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo	1979–1980
Rwanda	Agathe Uwilingiyimana	1993–1994
Sri Lanka	Sirimavo Bandaranaike Chandrika Kumaratunge	1960–1965; 1970–1977; 1994–1994
Turkey	Tansu Ciller	1993–1996
UK	Margaret Thatcher	1979–1990
Yugoslavia	Milka Planinc	1982–1986

* Excluding Queens and Governors-General

UNIFEM, 2000: *State of the World's Women 2000*. New York

Conventions

The term “convention” again can have both a generic and a specific meaning.

- (a) **Convention as a generic term:** Art.38 (1) (a) of the Statute of the International Court of Justice refers to “international conventions, whether general or particular” as a source of law, apart from international customary rules and general principles of international law and – as a secondary source – judicial decisions and the teachings of the most highly qualified publicists. This generic use of the term “convention” embraces all international agreements, in the same way as does the generic term “treaty”. Black letter law is also regularly referred to as “conventional law”, in order to distinguish it from the other sources of international law, such as customary law or the general principles of international law. The generic term “convention” thus is synonymous with the generic term “treaty”.
- (b) **Convention as a specific term:** Whereas in the last century the term “convention” was regularly employed for bilateral agreements, it now is generally used for formal multilateral treaties with a broad number of parties. Conventions are normally open for participation by the international community as a whole, or by a large number of states. Usually the instruments negotiated under the auspices of an international organisation are entitled conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969). The same holds true for instruments adopted by an organ of an international organisation (e.g. the 1951 ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, adopted by the International Labour Conference or the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly of the UN).

<http://untreaty.un.org/english/guide.asp>

Top 10 Members States in total outstanding contributions*

(As of 31 December 1999) (in million US \$)

United States	1,170.3
Ukraine	212.0
Russian Federation	89.7
Belarus	50.7
Brazil	43.7
France	24.1
Yugoslavia	15.5
Germany	14.1
Argentina	13.2
Iraq	13.1

* Figures include outstanding contributions to the UN regular budget, to UN peacekeeping operations and to the UN International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. As of 31 December 1999, total outstanding contributions for 1999 and previous years stood at \$1.7 billion, of which \$244 million was for the regular budget. Of the 185 Member States, 59 (or 32 per cent) had not paid their regular budget dues in full.

Under the UN Charter (Article 19), a Member State can be deprived of its vote in the General Assembly if its arrears equal or exceed the amount of the contributions due from it for the previous two years. Various Members have suffered this sanction over the years.

<http://www.un.org/geninfo/ir/ch6/ch6.htm>

Institutions, Organisations, Commissions

The information on the UN bodies given on page 14 is based on material provided by the bodies themselves, e.g. on their websites. We have included information about their work in the area of women’s/gender issues, where available.

Some of these organisations have in recent years been criticised for their work and/or the way in which they pursue their goals. We are not aiming to provide a comprehensive picture of these criticisms. Rather, our descriptions aim to be neutral and provide readers with the broad idea of the organisations’ activities, contact details and access to further information.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY & ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council are among the main organs of the UN.

● UN General Assembly (GA)

The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ of the United Nations. It is composed of representatives of all Member States, each of which has one vote. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new Members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority. A simple majority reaches decisions on other questions. These decisions may be adopted with or without a vote. While the decisions of the Assembly have no legally binding force for Governments, they carry the weight of world opinion on major international issues, as well as the moral authority of the world community.

FOCUS ON GENDER: As the highest intergovernmental body in the UN, is the principal policy-making and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW).

Website: <http://www.un.org/ga/55/>

Contact: GASpokesperson@un.org

● UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The Economic and Social Council was established by the **Charter** as the principal organ, under the authority of the General Assembly, to promote:

- (a) higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development;
- (b) solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; and international cultural and educational cooperation;
- (c) universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

FOCUS ON GENDER: ECOSOC oversees system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and makes recommendations in this regard.

Website: <http://www.un.org/documents/ecosoc.htm>

Agreements

The term “agreement” can have a generic and a specific meaning. It also has acquired a special meaning in the law of regional economic integration.

- (a) Agreement as a generic term: The 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties employs the term “international agreement” in its broadest sense. On the one hand, it defines treaties as “international agreements” with certain characteristics. On the other hand, it employs the term “international agreements” for instruments, which do not meet its definition of “treaty”. Its Art.3 refers also to “international agreements not in written form”. Although such oral agreements may be rare, they can have the same binding force as treaties, depending on the intention of the parties. An example of an oral agreement might be a promise made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of one State to his counterpart of another State. The term “international agreement” in its generic sense consequently embraces the widest range of international instruments.
- (b) Agreement as a particular term: “Agreements” are usually less formal and deal with a narrower range of subject matter than “treaties”. There is a general tendency to apply the term “agreement” to bilateral or restricted multilateral treaties. It is employed especially for instruments of a technical or administrative character, which are signed by the representatives of government departments, but are not subject to ratification. Typical agreements deal with matters of economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation. Agreements also frequently deal with financial matters, such as avoidance of double taxation, investment guarantees or financial assistance. The UN and other international organisations regularly conclude agreements with the host country to an international conference or to a session of a representative organ of the Organisation. Especially in international economic law, the term “agreement” is also used as a title for broad multilateral agreements (e.g. the commodity agreements). The use of the term “agreement” slowly developed in the first decades of this century. Nowadays by far the majority of international instruments are designated as agreements.
- (c) Agreements in regional integration schemes: Regional integration schemes are based on general framework treaties with constitutional character. International instruments that amend this framework at a later stage (e.g. accessions, revisions) are also designated as “treaties”. Instruments that are concluded within the framework of the constitutional treaty or by the organs of the regional organisation are usually referred to as “agreements”, in order to distinguish them from the constitutional treaty. For example, whereas the Treaty of Rome of 1957 serves as a quasi-constitution of the European Community, treaties concluded by the EC with other nations are usually designated as agreements. Also, the Treaty of Montevideo of 1980 established the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), but the subregional instruments entered into under its framework are called agreements.

<http://untreaty.un.org/english/guide.asp>

UNITED NATION PROGRAMMES, BODIES AND ORGANS

● UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee)

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee), an expert body established in 1982, is composed of 23 experts on women's issues from around the world. It reviews the reports of States parties on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and evaluates the progress made.

The Committee's mandate is very specific: it watches over the progress made for women in those countries that are States parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. A country becomes a State party by ratifying or acceding to the Convention and thereby accepting a legal obligation to counteract discrimination against women. The Committee monitors the implementation of national measures to fulfil this obligation.

At its meetings held twice annually, the Committee reviews national reports submitted by the States parties within one year of ratification or accession, and thereafter every four years. Government representatives present these reports, which cover national action taken to improve the situation of women, to the Committee. In discussions with these officials, the CEDAW experts can comment on the report and obtain additional information. This procedure of actual dialogue, developed by the Committee, has proven valuable because it allows for an exchange of views and a clearer analysis of anti-discrimination policies in the various countries.

The Committee also makes recommendations on any issue affecting women to which it believes the States Parties should devote more attention. For example, at the 1989 session, the Committee discussed the high incidence of violence against women, requesting information on this problem from all countries. In 1992, the Committee adopted General Recommendation 19, which requires national reports to include statistical data on the incidence of violence against women, information on the provision of services for victims, and legislative and other measures taken to protect women against violence in their everyday lives, such as harassment at the workplace, abuse in the family and sexual violence. As of May 1999, the Committee has made 24 General Recommendations.

The States parties elect the 23 members of CEDAW, acknowledged as experts "of high moral standing and competence in the field covered by the Convention". These elections have to meet the Convention's demands for equitable geographical distribution in membership and the requirement that CEDAW members represent "different forms of civilisation as well as principal legal systems". Their terms last four years, with only half of the Committee members replaced each time elections take place. The meeting of States parties is convened every other year by the Secretary-General at UN Headquarters in New York.

Website: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committee.htm>

Contact: daw@un.org

The Optional Protocol to CEDAW: More Rights for Women

Since December 2000, there has been a right to petition with the UN in cases of gender-based discrimination.

Women now have the option to turn directly to the UN to complain about discrimination. The optional protocol to the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979) entered into force 22nd Dec 2000.

The legally binding Convention protects the equal rights of women to education, profession, political positions, marriage etc. The CEDAW Committee at the UN in Geneva oversees the implementation of CEDAW. From now on, the CEDAW Committee will also be the body to look into individual complaints of women in those cases where they have gone through all stages of their respective national legal system. After hearing an individual case, the Committee will issue recommendations to the government of the respective country in order to rectify discrimination and ensure compensation. Governments are obliged to report to the CEDAW Committee on the implementation of the recommendations given.

Amnesty International has commented positively on the Optional Protocol as an important tool against the "daily discrimination" of women. The Protocol is an important step towards the implementation of the agreements reached at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995.

However, only citizens of countries who have not only signed (Dec 2000: 62 countries) but also ratified the Protocol (Dec 2000: 13 countries) can make use of the new rules.

(German newspaper: taz Nr. 6329, 22.12.2000 by Andreas Zumach; translated by Minu Hemmati)

Also see

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/opdec21.htm>

Protocols

The term “protocol” is used for agreements less formal than those entitled “treaty” or “convention”.

The term could be used to cover the following kinds of instruments:

- (a) A Protocol of Signature is an instrument subsidiary to a treaty, and drawn up by the same parties. Such a Protocol deals with ancillary matters such as the interpretation of particular clauses of the treaty, those formal clauses not inserted in the treaty, or the regulation of technical matters. Ratification of the treaty will normally ipso facto involve ratification of such a Protocol.
- (b) An Optional Protocol to a Treaty is an instrument that establishes additional rights and obligations to a treaty. It is usually adopted on the same day, but is of independent character and subject to independent ratification. Such protocols enable certain parties of the treaty to establish among themselves a framework of obligations that reach further than the general treaty and to which not all parties of the general treaty consent, creating a “two-tier system”. The Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 are well-known examples.
- (c) A Protocol based on a Framework Treaty is an instrument with specific substantive obligations that implements the general objectives of a previous framework or umbrella convention. Such protocols ensure a more simplified and accelerated treaty-making process and have been used particularly in the field of international environmental law. An example is the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer adopted on the basis of Arts.2 and 8 of the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.
- (d) A Protocol to amend is an instrument that contains provisions that amend one or various former treaties, such as the Protocol of 1946 amending the Agreements, Conventions and Protocols on Narcotic Drugs.
- (e) A Protocol as a supplementary treaty is an instrument that contains supplementary provisions to a previous treaty, e.g. the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.
- (f) A Proces-Verbal is an instrument that contains a record of certain understandings arrived at by the contracting parties.

<http://untreaty.un.org/english/guide.asp>

● United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

UNIFEM is part of UNDP. It promotes women’s empowerment and gender equality working primarily at the country level. It works to ensure the participation of women in all levels of development planning and practice, and acts as a catalyst, supporting efforts that link the needs and concerns of women to all critical issues on the national, regional and global agendas.

Website: <http://www.unifem.undp.org/>

Contact: United Nations Development Fund for Women, 304 East 45th Street, 15th floor, New York, NY 10017

Tel: 212/906–6400 • Fax: 212/906–6705

Email: unifem@undp.org

● UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)

Acts as a focal point for coordination and mainstreaming of gender issues in the UN system. It has been the Secretariat of the four UN world conferences on women and is responsible for servicing the CSW and the CEDAW. It carries out gender analysis in the twelve critical areas of the Platform for Action and on emerging issues. It also has a mandate for gender mainstreaming in the UN system in support of the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women.

Website: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>

Contact: DAW Coordination & Outreach Unit, adama@un.org

● International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

Stimulates and assists, through research, training and the collection and dissemination of information, the advancement of women and making women’s contribution to development more visible. It assists the efforts of inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organisations in this regard.

INSTRAW’s Gender Awareness Information and Networking System (GAINS) is a “one stop” web-based electronic system for:

- Producing, managing and disseminating gender related knowledge and information

- Conducting collaborative research on emerging gender issues
- Facilitating consultations and dialogue between different stakeholders on global critical issues using a gender perspective
- Training and capacity building on women and gender issues

Globalisation and rapid technological developments are affecting many aspects of women's lives and those of their families and communities. Understanding the effects of these changes require gender sensitive knowledge and information for policymaking and action of different stakeholders. By providing a mechanism for collaborative research, dialogue and consultations, GAINS will link the different stakeholders in identifying research and training gaps, understanding emerging issues and identifying policy options and actions for change.

Website: <http://www.un-instraw-gains.org/>

Contact: instraw.hq.sd@codetel.net.do

● United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF, an integral part of the **United Nations system**, has its own governing body, an **Executive Board** that sets policies, reviews programmes and approves budgets. With **headquarters** in New York, UNICEF carries out its work through eight **regional offices** and 125 **country offices**. UNICEF cooperates with national governments, non-governmental organisations and other United Nations agencies in 161 countries and territories. The 37 **National Committees for UNICEF**, mostly in the industrialised world, are non-governmental organisations that support UNICEF in advocacy for children and fund-raising.

FOCUS ON GENDER: Aims to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities. Supports the equality and advancement of girls, in infancy, childhood and adolescence.

Website: <http://www.unicef.org> and <http://www.unicef.org/programme/gpp/index.htm>

Contact: Mary Duffy, Private Sector Division, UNICEF

Tel: 1 (212) 824-6952 • Fax: 1 (212) 824-6969

Email: mduffy@unicef.org

● UN Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

Its constitution was adopted by the London Conference in November 1945, and entered into effect on the 4th of November 1946 when 20 states had deposited instruments of acceptance. It currently has 188 Member States (as of 19 October 1999). The main objective of UNESCO is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations.

To fulfil its mandate, UNESCO performs five principal functions:

- Prospective Studies: what forms of education, science, culture and communication for tomorrow's world?
- The advancement, transfer and sharing of knowledge: relying primarily on research, training and teaching activities.
- Standard-setting action: the preparation and adoption of international instruments and statutory recommendations.
- Expertise: provided to Member States for their development policies and projects in the form of "technical co-operation".
- Exchange of specialised information.

FOCUS ON GENDER: In promoting gender equality, the self-empowerment of women and their full citizenship, UNESCO is guided by the following principles:

1. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policy-planning programming, implementation and evaluation activities.
2. Promoting the active and broad participation of women at all levels and fields of activity, with a particular attention to women's priorities, perspectives and contributions to the rethinking of both the goals and means of development.
3. Developing specific programmes, special projects and activities for the benefit of girls and women.

Website: <http://www.unesco.org> and

<http://www.unesco.org/women/index.htm>

Contact: UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 PARIS 07 SP, France

Phone national: +33 1 45 68 10 00

Fax national: +33 1 45 67 16 90

Email: l.ruprecht@unesco.org

● United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP has offices in 134 countries and operates in 174 countries and territories. The focus of their activities include; poverty eradication; environmental regeneration; job creation and the advancement of women. UNDP provides direct assistance to these countries by promoting sound governance and market development. The overarching mission is to help countries build national capacity to achieve sustainable human development, with priority given to eliminating poverty and building equity.

UNDP works closely with NGOs, specialised UN agencies and research institutes in implementing its programmes. In addition to these regular programmes, UNDP facilitates a number of special-purpose funds on specific issues, which it addresses to further its objectives. These include issues relating to desertification, drought, volunteers and women. Jointly with the World Bank and UNEP (described later), UNDP is a managing partner of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This fund enables countries to translate global concerns into national action on issues including ozone depletion, global warming, loss of bio-diversity, and pollution of international waters.

In helping Southern developing nations to help themselves, UNDP promotes technology transfer from North to South, and draws on experience from around the world. It also promotes technology adaptation and exchange of experience between developing nations. The Programme is funded on a voluntary basis in undertaking its activities, and receives contributions for this work from nearly every country in the world.

Website: www.undp.org

Contact: UNDP, 1 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

See also: Sustainable Development Networking Programme, 304 East 45th Street, Room FF-978, New York, NY 10017, USA

Tel: 212-906-5862 • Fax: 212-906-6952

Email: sdnp@sdnhq.undp.org

● United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The establishment of UNEP was one of the principal outcomes of the 1972 UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. UNEP provides an integrative and interactive mechanism through which a large number of separate efforts by intergovernmental, non-governmental, national and regional bodies in the service of the environment are reinforced and

interrelated. UNEP advocated a concept of environmentally sound development, which later led to the adoption of Sustainable Development, paving the way for the Programme's integrated approach through all sectors. The primary challenge for UNEP is to 'further catalyse, promote and implement an environmental agenda that is integrated strategically with the goals of economic development and social well being – an agenda for sustainable development'. UNEP's strategy for achieving this focuses around the promotion of environmental science and information. This facilitates a process of raising awareness on emerging environmental problems within an organisation that has the structure and direction to address them.

UNEP's activities have included work on sustainable management and use of natural resources, including focussing on water security in Africa, regional seas programmes and the protection of the marine environment from human activities, global bio-diversity assessments, depletion of forests, wildlife conservation, climate and desertification; sustainable consumption & production, including; cleaner production, green technologies, ecotourism, human health & well-being, globalisation of the economy and the environment.

UNEP has also supported a number of conventions, treaties and protocols that have facilitated work on emerging issues. These include Ozone, Climate, Endangered Species (CITES), and Hazardous Wastes (Basel). In addition, UNEP has produced reports on the State of the Environment, Indicators of Sustainable Development and World Resources. Among its best-known publications are the Global Environmental Outlook reports (GEO). The next issue will be published in 2002. To support this UNEP co-ordinates network programmes including Environmental & Natural Resource Information Networking and Infoterra. These are designed to facilitate global networks for environmental information sharing.

Website: <http://www.unep.org/>

Contact: Chief, Information and Public Affairs, UNEP, P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254-2-62-1234/3292 • Fax: +254-2-62-3927/3692

● Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organisation was founded in October 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity, and to better the condition of rural populations. Today, FAO is the largest autonomous agency within the United Nations system with 180 Member Nations plus the EC (Member Organisation).

FOCUS ON GENDER: FAO has launched the **Gender and Food Security website**, available in English, Spanish and French: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/X2785e/X2785e00.htm>

The FAO Plan of Action for Women in Development (1996–2001) promotes gender-based equity in the access to, and control of, productive resources; enhances women's participation in decision and policy-making processes at all levels, and promotes actions to reduce rural women's workload and enhance their opportunities for remunerated employment and income. FAO's website also includes **focus sections** with information on women and food security, biodiversity, water resources, the green revolution and land tenure. Also available in **Spanish** and **French**.

Website: <http://www.fao.org>

Contact: FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39.0657051 • Fax: +39.0657053152

Telex: 625852/625853/610181 FAO I

Telegrams: FOODAGRI ROME

● World Food Programme (WFP)

WFP is the frontline United Nations organisation fighting to eradicate world hunger.

The vision of WFP is a world in which every man, woman and child has access at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life. Without food, there can be no sustainable peace, no democracy and no development.

FOCUS ON GENDER: WFP's commitment to improve the condition of women is based on the fundamental premise that strengthening opportunities and options for women is the key to the solution of the problems of hunger and poverty. WFP commits itself to use its resources in interventions that seek to reduce such areas of inequalities; in particular in two areas: **1)** unequal access to and command over food resources by women, and **2)** unequal access to WFP also commits itself to address special nutritional problems faced by women and their children.

Website: <http://www.wfp.org> and <http://www.wfp.org/genderweb/>

Contact: WFP Headquarter, Via C.G.Viola 68, Parco de' Medici, 00148, Rome, Italy

Tel: +39-06-6513 2628 • Fax: +39-06-6513 2840

Email: wfpinfo@wfp.org

● The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

IFAD–International Fund for Agricultural Development, working in 115 developing countries, is an UN agency whose primary purpose is to alleviate rural poverty. IFAD targets their programs to small farmers, the rural landless, poor rural women, indigenous people, nomadic pastoralists and artisanal fisherfolk. Their website is a gold mine of reports on rural poverty, popular initiatives and campaigns from around the world, calendars and conferences, and links to other websites. For anyone working in Latin America, IFAD has a Latin American website, FIDAMERICA, for your particular regional focus. Video-clips of conferences are also available. In Spanish, English, and French (some documents).

FOCUS ON GENDER: The IFAD has devised a strategy on household food security and gender. The Fund recognises the different but complementary roles of men and women in productive activities of household economies, which are at the heart of good project design and implementation. The Fund believes that by investing in the production potential of women, development projects empower women, give women the opportunity to provide for their families and contribute to the development of their communities and national economies.

Website: <http://www.ifad.org>

Contact: IFAD–International Fund for Agricultural Development, 107, Via del Serafico, Rome 00142, Italy

Tel: (3906)54591 • Fax: (3906)5043463

Email: ifad@ifad.org

● World Health Organisation (WHO)

Founded in 1948, the World Health Organisation leads the world alliance for Health for All. A specialised agency of the United Nations with 191 Member States, WHO promotes technical cooperation for health among nations, carries out programmes to control and eradicate disease and strives to improve the quality of human life.

WHO has four main functions:

1. to give worldwide guidance in the field of health
2. to set global standards for health
3. to cooperate with governments in strengthening national health programmes
4. to develop and transfer appropriate health technology, information and standards.

The WHO definition of health: “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

- Women’s Health and Development Programme
- Safe Mother Initiative:
<http://www.who.int/rht/msm/index.html>
- Nursing/Midwifery:
<http://www.who.int/hdp/nur/index.htm>
- Reproductive Health:
<http://www.who.int/aboutwho/en/promoting/reproductive.htm>
- Women and Tobacco:
<http://tobacco.who.int/en/Health/women.html>
- Data Base on Violence Against Women:
<http://www.who.int/aboutwho/en/rapid.htm>

Website: www.who.org

Contact: info@who.ch

● United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

The mission of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is to ensure the universal enjoyment of all human rights by giving practical effect to the will and resolve of the world community as expressed by the United Nations.

FOCUS ON GENDER:

<http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu2/isswom.htm>
and <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu6/2/fact.htm>

Fact Sheets: The Human Rights Fact Sheet series is published by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights at Geneva, Switzerland. It deals with selected questions of human rights that are under active consideration or are of particular interest.

Fact Sheet No.22, Discrimination against Women: The Convention and the Committee. The human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community.

Contact: Inquiries and requests for High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights publications that are distributed free of charge may be addressed to: OHCHR–UNOG, CH–1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland or OHCHR’s New York Office, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA

● United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

FOCUS ON GENDER: UNHCR has formal guidelines on preventing and responding to sexual violence. Based on recommendations by field workers experienced with rape and piracy attacks, they aim to provide other field workers with practical, non-specialist advice on the medical, psychological and legal ramifications of sexual violence. UNHCR has also developed gender training, known as People Oriented Planning (POP), to encourage staff to focus on the protection and assistance needs of refugee women.

UNHCR encourages countries to consider that when rape or other forms of sexual violence are committed for reasons of race or political opinion, for example – and particularly when the authorities concerned condone such actions – then they should be grounds for refugee status. Women who face inhumane treatment because of perceived transgressions of social mores should also be eligible for refugee status. UNHCR policy is that female genital mutilation may be considered a form of torture. Forcible abortion or sterilisation may be considered an element leading to refugee status as well. Currently, Canada and the United States are the only countries to have integrated these or similar policies into their refugee regulations.

Website: <http://www.unhcr.ch/issues/women/women.htm>

Contact: UNHCR, C.P. 2500, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

Tel: +41-22-739-8111

● United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/Habitat)

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat or “The City Agency”) was established in 1978, two years after the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver, Canada. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, UNCHS (Habitat) is the lead agency within the UN system for coordinating activities in the field of human settlements.

The Centre was the secretariat for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 1996. This conference formulated the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration in which governments committed themselves to the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable urban development.

Habitat is the focal point for the implementation of these commitments.

Habitat's operational activities focus on promoting housing for all, improving urban governance, reducing urban poverty, improving the living environment and managing disaster mitigation and post-conflict rehabilitation. The Centre is supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at local, national and regional levels. During the biennium 2000–2001 Habitat launched two significant global campaigns, one for secure tenure and the other on urban governance. The aim of these campaigns is to reduce urban poverty through policies that emphasise equity, sustainability and social justice. Strategic and operational partnerships with government, local authorities, non-governmental and community based organisations, the private sector and UN agencies are crucial to the success of these campaigns.

Another major activity for the biennium is the preparation and servicing of Istanbul+5, the special session of the UN General Assembly planned in June 2001, which will review and appraise the worldwide implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

UNCHS (Habitat) Programmes and Activities include the following:

- Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, Shelter Branch
- Sustainable Cities Programme
- Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance, Urban Development Branch
- Risk and Disaster Management Unit, Urban Development Branch Global Division
- Managing Water for African Cities
- Istanbul + 5
- Localising Agenda 21: Action Planning for Sustainable Urban Development (LA21)
- Local Leadership and Management Training Programme
- Safer Cities Programme

FOCUS ON GENDER: The Women and Habitat Program

Website: <http://www.unchs.org/>

Contact: P. O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: (254–2) 623153 • Fax: (254–2) 624060
Email: habitat@unchs.org

● United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

UNFPA is guided by, and promotes, the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, 1994) and the outcomes of the 5-year review in 1999 (ICPD+5).

