

NETWORK 2005



Building Partnerships for Sustainable Developments

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO: WHERE WERE YOU?

STAKEHOLDER FORUM



By Felix Dodds

On the 8th of December 1980 John Lennon was shot dead. He was a crusader for peace and an amazing song writer and singer.

They say that you can remember where you were when John F Kennedy was killed- the same is true for John Lennon. I was on my way to Khartoum over land on my extended honeymoon. We had just got off the boat at Wadi Halfa in Sudan, having travelled over night from Aswan in Egypt. We started walking over the sand dunes to the railway station when a youth of maybe 15 years came up shouting "John Lennon had been shot." It seemed surreal. As we came into the railway station "Happy Christmas War Is Over" was being played over the loudspeakers and we learned more about the bizarre happenings in New York.

It is difficult to sum up the contribution each of us makes to the world we live in. Many people reading this newsletter will be part of the sustainable development world and understand the role culture plays in our life and our decisions. John Lennon's music, along with that of the Beatles, has left footprints all over the lives of a generation of people. It was still a time of innocence. The first Beatles hit "Love Me Do" reached number 17 in the UK charts and the follow up- "Please Please Me"- reached number 1. The Beatles had arrived.

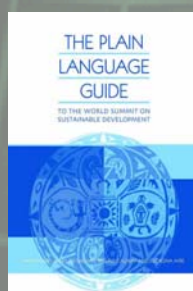
John Lennon, as well as being part of an amazing song writing team, had his own contributions. "Imagine": a song that never seems to go out of date and whose words we used last issue to celebrate Joke Waller Hunter. Gilberto Gil the Brazilian Cultural Minister and jazz singer has brought out his version of Imagine as a tribute it can be found at <http://www.mp3search.ru/album.html?id=33359&ref=6756>

Perhaps as Christmas approaches, our politicians might reflect where they have taken us over the past six years. Is our world safer? Are our liberties secured? Are we trying to support the weak and poor in society? Is our world more sustainable? Perhaps with the political generation changing across Europe, soon to be followed by the United States, the time might come to strive for a better world. An old dream, in the words of John Lennon "Happy Christmas War is Over."

CHRISTMAS BOOKS STAKEHOLDER FORUM



Some great present ideas this Xmas from Stakeholder Forum



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WHERE WERE YOU? WHAT WERE YOU DOING? WHAT IMPACT DID IT HAVE? WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE JOHN LENNON SONG?

John Charles, Marvel Comics artist:

"Where was I? No idea!

What was I doing? Lord knows!

I was shocked, and then doubtless laughed at all the tasteless jokes that went around almost immediately. Funnily enough this is already happening regarding George Best, and the strange coincidence that he went on the day 24hr drinking became legal here!



My favourite song...Ah – now I do know this one! It has to be *Working Class Hero* because our fanzine 'Workin' Klass Super-Hero' was named after it, and because it sort of inspired me to believe that I could be something despite my humble origins. Of course, *Imagine* is a wonderful song too, as it completely

undermines the political and social structure of our society... 'Imagine no possessions...' etc. I remember my Sociology teacher telling us that there were certain basic assumptions about our society that are never questioned.

Like, who owns land, and what right do they have to deprive others of it, and many more. John Lennon questioned these fundamental assumptions. Imagine all the people, living life in peace! You may say he was a dreamer, but he was not the only one! And, of course, he inspired Noel Gallagher, who has come up with some good stuff in the last decade or so, that has kept many an Englishman amused. and I suppose Noel is another working class hero."

Bill Mankin, Forest Campaigner:

"I had just returned to Atlanta from a White House signing ceremony for the most extensive land protection law in world history, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (over 100 million acres). I was on one of the greatest highs of my life, having spent the previous four solid years campaigning for this victory. It was also my 30th birthday - December 8.



It devastated me, and turned my celebratory mood completely inside-out. I sat down and poured my heart out into a long, multi-paged letter to a friend. It got lost in the mail and disappeared; she never got it. To this day I have always wanted to find it and recall what I felt and said. My memory is still blocked.

Imagine, Working Class Hero, Happy XMas (War Is Over)"

Anthony Kume, Energy Entrepreneur:

"I was playing football in the Cameroon under tropical skies

It made me very sad....we had lost a hero .



My favourite John Lennon song? *Let it Be* and *Imagine*."

NETWORK 2005

EDITOR Virginia Prieto

vprieto@stakeholderforum.org

CONTRIBUTING TO THIS ISSUE:

- Margaret Brusasco Mackenzie
- John Charles
- Felix Dodds
- Richard Gerster
- Anthony Kume
- Bill Mankin
- Aubrey Meyer
- Jennifer Peer
- Richard Sherman
- And Father Christmas



PUBLISHED BY Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future.