FOCUS ON GENDER: In particular, UNFPA affirms its commitment to reproductive rights, gender equality and male responsibility, and to the autonomy and empowerment of women everywhere. UNFPA's website includes a collection of "Best Practices and Lessons Learned" – country-projects that illustrate a range of strategies that can be used to promote gender equality.

- UNFPA Working to Empower Women
- ICPD +5 (30 June – 2 July 1999) explain
- The State of World Population Reports
- Publications

Website: <http://www.unfpa.org/> and <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/women/>

Contact: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 220 East, 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA
Email: hq@unfpa.org

● United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

UNRISD is an autonomous agency that engages in multi-disciplinary research on the social dimensions of contemporary problems affecting development. It was established in 1963 with a mandate "to conduct research into problems and policies of social development and relationships between various types of social development and economic development during different phases of economic growth." The Secretary-General's Bulletin that set up the Institute also called on UNRISD to carry out research and studies which are "urgent and important" to the work of the United Nations Secretariat as well as to regional and national institutes working in the fields of economic and social development. The comparative advantage of international organisations lies in the generation of ideas and norms for governance of the international system. UNRISD is able to bring knowledge from the global research community to the policy-making process.

A striking feature of development research and policymaking is the gap between what is known in

universities and research centres about basic problems and processes of social change, on one hand, and the capacity of policymakers to gain access to this information, on the other. UNRISD serves as a conduit of knowledge from sites where it is generated to sites where it may be used. The Institute produces results that are academically sound and address the concerns of policy makers, including governmental and non-governmental actors.

In addition to providing policy input via its publications and conferences, the expertise of the Institute's staff members is solicited by a range of organisations in the form of consultancy and advisory work. This enables UNRISD to contribute to the programme development and activities of other institutions and groups.

Website: <http://www.unrisd.org>

Contact: UNRISD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel: +41-22/917 3020 • Fax: +41-22/917 0650

Email: info@unrisd.org

SPECIALISED AGENCIES AND OTHER AUTONOMOUS ORGANISATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

● **World Bank and International Monetary Fund**

Including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, July 1944, founded the Bretton Woods Institutions. The original purpose of the group was to establish a body to deal with monetary and financial problems for political stability and peace, specifically with war-affected Western European nations in mind.

The World Bank has now modified its objectives to focus on the reduction of poverty. This is achieved through private-led development funding. The intention being to create new partnerships with groups within civil society, in addition to traditional government partners. The WB Group is divided into a number of bodies covering International Development, International Finance and Multilateral Investment Guarantee.

This structure provides funding and loans for countries at varying levels of development, and between public and private sources. The overseeing authority is the Board of Governors, consisting of one governor from each member country, which meets annually. More recently the bank has been

working to integrate growing environmental concerns more fully into its activities. This is particularly so in regards to urban growth and declining rural sectors. The Bank holds annual Environmentally Sustainable Development Conferences to define this emerging issue.

FOCUS ON GENDER: The World Bank's GenderNet website describes how the Bank promotes gender equality, summarises knowledge and experience, provides gender country profiles, and contains a section to facilitate discussion on gender. The Bank seeks to improve gender equality through its programs and projects, and to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of its operations by considering gender aspects.

Website: <http://www.worldbank.org> and <http://www.worldbank.org/gender/>

Contact: The World Bank Group Business Partnership Center, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433

Tel: (202) 522-4272 (522-4BPC)

Fax: (202) 522-1727

Email: gnetwork@worldbank.org

● **The Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

The Global Environment Facility was established to forge international cooperation and finance actions to address four critical threats to the global environment: biodiversity loss, climate change, degradation of international waters, and ozone depletion. Related work to stem the pervasive problem of land degradation is also eligible for GEF funding.

Launched in 1991 as an experimental facility, GEF was restructured after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to serve the environmental interests of people in all parts of the world. The facility that emerged after restructuring was more strategic, effective, transparent, and participatory. In 1994, 34 nations pledged \$2 billion in support of GEF's mission; in 1998, 36 nations pledged \$2.75 billion to protect the global environment and promote sustainable development.

The GEF can succeed in its global environmental mission only as part of a worldwide movement toward sustainable development. GEF brings together 166 member governments, leading development institutions, the scientific community, and a wide spectrum of private sector and non-governmental organisations on behalf of a common global environmental agenda

Website: <http://www.gefweb.org/>

Contact: GEF Secretariat, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA

Tel: (202) 473-0508 • Fax: (202) 522-3240/3245

Email: gef@gefweb.org

● International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The International Labour Organisation was created in 1919, at the end of the First World War, at the time of the Peace Conference that convened first in Paris, then at Versailles.

FOCUS ON GENDER: The ILO's focus on women and gender equality in the world of work has been an integral part of its mandate since its creation in 1919. The Office of the Special Adviser on Women Workers' Questions is responsible for the promotion and coordination of ILO policies, strategies, programmes and activities concerning equality for women in employment.

Websites: <http://www.ilo.org> and <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/gender/>

Contact: International Labour Office, 4, route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland
Tel: +41.22.799.6111 • Fax: +41.22.798.8685
Email: ilo@ilo.org

● World Trade Organisation (WTO)

The WTO is not part of the United Nation system although it has cooperating arrangements and practices with the Organisation. The WTO, with a central location in Geneva, is the only international body that deals with the rules of trade between nations worldwide. The nexus of the WTO is the agreements it has established which represent the foundations for policies on international trade and commerce. The agreements are the foundation of the multi-lateral trading system and are concerned with helping trade flow freely, the achievement of trade liberalisation through negotiation, and the settling of disputes concerned with trade. The main aims of the WTO include: working as a forum for trade negotiations; administrating the agreements; monitoring national trade policy; co-operating with other international organisations; and providing technical assistance and training for developing countries.

The creation of the WTO in 1995 represented the biggest international trade reform since the establishment of the Global Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Before '95, GATT set the tone for world trade with a limited field of action. By the 1980s GATT was becoming outdated; trade had become more complex and the loopholes in it were being exploited. When the 1990s rolled around globalisation was increasing dramatically along with international inventory expansion. In the Uruguay Roundtable of 1995 these issues were confronted and the WTO was formed to replace GATT with increasing effectiveness.

Current projects of the WTO are focused around the research and analysis of various topics dealing with trade and more recently globalisation including, but not limited to: the environment, trade liberalisation and sustainable development, banking, and education. The rapidly developing globalised economy and the impact of the Internet have been a main concern of the WTO in more recent reports.

Website: <http://www.wto.org>

Contact: World Trade Organisation, Rue de Lausanne 154, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Tel: (41-22) 739 51 11 • Fax: (41-22) 731 42 06
Email: enquiries@wto.org

COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES AND AD HOC AND RELATED BODIES

The implementation of the outcomes of each of the cycle of UN Summits and Conferences is being monitored by a UN Commission:

- Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) (Rio Earth Summit)
- Commission on the Advancement of Women (CSW) (Women's Conferences)
- Commission on Social Development (CSocD) (Copenhagen Social Summit)
- Commission on Population and Development (CPD) (Cairo Population Conference)
- Commission on Human Rights (CHR) (Vienna Human Rights Summit)
- Commission on Human Settlements (CHS) (Istanbul City Conference)

Commissions have a limited number of members. Member States are elected on a regional quota basis; terms are usually 3 or 4 years long. A country can be a member to a particular Commission only for a limited number of consecutive terms. However, Commission meetings are open to all Member States, non-Member States cannot vote but actively participate in the deliberations.

Below are brief descriptions of these Commissions. We begin with the example of the CSD to illustrate the way the Commissions work.

● The Commission of Sustainable Development

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was created in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of UNCED; to monitor and report on implementation of the Earth Summit agreements at the

local, national, regional and international levels. The CSD is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), with 53 members. It was agreed that a five-year review of Earth Summit progress would be made in 1997 by the United Nations General Assembly meeting in special session.

Earth Summit + 5: The Special Session of the General Assembly held in June 1997 adopted a comprehensive document entitled Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 prepared by the Commission on Sustainable Development. It also adopted the programme of work of the Commission for 1998–2002.

The Commission on Sustainable Development consistently generates a high level of public interest. Over 50 ministers attend the CSD each year and more than one thousand non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are accredited to participate in the Commission's work. The Commission ensures the high visibility of sustainable development issues within the UN system and helps to improve the UN's coordination of environment and development activities. The CSD also encourages governments and international organisations to host workshops and conferences on different environmental and cross-sectoral issues. The results of these expert-level meetings enhance the work of CSD and help the Commission to work better with national governments and various non-governmental partners in promoting sustainable development worldwide.

The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) is mandated:

- To monitor progress on the implementation of Agenda 21 and activities related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals by governments, NGOs, and other UN bodies;
- To monitor progress towards the target of 0.7% GNP from developed countries for Overseas Development Aid;
- To review the adequacy of financing and the transfer of technologies as outlined in Agenda 21;
- To receive and analyse relevant information from competent NGOs in the context of Agenda 21 implementation;
- To enhance dialogue with NGOs, the independent sector, and other entities outside the UN system, within the UN framework;
- To provide recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
- To coordinate the activities of other UN bodies as they relate to issues of sustainable development;
- To analyse progress at national, regional and international levels.

Isn't the CSD just more talking, instead of action?

At first sight, yes the CSD does do a lot of talking. It is primarily a forum for opening up discussion between governments and other stakeholders on the multitude of issues involved in sustainable development. But the outcomes of the CSD prove that this talking leads to very significant actions. The CSD offers a 'soft' forum to introduce ideas into the intergovernmental arena. These ideas can then be developed into hard law. As can be seen from the above list, the process is not instant, but there is potential for significant changes within a few years.

(See Chapter 12. for more information on how NGOs work around the CSD.)

Website: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd.htm>

Contact: Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–2220, New York, New York 10017, USA
Tel: + 1 212–963–3170 • Fax: + 1–212–963–4260
Email: dsd@un.org

● UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Prepares recommendations and reports to ECOSOC on promoting women's rights and monitors, within the UN system, the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established as a functional commission of ECOSOC by Council resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946 to prepare recommendations and reports to ECOSOC on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. The Commission also makes recommendations to ECOSOC on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights. The object of the Commission is to promote implementation of the principle that men and women shall have equal rights. ECOSOC resolution 1987/22 expanded the Commission's mandate in 1987. Following the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, the General Assembly mandated the Commission to integrate into its work programme a follow-up process to the Conference, in which the Commission should play a catalytic role, regularly reviewing the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action.

The Commission, which began with 15 members, now consists of 45 members elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years. Members, who are appointed by Governments, are elected on the following basis: thirteen from African states; eleven from Asian states; four from Eastern European states; nine from Latin American and

Caribbean states; and eight from Western European and Other states. The Commission meets normally on an annual basis for a period of eight working days.

Website: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>

Contact: United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, 2 UN Plaza, DC2-12th Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA

Fax: +1-212-963-3463

Email: daw@un.org

● The Commission on Social Development (CSocD)

The Social Commission was established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946. As a result of a comprehensive reappraisal of the role of the Commission it was renamed in 1966 and became the Commission for Social Development, in order to clarify its role as a preparatory body of the Council in the whole range of social development policy. The Commission meets annually.

The Commission consists of 46 members elected by ECOSOC for terms of office of four years on the following basis: 12 from African states; 10 from Asian states; 5 from Eastern European states; 9 from Latin American and Caribbean states; and 10 from Western European and Other states.

Website: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/>

Contact: Secretariat of the United Nations Commission for Social Development, United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-1370, New York, New York 10017 USA

Tel: + 1 212/963 6763 • Fax: + 1 212/963 3062

Email: geneva2000@un.org

● The Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

The Commission on Population was modified as a result of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), becoming the Commission on Population and Development. The Commission monitors, reviews and assesses the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference. The Programme is designed to guide national and international policies on population and development over the next 20 years. In addition, the General Assembly requested other specialised agencies to implement and adjust their work programmes in line with the Programme of Action of the Conference.

The Commission co-ordinates its activities through a system of topic orientated multi-year work

programmes. These are assessed via a 5 yearly review of the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action. In order to aid the prioritisation of specific issues, at its 28th session in 1995, the Commission proposed the submission of annual reports on selected topic of the programme of action. The Commission's multi-year work programme 1996-1999 was laid out and endorsed by the Commission at the 28th Session. The 5-year review for this work programme took place in June 1999 (ICPD+5).

Website:

<http://www.undp.org/popin/unpopcom.htm>

Contact: Director, United Nations Population Division. Rm. 1950, 2 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

Fax: (212) 963-2147

● The Commission on Human Rights (CHR)

In 1947, when the Commission on Human Rights met for the first time, its sole function was to draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That task was accomplished within a year and the Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948 (since then 10 December is celebrated annually as "human rights day").

For the first 20 years (1947-1966), the Commission concentrated its efforts on standard-setting. Using the Universal Declaration as the basis, the Commission set about drafting an impressive body of international human rights law, culminating in the adoption by the General Assembly in 1966 of the two human rights covenants, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Together, the Universal Declaration and the two Covenants are commonly referred to as the International Bill of Human Rights.

The standard-setting character of the first 20 years is illustrated by a statement the Commission adopted in 1947 (and endorsed that year by the Economic and Social Council) to the effect that it "recognised that it had no competence to deal with any complaint about violations of human rights". In 1967, the Commission was specifically authorised (by the Economic and Social Council, with the encouragement of the General Assembly) to start to deal with violations of human rights. Since then, the Commission has set up an elaborate machinery and procedures, country-oriented or thematic (operating through Special Rapporteurs and working groups), to monitor compliance by States with international human rights law and to investigate alleged violations of human rights, *inter alia* by dispatching fact-finding missions to countries in all parts of the world, rich

and poor, developing and developed countries alike. (It may be of interest, for example, that in 1994 the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance visited China and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism visited the United States of America). During the 1970s and 1980s the implementation and fact-finding machinery and procedures became the focus of the Commission's attention.

In the 1990s, the Commission has increasingly turned its attention to the need of States to be provided with advisory services and technical assistance to overcome obstacles to securing the enjoyment of human rights by all. At the same time more emphasis has been put on the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living. Increased attention is also being given to the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups in society, including minorities and indigenous people and to the protection of the rights of the child and of women, including the eradication of violence against women and the attainment of equal rights for women.

This new emphasis finds eloquent expression in the final document of the Conference held in Vienna in 1993, which highlights democracy and development as an integral part of human rights.

Website:

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/2/chr.htm>

Contact: The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 8–14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: (41–22) 917–9000 • Fax: (41–22) 917–9016
Email: webadmin.hchr@unog.ch

● The Commission on Human Settlements (CHS)

The Commission on Human Settlements was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977. The Commission undertakes the mandate of the UN Centre for Human Settlements, promoting the Habitat Agenda. This plan of action was defined at the Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in 1996. It constitutes the Commission's current medium-term plan (of action). The basic principles established at the conference revolve around adequate shelter for all, and sustainable human settlements developed in the urbanising world.

The present medium-term runs from 1998–2001, and is structured into four sub-programmes focussing on specific issues. This provides the framework for the Centre's biennial work programme. Sub-programmes for the current plan are as follows:

Subprogramme 1: Shelter and Social Services

Subprogramme 2: Urban Management

Subprogramme 3: Environment & Infrastructure

Subprogramme 4: Assessment, Monitoring and Information

The Commission consists of 58 members, each elected for a four-year term: 16 from African States, 13 from Asian States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 13 from Western European and other States.

Website: <http://www.unchs.org>

Contact: UNCHS (Habitat), PO Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 2 621234, 623210, 623988, 623153

Fax: +254 2 624266, 624267, 624624, 623080, 624060

Email: habitat@unchs.org

UN REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

The United Nations are operating within 5 regions of the world:

● ECA – Economic Commission for Africa

Established in 1958, The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa seeks to assist African countries to develop self-reliant socio-economic systems.

ECA has evolved a strategic response to the continent's development challenges and opportunities, which entails: designing and implementing economic and social policies to alleviate poverty; expanding inter-regional trade and integrating Africa into the world economy; enhancing the capacity of the State for **development** and promoting a prominent role for the private sector; strengthening **civil society** organisations for development and peace; promoting gender equity; and promoting policies that expedite the use of information technology in Africa's development.

The Commission operates as a networker of development expertise in Africa, a clearing-house for best practices and a policy integrator that pools together analyses from a number of fields to provide the best possible advisory services to Member States.

Website: <http://www.un.org/depts/eca>

Contact: ECA, Communication Team, P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: +25 1 1 51 72 00 • Fax: +25 1 1 51 44 16

Email: ecainfo@un.org

● ESCAP – Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), represents some 60 per cent of the world's population and, with 51 **Members** and 9 **Associate Members**, it is the largest of the five UN Regional Commissions.

Established in March 1947 at Shanghai, China, as ESCAFE – The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East to assist in post-war economic reconstruction, the Commission moved its Headquarters to Bangkok in January 1949. The name was changed in 1974 to reflect both the economic and social aspects of development and the geographic location of its Members.

ESCAP gives **technical support** to Member Governments for socio-economic development through direct advisory services, information and training, sharing regional experiences and inter-country networks. Through Five **Committees** and two **Special Bodies** ESCAP carries out seven **subprogrammes**, and the Commission has spawned two of the region's vital institutions – the Asian Development Bank and the Mekong River Commission.

ESCAP works closely with many UN specialised agencies that have their regional Headquarters at Bangkok. They include the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agricultural Organisation.

Website: <http://www.unescap.org>

Contact: ESCAP/UNIS, UN Information Services, United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok, Thailand 10200
Tel: +66 2 288 1861/9 • Fax: +66 2 288 1052
Email: unisbkk.unescap@un.org

● ECE – Economic Commission for Europe

Created in 1947, the activities of **The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe** cover 55 States from the North Pole to the Red Sea, from Vancouver to Vladivostok – through Tashkent, Warsaw, Rome and London. The United States of America and Canada are Members. Through its work on transport, environment, energy, industry and trade, the ECE has affected many aspects of everyday life. See: *The UN in Your Daily Life* on reducing and preventing air and water pollution, improving car safety, developing and harmonising regional transport networks, facilitating border crossings, and simplifying administrative procedures in international trade.

For the past half century, discreetly and effectively, the ECE has negotiated conventions, norms and standards on economic and social development in the region.

Website: <http://www.unece.org>

Contact: ECE Information Unit, Palais des Nations, Office 370, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: (41 0 22) 917 44 44 • Fax: (41 0 22) 917 00 36
Email: info.ece@unece.org

● ECLAC – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

CEPAL: La Comision Economica para America Latina y el Caribe/ECLA: The Economic Commission for Latin America was established by **ECOSOC** in 1948 and was redesignated as the **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** in 1984. It was set up to coordinate policies promoting economic development in Latin America and to foster regional and international trade.

In 1996 Member States updated the CEPAL/ECLAC **mandate** requiring it to act as a centre of excellence aiding Governments in the integrated analysis of the development process.

ECLAC has a number of **Regional Offices** including at Brasilia, **Buenos Aires**, **México D.F.**, **Trinidad** and a North American Office at **Washington, D.C.**

Website: <http://www.eclac.cl/index1.html>

Contact: CEPAL, Casilla 179-D, Santiago, Chile
Tel: +56 2 210 2000 • Fax: +56 2 208 0252
Email: info@eclac.org

● ESCWA – Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The most recent regional commission to be established, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was set up in 1973 as a successor to the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut.

ESCWA concentrates its efforts on improving the economic and social situation of its Member States. It encourages regional cooperation so that countries jointly address issues of common concern such as water scarcity, unemployment and poverty. In such areas as trade, environment, energy and water; ESCWA has improved the quality of life of people living in the region and assisted its Member States to further integrate into the global economy. As a neutral body with universal values the Commission plays a fundamental role in meeting emerging geo-economic challenges in a post-peace era.

Website: <http://www.escwa.org.lb>
Contact: ESCWA/UNIS, P.O. Box 11-8575,
Riad El-Solh Square, Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: +96 1 1 981 301 • Fax: +96 1 1 981 510
Email: nescwa@escwa.org.lb

Other Intergovernmental Fora

There are several other Intergovernmental Fora. Some of them are particularly relevant in the areas of sustainable development, women's rights and gender issues.

● Group of 77 and China

The Group of 77 (G-77) was established on 15 June 1964 by seventy-seven developing countries signatories of the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries" issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva. Beginning with the first Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Algiers in 1967, which adopted the Charter of Algiers, a permanent institutional structure gradually developed which led to the creation of Chapters of the Group of 77 in Rome (FAO), Vienna (UNIDO), Paris (UNESCO), Nairobi (UNEP) and the Group of 24 in Washington, D.C. (IMF and World Bank). Although the membership of the G-77 has increased to 133 countries, the original name was retained because of its historic significance.

As the largest Third World coalition in the United Nations, the Group of 77 provides the means for the developing world to articulate and promote its collective economic interests and enhance its joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues in the United Nations system, and promote economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC).

The organisation and modalities of work of the G-77 in the various Chapters have certain minimal features in common such as a similarity in membership, decision-making and certain operating methods. A chairman who acts as its spokesman coordinates the Group's work in each Chapter. The chairmanship rotates on a regional basis (between Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean) and is held for one year in all the Chapters. Currently the Islamic Republic of Iran holds the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 in New York for the year 2001.

The Ministerial Meeting is the supreme decision-making body of the Group of 77. They are convened annually at the beginning of the regular sessions of

the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York and periodically in preparation for UNCTAD sessions and the General Conferences of UNIDO and UNESCO. Special Ministerial Meetings are also called as needed such as on the occasion of the Group's 25th anniversary (Caracas, June 1989) and 30th anniversary (New York, June 1994). In April 2000 the Group of 77 met for the first time at the level of heads of state or government which therefore elevated decision-making within the Group of 77 to the highest political level (South Summit, Havana, Cuba).

The activities of the Group of 77 are financed through contributions by Member States and other developing countries.

Activities

- Produces joint declarations, action programmes and agreements on specific topics such as Algiers Charter 1967; Lima Declaration 1971; Manila Declaration 1976; Arusha Programme for Self-Reliance and Framework for Negotiations 1979; Caracas Programme of Action on ECDC 1981; Cairo Declaration on ECDC 1986; Havana Declaration 1987; Agreement on a Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) 1988; Caracas Declaration 1989; Tehran Declaration 1991; 30th Anniversary Ministerial Declaration 1994; Ministerial Statement on "An Agenda for Development" 1994; the San Jose Declaration and Plan of Action on South-South Trade, Investment and Finance 1997; and the Bali Declaration and Plan of Action on Regional and Subregional Economic Cooperation of the Developing Countries (1998).
- Makes statements, sponsors and negotiates resolutions and decisions at global conferences and other meetings held under the aegis of the United Nations dealing with international economic cooperation and development.
- Sponsors projects in developing countries through funding from the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund.

Website: <http://www.g77.org/>

Contact: Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77, United Nations Headquarters, Room S-3959, New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.
Tel: (212) 963-0192 | (212) 963-3816
Fax: (212) 963-3515 | (212) 963-1753
Email: g77off@unmail.org

● Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

OECD, with a central location in Paris, acts as an inter-governmental forum on economic development. Within this forum Member States (29 in all) seek, discuss, and compare solutions to the many issues surrounding economic development including: the environment, sustainable development, tourism, developing nations, etc. The forum both advises its members on certain policies to adopt and helps to set international agreements and legal codes surrounding economic development. The main aims of the OECD include: the promotion and achievement of sustainable economic growth within its members' states while also aiding world economic development; promotion of economic expansion in Member and Non-member states; and contributing to the expansion of world trade on a multi-lateral, non-discriminatory basis.

The forum was founded after W.W.II as the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC). It was established as a result of the US Marshall Plan that was instituted in order to help reconstruct the economies in Western Europe after the war. In 1961, the US and Canada joined and the forum became the OECD. Since the addition of these North American countries a series of members from Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand, and Central America have joined; thus further internationalising the 'new' economies of Western Europe.

Project focuses of the OECD consist of, but are not limited to: tourism, education, sustainable development, strategies for developing nations, etc. Current projects of the OECD on the subject of sustainable development are concentrating on research in the specific areas of climate change, technological development, environmental impact of subsidies, etc. This is all being done in preparation for a Ministerial Council meeting in 2001.

Website: <http://www.oecd.org>

Contact: OECD, 2, rue André Pascal, F-75775 Paris Cedex 16, France

Tel: +33 1.45.24.82.00

Email: go to <http://www.oecd.org/contact/> for list of email addresses

● Group of Eight (G8)

The origins of the present Group of Eight (G8) leading industrialised democracies lie in the Economic Summit convened by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France at Rambouillet in November

1975. President Giscard and Chancellor Schmidt of Germany, themselves both former Finance Ministers, were keen to establish an informal forum to discuss world economic issues, building on the 'Library Group' of Finance Ministers from Britain, France, Germany, Japan and the US (named after their meetings in the White House library), which operated during the early 1970s. This original 'Group of Five' was joined by Italy, Canada and the President of the European Commission in 1976-77. This configuration became known as the Group of Seven (G7). Meetings followed a limited agenda of economic issues, and were intended as informal consultation sessions.

During the 1980s these annual meetings, which each of the seven states hosted in turn, became more formalised. Communiqués, an agreed statement issued by all leaders at the conclusion of the Summit, became a standard feature, along with full media coverage. The agenda became broader with the advent of a new generation of leaders (President Reagan, President Mitterand, Chancellor Kohl, Prime Minister Thatcher), who were keen to discuss political issues alongside economics.

The G8 is an informal organisation, with no rules or permanent Secretariat staff. The Presidency rotates annually among the G7 members, with each in turn taking responsibility for organising the annual Summit. In addition to these, a variety of working and expert groups meet throughout the year to prepare specialised subjects. The G8 has no formal secretariat of its own for implementing action. Heads agree a communiqué issued at the conclusion of Summits, which commits each country to co-ordinate individual action towards common goals. G7/8 agreement can often act as a catalyst for action in other international fora.

Website of the Birmingham G8 Summit:

<http://birmingham.g8summit.gov.uk/brief0398/what.is.g8.shtml>

● European Union (EU)

The European Union (EU) is the result of a process of cooperation and integration, which began in 1951 between six countries (Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands). After nearly fifty years, with four waves of accessions (1973: Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom; 1981: Greece; 1986: Spain and Portugal; 1995: Austria, Finland and Sweden), the EU today has fifteen Member States and is preparing for its fifth enlargement, this time towards Eastern and Southern Europe.

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The European Union's mission is to organise relations between the Member States and between their peoples in a coherent manner and on the basis of solidarity. The main objectives are:

- to promote economic and social progress (the single market was established in 1993; the single currency was launched in 1999);
- to assert the identity of the European Union on the international scene (through European humanitarian aid to non-EU countries, common foreign and security policy, action in international crises; common positions within international organisations);
- to introduce European citizenship (which does not replace national citizenship but complements it and confers a number of civil and political rights on European citizens);
- to develop an area of freedom, security and justice (linked to the operation of the internal market and more particularly the freedom of movement of persons);
- to maintain and build on established EU law (all the legislation adopted by the European institutions, together with the founding treaties).

There are five institutions involved in running the European Union:

- the European Parliament (elected by the peoples of the Member States),
- the Council (representing the governments of the Member States),
- the Commission (the executive and the body having the right to initiate legislation),
- the Court of Justice (ensuring compliance with the law),
- the Court of Auditors (responsible for auditing the accounts).

These institutions are supported by other bodies: the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (advisory bodies which help to ensure that the positions of the EU's various economic and social categories and regions respectively are taken into account), the European Ombudsman (dealing with complaints from citizens concerning maladministration at European level), the European Investment Bank (EU financial institution) and the European Central Bank (responsible for monetary policy in the euro-area).

General Report on EU activities:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/abc-en.htm>

EU organs on women's issues:

http://www.europa.eu.int/pol/equopp/index_en.htm

EU organs on environment issues:

http://www.europa.eu.int/pol/env/index_en.htm

EU organs on development issues:

http://www.europa.eu.int/pol/dev/index_en.htm

EU organs on employment issues:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/employment_social/index_en.htm

The United Nations World Conferences

Global Summits and other meetings are organised by the UN on different thematic areas such as the advancement of women, environmental matters, sustainable development, human settlements, social development (poverty eradication, employment, etc.), population, and food security. It takes some time before agreements are reached and adopted by the United Nations.

Since 1990, the international community has convened 12 major conferences that have committed Governments to address urgently some of the most pressing problems facing the world today. Taken together, these high profile meetings have achieved a global consensus on the priorities for a new development agenda for the 1990s and beyond.

Through the conference process the entire international community has come together to agree on shared values, shared goals and strategies to achieve them. It flows from consciousness-raising; to agenda setting; to agreement on action by Member States; to follow-up on conference commitments; and to assistance for the countries that need help in realising their commitments.

Taken individually, each conference marked the culmination of many months of consultations among Member States, UN experts and non-governmental representatives, who reviewed vast amounts of information and shared a broad spectrum of experiences in child welfare, environmental protection, human rights, the advancement of women, productive employment, reproductive health and urban development, and the links of these to peace, development and human security. Each conference forged agreements on specific issues in a new spirit of global cooperation and purpose.

All addressed problems of a global magnitude, which Member States recognised, had grown beyond

their individual capacities to solve and which needed a concerted international effort. All of them reflect the work of Member States and a growing number of other actors in the field of international development, particularly non-governmental organisations (NGOs). All of them actively sought out media attention, capturing the imaginations of millions of people around the world and greatly enhancing awareness and understanding of the issues in the public at large.

Global conferences have made a long-term impact by:

- mobilising national and local governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to take action on a major global problem;
- establishing international standards and guidelines for national policy;
- serving as a forum where new proposals can be debated and consensus sought;
- setting in motion a process, whereby governments make commitments and report back regularly to the United Nations.

The United Nations has also instituted a 5-year review cycle for all the Global Summits; progress is monitored

by the UN Commissions. The Commissions meet every year at UN Headquarters in New York, Nairobi, or Geneva. Commissions have an average of 53 members of the 190 UN Member States. The Commission meetings normally take two weeks and certain issues are addressed, according to a work programme the Commission has agreed. For example, in 1999 the Commission on the Status of Women has looked in 'Woman Health and Aid' and Commission on Sustainable Development has discussed sustainable agriculture, forests, land management, finance & trade, investment and economic growth at its meeting in 2000. Resolutions and decisions from the Commissions then go through discussions at a higher level, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and then to the UN highest level, the General Assembly. There is a yearly cycle with the Commissions meeting in spring, ECOSOC meeting in early summer and the General Assembly meeting in autumn every year.

However, apart from all the mechanisms and institutions, which have been established at governmental and inter-governmental levels, it takes the universal participation and strong commitment by all stakeholders to make the Global Plans of Action a reality.

Summit Processes

- each 5 years a different review in UNGASS (so far)
- each year different topics

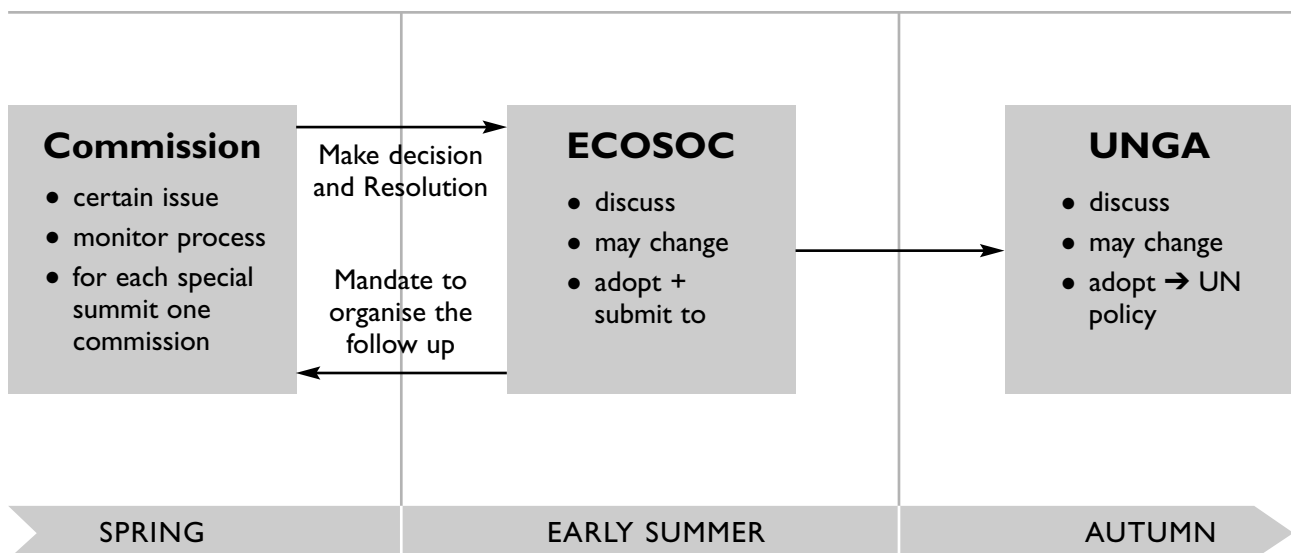


Figure 1: The Cycle of UN conferences

Introduction to the Summits

United Nations resolutions are formal expressions of the opinion or will of United Nations organs. They generally consist of two clearly defined parts: a preamble and an operative part. The preamble generally recites the considerations on the basis of which action is taken, an opinion expressed or a directive given. The operative part states the opinion of the organ or the action to be taken.

The term “decision” is used to designate formal actions, other than resolutions, dealing with non-substantive or routine matters such as elections, appointments, the time and place of meetings and the taking note of reports. They are sometimes also used to record the adoption of a text representing the consensus of the members of a given organ on a question.

There is a 5-year review cycle for all the Global Summits. Every five years after a Summit or Conference, there is a UN General Assembly Special Session to assess progress and decide upon follow-up. This ensures regular follow-up and monitoring at the General Assembly level where all UN Member States participate (as opposed to Commissions with limited membership).

This might change as many Member States – after the experiences with the 5-year reviews of the Rio Conference (1997), the Population Conference (1999), the Beijing and the Copenhagen Conferences (2000) – feel that monitoring and reviewing progress needs to be improved. For example, many people maintain that 5 years is not enough time to make significant progress in many areas so that reviews cannot deliver much new information. Others say that the review processes and events are too expensive and too much of a burden on poor and small countries to provide data, delegations, experts, etc.

To monitor progress annually or bi-annually, there are UN Commissions (*see 4.4.*). Related to every Summit or Conference theme, there is a Commission. The Commissions are mandated by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and meet every year at UN Headquarters.

Here is a list of the UN Summits and their monitoring processes and institutions (Commissions, UN General Assembly Special Sessions):

Children’s Summit Process

EVENTS: World Summit for Children 1990, Special Session on Children 2001

BODIES: United Nations Children’s Education Fund (UNICEF), Child’s Rights Information Network (CRIN)

At the 1990 World Summit for Children, 71 Heads of State and Government and other leaders signed the World Declaration on Survival, Protection and Development of Children and adopted a Plan of Action to achieve a set of goals. These goals included:

- Improving living conditions for children and their chances for survival by increasing access to health services for women and children
- Reducing the spread of preventable diseases
- Creating more opportunities for education
- Providing better sanitation and greater food supply; and protecting children in danger.

The Special Session on Children is a meeting of the UN General Assembly dedicated to the children and adolescents of the world. It will bring together government leaders and Heads of State, NGOs, children’s advocates and young people themselves from 19–21 September, 2001 at the United Nations in New York City.

The Special Session aims to conduct a full review of the progress made for children in the decade since the 1990 World Summit for Children and the World Declaration and Plan of Action. It also aims to generate a renewed commitment and a pledge for specific actions for the coming decade.

The Special Session is expected to produce a global agenda with a set of goals and a plan of action devoted to ensuring three essential outcomes:

- The best possible start in life for all children.
- A good-quality basic education for all children.
- The opportunities for all children, especially adolescents, for meaningful participation in their communities.

Visit the Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) at <http://www.crin.org> for more information on NGO activities and issues, including thematic caucuses (i.e. Child Rights, Children and Armed Conflicts, and Girls Caucuses) and regional caucuses and coalitions.

DOCUMENTS: World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children 1990, Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, Goals for Children and Development in the 1990s

1992: Sustainable Development/Rio Process

EVENTS: Earth Summit 1992
Earth Summit II 1997 (5 year review/General Assembly Special Session to Review Progress on Implementation of Agenda 21, New York, 1997)
The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Earth Summit 2002) (10 year review)

BODIES: Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)
Successor to the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden

- Gathered 108 heads of State, who adopted Agenda 21, a global blueprint for sustainable development that has become the basis for many national plans. Over 1,800 cities and towns worldwide have since created their own “local Agenda 21”.
- Motivated some 150 countries to set up national advisory councils to promote dialogue between government officials, businesspeople, environmentalists and others on sustainable development policies.
- Led to four new international treaties, on climate change, biological diversity, desertification and high seas fishing.
- Set up the UN Commission on Sustainable Development to monitor the implementation of the Rio agreements and serve as a continuing forum for negotiating global environment and development policy.
- In June 1997, a special session of the UN General Assembly to assess implementation of Agenda 21 found that, despite progress in many areas, the global environment continues to deteriorate. Government leaders, including over 50 heads of State, agreed to further action – notably on fresh water, energy and transport – but few concrete commitments were made.

DOCUMENTS:
1992: The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development – a series of principles defining the rights and responsibilities of States; Agenda 21 – a comprehensive programme of action for global action in all areas of sustainable development; The Statement of the Forest Principles – a set of principles to underlie the sustainable management of forests world-wide

1997: Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, 1997

1993: Human Rights/ Vienna Process

EVENTS: Human Rights Summit 1993 and Human Rights Review 1998

BODIES: Commission on Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights

- Reaffirmed international commitment to all human rights, and to strengthening the mechanisms for monitoring and promoting human rights worldwide.
- Led to the appointment of the first High Commissioner for Human Rights, to improve the ability of the UN to act quickly and efficiently to prevent rights violations and promote fundamental freedoms.
- Instigated the inclusion of human rights as an integral element in UN peacekeeping missions, and declared the link between democracy, development and human rights.

DOCUMENTS: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Teheran Declaration (1968), and Vienna Declaration (1993)

1994: Population/Cairo Process

EVENTS: Population Summit 1994 and ICPD+5 1999

BODIES: Commission on Population and Development; UNFPA

- Built consensus for integrating family planning programmes into a new comprehensive approach to reproductive health services, and won international recognition that educating and empowering women is the most effective way to reduce population growth rates and promote sustainable development.
- Adopted a plan of action which sets specific resource targets for international population assistance, to enable countries to make reproductive health and family planning accessible to all by no later than 2015.
- Spurred donor countries to significantly increase funding for population-related activities, although total pledges this year are still well below the year 2000 goals set by the Conference.
- Reaffirmed the global consensus that voluntary family planning decisions are a basic human right of all couples and individuals, and that coercion in any form is unacceptable.

OUTCOME DOCUMENT: Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population & Development

1995: Women/Beijing Process

EVENTS: Third World Conference on Women (Nairobi 1985), Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing 1995) and Beijing+5 (New York 2000)

BODIES: Commission on the Status of Women; DAW; UNIFEM; UNDP/GDP; INSTRAW

- Agreed on a five-year action plan to enhance the social, economic and political empowerment of women, improve their health, advance their education and promote their marital and sexual rights. The action plan set time-specific targets, committing nations to carry out concrete actions in such areas as health, education and legal reforms.
- Galvanised some 130 countries to announce new initiatives to carry out the action plan, including, in the USA, a \$1.6 billion programme to fight violence against women, and the formation of a President's Council on Women.
- Added a new urgency to providing women with greater legal protection. The 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, often described as a Bill of Rights for women, has now been ratified by 163 countries (as of June 1999), up from 139 in May 1995.

DOCUMENTS: Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action (PFA)

1995: Social Development / Copenhagen Process

EVENTS: Social Summit 1995 and Copenhagen+5 2000

BODIES: Commission on Social Development; UNRISD

- Brought together 117 heads of State who committed their governments to eradicating poverty "as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative". Since the Summit, a number of countries have set specific target dates for reducing poverty, and many have launched poverty assessment studies to plan long-term strategies.
- Focused attention on the negative side of economic globalisation: growing gaps between rich and poor, shrinking social safety nets, and increasing insecurity about jobs and social services in both developed and developing countries.
- Integrated the decisions of other conferences into a comprehensive and holistic plan for meeting basic human needs, reducing economic and social inequalities, and providing sustainable livelihoods.

DOCUMENTS: The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (containing 10 Commitments)

1996: Human Settlements / Istanbul Process

EVENTS: Habitat I, Vancouver 1976; Habitat II Conference, Istanbul, 1996 and Istanbul+5 2001

BODIES: Commission on Human Settlements; United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS/Habitat)

- Adopted a global plan and declaration setting out policy guidelines and Government commitments to improving living conditions in urban and rural settlements, and to the "full and progressive realisation of the right to adequate housing".
- Broke new ground by involving mayors and other local officials in the formal proceedings and recognised their key role as partners in implementing the Habitat action plan.
- Promoted information-sharing by showcasing over 500 "best practices" for improving the living environment – initiatives by government authorities and grassroots groups in over 90 countries that have proven effective in solving pressing housing and community problems.

DOCUMENT: The Habitat Agenda

1996: World Food Summit, Rome

EVENTS: World Food Summit, Rome 1996

BODIES: Committee on World Food Security; FAO; IFAD; WFP

DOCUMENTS: Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action

1996: UNCTAD 9

EVENTS: Ninth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Environment, Midrand, South Africa, May 1996

BODIES: Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

DOCUMENTS: Midrand Declaration and A Partnership for Growth and Development

The Rio Process

(from: *Earth Summit 2002: A Briefing Paper by UNED Forum*)

Where did it all Start?

Sustainable development lies at the heart of the Earth Summit process. The journey toward sustainable development has not been straightforward and is far from being fully achieved. In the last thirty years a whole series of events have brought us to the wide-ranging interpretation of sustainable development that we see today.

The concept of sustainable development dates back a long way but it was at the UN Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972) that the international community met for the first time to consider global environment and development needs (**Figure 1**). The Conference led to the formation of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan, which were also produced, defined principles for the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment, and highlighted the need to support people in this process. The Conference indicated that “industrialised” environmental concerns, such as habitat degradation, excessive consumption of natural resources and climate change, were not necessarily relevant issues for all countries. Development strategies were not meeting the needs of the poorest countries and communities. However, it was the pending environmental problems that dominated the meeting and wider public awareness. Books, such as “The Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson and “Limits to Growth” from the Club of Rome, gave a foretaste of the growing view that, if international development continues along its present path, the world is rapidly heading for a major breakdown.

In the 1980’s the UN set up the World Commission on Environment and Development, also known as the Brundtland Commission. They produced “Our Common Future”, otherwise known as the Brundtland Report, which framed much of what would become the 40 chapters of Agenda 21 and the 27 principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. It defined sustainable development as development, which meets the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The 20th anniversary of Stockholm took place in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The UN Conference on Environment and Development, the “Earth Summit”,

agreed Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration. These documents outlined key policies for achieving sustainable development that meets the needs of the poor and recognises the limits of development to meet global needs. “Needs” was therefore interpreted not solely in terms of economic interests but also to be those of a fully functional, harmonious, global system that incorporates people and ecosystems. **Figure 2** (next page) outlines the four broad areas of action within Agenda 21.

Redressing the Balance

The Summit brought environment and development issues firmly into the public arena. Along with the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 it led to agreement on two legally binding conventions: Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. It also produced a Statement of Forest Principles. The Earth Summit gave rise to a number of positive responses including the emergence of thousands of Local Agenda 21 initiatives and the enhanced political profile of environmental issues. It led to the formation of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) and many countries set up sustainable development commissions and national strategies.

Some Details about the 1992 Conference

- **Number of Governments participating:** 172, 108 at level of heads of State or Government
- **Conference Secretary-General:** Maurice F. Strong, Canada
- **Organisers:** UNCED secretariat
- **NGO presence:** Some 2,400 representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs); 17,000 people attended the parallel NGO Forum
- **Follow-up mechanisms:** Commission on Sustainable Development; Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development; High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development (concluded 1997)

Figure 2: Steps to Earth Summit 2002

Other Key Events	UN Sustainable Development Process
1982 UNEP's first high level meeting (Kenya) Convention on Straddling and Migratory Fish Stocks (signed)	1972 UN Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm) Establishes UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
1990 Children's Summit (New York)	1983 World Commission on Environment & Development (Brundtland Commission) set up Brundtland Report 'Our Common Future' 1987
1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) Convention on Biological Diversity	1992 UN Conference on Environment & Development – 'Earth Summit'. Establishes UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Accession of FCCC and CBD.
1993 Human Rights Summit (Vienna)	1993 CSD first five-year programme.
1994 Population Summit (Cairo) Convention on Combating Desertification (Paris)	1997 Rio + 5 Summit Review
1995 Social Summit (Copenhagen) Women's Summit (Beijing) World Trade Organisation (WTO) established	1998–2001 CSD second five-year programme. Overarching themes: poverty, changing production & consumption patterns.
1996 Human Settlements Conference (Istanbul) Food Summit (Rome)	
1997 Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change (signed)	
1999 Cairo + 5 (Population)	
2000 Beijing + 5 (Women) Copenhagen + 5 (Social) Millennium Summit (New York)	2001 (May) CSD 10 Global Preparatory Committee 1 Organisational issues. Defining modalities of process (set up a multi-stakeholder committee).
2001 World Youth Forum (Dakar) UNEP Governing Council (21st session, Kenya) Istanbul + 5 (Human settlements) New York + 11 (Children) International Conference on Freshwater (Bonn) UN Conference on Less Developed States (3rd) Financing for Development WTO negotiations on trade in services	2002 (Jan) Global Preparatory Committee 2 Substantive review. Secretary General's reports on global, regional and national progress (2-day input from major groups). (March) Global Preparatory Committee 3. Finalise review. (May) Global Preparatory Committee 4. Identification & consensus building over priority areas, and strategies for next 5–10 years (multi-stakeholder groups presenting proposals).
2003 2003 Environment for Europe Conference (Kiev)	

EARTH SUMMIT 2002 (RIO +10)
Johannesburg, South Africa
Defining national, regional and global commitments. Including half-day dialogue with major groups.

Figure 3: *Elements of Agenda 21*

Issues	
Social and Economic dimensions to development	Poverty, Production and Consumption, Health, Human Settlement, Integrated decision making
Conservation and management of natural resources	Atmosphere, Oceans and Seas, Land, Forests, Mountains, Biological Diversity, Ecosystems, Biotechnology, Freshwater resources, Toxic Chemicals, Hazardous radioactive and solid wastes
Strengthening role of Major Groups	Youth, Women, Indigenous Peoples, Non-Government Organisations, Local Authorities, Trade Unions, Business, Scientific and technical communities, Farmers
Means of Implementation	Finance, Technology transfer, Information, Public Awareness, Capacity Building, Education, Legal Instruments, Institutional frameworks

Figure 4: *Preparations for Earth Summit 2002*

Activities	
<p>National <i>Late 2000 – Spring 2001</i></p>	<p>National preparations will be coordinated by national multi-stakeholder committees for sustainable development – to begin to define national agendas and undertake a review of progress. Public consultations and meetings, previous National Reports to the CSD and National Strategies for Sustainable Development will all help to inform this process. The UN CSD has suggested four national activities, in particular countries are asked to define 4–5 national targets (by April 2001) to take domestic sustainable development forward.</p>
<p>Regional <i>Spring – Winter 2001</i></p>	<p>Regional meetings of governments and other major groups will seek to build consensus over critical issues for progressing regional sustainable development – identifying areas of priority action and highlighting local examples of good practice. The processes will be informed by roundtables of regional experts, which will seek to highlight problems, solutions and priorities, as well as to set targets. Sub-regional processes may also contribute to this process.</p>
<p>Global <i>Late 2001 – Summer 2002</i></p>	<p>Immediately after the ninth CSD (15th–27th April 2001) the first Global Preparatory Committee (PrepComm 1) meeting will take place. The UN Secretary General will produce a global report on progress for the second PC, as well as reports on the outcomes of the regional and national review processes. By 2002 UNEP is planning to produce Global Environment Outlook 3 – a thirty-year review on global environmental issues. Other intergovernmental and international institutions will also input to the process, along with major groups.</p>

Agreements Reached at Rio and Since

- **Agenda 21** – negotiated by governments during preparation for the Earth Summit, Agenda 21 does not represent any binding commitment by governments, but constitutes a ‘blueprint for sustainable development’. Its 40 chapters covered most areas of human activity, with some notable omissions (energy, tourism, transport), which have since been addressed at the CSD.
- **The Rio Declaration** – a set of 27 Principles endorsed by governments supporting ‘the goal of establishing a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of co-operation among States, key actors of societies and people’
- **The Forestry Principles**
- **The Framework Convention on Climate Change** – a legally binding agreement; the parties to the Convention meet to agree shared targets and commitments (so-called “Conferences of the Parties”).
- **The Convention on Biological Diversity** – a legally binding agreement; the parties to the Convention meet to agree shared targets and commitments.
- **The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)** – set up after the Earth Summit as the focus within the UN System for monitoring implementation of the Rio agreements. Intended as a catalyst for action at national and international levels

Related International Agreements Reached Since 1992 Include:

- **The Convention to Combat Desertification** (1994)
- **The Conference on Small Island Developing States** (1994)
- **The Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks** (1995)
- **The CSD Intergovernmental Panel on Forests** (1996–7)
- **The CSD Intergovernmental Forum on Forests** (since 1998)

Earth Summit 2002 Resources

Relevant Websites

United Nations:

<http://www.un.org/rio+10>

UNED Forum:

<http://www.earthsummit2002.org>

Rio+8 Coalition:

<http://www.rio8.dk>

Information by the CSD Secretariat

CSD–10, April/May 2001: The 1st Preparatory Meeting for Earth Summit 2002

In 2002, the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, a Summit of world leaders will assess progress achieved since 1992 and give guidance for the next phase of activities to achieve sustainable development. This Summit – the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa – will be preceded by a series of national, regional and international gatherings and consultations to identify the successes and failures of the last ten years, as well as build consensus on future priorities and commitments by governments and stakeholders.