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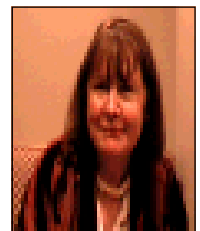
Margaret Brusasco Mackenzie, Formerly with the European Comisión:

"I was in the airport Mbabane, Swaziland, read it in someone else's newspaper .

I was about to take v. small plane to Lesotho, with two smallish children.

Shock and sadness, and had to try to explain to Ellie and Lorenzo. Could hardly believe it , we didn't know about stalkers in those innocent days. However the sadness soon replaced by fear when plane hit by lightening several times during v. bad storm. Was v. miserable by the time we finally arrived in Maseru.

Imagine."



*Bill Mankin photo from www.iisd.org
"Hulk", courtesy of Marvel comics and John Charles.*

URGENT MESSAGE TO COP-11 FROM GCI

By Aubrey Meyer
Director Global Commons Institute



There are no military solutions to climate change. Moreover, whatever the unresolved arguments are about where humanity has come from – ‘creationist’ versus ‘evolutionist’ – the rationale for an inclusive, full-term, framework-based-market of Contraction and Convergence (C&C) is fundamental to the future intelligent design of the means and ends of avoiding dangerous climate change.

So, do we have or lack the judgement and the resolve to organize this effort? This challenge faces the UN; we are at the Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention to prevent dangerous Climate Change (UNFCCC), yet climate change is still accelerating dangerously.

The key messages in this document are:

1. The UNFCCC objective was agreed in 1992. It is a safe and stable greenhouse gas [GHG] concentration in the global atmosphere. This is a quantitative limit, it is legally binding and must be set.
2. The agreed principles of precaution and equity in the UNFCCC are governed by this limit. These are meaningless without a global calculus for combining them with the objective so we can calculate how to come together at rates that are solving the problem faster than we are creating it. Clean technology is not relevant without - and only relevant within - this calculus.
3. The historic responsibility of industrialised countries for raising GHG concentration in the atmosphere is clear. To address this debt to the South, the C&C calculus demonstrates the future convergence to equal tradable shares per capita globally and that this can and must be significantly accelerated relative to the global contraction of emissions that stabilises GHG concentration in the atmosphere.
This is the realistic way to resolve the North/South arguments about ‘blame’ for the past. Thus, in the interdependent context of surviving climate change, the historic grip of poverty gives way to the mutual benefit from the trading clean development for lucrative emissions equity and global survival.
4. To deal with the differing national circumstances that - subject to the accelerated convergence under contraction - remain, intra-regional arrangements can be created, as already happens in the European Union under the Kyoto Protocol, but - to avoid political chaos - away from the UNFCCC .

5. Not doing this is suicidal. Opposing this, as some do, is too. At the same time, proposing it in words while not proposing it in the numbers, as some others do, is neither competent nor honest. Still further, proposing to actually reverse existing per capita consumption differentials as yet others do, is deluded. Unlike C&C, all of these tendencies are anti-consensus, confused and dangerous.

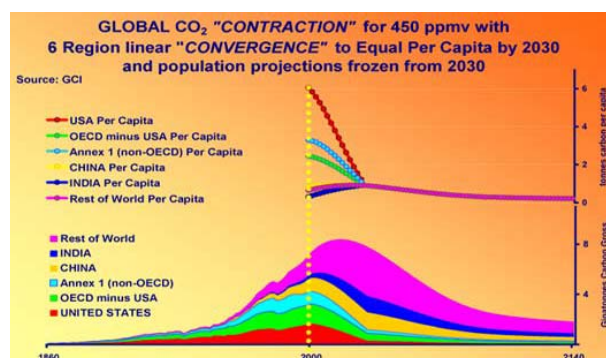


Photo from www.gci.org.uk

6. From the outset, the US persistently and correctly demanded globality - all countries are involved. This was explained in the Byrd Hagel Resolution of the US Senate in 1997; commitment/entitlements inclusively combine ‘limitations’ with ‘reductions’ under a global cap. C&C is the only proposition in all the years of this process that directly answers and enables this demand. It prioritises globality with carbon equity over growth, whilst under-writing the clean growth that is still possible.
7. Led by the Africa Group and supported by India and China, C&C was proposed and accepted in Kyoto. C&C is now led again at COP-11 by - inter alia - the government of Kenya. This document lays out the essential text of this proposition in thirteen languages. Some of the clear support for C&C that has grown consistently since Kyoto, is at the end of this document.
8. Whatever atmospheric concentration target is set, C&C “is inevitably required” to achieve it. These are the words of former Executive Secretary to the UNFCCC, the late and greatly valued, Joke Waller Hunter. Then again, in the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury head of the Anglican Communion, “C&C appears Utopian only if we refuse to contemplate the alternatives honestly.”
9. It is evident time is against us. C&C can redress this and COP-11 can and should resolve to evaluate C&C in SBSTA/SBI and establish it as soon as possible as the formal basis of future effort.