The 2002 progress review exercise, known as Rio+10, will be participatory and inclusive, building on the CSD tradition of openness, transparency and multi-stakeholder participation. Making this a truly useful and productive exercise will require full engagement of all major groups. This section of the guidelines provides your organisation with a road map as far as it is known at present.

Local and National Activities

The success of an honest and useful progress review will depend on local and national reviews of progress so that the final review outcome is grounded in local and national realities, achievements, recognition of obstacles and aspirations of what needs to be done in the next phase. A lively national engagement among all governmental and non-governmental institutions and actors will not only make the review exercise meaningful but also mobilise individuals and institutions behind the global goal of sustainability.

The CSD Secretariat has called upon the Governments to launch a number of activities, through their national preparatory committees or other similar co-ordination mechanisms, to help mobilise and engage

the public in the national Rio+10 preparations. These activities include:

101 Ways to Sustainable Development: a national search for the best sustainable development success story to be submitted to the CSD Secretariat for a publication showcasing the 101 ways to achieve sustainability. The cases would be uploaded on the Rio+10 web site as they are submitted with links to the originator and the submitting country.

Sustainable Development Visions: a national call for submission of visions of a sustainable world by all ages. One Vision is to be selected by the national committee (or equivalent) to be submitted for publication. The Visions would be made available to the world leaders at the Summit Meeting and widely disseminated throughout the Rio+10 process.

Children's Agenda 21 Posters: a national poster competition to engage and inspire the imaginations of children aged 6–12. Each national committee is to select one poster to submit to the CSD Secretariat. An exhibition at the Summit meeting would showcase to world leaders and other summit participants the aspirations, hopes and expectations of the younger generation.

National Progressions: a national process to identify 3–5 achievable progress targets that the country can commit to achieving in the next 5–10 years. The aim is to generate independent or joint actions that will further the slow but sure transition towards a sustainable global society. The National Progressions of a country are its own targets based on its own priorities and capabilities rather than those that may be agreed globally through inter-governmental negotiations. A high level multi-stakeholder dialogue segment at the Summit could be the forum at which countries share their progression targets with the commitments from major group representatives.

Regional Activities

The UN's Regional Economic Commissions, the regional offices of UN Environment Programme, the UN Development Programme Regional Bureaux and the CSD Secretariat are collaborating to organise regional preparatory committee meetings (PrepComm) in all regions of the world. The Regional PrepComms are expected to take place in the summer and fall of 2001 to generate useful inputs for the global review exercise to start in January 2002. National assessments are expected to be the basis of the discussions. The schedule of the Regional PrepComms as well as focal points you can contact will be made public on our Website (<http://www.un.org/rio+10>) as soon as this information is finalised.

A regional roundtable will precede each Regional PrepComm. The regional roundtables will bring

together regional experts from a diversity of backgrounds to conduct a non-political and unfettered discussion of regional progress and future directions. Reports from the regional roundtables will be available to the Regional PrepComms.

Global Review Process and Activities

CSD10 will act as the Rio+10 PrepComm. A series of CSD10–PrepComm meetings are planned. CSD10–PrepComm I is scheduled immediately after the conclusion of CSD9. This meeting is expected to primarily focus on organisational matters related to the global Rio+10 process. CSD10–PrepComm II is scheduled for January 2002. This meeting will start the substantive review of progress at the global level. The discussions will be based on the Secretary-General's report on overall review of progress, as well as from the outputs of the Regional PrepComms. Early in the course of PrepComm II, a two-day multi-stakeholder dialogue with all nine major group sectors is planned. The topics of the stakeholder dialogue will be based on the outline of the Secretary-General's overall review report.

CSD10–PrepComm III, in March 2002, may continue and finalise the overall inter-governmental review exercise unless the review is finalised at the January meeting.

CSD10–PrepComm IV is planned for May 2002, to be held in Indonesia at Ministerial level. The focus at this stage is expected to be on identifying and building consensus on priorities and strategies for the next 5 to 10 years. A one or half-day multi-stakeholder dialogue (depending on the length of this session) is planned to give opportunities to major group representatives to share their proposals and ideas regarding what needs to be done in the next phase of sustainable development work.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development will be the culmination of the process. It will be held at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa. At the summit meeting, a half-day multi-stakeholder high-level dialogue segment is planned. This dialogue segment is an opportunity for major groups and governments to share their specific sustainable development commitments for the next phase. The national commitments are expected to emerge from the National Progression Targets process described above.

A number of Global Roundtables are also planned. Their composition and purpose will be similar to the regional roundtables described above. The recommendations from the Global Roundtables will be available to the CSD10–PrepComm meetings.

The CSD Secretariat is also launching a number of global studies related to major groups. One such

study is the Second International Survey of Local Agenda 21 Initiatives, and will be conducted jointly by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and the CSD Secretariat. A second study being considered is a systematic analysis of the Multi-stakeholder dialogue format pioneered by the CSD in 1998. A third study will aim to generate an independent review of major group participation in sustainable development decision-making processes.

The CSD Secretariat will disseminate further detail on the Rio+10 preparations by way of a dedicated web site (www.un.org/rio+10), the CSD Update, a special list-server for electronic dissemination, and other available means. Information in print will be made available to ensure that major groups with limited access to the Internet are well informed in a timely fashion.

The CSD Secretariat encourages all major group organisations to support and take an active part in this milestone event at which the global community is to renew its commitment to making a sustainable world in which life in all its diversity is respected, enhanced and dignified.

An update on matters related to NGO and major group participation in and contributions to Rio+10 process will be released in early 2001 and further updates will be released as details become available. The CSD Secretariat will arrange for electronic NGO/major group registration for Rio+10. Please check our web site regularly or contact the Major Groups Programme Coordinator Zehra Aydin-Sipos at aydin@un.org.

Part III

NGOs AND WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

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- NGOs and Women in the Rio Process** • *page 45*
- NGOs at the United Nations** • *page 50*
- Example: NGOs in the Rio Process* • *page 51*
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- Examples of Women's Organisations, NGOs and Networks** • *page 57*

NGOs and the United Nations

A non-governmental organisation (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group organised on a local, national or international level. Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions, bring citizens' concerns to Governments, monitor policies and encourage political participation at the community level. They provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements. Some are organised around specific issues, such as human rights, the environment or health. Their relationship with offices and agencies of the United Nations System differs depending on their goals, location and mandate.

Over 1,500 NGOs with information programmes on issues of concern to the United Nations are associated with the Department of Public Information (DPI), giving the United Nations valuable links to people around the world. DPI helps those NGOs gain access to and disseminate information about the range of issues in which the United Nations is involved, to enable the public to understand better the aims and objectives of the Organisation. Many have offices and official representatives at UN Headquarters, strengthening the UN's links to the world's peoples and various interest groups.

Other NGOs have Consultative Status with particular UN Bodies, such as the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or the United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF).

One of the results of the cycle of UN Summits and Conferences in the 1990s was an increased number of NGOs accredited to ECOSOC (*see box overleaf*). Currently there are 2012 NGOs have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and some 400 NGOs are accredited by the Commission on Sustainable Development, a subsidiary body of ECOSOC. These CSD roster NGOs need to contact the NGO Section of DESA in order to apply for consultative status.

NGOs often speak for broad international and national constituencies, and have increasing influence on UN work. They play a prominent role at UN conferences, advancing the views of their constituencies on issues ranging from women's rights to food security. They were instrumental in the adoption of the 1997 Convention banning landmines and the establishment in 1998 of an International Criminal

Consultative Status

Non-governmental, non-profit public or voluntary organisations may be admitted into a mutually beneficial working relationship with the United Nations by attaining consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This status was based on Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations. Article 71 of the Charter provides that "...the Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organisations which are concerned with matters within its competence". The rights and privileges enumerated in detail in ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 enable qualifying organisations to make a contribution to the work programmes and goals of the United Nations by serving as technical experts, advisers and consultants to governments and the UN Secretariat. Sometimes, as advocacy groups, they espouse UN themes, implementing plans of action, programmes and declarations adopted by the United Nations. In concrete terms this entails their participation in ECOSOC and its various subsidiary bodies through attendance at meetings, and also through oral interventions and written statements on agenda items of those bodies. In addition, organisations, qualifying for General Category consultative status, may propose new items for consideration by ECOSOC. Organisations granted status are also invited to attend international conferences called by the UN, General Assembly special sessions, and other intergovernmental bodies (The participation modalities for NGOs are governed by the rules of procedure of those bodies).

<http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/faq.htm>

Court to deal with genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

NGOs, no matter to which UN Body they are accredited or have consultative status with, are not part of the UN. They are neither representatives nor agents of the UN, nor are they authorised to enter into business arrangements on behalf of the UN. Consultative status does not entitle them to special privileges, tax exemptions, diplomatic passports, etc. NGOs in consultative status are not entitled to use the UN logo – not unless the NGO obtains a written authorisation from the UN Office of Legal Affairs first. Under no circumstances is this permission granted for use on stationery or business cards.

<http://www.un.org/MoreInfo/ngolink/brochure.htm>

Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Many NGOs active in the field of economic and social development have qualified for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Such arrangements are governed by ECOSOC resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968, which makes provision for NGOs to be placed in consultative status with ECOSOC, as well as for them to hold consultations with its secretariat.

There used to be NGOs in consultative status Category I and Category II. Now, there are General and Special category. More recently, after three years of negotiation, ECOSOC reviewed its arrangements for consultation with NGOs in July 1996. One outcome was ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, which revised the arrangements for NGO consultation with ECOSOC. It standardised arrangements for accrediting NGOs for UN conferences, streamlined the process of applying for ECOSOC consultative status, and decided that national NGOs would be eligible to apply. Under the terms of ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, what used to be known as Category I, is now "General Category". Category II became "Special Category". In other words, if your organisation was in Category II, it is currently listed in "Special category". "General status" is granted to large, international NGOs that work on almost all the issues on ECOSOC's agenda; "special consultative status" is granted to NGOs that have competence in a few of ECOSOC's issue areas; while "roster status" is granted to NGOs which ECOSOC considers can make occasional useful contributions to its work.

If you are an NGO in General or Special category, you are required to submit a report once every 4 years detailing your activities in support of the UN ("quadrennial report"). This reporting requirement does not apply to NGOs on the Roster. These reports run on a somewhat complicated schedule, so your organisation will be contacted by the NGO Section and advised of the modalities and deadline of submission of your report. We suggest you keep detailed records of your cooperation with the UN.

A second outcome of the July 1996 ECOSOC review was ECOSOC Decision 1996/297, which recommended that the General Assembly examine, at its 51st session, the question of the participation of NGOs in all areas of work of the UN, in light of the experience gained through the consultative arrangement between NGOs and ECOSOC.

Subsequently, in the General Assembly Working Group looking into the strengthening of the UN System, a sub-group on NGOs was formed. This sub-group is examining issues of NGO access, particularly with regard to the General Assembly, and its work is on-going.

ECOSOC decides on consultative status for NGOs based upon the recommendation of the inter-governmental Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations. This Committee is composed of nineteen Member States and meets yearly.

For further information contact:

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS UNIT

*Division for Policy Coordination and ECOSOC Affairs
DPCSD Room DC1-1070
United Nations
New York, NY 10017*

In order to obtain consultative status an organisation's application must be reviewed by the Committee on NGOs of ECOSOC, composed of 19 States members of the United Nations that meets annually. The Committee recommends to ECOSOC which organisations should be granted one of the three categories of status (General, Special, and Roster), with the full ECOSOC making the final decision. To begin the process for applying for status an organisation must contact in writing the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The letter of intent should be on the organisation's letterhead and signed by its secretary-general or president. Once the NGO section receives the letter of intent, the application package containing the questionnaire and all the background materials is mailed to the organisation. The deadline for receiving completed applications is June 1 of each year. For example, complete applications (which must include a completed questionnaire and all the required supporting documentation) received by the NGO Section before 1 June 1999, will be taken up by the Committee on NGOs in the year 2000.

The application forms, a model application and guidelines for the association between NGOs and the UN are available for download from the documents section of the UN site: <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/documents.htm>

Non-governmental, non-profit voluntary organisations may be granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Among other requirements, the organisation's activities must be relevant to the work of ECOSOC. The NGO must have a democratic decision making mechanism. The NGO must be in existence (officially registered with the appropriate government authorities as an NGO/non-profit) for at least 2 years in order to apply. The basic resources of the organisation must be derived in the main part from contributions of the national affiliates, individual members or other non-governmental components.

In addition, there are alternative formal arrangements for NGO association with the UN. NGOs that have an information component in their programmes can become associated with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI). In addition to that, many UN specialised agencies operate their own accreditation programmes for NGOs that are relevant to their area of work. Examples include:

- **International Labor Organisation (ILO)** – Geneva, Switzerland
- **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)** – Rome, Italy
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** – Paris, France

- **World Health Organisation (WHO)** – Geneva, Switzerland
- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** – Geneva, Switzerland
- **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** – London, UK
- **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** – Geneva, Switzerland
- **United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)** – Vienna, Austria
- **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** – Geneva, Switzerland

	General	Special	Roster
Relevance to the work of ECOSOC	all areas	some areas	limited
Are in consultative status with ECOSOC	X	X	X
Designate UN representatives	X	X	X
Invited to UN conferences	X	X	X
Propose items for ECOSOC agenda	X		
Attend UN meetings	X	X	X
Can speak at ECOSOC	X		
Circulate statements at ECOSOC meetings	2000 words	500 words	
Circulate statements at ECOSOC subsidiary bodies' meetings	2000 words	1500 words	
Can speak at ECOSOC subsidiary bodies' meetings	X	X	
Must submit quadrennial reports	X	X	

CONGO, the Conference on Non-Governmental Organisations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, serves as a representative voice of NGOs in consultative status before ECOSOC. Its aims are to ensure that they enjoy the fullest opportunities and appropriate facilities for performing their consultative functions, to provide a forum on the consultative process, and to convene meetings of member organisations to exchange views on matters of common interest.

Website: <http://www.conferenceofngos.org/>

NGOs & Women in the Rio Process

Major Groups – Strategy

Participation of people is key to sustainable development. Agenda 21 recognises this in Section III, which describes the specific roles and responsibilities of nine Major Groups in distinct chapters on

- Women
- Non-Government Organisations
- Youth
- Indigenous Peoples
- Business & Industry
- Trade Unions
- Local Authorities
- Science & Technology
- Farmers

The participatory requirement of Agenda 21 is a tradition of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which is widely acknowledged as a leader among inter-governmental bodies for being open, transparent and accessible to all Major Groups. The CSD continuously experiments with new forms of participation and turns successful experiments into new traditions in its annual and inter-sessional work.

Among the results of these experiments are the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Segments during the CSD, special programming to highlight the contributions and demands of a particular major group (the 'Day of.....' series), numerous side events that allow exchange of information between major groups and governments, and Success Stories that demonstrate what Major Groups are doing for sustainable development in the field.

History of the Dialogues at the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD)

(A note by UNED Forum produced in preparation for the Dialogue Sessions at the Informal Environment Ministers meeting in Bergen, Norway, Sept 2000)

In 1996 we asked governments and DESA to support the introduction of Dialogue Sessions at the CSD in 1997. The General Assembly in 1996 agreed that in 1997 there would be half a day on Dialogues. The suggestion was that each Major Group have half a day to examine:

- what they had done;
- what they wanted to see Earth Summit II deliver;
- what they would contribute to the future.

Multi-Stakeholder Processes

Multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs) are processes or structures of stakeholder participation. They aim to **BRING TOGETHER ALL MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS** in a new form of decision-finding (and possibly decision-making) on a particular issue. They can be initiated by international institutions, national and local governments, or others – NGOs, companies, etc. Introducing such exchange between stakeholders – with or without government involvement – is based on the recognition that all stakeholders need to be involved in planning, decision-making and implementation in order to achieve desired changes.

MSPs cover a **WIDE SPECTRUM** of structures and levels of engagement. They can comprise dialogue (statements, exchange and discussion), or grow into processes encompassing consensus-building, decision-making and implementation. The exact nature of any MSP will depend the issue, the participants, the time-frame, etc.

Multi-stakeholder processes are therefore an **IMPORTANT TOOL** for sustainable development.

Their **OBJECTIVE** is to promote better decisions by means of wider input; to integrate diverse viewpoints; to bring together the principal actors; to create trust through honouring each participant as contributing a necessary component of the bigger picture; to create mutual benefits (win/win rather than win/lose situations); to develop shared power with a partnership approach; to create commitment through participants identifying with the outcome and thus increasing the likelihood of successful implementation. Ideally, they are designed to put people into the centre of decision-finding, -making and -implementation.

Over the last few years, stakeholder participation and multi-stakeholder processes have generated considerable interest, around (inter-)governmental bodies and independently. Examples include the World Commission on Dams, the UN Global Compact initiative, the Global Reporting Initiative, the CSD Stakeholder Dialogues, the WBCSD / IIED Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Initiative, National Councils for Sustainable Development, Local Agenda 21 processes, etc.

Many of these processes have been organised on a rather ad hoc basis, and those around (inter-)governmental processes need to clarify their linkage into official decision-making. Many also need to become more transparent, inclusive and equitable, and more action-oriented.

UNED Forum has recently been working on developing a **METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK** and a **STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE** for multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs), in order to contribute to the development of principles of stakeholder participation and engagement. The draft report went through consultations with various stakeholders and an international workshop (April 2001). All material is available at www.earthsummit2002.org/msp. The report presents a number of building blocks for MSPs, addressing: their goals and various types; their role in the context of the ongoing debate on global governance; their value / ideological basis; relevant scientific findings; 20 existing examples. The step-by-step guide is a check-list of questions which need to be addressed when designing, carrying out and evaluating an MSP. It is an attempt to translate the rhetoric of values and the existing experiences into practical conclusions and suggestions on how to do it.

For the process towards **Earth Summit 2002**, multi-stakeholder dialogues play a significant role. Based on the UN General Assembly resolution (A/RES/55/199, 20 December 2000), they have been built into all preparatory meetings and the Summit itself. The CSD Secretariat is also planning global thematic round tables of Major Groups in conjunction with the Summit preparations.

So far, stakeholder dialogues (or “hearings”, “consultations”, “discussions”) around international policy-making processes have mostly been of an informing nature – stakeholders present and discuss their views to inform governments who are negotiating agreements.

However, one can argue that there needs to be space to further build on such dialogues. The process should not only benefit from stakeholders informing governments but also from immediately involving them in the steps towards implementation. For example, stakeholders should study (draft) agreements and engage in action-oriented discussions on how to implement them. They should identify the tools and strategies of information and partnerships they need and commit to pilot projects. These should be carried out in an agreed time-frame and be reported back to the intergovernmental process. UNED Forum’s *Implementation Conference* around the Earth Summit in 2002 is an example for such an attempt.

Unfortunately there was little ‘dialogue’ in the 1997 CSD. The sessions were held, as in Istanbul, at the same time as the negotiations. Although some government delegates did attend, they tended to be those from developed countries, with large delegations, and were often not key members of their delegations. Although the Dialogues were not labelled a total success, the Commission addressed the weaknesses in this approach, and improvements were written into the work programme for the CSD for the next five years.

In 1998, the first real ‘Dialogue’ session was to be on “Industry”. The then-director of the UN Division on Sustainable Development, Joke Waller Hunter, brought together in Geneva in September 1997 the key Major Group representatives. Attending were the CSD NGO Steering Committee, the World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

These groups helped frame the approach taken to the Dialogue Sessions. Each group was asked to consult with its members and produce position papers to be given into the UN by mid January 1998.

These were on:

- Responsible Entrepreneurship;
- Corporate Management Tools;
- Technology Cooperation;
- Industry and Freshwater.

The significant development that year was that each group was asked to produce a paper that had been peer group reviewed by its stakeholder group. This was important as it moved away from papers that merely expressed ‘opinions’, towards more referenced and researched positions. This would have even more significance than had been thought at the time.

Many breakthroughs in international negotiations come because groups are able to build a level of trust among those participating. In the preparations, and at the Dialogue on “Industry”, two elements helped improve the chance of success. First was that the ICC sat as a member of the CSD NGO Steering Committee and so was fully aware of NGO preparations. Second, were the extraordinarily close relationships that had been built between several individual NGOs and industry representatives. This enabled a level of trust to exist that countered any disturbances by the more extreme members of each sector.

At the CSD meeting in 1998 there were two additional developments. The first was the opportunity to have “peer group”(by experts from the different

stakeholder groups) review between different stakeholders. Second, governments were given the opportunity to challenge ideas put forward. The normal UN procedure is for Major Groups to make isolated presentations and for these to be noted, rather than discussed, or more importantly challenged.

To ensure that governments took the Dialogues seriously, they were moderated by that year’s Chair of the CSD, the Minister for the Environment from the Philippine’s, Cielito Habito. This persuaded governments to provide high-level representations for the Dialogue sessions. Positions put forward were at times questioned by the Chair or governments and this resulted in one of the key outcomes – with the Norwegian delegation playing a major role in bringing this about – of a multi-stakeholder working group set up to review voluntary initiatives by industry. NGOs had been campaigning for years through groups such as the Task Force on Business and Industry (TOBI) to try and have a review of voluntary initiatives put on the table, without any success. The 1998 CSD Dialogues succeeded in creating a process, which would involve everybody.

The Dialogue process for 1999 focused on tourism. The new CSD Bureau under Simon Upton (Environment Minister for New Zealand), decided that there would be four major groups involved that year: NGOs (co-ordinated by the CSD NGO Steering Committee), business and industry (World Travel and Tourism Council and the International Hotel and Restaurant Association), trade unions (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) and local authorities (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives).

The subject of tourism presented problems for NGOs, as it is not a chapter of Agenda 21. The CSD NGO Steering Committee, which did not have a caucus to work on that topic, did a massive outreach to tourism-orientated NGOs. It carried out a mailing to over 300 organisations with:

- information on the UN Commission on Sustainable Development;
- information on the Steering Committee itself;
- a questionnaire requesting information on their work on tourism.

The result of this was the setting up of a new NGO caucus on tourism under the co-Chairs of the Steering Committee. Recognising that there were some lessons learnt from the 1998 Dialogue Sessions, the Steering Committee made a recommendation that the papers produced by the Major Groups should be no longer than four pages and should be structured to describe the following aspects of each of the four sub themes of the Dialogues.

1. Problem
2. Solutions offered
3. Institutional responsibility (intergovernmental, government and Major Groups)
4. Identifying possible partnerships

The CSD Bureau and the Major Group representatives agreed this approach. As well as bringing in a whole new set of NGOs who had never participated at the CSD before, two of the Major Group co-ordinating bodies were new to the Dialogue process. The local government organisation ICLEI had been very active at the CSD over the previous six years and had participated in the 1997 model of the Dialogues, but had not participated in the new model of the Dialogues. The industry organisations had attended a CSD, but only as observers. The NGO Steering Committee offered advice and training for the industry groups, which was subsequently accepted. Again this helped in building up a level of trust between the industry groups and the NGOs.

As in the first Dialogue Session there were significant breakthroughs. The outcome from the 1999 Dialogues were placed in front of the government negotiators by the Chair of the CSD as they started negotiating on tourism. The second important outcome was the setting up of another multi-stakeholder working group under the World Tourism Organisation. It was to look at issues such as information provision and participation of indigenous and local communities, financial leakages in the tourism industry, etc. This working group is perhaps the only global committee where industry and NGOs sit together to problem solve on tourism.

At the CSD in 2000 the Dialogue session was on Agriculture and has also initiated an ongoing process with stakeholders. Another success of the Dialogues was the first ever joint statement by industry, NGOs, farmers, trade unions and indigenous peoples.

Women in the Rio Process

In Rio, women were recognised as a “Major Group” whose involvement is necessary to achieve sustainable development. Today, there is a growing emphasis on “gender mainstreaming” – integrally incorporating both men’s and women’s concerns and participation in the planning, implementation and monitoring of all development and environmental management programmes.

Women and sustainable development issues are an essential component of Agenda 21 and other international agreements. Agenda 21 includes Chapter 24: “Global Action for Women Towards Sustainable and Equitable Development”, outlining strategies to achieve the necessary full and equal participation of women in order to bring about sustainable development. In addition to the chapter itself, women’s and gender issues are being addressed throughout Agenda 21, reflecting the “gender mainstreaming” approach. There are over one hundred references and recommendations pertaining to women in the final agreement, recognising the importance of women’s full and equal participation, their rights and roles towards sustainable development in sectoral as well as cross-sectoral sections.

“Human development, if not engendered, is endangered”

(Human Development Report 1995, 1)

None of the three aspects of the goal of sustainable development or their balance (2) can be achieved without solving the prevailing problems of gender inequality and inequity. Clearly, without gender-mainstreaming of all work towards sustainable development, we will not be able to achieve it. Therefore, we need to assess how far we have come in achieving this important, crosscutting goal.