Taken from the publication *COP11 Global Commons Institute December 2005*

FATHER CHRISTMAS PLEA ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Dear Children,

As many of you know, this time of year is very busy for me: reading all your letters, seeing who has been naughty and nice, and finding out what you have asked for from me for Christmas. The elves are already busy making the dolls, train sets and computer games (ahh, for simpler times!).

Though we are very busy with all these preparations, it has been a difficult year here in the North Pole. I wanted to share with you some worries I have.

Dancer broke a leg earlier in the year, but is now all better and prancing to go this Christmas. It all happened because the ice was weaker than expected and he fell. I had been noticing that the weather had been changing over the past ten years, which makes delivering the presents increasingly difficult each year. So I decided to find out what was happening. Do you know what I found out? It is this thing called Climate Change! Blimey!

I hadn't realised how much damage all this travelling around had been doing and how much our lifestyles have impacted on the earth. It seems to me that we are rushing to disaster. But you might say: "what does he know? He's just Father Christmas!" Well, I read these IPCC Reports- have to say they were a little boring (zzzzz)- but all these scientists from around the world are saying the same thing and each report they produce says things are getting worse.



I have to say it put the frighteners under me. I thought 'what can do?' I am just one person and a lot of elves and reindeers. The first thing I did was to find out what my carbon footprint is. Well blimey- it was a lot!!! So then I got these people in to do an energy assessment of our operations here. They found that most of the energy needs of my grotto can be delivered by renewable energy!



So this year there has been lots of building work around the grotto. We now have a wind turbine powering most of the workshop and the housing. The reindeer have fun racing around it. I bought nifty electric cars for the elves to move around in, and a small methane collector for the... well, you know! With reindeer we do get a lot of methane, which we can now use for the heating.

Fortunately, with reindeer powering the sleigh, my air travel is not contributing to Climate Change. For my holiday travel, I have offset the carbon use with Future Forests. I am proud to say that though we have not reduced our fossil uses completely, we are close to doing so. I always say, where there is a will there is a way!

And that brings me to the plea: I don't understand why the upcoming meeting on Climate Change in Montreal is not planning for a complete phasing out of fossil fuels over the next fifty years. I read that President Bush doesn't believe that Climate Change is happening and that he cites reports by scientists that support his theory. Well, I thought I had better read them as well and you know what? These scientists seem to get a lot of money from Exxon Mobile who doesn't seem to believe that Climate Change is happening either! Well, the reports weren't very believable so I am staying with the IPCC reports. Surely it is better to err on the side of caution!

So, I am asking all of you children and adults out there to let President Bush and other world leaders know your views on Climate Change. Maybe they will show some political will and if not... I definitely know some people who will not deserve getting any presents on Christmas day!

Have a wonderful merry Christmas,
Father Christmas

WEST ASIA REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING IN CAIRO

By Jennifer Peer
Policy Coordinator of Stakeholder Forum



And Richard Sherman,
Consultant with Stakeholder Forum

Pursuant to the decision of the 11th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) inviting UN Regional Commissions to organise regional implementation meetings to allow effective consideration of regional and sub-regional inputs in CSD implementation cycles, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ECSWA) organised the West Asia Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM). The meeting was held in conjunction with the seventh session of the Joint Committee for Environment and Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR) from 13-15 November 2005 at the League of Arab States Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt.

The West Asia RIM built on progress made at the Arab Regional Conference on 'Energy for Sustainable Development and Related Environmental Issues' held from 10-12 September in Cairo. The September Conference provided an opportunity for national, regional and international experts and professionals working in the energy and environment fields to exchange experience, knowledge, and information on three of the CSD's current thematic cluster of issues, namely energy for sustainable development, atmosphere/ air pollution and climate change. Participants also discussed progress achieved in these areas as well as obstacles and challenges.

Because discussions to evaluate the implementation of international commitments on the four areas of the CSD thematic cluster, while identifying challenges, obstacles and constraints, and opportunities, had taken place in the September Conference, the West Asia RIM focused mainly on preparing the Arab regional review report. Discussions on the regional review report also benefited from the presentation of four thematic reports prepared through a collaborative process among the Arab League, ESCWA and UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia. These reports, while not approved by Member States, provided an initial assessment of the implementation challenges and obstacles facing the West Asia region.

The report will be submitted to the Secretary General to

inform the State of Implementation Report. Participants of the West Asia RIM spent much of the first day of the meeting in four informal working groups which prepared the initial draft of the report. As expected, discussion focused primarily on the information and recommendations presented on the thematic issues of energy and climate change. The duration of the RIM was spent reviewing the report in a plenary discussion. However, due to concerns from Member States, the RIM did not approve a final report and agreed to allow for further consideration of the document prior to its submission to the CSD Secretariat.



Kham al-Khalili, Cairo
Photo courtesy of Harold Stern

The West Asia Regional Implementation Meeting is the second of five Regional Implementation Meetings taking place prior to CSD 14. Last month the Africa RIM was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Europe RIM will be held 15-16 December in Geneva. The Latin America and Caribbean RIM and Asia and Pacific RIM will both take place in the January 2006.

EVALUATING THE RIM PROCESS

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the WSSD in 2002 stated that the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit should be effectively pursued at the regional and sub-regional levels, through the UN Regional Commissions and other institutions and bodies. As the CSD turns towards its next thematic cycle, the so-called 'Energy Cycle,' the challenge on the Commission is to produce meaningful and action orientated outcomes. The four key issues for consideration – energy for sustainable development, climate change, industrial development and air pollution/atmosphere – raise difficult and urgent questions. The cycle comes at a time when there is increased recognition of the need for the CSD to deliver concrete outcomes on issues of critical importance to sustainable development.

(Continues on page 6)

STAKEHOLDER FORUM BOOKS

Human and Environmental Security - An Agenda For Change



This book is edited by **Felix Dodds of Stakeholder Forum** and **Tim Pippard of Jane's Information Group** and came out for the MDG Summit as a contribution from Stakeholder Forum to the debate around the report to the Secretary General – Challenges, Threats and Change.

The contributors to the book are:

Foreword - **Celso Amorim Foreign Minister Brazil**

Introduction - **Klaus Toepfer Executive Director UNEP**

Section 1 Peace and Security

1. Peace and Conflict: New Threats and Challenges - **Lord David Hannay**: Member of the Secretary General's Panel on Challenges, Threat's and Change; 2. Human Security and the War on Terror - **Oliver Richmond**; 3. Achieving Nuclear Non-Proliferation - **Marian Hobbs** Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control New Zealand; 4. Peace building Commission - **Anders Liden**; 5. Gender and Human Security - **Norleen Heyzer**: Director of UNIFEM.

Section 2 Sustainable Human Development

6. Human Security for the Poor - **Jan Pronk**: Former Minister of Environment and Development in the Government of the Netherlands; 7. Trade and Security in an Interconnected World - **Hilary Benn**: Secretary of State for Overseas Development UK; 8. Securing a Healthier World - **Dr Christine Durbak, Dr Claudia Strauss**; 9. Migration and Development - **Devyani Gupta**; 10. Protecting our Biodiversity - **Jeff McNeely**: IUCN Chief Scientist; 11. Food Security - **Henrique Cavalcanti**: former Chair of the UNCSD (1995) and Brazilian Minister of the Environment; 12. Water for All - **Patricia Wouters**; 13. Climate Change: Impacts and Security - **Melinda Kimble**: Vice President UN Foundation; 14. Human Security for Human Settlements - **Anna Tibaijuka**: Executive Director UN Habitat.

Section 3 Global Governance

15. Changing role of the State and the emergence of Regional Governance - **Sabin Mendibil Intxaurraga**: former Minister of Environment Government of the Basque Country; 16. Human and Environmental Rights: A need for Corporate Accountability - **Hannah Griffiths**: Friends of the Earth; 17. Democracy in Trouble - **Felix Dodds**: Stakeholder Forum; 18. Reforming Environmental Governance - **Serge Lepeltier**: French Minister of the Environment; 19. America as Empire - **Jim Garrison**: President of State of the World Forum.

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www.stakeholderforum.org or email
odavies@stakeholderforum.org

(From page 5)

The year 2005 marked the conclusion of the CSD's first two-year sequence in its new "implementation cycle" arrangement. For participants of this new work plan, the cycle held high expectations – some of which were met, others were disappointed. As we enter the second multi-year programme of work, it is appropriate to assess the effectiveness of the RIMs, in particular:

- How the regional obstacles, constraints, successes and new challenges have been addressed?
- How have the global CSD deliberations and outcome responded to the regional dimension? and
- How to enhance the regional contributions to the CSD's multi-year programme of work?