Women & UNCED

WORLD WOMEN’S CONGRESS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET –
MIAMI, 1991

The World Women’s Congress for a Healthy Planet was held in Miami, Florida, November 8–12, 1991, organised by the Women’s International Policy Action Committee (IPAC), a committee established by the Women’s Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO).

The congress had three basic objectives. First, to produce a Women’s Action Agenda for the decade to be presented to those involved in the June 1992 Earth Summit. Second, to ensure that all governmental and non-governmental delegations to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) were gender balanced, so that no delegation had more than sixty percent of either sex. Third, to build an international network of women acting in solidarity to ensure a strong women’s voice on all issues pertaining to environment and development.

The Miami Conference was an important event in the history of women organising internationally. It resulted in a strong international network and the Women’s Action Agenda 21 policy document, which were used to catalyse a strong lobbying effort at the UNCED preparatory meetings and the Earth Summit itself.

See: <http://iisd1.iisd.ca/women/action21.htm>
for full text of the Women’s Action Agenda

REDEH Trains Women to Lead the Local Agenda 21 Groups

REDEH – the Human Development Network (Rede de Desenvolvimento Humano), with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank's Women's Leadership Program, trained women leaders in the State of Rio de Janeiro for important roles in the local processes for setting up Agenda 21 programs. The training was offered through a series of specially designed courses.

The project sought to tie in Agenda 21 programs with other similar processes, resulting from the proposals set out in the national legislation creating the State Agenda – Global Agenda 21/Chapter 24, Women's Action Agenda 21 and the Female Citizenship Program of Rio de Janeiro.

Thais Corral, director of REDEH and member of the Pro-Agenda 21 Commission, said that the course undertaken by the women leaders (selected from six municipalities) was to follow the Agenda 21 methodology of training relevant figures – in this case the women – and was to provide them with practical tools to better qualify them for their role in decision-making processes and in the implementation of policies for sustainable development. In each city, 30 women with active roles in public administration and civil society were to be selected to take the course, which was to take the form of a 4-day workshop. On the last day of the workshop those taking part were to be given the opportunity to present their ideas to the local authorities.

The courses were to be run in the following municipalities: Macaé, Petrópolis, Resende, Caxias, Volta Redonda and in the state capital. In addition to the courses, the project were to provide the following: a learning kit including an educational notebook, an audio cassette and a video tape, as well as publications on the subject of Agenda 21 and wider issues; a final publication, detailing the experience and the training techniques that were to be used, in order to provide a reference for other states in Brazil.

For further details on the project please contact REDEH at:

Email: redenh@redenh.org.br

Planeta FEMEA

The NGO conference 'Global Forum', which took place in Rio de Janeiro during the UNCED Earth Summit in 1992, assembled about 18,000 NGO participants from 166 countries and some 390,000 visitors. The largest tent, labelled Planeta FEMEA, assembled women's organisations from around the world to prepare position papers on the specific place of women in development and environmental policy.

Planeta FEMEA was responsible for co-ordinating the Population and Environment Treaty. They objected to insinuations that population pressure is the chief cause of environmental degradation and counter attacked that the true causes of the problem are industrial and military pollutants, toxic waste, over-consumption by the industrialised countries, and international trade and economic systems that encourage exploitation of people and nature.

The efforts of these women during the UNCED Prepcoms and the Rio Global Forum were not fruitless. The Official Agenda 21 document contains one chapter entirely dedicated to the specific problems and demands of women (chapter 24) and has several other references to women's issues in other places (chapters 31 and 40). Women were by and large widely seen as the most effective and best organised of the NGOs at UNCED and have arguably had the greatest impact – beyond the chapter dedicated to them – upon the rest of Agenda 21.

<http://www.epe.be/workbooks/sourcebook/1.18.html>

NGOs at the United Nations

How can one Participate in the UN Meetings without too many Restrictions?

The UN is basically a government body and therefore it is a very closed-up and controlled system. The General Assembly is an assembly of governments representing the people of their countries, and no other organisations. Therefore, at most times other organisations, such as non-government organisations, women's networks, trade unions or industry associations, are only invited as guests or observers but not as presenters, negotiators or decision-makers. Only Member States can vote. However, civil society organisations including NGOs and Community based organisations (CBOs) are carrying out much of the work implementing the international agreements reached at the UN. Therefore, the United Nations have developed new ways of interacting with these organisations and making their experiences and expertise available to its decision-making process.

Any organisation can apply through the UN Department of Public Information to gain accreditation, which means to be allowed to attend relevant meetings, particularly Commission meetings and Global Summits (*see Section 11 above*). It is important that organisations, when accredited, use a democratic and transparent procedure and send participants who will be as representative as possible of their affiliates' interest. In order to attend a particular meeting, one can also ask to be accredited through an organisation, which already has gained this status with the UN. You have to register your accreditation two weeks before the meeting you want to attend. You will then have to go to a UN Pass Office (or another place especially set up for a particular meeting) to obtain a UN grounds pass.

Can NGOs have an Influence?

Yes. The CSD is one of the most open and participatory UN bodies. Recognising that the achievement of sustainable development will require more political will, energy and creativity than governments can provide, the CSD has deliberately sought the involvement of all sectors of society (in Agenda 21 language, "major groups"). The major groups involved in the CSD include NGOs, women, youth, indigenous peoples, local authorities, trade unions, business and industry, scientists and farmers.

Through their participation at the CSD, NGOs have been able to introduce significant developments in the debate, such as the introduction in 1998 of a multi-stakeholder group to review Industry Voluntary

Initiatives. In 1999 also out of the Dialogue Sessions came an agreement to set up a multi-stakeholder process to look at financial leakages in the tourism industry.

The Dialogues promoted by NGOs do allow for the opportunity to put together ongoing process with different stakeholder groups.

How do NGOs Participate?

NGO participation is primarily through the preparation of position papers, lobbying on these papers, making statements to intergovernmental working groups, and more recently, taking part in the official Dialogue Sessions between governments, NGOs and other major groups.

One of the most important lessons learned to date has been the need for participation to be timely. For lobbying to be as effective as possible, governments need to have the NGO position in their hands when they are preparing their own papers. This is often six months before the CSD meets.



NGOs in the Rio Process

Below, you will find information about how NGOs are operating around the UN CSD. This concrete example should give you a better idea of what NGO participation at the UN can look like.

CSD NGO Steering Committee

In order to facilitate the preparation of NGOs before CSD meetings and the involvement of NGOs at the meetings, an NGO Steering Committee was established in 1994. This is a non-political 'umbrella' structure, charged with disseminating information and coordinating NGO activities at the CSD.

In summary, the Steering Committee is a self-organised coordinating body representing NGOs and other Major Groups identified in Agenda 21, with Southern and Northern Co-Chairs and representatives of issue caucuses, major groups and regional networks from around the world. At present there are 25 issue caucuses, 5 major groups and 25 regional groupings represented on the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee is composed of regional representatives, major groups representatives and issues-based caucuses. The Steering Committee is elected on an annual basis and has acted for NGOs since CSD-2 in 1994. Steering Committee membership includes representatives of Major Groups, grassroots organisations, national, regional and global NGOs and NGO networks.

The Steering Committee operates within clear Guidelines, and aims to achieve regional and gender balance in its activities.

The role of the Committee at the CSD Intersessional and the CSD is:

- to organise and manage the CSD Dialogue process for NGOs;
- to organise training for new NGOs attending;
- to organise the morning NGO briefings (daily at 9.15 a.m.);
- to provide and distribute information (incl. web site, list servers and a documents library at CSD);
- to organise meetings with key people, incl. Govt/NGO dialogues;
- to facilitate the NGO Caucuses;
- to act as the link to the CSD Bureau for dealing with problems concerning speaking rights and accreditation;

The Steering Committee meets formally at least twice during the CSD Intersessional and the CSD. Anyone can attend as an observer.

Elections for a new Committee will take place in the second week of the CSD. More information will be available at the CSD on the procedures for these elections.

You can find more information about the Steering Committee, the issue based, Major Groups and regional caucuses, etc. at the Steering Committee website at <http://www.igc.org/csdngo/>.

CSD Intersessional Meetings: The CSD Intersessional meetings often offer the best opportunities for ideas to be taken up by governments. They are usually being held in February/March. The Co-Chairs of the CSD Intersessionals will produce two documents: one summarising the discussions; and another with 'Elements of a Draft Decision', which will form the basis of the negotiations at the CSD session itself in April.

NGO Pre-Meetings: The best place to find out about the Intersessional and CSD-9 will be at the NGO pre-meetings, scheduled for the two Sundays before the respective weeks of the CSD Intersessional meeting, usually 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Church Center (*see addresses below*).

Side Events: So-called side events are a popular part of the CSD, allowing NGOs, governments, agencies and others to showcase their projects, hold discussion panels, and hear what others have to say. There are two time-slots for side events: lunch times (1:15–2:45pm) and at the end of the day (6:15–8pm). If your NGO wishes to hold a side event, it is important to book space early. The deadline for side event bookings usually is some 2–3 weeks before the meeting (CSD Intersessional or CSD itself). Obtain a

request form from the Secretariat or on the web at www.un.org/esa/sustdev.htm. Note that side events linked to CSD issues (either CSD-9 issues or upcoming issues) are more favourably considered. The Bureau has also requested that where possible events are combined, e.g. several NGO events on the same issue presented as one event.

Documentation: There may be problems initially with accessing all the documentation as it comes out. Try not to take more than one copy. If you aren't interested in a paper leave it for someone who is. The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) or the NGO Liaison Service (NGLS) will provide some papers. If there really are none around, then a good place to look for spare ones is on the press floor. There are 2 levels in the Secretariat where the press have rooms and where papers are put out for them.

Booking Meeting Rooms: To organise a meeting in the UN you need to request a room from NGLS at least the day before and receive confirmation that the room has been booked. Note that there is very high demand for rooms, especially during lunch hours and in the evenings.

The Church Center may also have space available for meetings. The second floor of the Church Center is often booked by the CSD NGO Steering Committee for the whole of the CSD, and will be used for the training sessions, caucus meetings and other NGO events.

Publications at CSD:

OUTREACH: This is produced regularly throughout CSD meetings – often daily. It offers commentary from an NGO perspective. The Newsletter is produced in cooperation with the CSD NGO Steering Committee.

Earth Negotiations Bulletin: This NGO production comes out daily and summarises the debate from the formal session. It also includes information on informal and 'informal-informal' meetings.

Earth Times: This was originally set up in the Rio process but has been coming out regularly at all UN events; various companies and foundations fund it. It will have articles and reasonably up to date information.

NGLS Daily Diary: This will list all the meetings that are occurring.

The Issue Caucuses of the NGO Steering Committee are focused on the different issues involved in sustainable development. To see a list of Issue Caucus Co-ordinators, go to the Steering Committee's membership list at <http://www.igc.org/csdngo/>.

Some of these issues are being considered directly by the CSD. Others issues are not directly addressed, but are fundamental to the achievement of a sustainable future.

Issue caucus members work together to prepare coalition NGO position papers, and to lobby government delegates. Caucuses are also a place for members to network and share information and ideas about approaches to sustainable development.

The following issues caucuses are recognised by the Steering Committee:

Corporate Responsibility & Accountability

Desertification

Education

Energy & Climate Change

Finance, Investment and Trade

Forests

Freshwater

Health and Environment

Human Rights

Human Settlements

example

An issue caucus: Tourism

Issue caucus members work together to prepare coalition NGO position papers, and to lobby government delegates. Caucuses are also a place for members to network and share information and ideas about approaches to sustainable development.

Caucuses meet regularly during meetings of the CSD.

NGO Paper on Tourism

Prepared by the NGO Steering Committee Tourism Caucus for ISWG-CSD 7, 23 February 1999

Preamble

The Tourism Phenomenon

Tourism is a worldwide phenomenon affecting human society and the environment. While tourism and people working in the tourism industry may benefit, people in tourist receiving areas experience a threat to their self-determination and dignity. Against the dynamics of globalisation the vital rights of local communities have been threatened.

The Need for Change Towards Sustainable Tourism

There is an urgent need to raise awareness about the complex nature of tourism, its ambivalent role in the strive towards sustainable development and especially about its inherent dangers and to identify new ways for constructively shaping tourism development.

A Challenge for All Actors Involved

The development of tourism and its related impacts present a challenge to all actors involved – tourists, receiving communities, employees, employers, managers, investors, journalists and politicians, etc. – to assume responsibility and tourism act accordingly.

Global Ethics

All cultures and societies are committed to specific ethical values within which common areas of concern have been accepted. These values draw upon secular traditions and regulations, which guide the interaction of individuals, communities and societies as well as to the different beliefs of religions of the world. Representatives of these ethics can be found, for example, in various UN Conventions and Declarations, for example: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly; the International Convention on the Rights of the Child; the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development and the recommendations of Agenda 21.

Listserve

To subscribe to the Tourism Caucus list go to their website: <http://www.igc.org/csdngo/tourism/tour-index.htm>

NGO Tourism Caucus Co-ordinators

Nina Rao

EQUATIONS – Equitable Tourism Options
India
Email: theraos@vsnl.com

Frans de Man

Retour Foundation
The Netherlands
Email: retour@do.nl
website: www.do.nl/retour

Information Ecology
Legal and Institutional Matters
Oceans
Older Persons
Peace
Science and Technology
Social Development
Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
Sustainable Communities
Sustainable Production and Consumption
Tourism
Transport

Major Groups Caucuses

Major Groups are the sectors of society recognised in Agenda 21 as having a substantive contribution to make to the achievement of a sustainable future. At the CSD, the major groups are represented by various organisations, such as the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and AIESEC.

Some of the major groups are very active in the NGO Steering Committee's activities (such as Women, Indigenous Peoples and Youth), and work in together with other NGO and major group representatives. Others maintain good links with the Steering Committee. To view the list of major group representatives to the Steering Committee, go to the membership list.

example

A major groups caucus: CSD NGO Women's Caucus

The caucus is a working group of women and men who are interested in and working towards the mainstreaming of gender into sustainable development policies and practical implementation strategies. The caucus works towards the recognition and adequate action on gender-related aspects of sustainable development issues by providing information and research as well as lobbying on recommendations based on up-to-date analyses and consultation within the caucus.

The CSD NGO Women's Caucus grew out of the 1991 Miami Conference, organised by WEDO, and its outcome document Women's Action Agenda for a Healthy Planet. Women were the key group setting the agenda in 1992 – because they started their work before others. The CSD NGO Women's Caucus is picking up the challenge of the process towards Earth Summit 2002, aiming to ensure gender mainstreaming of all decisions taken.

The Women's Caucus meets every morning at the CSD Sessions, organises side events and takes part in other caucus to ensure gender mainstreaming of NGO work. We lobby on the basis of position papers developed beforehand, make statements in negotiations and work on line-by-line amendments to text being negotiated.

In between CSD Sessions, caucus members communicate via email, phone, fax, and post. We operate an open list server to prepare our positions and lobbying strategies, networking globally with interested organisations and individuals. At every year's CSD Session, the caucus members elect two co-facilitators, one from the South, one from the North. The caucus is part of the CSD NGO Steering Committee, which is facilitating input and participation of NGOs to the CSD.

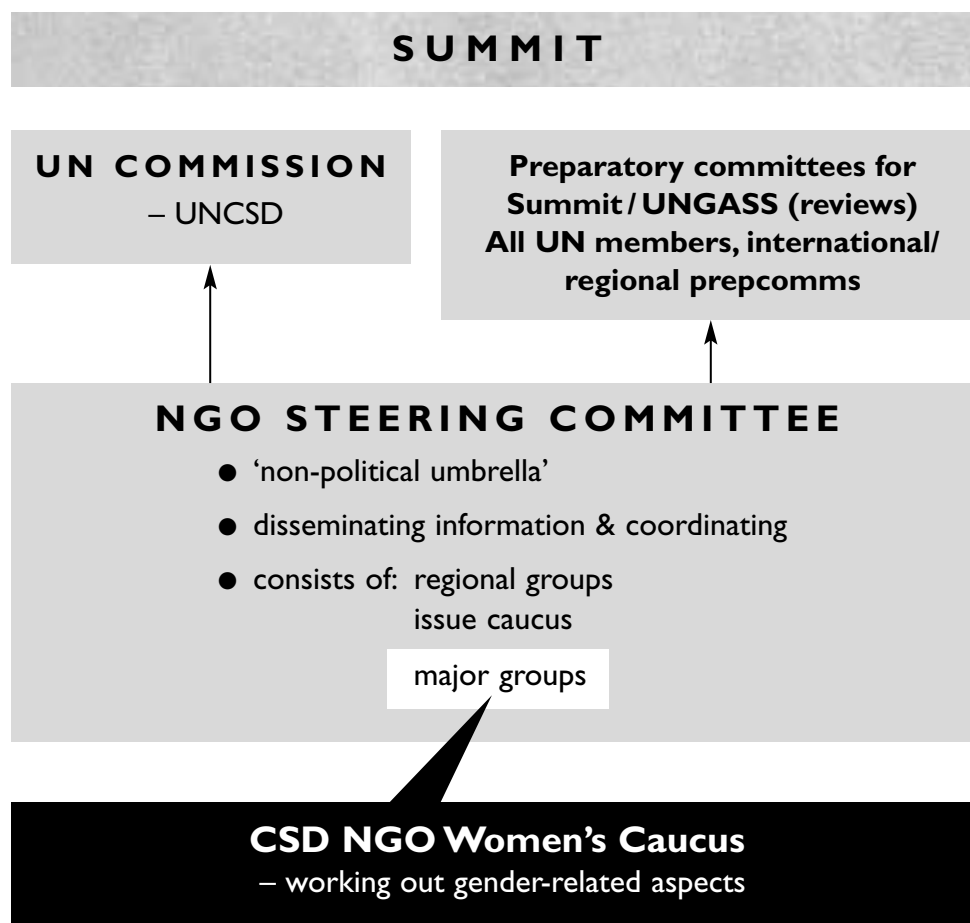
The Women's Caucus List Server

A list server (electronic working group) has been set up for the women's caucus. To subscribe, send a message to women-csd-subscribe@egroups.com or go to: <http://www.egroups.com/list/women-csd>. More than 450 organisations and individuals are subscribed to the list server (as of February 2001) – women's groups, NGOs, academics, UN representatives, etc. Subscribers are involved in various UN processes – Rio; Beijing; Copenhagen; Cairo; Istanbul.

The Women's Caucus website is located at <http://www.igc.org/csdngo/>. Click on "Women" under "Major Groups". The site offers:

- **Introduction:** background about the caucus and the CSD NGO Steering Committee; contact details
- **Schedule of meetings:** dates of upcoming meetings of the UN CSD and other bodies
- **Upcoming issues:** list of issues to be discussed at the next UN CSD meetings; gender-sensitive areas under these issues as identified by the caucus
- **Caucus position papers:** background and position papers which the CSD NGO Women's Caucus is/has been working on in preparation for the next CSD meetings
- **Meetings reports:** reports, statements, newsletter articles, etc. from/for CSD meetings
- **Resources:** a collection of resources, references, directories, useful websites, networking opportunities regarding each of the upcoming CSD issues
- Links, site map & search tool

Figure 5: *The Women's Caucus & the Rio Process*



Co-facilitators of the CSD NGO Women's Caucus 2000–2001

Chief (Mrs.) Bisi Ogunleye
Country Women's Association of Nigeria (COWAN) & WEDO
No. 7 Awosika Crescent Ijapo Est.
Akure Ondo State, NIGERIA
Tel: +234 34 231 945 • Fax: +234 34 241 001
Email: cowanhoney@infoweb.abs.net
OR via WEDO
355 Lexington Avenue, NY 10017, NY, USA
Tel +1 212 973 0325, Fax +1 212 973 0335
Email: wedo@wedo.org

Minu Hemmati
UNED Forum
3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL,
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel: +44 20 7839 1784 • Fax: +44 20 7930 5893
Email: minush@aol.com
Websites: <http://www.unedforum.org> and
<http://www.earthsummit2002.org>

Women's Caucus Position Papers 1999–2000

at <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/wcaucus/download.htm>

The CSD Women's Caucus develops and adopts position papers on CSD issues, such as:

- Effects of structural adjustment on women and the poor
- Food Security for the Food-Insecure: new challenges and renewed commitments
- Freshwater
- Gender Perspectives on Energy for CSD–9
- Micro-Finance and Empowerment
- Modalities for 2002 – Comments on the UN Secretary General's Report to the CSD 2000
- Persistent Organic Pollutants & Reproductive Health
- Re-evaluating Relevance: Intellectual Property Rights and Women's Traditional Environmental Knowledge

- The Role of Women in Approaches to Information for Decision Making and Participation in Sustainable Development
- Women and Land
- Women and Sustainable Development 2000–2002. Recommendations in Agenda 21 and Related Documents and Suggestions for a Review of Implementation
- Women, Pesticides and Sustainable Agriculture
- Women’s Caucus Declaration to the Third Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organisation, Seattle 1999
- Women’s Caucus: Summary of Comments and Recommendations on Issues under Consideration at CSD–8

How to Participate

All NGOs already with General, Special or Roster Status with the UN ECOSOC can participate at the CSD and its intersessional meeting. In addition, those groups that were accredited to the Earth Summit in 1992 and who then submitted an application for accreditation to the CSD and had it accepted, can participate. Your accreditation details (who will be attending, for how long, date of arrival) should be faxed to the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on your headed note paper, no later than two weeks before the meeting you are going to attend. The fax number is + 1 (212) 963 4114 or + 1 (212) 963 9248 (*see below for full details*). **You must accredit under AN ECOSOC accredited NGO.** To collect your UN pass you need to notify the NGO Section three days before you want to collect it. Depending on the number of NGOs accrediting for the CSD, it is possible that a special desk will be set up at the Visitor’s Entrance for the first day. If this is not the case, you can collect your pass from the Pass Office at the northwest corner of 45th St and 1st Ave (behind the blue door). You will need to take the following with you:

- your passport
- a copy of the accreditation letter you sent
- a copy of any reply you received (if you have received any)

If you are arriving early, it’s worth accrediting then, to avoid the queues of the first day.

If you don’t plan to attend the CSD, you can still make very important contributions to the debate by submitting relevant material to your government on your concerns and wishes, or by working with NGOs, which are able to participate. Copies of any submissions made to the government should also be sent to the Steering Committee’s issue caucus, Major Groups or regional representatives.

CSD Women’s Caucus Experiences

The CSD NGO Women’s Caucus has been active at all CSD meetings, using various strategies to draw the attention of delegates to gender issues in sustainable development and influence decisions in order to achieve gender mainstreaming.

In 2000, when the CSD was to discuss land management, the Women’s Caucus had started its campaign on women and land issues in the autumn of 1999. The Caucus collaborated with the UNCHS Women & Habitat Programme to produce a position paper on women and land, suggesting concrete recommendations to governments, intergovernmental bodies, women’s groups and NGOs to help achieve gender equity in access to and control of land resources. The paper was discussed at a side event held at the CSD Intersessional in March 2000, organised by the Women’s Caucus, with speakers from governments, NGOs and UNCHS; a large number of governments and NGOs were in attendance. The Caucus also published an article in the daily NGO newsletter, OUTREACH. By the time of the CSD’s main session, awareness of gender/women’s aspects of land management had increased among government delegates and NGOs alike. The CSD decision on land, which in the draft did not have references to women, now includes a paragraph on women’s rights, access to and control of land – this is very much based on the Habitat Agenda from 1996. When negotiations on this issue became very difficult, the Women’s Caucus suggested to use “agreed language” (i.e. text already agreed elsewhere). By 2001, the issue of women and land had been raised in the UN Secretary General’s report to CSD–9 on “information for decision-making,” with a reference to women’s need to have access to information on relevant agreements on land rights.

How to be Effective!

Before you arrive:

- Discuss the agenda of the meeting within your NGO and among others in your field. A well-organised back up by other NGOs in your country can mean pressure being put on the government at home as well as in New York.
- Decide the issues your NGO wants to focus on, and think about the outcomes that you would like to see.
- Contribute to the preparation of the Issue Caucus papers – this is usually done by listservers (join them on the website at <http://www.csdngo.org/csdngo>).
- Get as much sleep as you can – you’ll probably need it!

NGO Coordination at Other UN Bodies

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York provides a forum for the exchange of information about substantive issues related to women that are under consideration by the United Nations system. It assists the international community in addressing the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Women 2000–Beijing +5 outcome document, while facilitating discussion and cooperation among NGO's and individuals interested in advancing the status of women. The Committee also organises consultation and training for NGO's attending meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women. It prepares briefings prior to the meetings and hosts an annual reception for NGO's and governments.

The Committee generally meets the third Thursday of the month at the Church Center located at 777 UN Plaza in New York. To find out about the next meetings, visit <http://www.conferenceofngos.org/txt/calendar.index.php3>.

During February 2000, The Committee hosted a series of Roundtable discussions with representatives of missions and agencies every Wednesday. In March, The Committee hosted 2 sessions to brief and train NGO representatives attending the 44th session of CSW and PrepCom. In addition, The NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York, Geneva and Vienna collaborated to produce a full-day consultation at the UN on March 4th.