Stakeholder Forum is attending each of the Regional Implementation Meetings to explore the extent to which these meetings are facilitating the effective consideration of regional and sub-regional experiences at the global level. Where possible, Stakeholder Forum will be hosting side events/workshops during the RIMs to further explore the regional CSD processes and the relationship with global CSD deliberations and outcomes. The meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss regional priorities and options for strengthening the CSD process. This work on the Regional Implementation Meetings is following up Stakeholder Forum's September 2005 workshop, which was organised to review the first two years of the CSD cycle. A full report of the workshop and background papers are available on our web site www.stakeholderforum.org.



For further information on the RIM assessment, or if you would like to share your experiences of the RIMs please contact: Jennifer Peer, jpeer@stakeholderforum.org or Richard Sherman, rsherman@icon.co.za

FAIR TRADE & TRADE NEGOTIATIONS: BETWEEN FOOTNOTE AND CHALLENGE



By Richard Gerster
 Director of Gerster Consulting, authored numerous books and articles on development policy issues, such as ICTs and poverty reduction, patents and development, globalisation and equity. Contact: richard.gerster@gersterconsulting.ch

International trade is a driving force of economic growth in the world economy. However, a large part of national businesses and multinational corporations do not fully internalize the social and environmental costs of the impact of their activities, neither in production nor in transportation; distorted competition prevails; relevant market information is lacking; there is an undersupply of public goods. These kinds of **market failure** are the starting point of the Fair Trade movement. In order for trade to be sustainable, and not to distort markets, the full social, environmental and economic costs of goods and services must be taken into account. While many governments and international bodies pay tribute to sustainable development in their declarations, the implementation of the principle severely lags behind. Consisting of a myriad of private initiatives, the Fair Trade movement gains practical experience of how to contribute to a sustainable society by internalising externalities and correcting market failures

Approaching it positively, "**Fair Trade**" denotes a qualified type of trade relationship oriented towards sustainable development in the sense of social equity, economic security and ecological methods of production. The Fair Trade movement defines fair trade as "a trading partnership based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers – especially in the South". Key elements of fair trade are:

- Fair minimum prices in a local context
- Long term trade relationships
- Pre-financing
- Environmentally sustainable production
- Respect for core labour standards
- Openness to public accountability
- Capacity building for producers.

There is a large and fast growing number of **fair trade initiatives** in the North as well as in the South. However, the organisational strength of the movement is still rather weak and its emergence at the global level is very recent. the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong 2005 provides the forum for another global Fair Trade Fair hosted by a NGO

coalition. The main four international umbrella organisations cooperate in an informal working group called FINE: Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (FLO-I); International Federation for Alternative Trade (IFAT); Network of European World Shops (NEWS!); European Fair Trade Association (EFTA).

Fair Trade is a **success story** and continues to be an area of growth. Millions of people in 48 countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia benefit from Fair Trade relationships. However, using a sustainable livelihoods perspective, early research results indicate that mainly members of producer organizations benefit and spillovers to the wider community are limited. More impact research is warranted. In 2002, worldwide sales of Fair Trade products were estimated at over US\$ 400 million and the market is growing rapidly. International sales grew in 2003 by an average of 43%, including 61% growth in the UK, 81% in France and 400% in Italy. In the US, sales of Fair Trade certified coffee grew 93% in 2003. In the US, in 2003 an additional USD 16 million was returned to producers over what they would have earned in conventional markets. In terms of market penetration Switzerland is Fair Trade leader, topping a market share of 28 percent for cut flowers and 47 percent of all banana retail sales. Such a success challenges conventional trade and puts pressure for change.



Max Havelaar Fair Trade roses from Ecuador
 Photo courtesy of Richard Gerster

Fair trade remains a **footnote of world trade**. The global fair trade sales of USD 400 million compare to an overall trade volume in goods of USD 6270 billion (2002). The fair trade market still has a high potential to expand and reach new sectors, increase consumption, create new products and open up new distribution channels, including those of commercial enterprises prepared to adopt a Fair Trade

strategy. Despite considerable market growth the fair trade movement remains trapped in a market niche if not truly innovative steps are undertaken. This line of thinking is not growth for the sake of growth but takes the concerns of producers seriously seeing fair trade as a business opportunity to make a better living. The future expansion of fair trading is therefore the main economic challenge the Fair Trade movement is confronted with.



Tropical Fruit from Africa.
Fair Trade Fair Berne, Switzerland 2003
Photo courtesy of Richard Gerster

Multilateral trade negotiations reflect that marginal trading volume as a **missing link** – fair trade concerns are not on the agenda at all despite that the latest WTO negotiations, started in 2001 in Doha (Qatar), are said to be a development round. Fair trading is a private initiative, recognized or promoted by only a handful of governments from the North and the South. That may explain why fair trade at the political level has not even reached the status of a footnote in negotiations. In order to make use of the leverage potential, efforts should be made to clarify the relationship of fair trade concerns to the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations and to include them on the agenda. This trade policy option offers a perspective of a great leap forward and constitutes a key political challenge for the Fair Trade movement.