For notice of upcoming plans for the 45th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, please join their list serve, ngo_cswny@egroups.com.

Website: <http://www.womenact.org>

Contact:

NGO Committee on the Status of Women
PO Box 3571, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 1013, USA
Tel: 212-692-0725
Fax: 212-692-0724
Email: ngo_csw_ny@hotmail.com

At the CSD:

- Work with the NGOs present – it's impossible for an individual to cover everything.
- Attend the NGO morning meetings (9.15am in one of the conference rooms) – here you can quickly find out what's happening and how you can contribute and benefit.
- Volunteer to 'floor manage' for a half day – it's a quick way to get up to speed. You'll take notes on the negotiations and report back to the next NGO morning meeting. If NGOs are asking to make a statement, you may also need to coordinate with them.
- Contribute to the agreed NGO position papers – these tend to carry more weight than individual NGOs' papers.
- Talk regularly to your government's delegation – tell them your NGO's priorities, and suggest text amendments.
- Work with the NGOs on your government's delegation.
- Target other governments – especially if your country works in a bloc you will need to convince more than your own government to adopt your amendments. It is well worth targeting the JUSSCANNZ bloc (*see below: acronyms*). Also, the six Eastern European countries – Poland, Russia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Hungary and the Ukraine don't operate as a group. This makes it much easier to persuade them to take up your views. If your country isn't a current member of the CSD then target countries in your region – and across the world.
- Make informal contacts with the delegations. Much of the lobbying work happens informally. Key places are the Vienna Café; the Delegates Lounge (this is meant to be only for delegates but...); the Delegates Dining Room; the corridors; at the back of meeting rooms; Government Missions. Don't make the mistake of thinking that civil servants are always representing the views of the governing party. Some may want exactly what NGOs want. Therefore it's important to have a good relationship with them.

If you're on a Government Delegation, especially for the first time, there's a lot going on and it can be easy to miss important information. Try to divide up tasks with other NGOs on your delegation. Attend meetings of other NGOs on delegations, to maximise the effectiveness of lobbying. It's important that you work with other NGOs present, to ensure a two-way flow of information between NGOs and governments.

Why Participate?

Firstly: participation in the CSD is not a substitute for working at local, national or regional levels on the issues. Rather, it is a very useful complement to the work done at other levels – providing information, and an important global forum for communicating concerns of constituencies at home. Here are some of the things participating can help achieve:

Placing governments' policies in front of their peer group, i.e. other countries. The need to explain the implications of their policies can be a good chance for putting pressure on a government. There will be opportunity to influence the government to sign up to policies that they mightn't have wanted to while at home.

Maintaining pressure on governments and international organisations and strengthening the goals of your organisation. One of the great things about the UN meetings is the access you have both to Ministers and top civil servants. It is equivalent to being allowed on to the floor of your parliament. You can walk up to any country desk and talk to the relevant civil servant.

Finding out what's happening on various issues relating to Sustainable Development around the world.

NGO Papers and Statements

These are the primary means of NGO participation in the CSD negotiations, and are important in moving the agenda forward.

Individual NGO Position Papers – If your organisation has a position paper, or other relevant documents, you may distribute them at the CSD. These papers are not issued as official CSD documents, and the NGO bears any costs (e.g. printing). There should be a table outside the official conference room where you can put your papers. It is vital that you personally hand copies of your material to the key delegations you want to influence.

Agreed NGO Position Papers – These are developed in the lead-up period and during the Intersessional and CSD meetings. Because they represent a wide range of NGOs and their constituencies, they tend to carry greater weight with governments. The usual format is to reproduce the Government text with NGO amendments in bold. It helps the delegates understand what you want added and where.

Oral Statements – ECOSOC-accredited NGOs may ask to make a brief oral statement to the meeting. These are at the discretion of the Chair and with consent of the members. To ensure that a wide range of views are represented, the Issue Caucuses and Working Groups of the Steering Committee usually coordinate joint statements, so that they represent more than the NGO of the individual speaker. The statements are most effective if they are brief and substantive in nature.

Examples of Women's Organisations, NGOs and Networks

Today, there are many women's organisations and NGOs who work locally, nationally, regionally and globally. Some estimate that there are some several 100.000 non-government organisations world-wide. Many of them are part of networks on particular issues or around particular processes. We have picked a few as examples, including some directories, databases and hubs of information about women's organisations and NGOs, which are available on the Internet.

As more and more people are gaining access to the Internet, Internet resources and organisations' websites will be useful to an increasing number of people and help connect them.

If you have difficulties accessing the Internet, contact your nearest UNDP Country office, British Council Offices, Goethe Institutes, and other countries' offices and cultural institutes. many of them offer free Internet access to NGOs and women's organisations.

DIRECTORIES & DATABASES OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS AND NGOS ON THE INTERNET

Visit the **Stakeholder Toolkit** website for annotated links to a large number of women's organisations, NGOs, UN websites, and other stakeholders. <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/links/links.htm>

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● **OneWorld**, home of numerous NGOs' and women's organisations' homepages
<http://www.oneworld.org/>

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● **OneWorld News Service on Gender** at
<http://www.oneworld.org/news/world/gender.html>

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● **Association for Progressive Communications (APC)**, Women's Networking Support Programme,
<http://www.apc.org/apcwomen/>
Global computer network for social change. The Women's Networking Support Programme facilitates training and information and hosts a list of around 150 women's initiatives working with the Net.

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● **The Institute for Global Communications (IGC)** <http://www.igc.org>
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- **IGC Womensnet**, supporting women's organisations world-wide by providing and adapting telecommunications. Information on women's political activities. <http://www.igc.org/igc/womensnet/>
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- **International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement (IIAV)**, with a large, detailed and frequently updated women's resource centre; also hosting the Gender & Water Alliance and numerous media activities. <http://www.iiav.nl/>
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- **Environmental Organisations WebDirectory** www.WebDirectory.com/
-
- **Commented, rich list of links on Sustainable Development**, <http://www.sustainabledevelopment.org/links/communications.html>
-
- **Best Environmental Resources Directories** www.ulb.ac.be/ceese/meta/cds.html
-

ORGANISATIONS AND NETWORKS WORKING ON GENDER AND/OR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

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- **AI/WHRP**, Amnesty International/Women's Human Rights Program focuses on promoting women's human rights within Amnesty's mandate. In English and Spanish. <http://amnestyusa.org/women/index.html#program>
-
- **AWID, Association for Women in Development**, is an international membership organisation that connects, informs and mobilises people and organisations committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development and human rights for everyone. <http://www.awid.org>
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- **BRIDGE** is a gender development organisation that supports gender mainstreaming efforts by bridging the gaps between theory, policy and practice with accessible gender information. <http://www.ids.ac.uk/bridge/index.html>
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- **CEDPA**, Centre for Development and Population Activities, a women-focused nonprofit international organisation founded in 1975. The website provides information on training programs, workshops, and

publications linking reproductive health services and women's empowerment. <http://www.cedpa.org>

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● **CWGL**, Center for Women's Global Leadership, promoting the leadership of women and advance feminist perspectives in policy-making processes in the local, national and international arenas. Since 1990, the Global Center has fostered women's leadership in the area of human rights through women's global leadership institutes, strategic planning activities, international mobilisation campaigns, UN monitoring, global education endeavors, publications, and a resource center. <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu>

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● **ECPAT**, End Child Prostitution, Pornography, and Trafficking, is a global network of organisations and individuals working together for the elimination of these practices and the protection of children's rights. <http://www.ecpat.org>

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● **ENERGIA** is an international network on women and sustainable energy which links individuals and groups concerned with energy, environment and women. ENERGI A aims to strengthen the role of women in sustainable energy development through information exchange, training, research, advocacy and action. The ENERGI A Support Group is a global network of representatives of NGOs, academics, governments, intergovernmental bodies, and others working on gender and energy issues.

Contact: Sheila Oparaocha, ENERGI A Secretariat ETC Energy, Kastanjelaan 5, P.O. Box 64, 3830 AB LEUSDEN, The Netherlands.
Tel: +31 (0)33 4326000 • Fax: +31-(0)33-4940791
Email: energia@etcnl.nl
Website: <http://www.energia.org/>

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● **Huairou Commission**
The Huairou Commission was founded at the NGO Global Forum to the Fourth World Conference on Women which was held in Huairou, China, in 1995. The Commission uses multi-layered strategies for grassroots women leaders and their organisations to participate in local, regional, and international decision-making. Women working at the community level collaborate with each other and partners from academia, the United Nations, community based organisations, governance, other NGOs and the private sector. These partnerships grow dynamically through exchanges, global events, projects, and network communications.

The Commission has a regional and global networking and outreach programme through which it aims to strengthen the role of grassroots women's participation in governance and policy

development, and facilitate their participation in the UN system and other global events. The Commission promotes the sharing of best practice and has produced Working Papers on the following areas: governance; women, land and housing tenure; leadership support process; best practices; poverty eradication; peer exchanges; principled partnerships.

Contact: Tel: (718) 388-8915 • Fax: (718) 338-0285
Email: huairou@earthlink.net

Website: <http://www.huairou.org>

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● **Hunger Project** is a coalition of hundreds of NGOs and individuals organised to combat world hunger by using women as epicenters for mobilisation. Since women bear the primary responsibility for family, health, education and nutrition, the Hunger Project's work is grassroots. With 19 regional offices, the Hunger Project empowers women food farmers through local leadership, literacy, micro-business, credit and agro-training programmes. The website features their latest newsletter and links to their country programmes. <http://www.worldhunger.org>

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● **ICW**, International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, established by a group on HIV positive women in 1992. The website provides information on issues and needs facing all women living with HIV, support groups, and key contacts in five regions of the world. <http://www.icw.org>

.....
● **International AIDS Women's Caucus (IAWC)**, Parana 135 Piso 3, 1017 Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Tel/Fax: +541-476-2763
Email: feim@feim.wamani.apc.org

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● **International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW)**, Coordinating Office, 2C Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP, UK.
Tel: int +44 (0) 171 704 0606 • Fax: 704 8070
Email: icw@gn.apc.org
Website: www.icw.org

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● **International Women's Health Coalition**, 24 East 21st Street, New York, NY 10010, USA.
Tel: +1 212 979 8500 • Fax: + 1212 979 9009
Website: <http://www.iwhc.org>

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● **International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC)**, is an international, non-governmental organisation, supports the initiatives of women in the Global South (i.e. Africa, Asia/Pacific, Latin America/Caribbean, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia) who are working to promote the more equitable and active participation of women

in the development plans and policies of their countries. Their website features information resources ranging from materials and resources for the monitoring of the Beijing Platform of Action to the most recent issues of the IWTC Women's GlobalNet, Preview 2000, and IWTC manuals and community action guides on women and development issues. These include "Rights of Women" and "Women! Policy! Action!" Also included are lists of UN, global and regional websites of relevance to women and development issues.

Contact: 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

Tel: +1 212 687 8633 • Fax +1 212 661 2704

Email: iwtc@igc.apc.org

Website: <http://www.iwtc.org>

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● **IPPF**, The International Planned Parenthood Federation, was founded in Bombay in 1952. IPPF links national autonomous Family Planning Associations (FPAs) in over 150 countries worldwide. The website provides links to websites in different regions, press releases, and resources that include documents and reports. <http://www.ippf.org>

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● **IWHC**, International Women's Health Coalition, is a nonprofit organisation working with individuals and groups in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to promote women's reproductive and sexual health and rights. This website provides information on country programs, U.S. Activities, Beyond Cairo & Beijing, Global Activism, as well as publications, reports, and links to relevant websites. <http://www.iwhc.org/whm.html>

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● **MADRE**, an international women's human rights organisation working in partnership with women's community-based groups to address issues of health, economic development and other human rights. MADRE provides resources, training and support to sister organisations. The website provides information on MADRE's worldwide programs, human rights laws, campaigns, etc. In English and Spanish. <http://www.MADRE.org/buttons.htm>

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● **The Bretton Woods Project**, established by a network of UK NGOs to monitor the World Bank and IMF. The Project's reports and bi-monthly bulletin Bretton Woods Update aim to clarify current issues and provide links to campaigners and researchers worldwide, at <http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/>

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● **The Gender and Water Alliance**. At the World Water Forum (The Hague, March 2000) many women's organisations and gender experts agreed

to continue working together, so that the gender mainstreaming plans made at the Forum can be translated into actions. The “Gender and Water Alliance”, as it is called, has its secretariat at the Institute for Water and Sanitation in the Netherlands. http://www.irc.nl/wwforum/pr_gender.html

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● **UNED Forum** is a unique multi-stakeholder network and forum on sustainable development that has promoted outcomes from the first Earth Summit in 1992 and is now working on preparations for Earth Summit 2002. UNED Forum’s primary objective is to promote sustainable development through facilitating the involvement of major groups and stakeholders in the policy work of the United Nations and other inter-governmental institutions in the area of sustainable development, and in particular in the work of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the UN Environment Programme and the UN Development Programme. Since 1998, UNED Forum has been building its work around preparing for Earth Summit 2002, focusing on the following areas: building partnerships and networks; researching and influencing policy; providing and spreading information; training and building capacity. UNED Forum operates both in the UK and internationally.

UNED Forum’s gender related projects include the *Stakeholder Toolkit for Women* (website, workshops, booklet), research and policy development on gender & sustainable consumption, women’s employment and participation in tourism, the Gender Perspectives for Earth Summit 2002 conference January 2001 in Berlin, Germany, etc.

Contact: UNED Forum, c/o UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL, UK
Tel: +44 20 7839 1784 • Fax +44 20 7930 5893
Email: info@earthsummit2002.org
Websites: <http://www.unedforum.org> and www.earthsummit2002.org

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● **Women’s Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO)**

The Women’s Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO) was created in 1990 by an international group of women’s rights activists from different professions and sectors of society. The organisation was founded with the mission of increasing the equality, visibility, representation, and leadership in public policy concerning sustainable development, specifically gender, human rights, the environment, and the economy. They are also a major coalition builder among women’s groups and NGO’s with influence at the United Nations and international financial institutions.

WEDO is concerned with giving women a voice and they pursue an equal role for women in governance, public policy, and decision-making. In turn, one of their main roles is to review and analyse public policies of the United Nations, state and national government, and international financial institutions through a gender lens. They have ongoing projects associated with Women’s Action Agenda 21 concerned with the reduction of poverty and negative effects of a globalising economy on women, girls, and the environment. Currently they also have projects concerned with cancer prevention, reproductive rights, and sexual exploitation.

Contact: 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel: +1 212 973 0325 • Fax +1 212 973 0335
Email: wedo@wedo.org
Website: www.wedo.org

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● **World Resources Institute (WRI)**, aims to view and combat global environmental problems through a holistic lens. Innovative programs target governments and businesses, natural resource use and conservation, economic development and social equity, and capacity building and institutional change. WRI produces wide range of multimedia resources and original research reports, including the reputable annual World Resources Report. In English and Spanish. <http://www.wri.org/wri>

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REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND NETWORKS (EXAMPLES)

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● **The African Gender Institute (AGI), South Africa**, Furthering institutional change and women’s leadership at <http://www.uct.ac.za/org/agi/>

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● **ALAI**, Agencia Latinoamericana de Información, Ecuador, Communication initiative for feminist movements in Latin America and the Caribbean Ecuador, at <http://www.ecuanex.apc.org/alai/comgenen.html>

.....

● **The European Women’s Lobby**
Contact: 18, Rue Hydraulique, B – 1210 Bruxelles, Belgium. Tel: +32 3 217 9020 • Fax: +32 2 219 8451
Website: <http://www.womenlobby.org>

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● **FEMNET**, Kenya, a network of African women’s organisation to monitor Beijing follow-up in development practice, at <http://www.africaonline.co.ke/femnet/index.html>

.....

- **The Women Leaders' Network (WLN),**

Promotion of gender perspectives into APEC
(Asia Pacific Cooperation) at

<http://www.bellanet.org/partners/wln/>

.....

Also, go to www.womenaction.org and www.iwtc.org
for regional women's networks.

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OTHER MAJOR GROUPS, ORGANISATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS (EXAMPLES)

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- **Academics**

IFUW, The International Federation of University Women, advocates to national governments and international organisations that education improves girls and women's lives. Because IFUW's web of international affiliations is extensive, their web page is particularly useful for finding out about other organisations with common interests, international conferences and fellowships, IFUW's study and action programme, and the latest news in global advocacy for women and education.

<http://www.ifuw.org>

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- **Trade Unions**

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, ICFTU, at <http://www.icftu.org>

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- **Local Authorities**

International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) at www.iclei.org
International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) at www.cuapp.udel.edu/iula/

.....

- **Business and Industry**

WBCSD, World Business Council for Sustainable Development at www.wbcd.org/ch

ICC, International Chamber of Commerce, at <http://www.iccwbo.org/>

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- **Parliamentarians**

IPU, Inter-Parliamentary Union, is the world organisation of parliaments of sovereign states, established in 1889. IPU's website contains updated, and detailed analysis of women in politics. It provides a bibliographic database about women in politics, women parliamentarians, and follow-ups to the Beijing Conference, in addition to links and publications, press releases, and monthly journals available in English and French. <http://www.ipu.org>

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Part IV

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON WOMEN'S/GENDER ISSUES

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UN Conferences on Women

● The 3rd World Conference on Women

was held in Nairobi in 1985. It agreed the “Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women”.
<http://www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/un-doku/un-conf/nairobi2.htm>

Two of the most important international agreements are the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Platform of Action.

● The Beijing Conference

<http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/women.html>
<http://www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women....>

Official title: The Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace Beijing, 4–15 September 1995

Informal name: The Beijing Women’s Conference

Host Government: China

Number of Governments participating: 189

Conference Secretary-General: Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, Assistant Secretary-General, Division for the Advancement of Women

Organisers: The Commission on the Status of Women, with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) serving as the Conference secretariat

Principal themes: The advancement and empowerment of women in relation to women’s human rights, women and poverty, women and decision-making, the girl-child, violence against women and other areas of concern

NGO presence: More than 5,000 representatives from 2,100 non-governmental organisations and 5,000 media representatives attended the Conference and nearly 30,000 individuals attended the independent NGO Forum ’95

Resulting documents: The Beijing Declaration; Platform for Action

Follow-up mechanisms: In addition to the national mechanisms, the primary UN bodies include the Commission on the Status of Women; the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee); the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); the Division for the Advancement of Women

The Beijing Platform for Action: The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 resulted in the international community agreeing the Beijing Platform for Action and the Beijing Declaration. The Platform for Action addresses 12 critical areas of concern in the following sections:

- Women and poverty
- Education and training for women
- Women and health
- Violence against women
- Women and armed conflict
- Women and the economy
- Women in power and decision-making
- Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- Human rights of women
- Women and the media
- Women and the environment
- The girl-child

The Platform for Action approved at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4–15 Sept. 1995) is an agenda for women’s empowerment. It aims at accelerating the implementation of the *Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women* and at removing all the obstacles to women’s active participation in all spheres of public and private lives through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision making.

The Platform for Action establishes a set of actions that should lead to fundamental changes by the year 2000. Its implementation is primarily the responsibility of Governments, but also of institutions in the public, private and non-governmental sectors at the community, national, subregional/regional and international levels.

Sections A, B, C, F, G, H, and K are particularly relevant to women and sustainable development issues. Among these, Section K. might be most directly relevant to the concerns dealt with in the Rio process. Based on a comprehensive analysis of the inter-relationships of crucial factors such as gender equity, poverty, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, the destruction of ecosystems, the pollution of rural and urban environments and the depletion of resources, it states that “women have essential roles to play in the development of sustainable and ecologically sound consumption and production patterns and approaches to natural resource

management“. Section K recommends actions by governments, Local Authorities, international organisations, private sector institutions and NGOs to

- involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels;
- integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development;
- strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women;

Recommendations focus on participation of women as environmental experts, managers and educators; poverty elimination; information provision and capacity-building for women; addressing research gaps; and the eradication of environmental hazards, which particularly affect women. It is stressed that co-ordination between institutions working on gender issues, on the one hand, and those working on environmental issues, on the other hand, is necessary at all levels in order to appropriately address the pressing issues.

Other Advances Made in the Platform

(<http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/women2.html>)

Women’s rights as human rights: The Platform takes the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which recognises violence against women as a human rights problem, one step further by asserting women’s right “to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence”.

Right to inherit: Traditional legal structures in many societies discriminate against women inheriting land and property. The Platform calls for a change in these structures by “enacting as appropriate, and enforcing legislation that guarantees equal rights to succession and ensures equal right to inherit, regardless of the sex of the child”.

Reviewing laws on illegal abortion: The Platform asks nations to “consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who have undergone illegal abortion”.

Role of the family: The Platform points out the importance of the family as the basic unit of society and recognises the “social significance of maternity, motherhood and the role of parents in the family and in the upbringing of children”. Furthermore, it notes that maternity should not impede the full participation of women in society.

Culture and religion: Traditional interpretations of religious texts often marginalise the role of women in society. However, according to the Platform, religion can “contribute to fulfilling women’s and men’s moral, ethical and spiritual needs and to realising their potential in society”.

Rape as a war crime: Rape, according to the Platform, is a war crime, and in some cases, an act of genocide. Those guilty of such a crime “must be punished” whenever possible.

Follow-up

National level: *The Platform for Action* adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) states that “governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform. Commitment at the highest political level is essential to its implementation, and Governments should take a leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women...” and, “[a]s soon as possible, preferably by the end of 1995, Governments, in consultation with relevant institutions and non-governmental organisations, should begin to develop implementation strategies for the Platform and, preferably by the end of 1996, should have developed their strategies or plans of action.”

Subregional/regional level: *Paragraph 301 of the Platform for Action* approved at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4–15 Sept. 1995) states that regional commissions of the United Nations and other subregional/regional structures should promote and assist the pertinent national institutions in monitoring and implementing the global Platform for Action within their mandates. This should be done in coordination with the implementation of the respective regional platforms or plans of action and in close collaboration with the *Commission on the Status of Women*, taking into account the need for a coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences in the economic, social, human rights and related fields.

International level: *The Platform for Action* needs to be implemented through the work of all of the bodies and organisations of the United Nations system during the period 1995–2000, specifically and as an integral part of wider programming.

Paragraph 308 of the Platform states that responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the Platform for Action and the integration of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the UN system must rest at the highest levels.

● Beijing +5

*UN General Assembly Special Session, June 2000:
“Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development And Peace
for the 21st Century”*

Review Process: The Beijing process is clearly the most important one regarding women & sustainable development issues. The implementation of agreements of all 12 sections of the Beijing PfA is under review. Governments have submitted reports on the basis of a questionnaire sent out by the UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), providing information about progress at the national level. In addition, women’s NGOs have produced “Alternative Reports” at national, regional and international level which are available at <http://www.womenact.org> (see also: <http://www.igc.org/csdngo/alttreaties/ATindex.htm>)

UN DAW aimed to take women’s NGOs contributions into account throughout the process, for example by looking at NGO alternative reports and by conducting a “Global Forum”, ie scheduled online discussion groups addressing each of the PfA sections and open for all stakeholders to participate. These online discussions have been archived on the WomenWatch website (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch>) and contributions are publicly accessible. A full report of these discussions was submitted to the final preparatory meeting for Beijing+5 as a UN Background Document.

*Preliminary Analysis of the Beijing+5
Outcome Document by the UN Division for the
Advancement of Women (June 2000)*

See document published by DAW, Beijing+5 Process and Beyond, at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/bfbeyond.htm>

LA LUTTA CONTINUA!!!

A Statement from the NGOs of the Linkage Caucus

*(Beijing + 5 UN General Assembly Special Session,
New York, June 9, 2000)*

As women from around the world who have been active in the “Beijing + 5” Review process nationally, regionally, and internationally, we re-commit ourselves to working for implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and for the advancement of the human rights of all women. While there have been positive aspects to this review process, we want to register our disappointment with the Outcomes Document agreed to by governments at the United Nations today. We appreciate the hard work that many have put into this process and applaud those delegations that have fought to defend and advance commitments to women. However, we regret that there was not enough political will on the part of

some governments and the UN system to agree on a stronger document with more concrete benchmarks, numerical goals, time-bound targets, indicators, and resources aimed at implementing the Beijing Platform.

Still, some important steps were taken. First and foremost, the Political Declaration reaffirms that governments have the responsibility to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, and thus, the platform remains the reference point for governmental commitment to women’s rights in all 12 critical areas of concern. Some of the other areas advanced in the document are outlined below.

We will continue to utilise the Beijing Platform as well as other world conference documents and reviews in our work for women’s empowerment and rights. We will also work to hold governments accountable to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (which 165 countries have ratified), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all other human rights treaties and standards. These instruments entail binding obligations on government signatories to respect, promote, protect, and fulfil the human rights of women and girls, many of which are elaborated in the Platform for Action. The commitments contained in all these documents are universal, inseparable and indivisible.