Astonishingly, even among leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like the Third World Network or Oxfam fair trade experience leads at best to a **weak political message** if the concerns are voiced at all. The latest telling example is the campaign “Make Poverty History” where the common declaration includes trade as an issue of major relevance for development but does not mention fair trade at all. This self-marginalisation instead of mainstreaming may be due to (1) fair trade practitioners and advocacy staff being different people, and (2) a blurred message what constitutes fair trade in a WTO context. Fair trade initiatives should

become more concerned about the trade policy context of their own activities.

Lessons learned from Fair Trade experiences should be drawn **and mainstreamed into the trade policy reform agenda**, an agenda equally relevant for NGOs as well as governments. At the World Social Forum (WSF) 2004 fair trade actors agreed that the WTO ought to be reformed instead of fighting for its elimination. There is no fundamental contradiction between fair trade and conventional trade; in its preamble the WTO enshrines the principle of sustainable development. The WTO philosophy is not committed to unlimited competition but to a rule based system providing a level playing field. The ingredients of a level playing field also for the economically weaker players must become a matter of trade negotiations. The reconciliation of social and environmental requirements with the economic driving forces in world trade is to be seen as part of a sustainable trade package and the voice of Fair Trade organisations should be heard.



Fair Trade in Mexican spirits. Fair Trade Fair Cancún 2003
Photo courtesy of Richard Gerster

The **rationale for support** of fair trade by public policy is obvious when referring to market failures including externalities, distorted competition, lack of information, and undersupply of public goods. The fair trade concerns coincide with the Millennium Development Goals, and they overlap with a number of foreign policy objectives as stated e.g. in the Organisation of American States’ regional development policy. Support means first of all the creation of an appropriate framework for sustainable production and trade. As a business opportunity, after a transitional period fair trade should become anyway self-supporting and no longer require public financial support. This stage has already been reached by Max Havelaar Switzerland and is projected as an overall vision by Fair Trade Labelling International (FLO).

STAKEHOLDERS AND THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

By Jennifer Peer,
Policy Coordinator of Stakeholder Forum

At this very moment, hundreds of representatives of non-governmental organisations are preparing to attend the 6th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), being held in Hong Kong from 13-18 December 2005. Stakeholder engagement at the WTO dates back to 1996, when the General Council adopted guidelines for engaging NGOs. In this decision mechanisms for engaging stakeholders were agreed, including ad-hoc symposia, making more information on WTO matters available, informal arrangements to receive the information NGOs may wish to make available, and the continuation of responding to requests for information about the WTO. WTO Members then agreed that NGOs whose activities were "concerned with matters related to those of the WTO" would be allowed to attend the plenary sessions of WTO Ministerial Conferences.



NGO panel in Singapore
Photo © ENB from www.iisd.ca/wto

The Singapore Ministerial Conference in 1996 represented the first experience with NGO attendance at a major WTO meeting. Since 1996, participation by NGOs at the WTO Ministerial Conferences has grown steadily, rising from 235 individuals in Singapore to nearly 800 in Cancun. NGO attendance at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference is expected increase even still, with more than 1,000 NGOs accredited.

The ever increasing number of stakeholders attending WTO Ministerial Conferences might be seen as a sign that the WTO is an institution that facilitates meaningful engagement of stakeholders. However, despite the increasing attendance, the scope for stakeholder participation at the WTO remains limited. WTO engagement with stakeholders can be characterized as largely outreach. Significantly, there is no formalized engagement in the decision-making structure. The result is a lack of processes and mechanisms to enable meaningful stakeholder participation.

Essentially two arguments are used by sceptics to justify the limited scope for involvement of stakeholders in the WTO. The first is the assumption that trade issues are technical in nature and therefore beyond the capacity of NGOs. The second is the belief that mechanisms for stakeholder engagement are unnecessary and potentially redundant, because NGOs engage with member states directly at the national level. It is of course true that some member countries do engage with national stakeholders on trade related issues. However, in many countries such a participatory approach is not the norm and engagement with stakeholders is limited or non-existent. As a result, mechanisms for stakeholder engagement should be institutionalised within the WTO to ensure that stakeholders from all countries are granted the opportunity to engage with trade-related issues.