The Beijing + 5 review provided opportunity and space for public assessment and discussion of the critical areas of concern. As a result, we have been able to air important issues locally and globally. Many governments have made reports on what they are doing to implement the platform, and women’s NGOs have produced over 100 alternative reports engaging in public debate about what still needs to be done. Some of the regional meetings for this review resulted in documents, which women can use to advance women’s rights nationally and regionally. Even the obstacles that we have encountered in this review have taught us what we need to do to improve the current political climate in the world and to counter the intransigent minority who still oppose women’s rights. And as always, women have taken this space to network and share experiences and strategies across cultural, racial, national and other boundaries.

It is women’s movements that have placed women’s empowerment and rights on the world’s agenda over the past 25 years. Once more women have come to this review in record numbers as we did for the World Conference in Beijing. And it is women who will continue to take the leadership in working for these goals. We will not be turned back. We welcome support and partnership with men, with governments, the United Nations and other institutions as we continue the struggle to realise economic justice and all human rights for all women in all our diversity in the next decade.

Some of the issues strengthened in the agreed language of the Beijing +5 Outcomes document are:

A: Health

- Maternal mortality – make it a health sector priority – Para 107 (a) his
- Education programs to enable men to practise safer sex – Para 107 9 quarter

- Gender aspects of diseases such as malaria & TB – Para 135 d
- Affirm the goals of ICPD + 5 – Para 115 a ter
- Health Sector reform – impact on women’s access to health services – Para 115 d

B: Violence

- Honour Killings & Forced Marriage – Addressed for the first time in an international consensus document. Paras 103 d & 130 a
- Dowry related Violence – Strengthened language calling on governments to take comprehensive measures to eliminate it – Para 130 a
- Marital rape – Legislation and stronger mechanisms are called for to address all forms of domestic violence – Para 103 c

C: Globalisation

- Recognition of negative impacts on women & gender differences, ensuring equal access to social protection – Para 110a & 118k
- Equal participation of women in macro economic decision making – 125 9

D: Economy

- Right to inheritance & property rights – Para 102 k
- Right to housing – Para 135 d
- Gender budgets – Para 30 & 109a
- ILO declaration on women’s rights at work – Para 127 b

E: Human Rights

- Ratify optional protocol to CEDAW – Para 102 g
- Gender related asylum – Para 102 I
- Equality between women & men migrants – Para 132 b
- Increased recognition of specific needs & rights of indigenous women 103 e & g. 128h

F: Political Empowerment

- Quotas & other measures to increase women’s participation in political parties and parliaments – Para 117 a bis

Rio Process: Women & Sustainable Development

Goals

The goals set out in international agreements pertaining to women and sustainable development can be categorised in accordance with the overall principle of sustainable development and its 3 pillars:

1. environmental protection
2. economic well-being
3. social equity

A fourth category deals with the goal of

4. balancing the three aspects

The understanding of the gender aspects and impacts of the issues contained in these goals has developed further throughout the cycle of UN Summits and Conferences in the 1990s. New developments, such as globalisation and HIV/AIDS, have been taken into account and conferences following the Earth Summit have achieved a more detailed look at specific issues. In some cases, issues that were left out in Agenda 21 have been addressed, such as violence against women and armed conflict (Beijing PfA). The overall goal in terms of women and sustainable development is gender-mainstreaming of all policies – incorporating a gender perspective in all planning and decision-making processes.

Issues

The international community has identified the following issues that provide an important framework for achieving gender equality in sustainable development:

- women’s human rights and control over their lives;
- poverty eradication;
- women’s access to resources and services;
- women’s control and management of resources;
- globalisation;
- finance for development;
- health, including environmental health.

Strategies

Several main strategies have been suggested to achieve this goal:

- full and equal participation of women in the formulation of all policies and decision-making;

- awareness-raising, capacity-building, education and training of women and men; and of all people in decision-making positions in all sectors and at all levels (incl. changing curricula; public campaigns; developing gender sensitivity trainings; guidelines for gender mainstreaming, etc);
- institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women;
- making gender disaggregated information available and supporting relevant research;
- collecting and sharing good practices at local, national and international levels; including peer group review of (good) practice and promoting successful strategies.

Agenda 21, Chapter 24

Women have considerable knowledge and experience in managing and conserving natural resources. However, the role of women in achieving sustainable development has been limited by barriers such as discrimination and lack of access to schooling, land and equal employment. Chapter 24 addresses many important areas of sustainable development, pointing out barriers towards women's full and equal participation in sustainable development and in public life and making recommendations on what governments should do to overcome these barriers.

Chapter 24 urges countries to increase the proportion of women decision-makers, planners, scientists, technical advisers, managers and extension workers in environment and development fields. It is important to eliminate female illiteracy, assure girls have universal access to primary and secondary education, and provide increased post-secondary training for women in sciences and technology.

Governments should:

- ensure a role for women in national and international ecosystem management and control of environmental degradation;
- provide comprehensive health care, including prenatal care and the opportunity to breast-feed, and information on maternal and child health, family planning and responsible parenthood;
- help to reduce the heavy workload on women and girls at home and outside, by working with employers and other organisations to set up affordable nurseries and kindergartens. National programmes are needed to encourage men to share household tasks equally with women;
- provide women with better access to all forms of credit, particularly in the informal sector;
- ensure women's access to property rights, as well as agricultural inputs and implements;
- take all necessary measures to eliminate violence against women, and work to eliminate persistent

negative images, stereotypes and prejudices against women;

- develop consumer awareness among women to reduce or eliminate unsustainable consumption, particularly in industrialised countries. This would encourage manufacturers to offer products that are more environmentally and socially friendly;
- begin to count the value of unpaid work, including "domestic" work when measuring the state of the economy.

Another important point is that in Agenda 21 Chapter 24, recommendations are calling mostly upon governments to take or initiate action. Other stakeholders are integrated in a less direct way and via government actions having an impact on them rather than outlining their roles and responsibilities. Recent CSD decisions, however, have incorporated strong recognition of other stakeholders' necessary involvement and collaboration among stakeholders.

It is important to note that women's NGOs activities during the Rio Earth Summit process, particularly the World Women's Congress in Miami, Florida, in 1991, have had a very significant impact on the process and the agreed outcomes. Involvement of women's NGOs should be increased to ensure an effective review for 2002.

Earth Summit II, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session for the Purpose of an Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of Agenda 21, 1997

For the first 5 year review of implementation of Agenda 21 in 1997, the following issues were identified as particularly important to women and sustainable development (UN DPI 1997): poverty; management of natural resources; water; commercialisation of agriculture; environment and women's health; and environmental activism of women's NGOs.

In the Secretary General's Report on Overall Progress Achieved since UNCED (January 1997), it was stated that "the implementation of specific objectives in the major groups chapters of Agenda 21 has not always achieved the level desired. For example, gender balance in decision-making has still not been achieved and national instruments to this effect are not being enforced" (Section II, para 97).

The Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, agreed in June 1997, however, does not make as many references and recommendations pertaining to women. Many of the references to women are reaffirming conclusions and recommendations stated in Agenda 21 and observing that the goals set out in 1992 have not yet been met. (3)

Relevant Agreements from other UN Conferences and Summits and Their Reviews

At the UN Conferences and Summits following the Earth Summit in 1992, the international community looked at some of the issues addressed in Agenda 21 in more detail and depth. All of them are engaged in follow-up processes, most in 5-year reviews. Every time, attempts were made to work from a gender perspective, incorporating women's issues and concerns into commitments and recommendations. This section aims at pointing out the areas, which bear particular importance regarding women and sustainable development issues.

● The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Cairo 1994

ICPD built on and broadened the consensus achieved at previous conferences on population (Bucharest 1974, Mexico City, 1984). The major success of ICPD was shifting from focus on population as family planning to women's reproductive rights and reproductive health. ICPD also reflected the widespread recognition that population is inextricably linked to the full range of human development concerns – including poverty alleviation, women's empowerment and environmental protection. ICPD emphasised two themes:

1. choices and responsibilities;
2. the need to incorporate population considerations into all national and international efforts to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

The overall aim was to identify actions that will make national policies and programmes more effective in meeting individual needs, especially those of women, and in bringing population into balance with available resources. Among the issues addressed and the goals and strategies agreed at ICPD were:

- availability of family planning as part of a broader package of reproductive health services;
- reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality;
- access to education, particularly for girls;
- female-headed households being the poorest of the poor, partly because women have less access than men to training, credit, property, natural resources and better-paid jobs;

- urban populations;
- youthful populations in many countries and growing numbers of elderly persons.

● ICPD+5: Review of the International Conference on Population and Development, New York 1999

The review document, 'Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the ICPD' reaffirms the international consensus agreed at ICPD and builds in many parts on its language, targets and benchmarks. The document sets out a series of recommendations on population and development issues including gender equality, equity and empowerment of women, reproductive rights and reproductive health, resource mobilisation, adolescent sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. It also addresses issues of male involvement; human rights; and partnerships with civil society in implementation. Specific benchmarks are delineated in the text including the reduction of illiteracy of women and girls, maternal mortality, young people's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and provision of safe and effective family planning and contraceptive methods. These benchmarks are seen as an important and effective way of guiding individual countries in reaching the goals of the Cairo Programme of Action.

● The World Summit on Social Development (WSDD), Copenhagen 1995

The Copenhagen Declaration & Programme of Action on Social Development deal with 10 Commitments:

1. Creating an enabling environment for social development;
2. Eradicating absolute poverty;
3. Supporting full employment;
4. Promoting social integration based on the enhancement and protection of all human rights;
5. Achieving equality and equity between women and men;
6. Attaining universal and equitable access to education and primary health care;
7. Accelerating the development of Africa and the least developed countries;
8. Ensuring that structural adjustment programmes include social development goals;
9. Increasing resources allocated to social development;
10. Strengthening cooperation for social development through the UN.

Commitment 5 is obviously relevant to women and sustainable development issues. However, Commitments 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8 are important for us as well. All of them address issues, which affect women and men differently in most cases, and all of them incorporate some kind of a gender perspective.

● **Copenhagen +5: UN General Assembly Special Session, June 2000: “Achieving Social Development for All in a Globalising World”**

Review Process: The implementation of all 10 commitments was under review. Of particular importance to reviewing implementation of women & sustainable development goals were data collected on Commitments 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8 and, above all, Commitment 5. Reviewing the commitments coming out of Copenhagen+5 regarding their success in incorporating a gender perspective will be an important contribution to the preparations for 2002 in the light of women and sustainable development issues.

For evaluations of the Geneva Outcome visit the Socialwatch website at <http://www.socialwatch.org/> and click on the link “NGO Assessments”.

● **The World Summit on Human Settlements, Habitat II, Istanbul 1996**

The main themes of the Habitat II Conference were

1. adequate shelter for all,
2. sustainable human settlements in an urbanising world.

Section III.D. of the Habitat Agenda deals specifically with “Gender Equality”. However, the primary role of women in human settlements is strongly recognised throughout the document and several clauses on gender and women were included in the Habitat Agenda. Clauses in Section III D. and elsewhere address the following issues: women’s full and equal participation in urban planning and management; women’s equal access to resources, services and opportunities to employment, inheritance, ownership, credit, personal development, and decision-making; women’s equal access to safe drinking water and sanitation; women’s empowerment and poverty eradication; combating social exclusion and discrimination; reviewing structural adjustment in the light of gender specific impacts; practical methods to integrate gender perspectives in human settlements development; gender disaggregated data; building partnerships between people and government; education and training for women; shelter policies benefiting vulnerable groups.

● **Istanbul +5**

The review process on implementation of the Habitat II Agenda is underway. A UN GA Special Session is to be held in June 2001 in New York.

All commitments and recommendations of the Habitat Agenda are under review. Of particular importance to reviewing Agenda 21, Chapter 7 (Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development) and Chapter 10 (Integrated Approach to the Planning and Management of Land Resources), in the light of women and sustainable development issues, will be the efforts to review clauses of the Habitat Agenda with women and gender issues. The review of Section III.D. of the Habitat Agenda (Gender Equality) will summarise some of the relevant data and can be used to inform a review on women and sustainable development towards 2002.

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS)/Habitat has embarked on two global campaigns: Global Campaign on Secure Tenure, and Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance. The Istanbul +5 preparatory process is being used to gain consensus on the global norms for the two campaigns. Two relevant areas are women and secure tenure and women and good governance.

The global theme for World Habitat Day – 2 October 2000 was ‘Women in Urban Governance’. For this, UNCHS produced an information kit that provides valuable material. In addition, the Women and Habitat Programme will be encouraging all network partners to report on this issue from their respective countries and to input this into the Istanbul +5 review process at the national level.

● **The World Food Summit (WFS), Rome 1996**

The Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Food Summit constitute the most comprehensive international commitments and agreements on

- global food security
- enhancing and empowering women’s key role in household food security; and, in developing countries, throughout the food chain (production, harvesting, storage, processing/preservation, transport, marketing), and in the conservation of bio-diversity and management of land, forest and water resources.

The agreements also instituted a monitoring and review process at regional and global levels towards the benchmarks being set.

● **WFS Follow-Up**

The follow-up process to WFS reached a major milestone in September 2000 with a meeting of the FAO Committee on World Food Security. The FAO Com-

mittee on World Food Security reviewed WFS follow-up reports and action proposals from regional Ministerial conferences (1999–2000), on WFS Commitments 1, 2, 5, 7 and decided on further action.

The commitments under review for September 2000 deal with the following issues:

1. An enabling environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and for durable peace, based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all.
2. Implementing policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access by all, at all times, to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its effective utilisation.
3. Preventing and being prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies and to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery, rehabilitation, development and a capacity to satisfy future needs.
4. Implementing, monitoring, and following up the WFS Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.

The reviews of follow-up reports on Commitments 1 and 2 will be particularly relevant when reviewing achievements and failures in the area of women and sustainable development.

Subsequent reviews will take place biannually, leading up to the mid-term review of 2006.

Other International Agreements on Women's/Gender Issues

- **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993)**
Cites violence against women as “one of the crucial mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men”. The UN has appointed a *Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women* to collect data and recommend measures to eliminate such violence and its causes.
- **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (1979)**
Described as the international bill of rights for women, prohibits any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex that impairs

or nullifies human rights and fundamental freedoms of women in all areas. A UN Committee regularly monitors progress in implementing the Convention and holds hearings on reports submitted by States parties. An *optional protocol to the Convention* has been adopted.

- **Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergencies and Armed Conflicts (1974)**
- **Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (1967)**
Affirms that “discrimination against women, denying or limiting as it does their equality of rights with men, is fundamentally unjust and constitutes an offence against human dignity”.
- **Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (1962)**
Decrees that no marriage can occur without the consent of both parties.
- **Convention against Discrimination in Education**
Adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (14 December 1960) paves the way for equal educational opportunities for girls and women.
- **Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (1958)**
Promotes equality of rights between men and women in the workplace.
- **Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1952)**
Commits Member States to allow women to vote and hold public office on equal terms with men.
- **ILO Equal Remuneration Convention (1951)**
Establishes the principle and practice of equal pay for work of equal value.
- **Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949)**
Calls for the punishment of those procuring others for prostitution.

See:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/un/iinstrum.htm>

International Agreements on Particular Issues

The Toolkit website provides “packages” or compilations of international agreements on a number of issues which are of particular interest for women. Many women’s organisations are working on these issues and will be doing so during the next years, using them in their advocacy and practical project work, and preparing for upcoming meetings such as Earth Summit 2002.

The purpose is to provide the relevant information on what the international community has agreed on with regard to a particular issue in one place. We have analysed the documents with a gender perspective and refer to the sections which pertain to women’s/gender aspects of the issue addressed.

The toolkit website provides listings of the relevant documents and Internet links to them. All documents can also be downloaded in TXT format from www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/download.htm.

Compilations on the following issues are available:

- UN Documents on Women’s/Gender Issues
- Energy
- Finance for Development
- Freshwater
- Health
- Housing & Shelter
- Information for Decision-making and Participation, incl. Indicators
- Land
- Poverty
- Structural Adjustment Programmes
- Tourism
- Transport

example

POVERTY

UN Conferences

Agenda 21, Rio 1992: Chapter 3: Combating Poverty

Earth Summit II, 1997: Chapter 3.B: Sectors + Issues, Par.62, Women + Land+ Poverty:

Population Summit/ICPD, Cairo 1994: Chapter 3. Section B and Section C (population, environment, growth, poverty, participation + women)

Copenhagen Social Development Summit, 1995: Chapter II: Eradication of Poverty

Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995: Chapter 1 IV A: Women and Poverty

Habitat II, Istanbul 1996: Chapter IV. C.3: Social development (eradication of poverty, creation of productive employment and social integration)

UN Commissions

UN Commission on the Status of Women

1993 Chapter I.C: R 37/8: Women in Extreme Poverty

1996 Chapter I.C: Resolution 40/9: Objectives and Action in the Critical Area of Poverty

UN Commission on Social Development

1996 Chapter I.C: Women and Poverty
Chapter III: Strategies and Actions for eradication of poverty

NGO Documents

NGO Documents for the Earth Summit, 1992: Non-Governmental Organisation Alternative Treaties at the '92 Global Forum; Treaty 18. Poverty Treaty (Preamble; women)

EMPLOYMENT

International Agreements

World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen 1995

Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development:
Commitment 3; Commitment 8

Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development:
Introduction, points 2 & 3

Chapter I : An Enabling Environment for Social Development: Basis for action and objectives, point 7, Section A, point 9 (a–k), Action 12f

Chapter II : Eradication of Poverty: Basis for action and objectives, Section 23 and 25, Action A (b), 27(a), 29(a), 34 (a, b, c), Section C (b, c, e)

Chapter III : Expansion of Productive Employment and Reduction of Unemployment/Basis for action and objectives: Action A point 48–50 and 51 (f, h), Action B, point 52 (f, g), Action C, point 54, 56, Action D, point 57–62, Action E, points 64(b, g) and 65

Chapter IV : Social Integration/Basis for action and objectives, points 66–70, Action A, point 71 (a–h), Action B, point 73 (a–k), Action C, point 74 (d), Action E, point 77 (c)

Chapter V : Implementation and Follow-Up/Basis for action and objectives: Action A, points 83 (a, c, f, g, h), Action C, point 91 (c), Action D, point 98 (c)

Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development:
Chapeau, points 2 and 9; Section A: point 14, 16 (h, g), 23; Commitment 1 (f), Commitment 2 (b, c, d), Commitment 3 (a–k), Commitment 5 (j), Commitment 6 (i, u), Commitment 8 (h, p)

UN Commission on Social Development

1995: Annex, Section B. Employment, point 26–32

1997 Follow-up to WSSD (a, c)

1998 Follow-up to WSSD (b); Section B. Draft decisions (3a); Section C. Matters brought to the attention to the Council (3, 10, 16)

1997: Section A, Draft resolution II: point 7, 14, 16; Section D. Agreed conclusions I. points 1,2; II. points 3–7; III. points 8–14; IV. points 15–21 (a–e); 1997 summary

1998: Section B. Resolutions and decisions, points 1, 8; Part A, point 26; Part B, points 49, 50, 51, 52, 55, 56; Part C, points 70, 71; 1998 summary, chapter II, point 5

Copenhagen +5, Geneva 2000: Review of the World Summit for Social Development

Chapter 3: Expansion of Productive Employment and Reduction of Unemployment

Agenda 21, Rio 1992

Chapter 3. Combating Poverty (Sections 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.10)

Chapter 14. Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, point 14.2, 14.24

Chapter 24. Global Action for Women Towards Sustainable and Equitable Development, points 24.1, 24.3

Chapter 25. Children and Youth in Sustainable Development, points A.25.3, 25.6, 25.9b

Chapter 29. Strengthening the Role of Workers and Their Trade Unions, points 29.2 & 29.5

Chapter 30. Strengthening the Role of Business and Industry, point 30.1, 30.17

Chapter 36. Promoting Education, Public Awareness and Training, points 36.12, 36.17, 36.18, 36.22

Earth Summit II, 1997

Chapter 3. Implementation of Agenda 21 in Areas Requiring Urgent Action

Chapter A. Integration of economic, social and environmental objectives, points 23, 24, 30

Chapter B. Sectors and issues: points 43 (re: Energy); point 63 (re: Land and Sustainable Agriculture)

Human Rights Review, New York 1998

VI. Equal status and human rights of women, point 41

VIII. Special protection, points 60, 70, 71

3rd World Conference on Women, Nairobi 1985

Summary: Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

Fourth World Conference on Women

Platform for Action

Chapter I, Resolution 1, Annex II

Section II Global Framework, points 16, 17, 19, 21, 31

IV. Strategic Objectives and Actions

A. Women and poverty: Section 52, 53, 58(b,h,i,j,k,l)

B. Education and Training of Women: Points 75, 82, 82(d)

C. Women and Health: Strategic objective C.2., point 107 (b); points 151, 152, 153, 155, 157, 158, 160, 160, 162, 163; Strategic objective C.5., point 93

F. Women and the economy: Strategic objective F.1, point 165 (c,g,m); Strategic objective F.2, point 166 (a,c,e,f,g,j); Strategic objective F.3, point 173, 176(e); Strategic objective F.5, point 178

J. Women and the media: Strategic objective J.1. point 239

H. Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women: Strategic Objective H.2. point 204 (b,c,f), point 205 (c,f,g,h)

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Cairo 1994

Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Chapter 3: Interrelationships between Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

B. Population, sustained economic growth and poverty: Section 3.13, 3.15, 3.17, 3.29

Chapter 4: Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women, Section A: Empowerment of Women, points 4.3 (b), 4.4 (b), 4.21, 4.26; Section B. Programme management and human resource development, points 13.9, 13.19

Chapter 5: The Family, its Roles, Rights, Composition and Structure: Section A, point 5.1, Section B, point 5.7 & 5.10

Chapter 9: Population Distribution, Urbanisation and Internal Migration, points 9.4, 9.10, 9.15, and 9.22

Chapter 11: Population, Development and Education, Section A, point 11.4

Chapter 13 : National Action

Habitat II Conference, Istanbul 1996

Declaration on Human Settlements, points 4 & 6

Preamble, points 8, 9, 21

Chapter II Goals and Principals, point 28 & 29

Chapter IV Global Plan of Action: Section B: Adequate Shelter for All; 2. Shelter Policies, points 67 & 69

Section C. Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanising world

C.3. Social development: eradication of poverty, creation of productive employment and social integration; Section 115, 116(a), 117(a), 118(a, f, i), 119(f, i), 120(e), 123(c)

C 7: Sustainable Transport and Communication Systems, points 147

C 9: Improving urban economics (157,158, 159)

Section E. International cooperation and coordination: E 4, Technology transfer and information exchange, points 205 & 206

Section F. Implementation and follow-up of the Habitat Agenda

UN Commissions

UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

1995: Chapter I, part 4, point 40; part 6, point 76, 77; Section D, part 2, point 168

1996: Decision 4/1, point 4a

1998: Section B, Decision 6/2 part A, point 2, part B, point 8, 9, 10; part C, point 5; Annex II, point 4, 12; part B, point 14; part C, point 28, 31, 55

1999: Decision 7/3 (3i, 5a); Annex, general considerations, point 3, 10

UN Commission on the Status of Women 1996

Agreed conclusions 1996/2

E. Women and global communications

— Section D. Adapting the legal system (12c, 12e),

— Section E. Adopting and promoting a family support policy and encouraging reconciliation of family and professional life for women and men (14, 15),

— Section F Resolution 40/6, points 9 (d,e),

— Annex, II Specific Comments, Section F. Women and the Economy, 36

– Chapter II Follow-up: Implementation of strategic objectives and actions in the critical areas of concern: Poverty, 62 (4e, 4f, 4g)

UN Conventions

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women: CEDAW, article 11

Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Article 23 and 25III, Preamble, part III article 66, 7 (c), 10

ILO Conventions on Workers' Rights and Labour Standards, see <http://www.ilo.org>

example

LAND

(listed are only those that incorporate a gender perspective)

I. International Legal Instruments

UN Convention to Combat Desertification: Preamble, Art. 5(d), Art.10(2f), Art.19(1a), Art.19(3a)

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948: Articles 7, 12, 17, and 25

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966: Articles 2 and 11

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1991. General Comment No. 4: The Right to Adequate Housing

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1997. General Comment No. 7: The Right to Adequate Housing: Forced Evictions

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966: Articles 2, 17, and 26

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979: Article 5

Sub-Commission on Prevention on Discrimination and Protection of Minorities:

Resolution 1997/19 Women and the Right to Adequate Housing and to Land and Property

Resolution 1998/15 Women and the Right to Land, Property and Adequate Housing

II. Agreements from UN Summits and Conferences

Agenda 21, 1992

Chapter 10 Integrated Approach to the Planning and Management of Land Resources

Chapter 11 Deforestation + Women + Land Issues

Chapter 13 Sustainable Mountain Development + Women

Earth Summit II, 1997

Chapter 3B Para 62, 63, 64: Women + Land + Poverty

Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995

Section K, Women & the Environment

Section I, Human Rights of Women

Habitat II, 1996

Chapter III.A (Para 40a, 40b, 40c, 40l) Adequate Shelter

Chapter III.B (Para 43a, 43w, 43cc) Sustainable Human Settlements

Chapter III.D. (Para 46) Gender equality in Human Settlement Development

Chapter IV.B.3 Shelter Delivery Systems

Chapter IV.C.2 (Para 113e) Sustainable Land Use

Chapter IV.C.5 Sustainable Human Settlements

Chapter IV.D.5 (Para 185f,g,h) Metropolitan Planning and Management

III. Resolutions and Decisions of UN Commissions

UN Commission on the Status of Women

1994: Chapter IV. B (Women + Urban Areas, Population, Health + Nutrition)

1995: Chapter I.C: Resolution 39/8 Integration of Displaced Rural Women
Resolution 39/9 (Women + Agriculture + Rural Development)

Chapter V Priority Themes (Displaced Rural Women + Agriculture)

UN Commission on Sustainable Development

1995: Chapter VI.D Land, Desertification, Forests + Biodiversity

UN Commission on Human Settlements

1995: Annexes I.A Resolution 15/3 Women + Participation in HS Development

Resolution 15/11 Sustainable HS + Land Policies

Part V

NETWORKING

What is Networking? What is Mentoring? • *page 79*

Networking Resources • *page 79*

What is Networking? What is Mentoring?