On whether stakeholder engagement is appropriate due to the technical nature of trade issues, trade negotiations have profound implications for the sustainable development agenda. Furthermore, many NGOs whose work is concerned with trade have a consistent history of being up-to-scratch on the technical aspects of trade issues. This is supported by the emerging trend of NGO support for developing countries whose capacity to participate in trade negotiations can be limited. For example, the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development has been involved in capacity building around research and policy-making in this area. Unfortunately, the events surrounding the collapse of Cancun Ministerial Conference- namely NGOs celebrating the collapse publicly- caused critics to conclude that many NGOs were too radical to be effectively engaged. It is important to underline that support for the failure of Cancun was not universal among NGOs. However, it is also worth wondering whether this resistance would have been less pronounced if NGOs were more effectively engaged in decision-making processes.

The need to develop a clear and transparent system for stakeholder participation of civil society is therefore clear, and many models exist within the multilateral system for this. The WTO could learn from the examples of the UN CSD or UN General Assembly Hearings, to name a few. However, more adequate stakeholder engagement at the WTO is only one element of a broader debate around the need for governance reform within the WTO. The collapse of the Cancun Conference highlighted the inherent problems with the functionality and structure of the WTO. For the WTO to regain and retain its legitimacy, it must move towards a governance structure where equitable balance of power, transparency, and participation are the norm. More effective stakeholder engagement would be an important step towards achieving this goal.

STAKEHOLDER FORUM TEAM GROWS UP



Maria Figueroa Küpçü.
Consultant.

Maria Figueroa Küpçü has recently joined the SF Network as a Consultant, focusing on organizational capacity building, U.S.-based outreach and policy development on public-private partnerships and stakeholder engagement standards.

“SF is a pioneer in the field. It’s one of the few organizations that has the experience and insight to help other groups manage the demands of inclusivity at the international level.”

Maria has extensive policy analysis, market research and public relations experience on global issues; and has particular interest in the fields of democratic governance and poverty alleviation. Beginning her career at UNDP and UNCHS (New York and Turkey), she led initiatives on stakeholder involvement at the World Summit on Social Development and the Habitat II Summit, including co-founding the global youth advocacy network, Youth for Habitat II.

Transitioning to the private sector, Maria was Director of International Political and Corporate Campaigns at the polling and strategy firm Penn, Schoen & Berland. There, she developed strategic communications campaigns for presidential-level candidates abroad (including South Korea, Ukraine, Serbia, Zimbabwe) and for executive teams of multinational corporations (KPMG, Samsung, Volkswagen).

Based in New York, Maria currently heads the strategic communications consultancy Medius360. She is a Project Fellow at the World Policy Institute (The New School) where she co-directs the “Privatization of Foreign Policy Project,” a multi-year study of the relationship between state and non-state actors in global policy making.

Maria is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She holds a B.A. in International Relations from Tufts University and a Master in Public Policy from the JFK School of Government, Harvard University.



Jennifer Peer
Policy Coordinator

Jennifer Peer joined Stakeholder Forum as Policy Coordinator in September.

Prior to joining Stakeholder Forum, Jennifer worked at the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya. Jennifer was a member of the Poverty and Environment team, which is implementing a project to build capacity in African countries to mainstream environment into development strategies. Jennifer’s work focused on the implementation of the project in Rwanda and the development of communication materials for the project.

Jennifer holds a Masters of Science in Development Studies from the London School of Economics. She has a passion for travel and has enjoyed living in many countries including Canada, Kenya, the United Kingdom, and the Solomon Islands



Virginia Prieto
Communications Coordinator

Welcome to **Virginia Prieto** who recently joined Stakeholder Forum as Communications Coordinator. Her role focuses on managing and developing Stakeholder Forum web-site, and producing monthly e-newsletter Network 2005 and Outreach 2005 at selected international conferences.

Based in San Sebastian, Spain, Virginia has worked in for the Chamber of Commerce of Guipuzcoa and for private sector in projects related to the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.

Virginia has been working for the International Court of Environmental Arbitration and Conciliation as Communications Coordinator for two years.

She has a degree in Computer Engineering from the University of the Basque Country.



Owen Davies
Finance and Administration Assistant

Welcome to **Owen Davies** who recently joined SF as Finance and Administration Assistant. His role relates primarily to the Finances of the organisation, as well as the day to day running of the London office. He assists Jennifer Peer and Anthony Miles in coordinating events and membership operations.

Owen has previously worked in the National Assembly for Wales in the Labour Group Office as assistant to the Chief Whip, and later as Political Assistant to two backbench members of the party. He has also worked in various positions in the Wales Labour Party headquarters in Cardiff.

“Moving to SF is somewhat of a change in direction for me. I look forward to my time with SF. We all are part of this organisation because we recognise that there are issues that need to be discussed, and that any organisation that provides a forum for the discussion should be cherished. I look forward to being part of events that seek to address fundamental issues relating to all our lives.”



Anthony Miles
Policy and Research Assistant

Welcome to **Anthony Miles** who joined Stakeholder Forum as Policy and Research Assistant.

“Having worked on small scale participatory rural development projects in both Pakistan and Vietnam, I am looking to build upon these experiences as I now move to work in civil society participation on the national and international scale.”

His main role will be assisting the Policy Coordinator, Jennifer Peers, both with the Stakeholder’s Governance Project and the organisation’s work around the CSD’s Energy process.

“With further roundtables to organise and research to conduct into the future opportunities for Stakeholder Forum I am sure the work will be both exciting and challenging.”

Anthony graduated from Lancaster University with B.A. in Politics and subsequently completed his L.L.B.

THANK YOU!



After two and half years with Stakeholder Forum Mehjabeen Price has moved on to work at an Arts Charity South West Screens in Bristol.

During the time at Stakeholder Forum Mehjabeen has been a great influence in the new direction the organization has taken since Johannesburg. She will be very much missed in the office and in the corridors of the UN....although she is promising to come back and help our work at occasional meetings!

We wish her well in her new position as Director of Finance and Operations at South West Screens

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

is an EcoSoc Accredited Organization

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**STAKEHOLDER
FORUM**

DIARY

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|-----------------------|--|
| 28 Nov - 9 Dec | 1st Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and 11th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC Venue: Montreal, Canada Organized by: UNFCCC Secretariat. http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_11/items/3394.php |
| 5-7 Dec | 4th Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change. Venue: Montr al, Canada. Organized by: ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability http://www.iclei.org/montrealsummit |
| 6-8 Dec | Asia Biofuels Conference and Expo III. Venue: Manila, Philippines. Organized by: The Stratton Group, Inc. http://www.asiabiofuels.com/ |
| 11-14 Dec | European Nuclear Conference. Venue: Versailles, France. Organized by: European Nuclear Society (ENS), American Nuclear Society (ANS), French Nuclear Energy Society (SFEN). http://www.sfen.fr/enc2005 |
| 12-13 Dec | 11th session of the UNECE Gas Centre Task Force on Implementation of EU Gas Directive. Venue: Vienna, Austria. Organized by: UN ECE Gas Centre. http://www.gascentre.unece.org/gcagenda.htm |
| 12-16 Dec | 17th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol & 7th Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention. Venue: Dakar, Senegal. Organized by: UNEP Ozone Secretariat. http://www.unep.org/ozone |
| 13-15 Dec | Expert Group Meeting on Indicators of Sustainable Development Venue: New York. Organized by: UN DESA. |
| 13-16 Dec | 4th Asian Aerosol Conference (AAC-2005). Venue: Mumbai, India. Organized by: Indian Aerosol Science and Technology Association (IASTA), Asian Aerosol Research Assembly (AARA). http://www.cleanairnet.org/caiasia/1412/article-59404.html |
| 13-18 Dec | The 6th WTO Ministerial Conference. Venue: Hong Kong SAR, China. Organized by: WTO. http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min05_e/min05_e.htm |
| 15-16 Dec | Europe Regional Implementation Meeting. Venue: Geneva, Switzerland. Organized by: UN ECE. http://www.unece.org/ |
| 25 Dec | Christmas Day. |
| 8-11 Jan | 9th Regional Arab World Renewable Energy and Environment Congress. Venue: Tripoli, Libya. Organized by: Interexpo NV Netherlands Antilles. http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/news_events/energy_events/2003.asp |

2005 Hong Kong

Fair Trade Fair and Symposium

Making trade work for people

A global NGO coalition is organising a Fair Trade Fair as a parallel event to the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong. The lead is with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP, US); in the steering committee are represented Oxfam (Hong Kong), Equiterre (Canada), Asia Fair Trade Forum (AFTF, Philippines), Gerster Consulting (Switzerland, on behalf of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, seco). The events in Hong Kong include an opening reception (December 13, 2005), followed by a three days fair trade market (December 14-16), a fashion show (December 14) and an international Symposium (December 15) with top experts on fair trade and the WTO. Among the sponsors of the Fair Trade Fair are seco, CIDA, CGIAR, World Bank, and Oxfam.

See www.fairtradeexpo.org

This website hosts a calendar of events, details on the symposium panels, profiles of exhibitors, and archived reports from the Cancun Fair. It will also have a media room that includes press releases, fact sheets, lists of experts and spokespeople, and links to additional background information on the WTO, Hong Kong and the fair trade movement.

December 2005

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