Networking is an important component of the work of NGOs and women's organisations. It is about building strategic linkages with other people and organisations that are working in the same or similar areas. Networking is essentially based on two concepts: mutual trust/understanding and mutual benefit.

In any network, there needs to be a basic amount of trust: that everybody is honest and shares the same goals (at least to a certain extent); and that everybody will support each other so that the network doesn't only work one-way. Mutual benefit in networks is created through exchanging information, building coalitions, developing common strategies, increasing the network and linking various groups with one another.

Coalitions and networks are stronger than individuals or individual organisations – the bigger and the more diverse the network, the stronger the message. If a network of very different people and organisations (for example, from all regions of the world) puts forward the same recommendations, then this can be much more powerful than if a European organisation made that same recommendation.

Mentoring can be described as a special case of networking – it is also based on trust and friendship as well as on mutual benefit – but mentoring refers to support from an experienced person to a newcomer. For NGOs and women's groups, active mentoring could become a much more important tool. It could help to increase their impact within rather complicated systems like the UN. Mentoring would mean that experienced women and NGOs' take newcomers 'by the hand' and train them how to operate in the space of international, regional or national meetings. For example, a person who's been involved in the annual meetings of the UN Commission on the Status of Women could link up with another woman who has never attended a UN Commission meeting before and teach her how to do it effectively. Even if it only entailed taking the person along to observe everything one does, simply watching and sharing would teach the 'youngster' a lot more than could be written down anywhere.

In many environments, networking and mentoring have proved to be very important and powerful tools to further somebody's work and effectiveness, which is key for NGOs and women's groups at the UN. Much like the 'old boys networks', networking and mentoring help to further the cause of gender mainstreaming and the success of all kinds of efforts.

Networking Resources

Also see Part III, Examples of Women's Organisations and NGOs

For many of the organisations and networks listed below as examples, we provide an Internet address. As more and more people are gaining access to the Internet, Internet resources and organisations' websites will be useful to an increasing number of people and help connect them.

If you have difficulties accessing the Internet, contact your nearest UNDP Country office, British Council Offices (UK Institution), Goethe Institutes (German Institution), and other countries' offices and cultural institutes. Many of them offer free Internet access to NGOs and women's organisations.

Compilations / Directories / Databases (Examples)

- **APC/WNSP**, Women's Networking Support Programme, brings women's networks together over the internet. The website provides information in research and evaluation, policy and advocacy, training, and online experiences of women. In English, French, and Spanish.
<http://www.gn.apc.org/apcwomen>
- **IIAV, Mapping the World of Women's Information Services**, an online database of more than 325 women's information centres and libraries that are open to the public: international, national and local women's information services; women's documentation and research centres connected to universities; gender-specific information sections connected to governmental organisations; resource centres.
www.iiav.nl/eng/databases/mapping/index.html
- **International Women's Tribune Centre**, listing several directories of NGOs and UN institutions at <http://www.iwtc.org/>
- **Women's Human Rights Net** – resources section at <http://www.whrnet.org/resources.html>
- **Library of Women's Issues Oriented Web Links**, a guide to over 700 sites, updated weekly
<http://women3rdworld.about.com>
- **WomenAction**, a global information, communication and media network on the Beijing+5 review process at www.womenaction.org
- **Stakeholder Toolkit for Women**, links page at <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/links/links.htm>

Networks Active on Gender Issues and/or Sustainable Development (Examples)

- **The CSD NGO Women's Caucus** (*also see Part III*) and its list server – go to www.csdngo.org/csdngo and click on “women” under “major groups”
- **CSDGen**, general NGO list server around CSD issues and process. Send an email to owner-csdgen@undp.org to join or visit the CSD NGO Steering Committee website at <http://www.igc.org/csdngo>
- **CSD NGO Caucuses**: Go to www.csdngo.org/csdngo to access issues and Major Groups caucuses
- **The World Wide Web Virtual Library** includes a section on sustainable development at <http://www.ulb.ac.be/ceese/meta/sustvl.html>. Listed is a comprehensive set of internet sites dealing with sustainable development, including organisations, projects and activities, electronic journals, libraries, references and documents, databases, directories or meta-databases. There is also a section providing information on software modelling techniques, Geographical Information Systems and other technologies.
- **CONGO**, the Conference of Non-governmental Organisations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, assists non-governmental organisations in consultative status to promote their common aim of supporting the United Nations Charter; works on behalf of non-governmental organisations in consultative status to develop that status and improve their relationship and cooperation with the United Nations and its various organs; and provides a forum for non-governmental organisations with common interests to come together to study, plan, support, and act in relation to the principles and programmes of the United Nations. <http://www.conferenceofngos.org>

Examples of Issue Based Networks & Internet Resources

- **ENERGIA**, a global network on gender and energy (*also see Part III*).
Contact: Sheila Oparaocha, ENERGIA Secretariat, ETC Energy, Kastanjelaan 5, P.O. Box 64, 3830 AB LEUSDEN, The Netherlands
Tel: +31 (0)33 4326000, Fax: +31-(0)33-4940791, Email energia@etcnl.nl
Website: <http://www.energia.org/>

- **The Gender and Water Alliance**, a network which grew out of the 2nd World Water Forum (The Hague, March 2000) has its secretariat at the Institute for Water and Sanitation in the Netherlands.

Website: http://www.irc.nl/wwforum/pr_gender.html

- **Women's Human Rights Net (whrNET)**, in English, French and Spanish, is a collaborative Information & Communication Technology (ICT) project developed by an international coalition of women's organisations. whrNET aims to strengthen advocacy for women's human rights through the effective utilisation of information and communication technologies. The sponsoring organisations are part of a global movement for women's human rights that has grown steadily since the World Conference of Human Rights (Vienna, 1993) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). whrNET provides information on: women's human rights issues; advocacy/strategies; news and urgent action alerts; capacity building, etc.
Contact: email whrnet@whrnet.org
Website: www.whrNET.org

- **Human Rights Internet (HRI)** was founded in 1976 and is a world leader in the exchange of information within the worldwide human rights community. HRI communicates by phone, fax, mail and the Internet with more than 5,000 organisations and individuals around the world working for the advancement of human rights. The organisation supports the work of the global non-governmental community. <http://www.hri.ca>

- **SocialWatch** is an NGO watchdog that monitors government commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) and the Beijing World Conference on Women to erase poverty and achieve gender equity. A facilitator of NGO networking, SocialWatch publishes and disseminates NGOs' reports on poverty, employment, social integration, gender equity, structural adjustment and more. The website provides practically anything pertaining to the WSSD and Beijing conference and review, relevant UN news, current trends and assessments on social policy issues, and NGO initiatives and findings worldwide. <http://www.socwatch.org.uy>

- **WICEJ**, Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice, is an international coalition representing 32 organisations from all regions of the globe. WICEJ works to link gender and macro-economic policy in international inter-governmental policy-making arenas. The website features WICEJ's Declaration for Economic Justice and Women's Empowerment and activities related to Beijing+5, links to WICEJ organisations, WICEJ contributions

to the World Conferences Against Racism, Financing for Development, and the Commission on the Status of Women. <http://www.wicej.org>

● **WLP**, Women's Learning Partnership for Rights, Development, and Peace, is an international, publicly supported, non-profit organisation dedicated to empowering women through dialogue, choice, and participation to restructure their roles and to improve their status in their families, communities and societies. WLP creates culture-specific educational publications and multi-media programs for radio, video/television, CD-ROM and the Internet. <http://www.learningpartnership.org>

● **Women's Caucus for Gender Justice**, formed in the spring of 1997, built upon the recognition that women's human rights are human rights and the call for accountability for violations and integration of gender concerns throughout the UN human rights system. The Caucus was successful in incorporating a broad range of gender concerns in the statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and monitors the Optional Protocol to the Women's Convention, CEDAW. <http://www.iccwomen.org>

● **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts** enables girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world. The World Bureau of this large network is located in London, UK. The website provides documents relevant to the Girl Child in English, Spanish, and French. <http://www.wagggsworld.org>

● **WWB**, Women's World Banking, is a women-led global network with the vision of providing economic access through credit to poor women. WWB network members currently provide micro-finance to over 10 million poor women. A network of over 50 affiliate organisations spreading over 40 countries provides women access to financing, information and markets. In English and Spanish. <http://www.womensworldbanking.org>

News & Information Sites

● **Aviva**, a free "webzine" being run by an international group of feminists based in London, UK. An international women's magazine, enabling women all over the world to network, and acting as a "host" site to women's groups and services globally. Services include news, and tutorials. <http://www.aviva.org>

● **IIAV, Mapping the World of Women's Information Services**, an online database of more than 325 women's information centres and libraries that are open to the public: international, national

and local women's information services; women's documentation and research centres connected to universities; gender-specific information sections connected to governmental organisations; resource centres. The database is updated weekly and includes web site links.

www.iiav.nl/eng/databases/mapping/index.html

● **IISD – Linkages**, International Institute for Sustainable Development, an electronic clearinghouse for information invaluable to any policy maker or activist working in the field of environment and/or development. The website provides multimedia resources broken down into regional work and sectoral work in the sustainable development field. It contains archives of journals, a large directory of key organisations, subscriptions to e-zines, international documents, calendar of international conferences, video clips of ongoing negotiation processes and more.

<http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/index.htm>

IISD Key Resources on Women and Sustainable Development at <http://www.iisid1.iisd.ca/women/read4.htm>

● **WFS**, Women's Feature Service, is a news-feature service that reports from 40 countries in all regions of the world. WFS's network of women journalists produces over 400 articles a year, written from a women's perspective, with a special focus on developing countries. The website provides recent articles and news from different parts of the world. <http://www.igc.org/wfs>

● **WINGS**, Women's International News Gathering Service is an independent radio production company producing and distributing news and current affairs programs by and about women around the world. <http://www.wings.org>

Internet Discussions Groups/ List Servers on Women's Gender Issues

As for many other groups and movements, internet discussion groups (or "e-groups," "list servers," "electronic fora," "online discussion groups") have become a very important tool for NGOs and women's groups. They allow us to network, exchange information, gain support, agree on positions, share strategies, and spread the word more quickly than ever before.

Today, there are probably thousands of such groups where gender and women's issues, sustainable development, human rights, urbanisation, climate change and so forth are being addressed. This is a great resource and worth tapping into – if you only want to join for a short period of time to obtain

particular information, if you want to find out if one is a good resource for you, or if you are looking for a stable network you can work with.

Also, consider setting up an electronic group yourself. This might be useful in preparation for a meeting, to keep in touch with a group of colleagues on a particular issue, etc. You can also set up groups which function as news-groups: Only you yourself can post messages – and you can use the group to let subscribers receive your latest newsletter, information about updates on your websites, etc.

Note that in many cases, you can subscribe in various ways:

- **by email:** you will receive every single message that has been sent to the group individually;
- **by “digest”:** you will receive one email message daily (sometimes weekly) which contains all messages sent during this time period;
- **on the web:** you will not receive emails but have to visit the group’s website to read the messages;
- **by summary:** some groups also provide summaries of the discussions during the summarised time period; in some cases you can subscribe to the summaries only.

Homes and Listings of Discussion Groups

There are very useful sites, which list great numbers of groups that offer important networking opportunities for you. Many of the above-mentioned networks provide listings of relevant discussion groups. We have picked just a few:

- **Gender-related Electronic Fora** at <http://www.research.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/forum.shtml>: Joan Korenman’s frequently updated website is an excellent resource of discussion groups, providing annotations and subscription details of publicly accessible electronic fora related to women or to women-focused gender-issues.
- **Yahogroups.com** (used to be egroups.com & onelist.com) at <http://www.yahoo.com>: a site hosting several hundred thousand discussion groups with several million members. You can search the site for groups (issues) of interest to you and access the postings of most of these groups. You can also very easily set up your own list; there is an option free of charge (with very little advertising).

- **Mailbase UK** at www.mailbase.ac.uk: a site hosting more than 2000 discussion lists with several hundred thousand members worldwide. Based at the University of Newcastle, UK, the site is easy to search, provides the latest postings of discussion groups, and subscription forms.
- **The Toolkit Networking Opportunities page** offers a large number of annotated links to discussion groups dealing with gender, sustainable development, and Internet-related issues. You can join existing networks; participate in online conferences; and sign up for newsletters. <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/Women/network/netopp.htm>

Many of the groups you will find on these sites are communicating in English – but not all of them. Some are multi-lingual. English is the dominating language of the Internet – but French, Spanish, Japanese, and others are becoming more frequent as people publish more and more material in these languages on the Internet.

In addition, many UN bodies or processes nowadays establish list servers to keep NGOs informed about the ongoing work. These are not necessarily discussion groups but newsgroups – only the body that established the group can post messages. Thus, you might not be able to contribute yourself but will receive updated information at regular intervals.

Some UN bodies and other institutions also conduct **scheduled discussion groups**, for example to discuss a draft report (e.g. the electronic discussion group on the World Bank draft report 2000 which had over 1500 participants over 6 weeks). You might want to actively participate or “listen in” to learn about the issues, the process, and the current thinking of your colleagues. Look out for announcements of scheduled discussions, e.g., on the website of those bodies or general information list servers.

Annexes

Annex I: • *page 85*

Glossary

Annex II: • *page 89*

**UN Agencies and Intergovernmental Bodies working on issues
relevant for a review on women & sustainable development:
BY INSTITUTIONS**

Annex III: • *page 91*

**UN Agencies and Intergovernmental Bodies working on issues
relevant for a review on women & sustainable development:
BY ISSUES**

Annex I

GLOSSARY

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
AOSIS	The Alliance of Small Island States, with 42 members and observers.
BCSB	Business Council for Sustainable Development
Bureau	Bureaus of Commissions of Preparatory Processes are composed of the Chair or Co-Chairs and representatives of the five regional groupings of member states
C Soc Dev	(UN) Commission on Social Development
CAN	Climate Action Network
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CEDAW Committee	Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
Chair	Chairs are responsible for facilitating progress in the work of a meeting or body
CHS	(UN) Commission on Human Settlements
CITES	(UN) Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species
COP	Conference of Parties
CPD	(UN) Commission on Population & Development
CSD	(UN) Commission on Sustainable Development
CSD Intersessional	The official between-sessions meetings of the CSD
CSD NGO SC	(UN) Commission on Sustainable Development Non-Government Organisation Steering Committee
CSW	(UN) Commission on the Status of Women
DAW	(UN) Division for the Advancement of Women
DPI	(UN) Department of Public Information
EC	European Commission
ECA	(UN) Economic Commission for Africa

ECE	(UN) Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	(UN) Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean
ECOSOC	(UN) Economic & Social Council
EFITA	European Federation of Information Technology in Agriculture
EIT	Countries with Economies in Transition, i.e., those in Central and Eastern Europe.
ESCAP	(UN) Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific
ESCWA	(UN) Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	(UN) Food & Agriculture Organisation
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
G-77 & China	The Group of 77 and China was the original group of the so-called non-aligned states. It is in effect the negotiating bloc of the negotiating countries and seeks to harmonise the negotiating positions of its over 140 developing-country members.
GA	(UN) General Assembly
GATT	Global Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GC	Governing Council
GEF	The Global Environment Facility. The multi-billion-dollar GEF was established by the World Bank, the UN Development Programme, and the UN Environment Programme in 1990 to fund environmental programmes, especially in the South and the EIT
GHG	Green House Gases
GPA	Global Programme of Action
High Level Segment	The Ministerial-level part of a meeting where most significant issues are decided
IACSD	Inter Agency Committee on Sustainable Development
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
ICPD	International Conference on Population & Development
IFAP	International Federation of Agricultural Producers
IFF	Inter-governmental Forum on Forests
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organisation
IIED	International Institute for Environmental Development

ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISO	International Standards Organisation
IUCN	International Council for the Conservation of Nature
IULA	International Union of Local Authorities
JUSSCANNZ	The non-EU industrialised countries meet as a group to discuss various issues; they are Japan, the US, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway, and New Zealand. Iceland, Mexico, and the Republic of Korea may also attend meetings
MAI	Multi-lateral Agreement on Investments
Major Groups	The term used in Agenda 21 to describe nine sectors of society fundamental to achieving sustainable development. The Major Groups are: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous People, Non-governmental Organisations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Communities, and Farmers.
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MARPOL (Convention)	International Convention for the Protection of Pollution from Ships
Member State	A nation that is a member of the U.N.
NAFTA	North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement
NGLS	UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service.
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
North	The current widely used term to describe developed, industrialised countries
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development
OEEC	Organisation for European Economic Co-operation
Plenary	A meeting of the whole of the CSD, where formal decisions are taken
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
Side Event	An open, lunchtime or evening event, (e.g. panel presentation) usually related to the issues being negotiated.
SIDS	Small Island Developing States, especially important in relation to the Barbados Plan of Action for SIDS
South	The current widely-used term to describe developing countries
Square Brackets	Used during negotiations to indicate that a section of text is being discussed but hasn't been agreed
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment & Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade & Development

UNDESA	United Nations Department on Economic & Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDPICSD	United Nations Division for Policy Co-ordination for Sustainable Development
UNSD	United Nations Division for Sustainable Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Climate Change Convention
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
WB	World Bank
WBCSD	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
WEDO	Women's Environment & Development Organisation
WHO	World Health Organisation
Working Group	A sub-group of, for example a UN Commission, tasked with drafting language for the final documents
WSSD	World Summit for Social Development
WTO	World Tourism Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WTTC	World Travel & Tourism Organisation

Annex II

UN AGENCIES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES working on issues relevant for a review on women & sustainable development

BY INSTITUTIONS

CCD	integrated community driven approaches (http://www.unccd.ch)
CEDAW Committee	http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committ.htm and -/archive.htm
FAO	gender & food security – rural economics, distribution of labour, etc.; women & land issues (http://www.fao.org/Gender/gender.htm); World Food Programme: commitment to women (http://www.wfp.org/info/themes/gender/index.html)
ILO	more and better jobs for women; data on women & men in employment sectors, incl., for many countries, data on working hours and wages by gender (http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/gems/)
INSTRAW	finance/trade/investment (http://www.un.org/instraw); temporary labour migration of women (http://www.un.org/instraw/focus.htm#migratio); freshwater: proposed database on water resource management at http://www.un.org/instraw/focus.htm#water ;
UNAIDS	gender and HIV/AIDS
UNCCD	integrated community driven approaches to combat desertification and drought
UNCHS (Habitat)	gender & habitat programme (list programme areas); gender unit; e.g. women's rights & access to land: studies of African countries (to be expanded)
UN DAW	Govt. reports; Alternative NGO reports on the 12 sections; expert group meetings reports; CSW decisions (e.g. 1997: Environment) (http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/wecon.htm); education & training of women (http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/weduc.htm); women & health diagnosis (http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/health.htm)
UNDP	micro-finance (http://www.undp.org/gender/programmes/microstart.html , http://www.undp.org/uncdf/sum/Microstart/contents.html); poverty eradication (http://www.undp.org/gender/programmes/poverty_programmes.html); health/HIV and gender (http://www.undp.org/hiv/genderlist.htm); technology & information technology (http://www.apgen.apdip.net/st/index.htm); desertification and the role of women (http://www.undp.org/seed/unsowomen/); education & capacity building (http://www.undp.org/gender/capacity/whatiscb.html)
UNDP GIDP & UNDP	(http://www.undp.org/gender/)

UNESCO	education & capacity building/empowering women; training & educating women in the areas of science & technology (http://www.unesco.org/education/educprog/women/index.html); http://www.unesco.org/general/eng/programmes/science/women/index.html)
UNFPA	migration & urbanisation (http://www.unfpa.org/modules/popbkit97/migra.htm); education and capacity building/empowering women; reproductive health (http://www.unfpa.org/ICPD/round%26meetings/hague_forum/reports/forumrept-ch8.htm)
UNHCR	environmental impact of refugee operations (http://www.unhcr.ch/environ/enviro.htm)
UNIFEM	feminisation of poverty; poverty eradication (http://www.undp.org/unifem/economic.htm); http://www.undp.org/unifem/ec_pov.htm); gender & telecommunications (http://www.undp.org/unifem/ec_tech.htm)
UNRISD	gender poverty and well-being, integrating gender into development policy (http://www.unrisd.org)
WFP	(World Food Programme) “commitment to women”
WHO	health; environmental health (http://www.who.org/frh-whd/)
World Bank	feminisation of poverty (http://www.worldbank.org/gender/); trade liberalisation; gender & transport (http://www.worldbank.org/html/fpd/transport/pol_econ/tsr.htm)
WTO	World Tourism Organisation (/ OTM): sex tourism and child prostitution

Annex III

UN AGENCIES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES working on issues relevant for a review on women & sustainable development

BY ISSUES

● Conventions

CEDAW: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committ.htm> and [-/archive.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/archive.htm)

UNCCD: Integrated community driven approaches (including women) (<http://www.unccd.org>)

UNCBD: <http://www.biodiv.org>

● Education and Capacity Building

UN DAW/CSW: education and training of women
(<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/weduc.htm>)

UNESCO: education for women
(<http://www.unesco.org/education/educprog/women/index.html>)

UNDP: education & capacity building (<http://www.undp.org/gender/capacity/whatiscb.html>)

● Environmental Security

UNHCR (environmental impact of refugees – <http://www.unhcr.ch/environ/enviro.htm>)

CBD (<http://www.biodiv.org>)

UNEP (<http://www.unep.org>; <http://www.unep.ch>)

● Finance, trade and investment

World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org/gender/>

UNIFEM: feminisation of poverty, trade liberalisation
(<http://www.undp.org/unifem/economic.htm>)

UNDP: microcredit (<http://www.undp.org/gender/programmes/microstart.html>,
<http://www.undp.org/uncdf/sum/Microstart/contents.html>),

UN DAW/CSW: (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/wecon.htm>)

● Food

FAO: Gender & food security, rural economics, distribution of labour etc
(<http://www.fao.org/Gender/gender.htm>)

WFP (World Food Programme): commitment to women
(<http://www.wfp.org/info/themes/gender/index.html>)

Health <http://www.who.org/frh-whd/>

UNFPA: reproductive health
(http://www.unfpa.org/ICPD/round%26meetings/hague_forum/reports/forumrept-ch8.htm)

UN DAW/CSW: women and health diagnosis
(<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/health.htm>)

UNDP: HIV and gender (<http://www.undp.org/hiv/genderlist.htm>)

● Freshwater

INSTRAW: proposed database on water resource management
(www.un.org/instraw/focus.htm#water)

● Globalisation

UNHCR: minimise environmental impact of refugee operations
(<http://www.unhcr.ch/environ/enviro.htm>),

INSTRAW: temporary labour migration of women
(<http://www.un.org/instraw/focus.htm#migratio>)

UNFPA: migration and urbanisation (<http://www.unfpa.org/modules/popbkit97/migra.htm>)

ILO: more jobs and better jobs for women
(<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/gems/>)

● Housing and Shelter

UNCHS (HABITAT): Gender Habitat Programme

● Land

FAO: (<http://www.fao.org/Gender/gender.htm>),

UNDP: desertification and the role of women (<http://www.undp.org/seed/unso/women/>)

UNCHS: Campaign on Secure Tenure that will include a policy on women and land
(<http://www.unhcr.org/tenure>), in addition to on-going work of the Women & Habitat Programme

● Poverty Eradication

UNIFEM: http://www.undp.org/unifem/ec_pov.htm

UNRISD: gender, poverty and well-being, integrating gender into development policy

UNDP: social development and poverty elimination division (<http://www.undp.org/gender/>,
http://www.undp.org/gender/programmes/poverty_programmes.html)

● Science and Technology

UNIFEM: gender and telecommunications (http://www.undp.org/unifem/ec_tech.htm)

UNESCO: training and educating women
(<http://www.unesco.org/general/eng/programmes/science/women/index.html>)

UNDP: technology and Information Technology (<http://www.apgen.apdip.net/st/index.htm>)

● Tourism

World Tourism Organisation: child prostitution

● Transport

World Bank: gender and transport seminar
(http://www.worldbank.org/html/fpd/transport/pol_econ/tsr.htm)