

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE AFRICAN NGO CAUCUS MEETING**

**12<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup>, OCTOBER 2001.**

**PAN-AFRIC HOTEL, NAIROBI**

Organized by: **KENYA NGO EARTH SUMMIT 2002 FORUM**  
**SOUTH AFRICAN NGO WSSD COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HEINRICH BOLL FOUNDATION,  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA (ROHA)**

Report prepared by:  
Philip Osano & Jacob Muli  
Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum,  
C/o EcoNews Africa,  
P. O. Box 10332, 00100, Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: + 254-2-721076/99  
Fax: + 254-2-725171  
Email: [wssd2002kenya@iconnect.co.ke](mailto:wssd2002kenya@iconnect.co.ke) or [wssd2002kenya@econewsafrika.org](mailto:wssd2002kenya@econewsafrika.org)

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Pan African NGO caucus meeting was organized by the Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum, South African International NGO Coordinating Committee and the Heinrich Boell Foundation, Regional Office for the Horn of Africa in Nairobi, Kenya on 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> October 2001. The meeting preceded the African Regional PrepCom, which was held at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi on 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2001. The Pan African NGO caucus meeting brought together a total of 45 participants from twelve countries in Africa and observers from Denmark and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The main goals of the meeting were to prepare the NGO input into the Ministerial Statement of the African Regional PrepCom, lay strategies for the Pan African NGO Conference, develop a comprehensive African NGO Roadmap to the WSSD and to discuss the progress of the WSSD preparations at the Sub-Regional levels.

During the meeting, presentations were given from the following Sub-Regions; West Africa, East Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa, Central Africa and the Small Island States of the Indian Ocean.

One of the key outputs from the meeting was an NGO statement to the African Common Position Paper (ACP).

## **OPENING SESSION**

### **Introduction and Background.**

Edward Alitsi, the National Coordinator of the Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum, opened the meeting. He invited Mr. Nicky Nzioki to give welcome remarks on behalf of the hosts, the Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum. In His remarks, Mr. Nzioki welcomed all the participants to the meeting and to Kenya for the discussions later at UNEP. He also thanked HBF for funding the meeting and giving logistical support. He expressed hope that everybody benefits and develop a common agenda.

The HBF Representative for the East and Horn of Africa Regional Office, Ms Aseghedech Ghirmazion also gave a brief speech in which she welcomed everybody and noted that HBF is willing to work closely with the NGOs in the WSSD process in Africa. Thereafter, the participants were invited to introduce themselves and to give their expectations.

### **Participants Expectations.**

The following were some of the expectations from the participants;

- To know the position of each sub-region as far as the WSSD preparations are concerned and to develop a joint strategy to be adopted.
- To develop priority issues for negotiations at the Earth Summit and to prepare for the Pan-African conference in December
- To develop a common position for NGOs and to get an assessment of the domestication of Agenda 21 in all the regions?

- To find out if the sub-regional reports are involving the major groups like the youth, women and children.
- Meet many people who are involved in the process. Need to discuss how to relate to the process to that in other continents especially Latin America and Asia. The political Agenda should be discussed.
- Hope to understand how the different regions communicate to their respective constituency. Coordination and development of policy. How the representatives effectively communicate to the constituents at the grassroots.
- Identify gaps and develop common position for the African Regional PrepCom.
- Seeing participants come up with action-oriented programmes.
- The forum to be starting point to have a common voice for CSOs in Africa.
- Develop a clear strategy for effective participation by African groups in the process including determining the proper and effective institutional arrangements.
- Come up with a clear way forward for Africa upto 2002 in Johannesburg.
- Arrive at a consensus on how to lobby the government process.
- Share experiences and views in regards to the CSO participation in the WSSD process.
- Practical approach to the process. Effective participation of the grassroots and follow up.
- Hope that there will be a sense of unity at the end that will be long lasting. Come up with a network that will last and be a building bloc for future collaboration.
- Make an outcome for the Pan African meeting and take the outcome to the PrepComs.

### **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

The keynote address was made by Dr Strike Mkandla from the United Nations Environment Programme.

Dr Mkandla talked on the topic '*Coordination & Networking at Regional Levels*'. He noted that the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) is not only an environmental summit but will also tackle issues related to social and economic development and therefore the preparations should include all organizations working in all spheres of development. Dr Mkandla observed that NGOs should reflect on the broad agenda of the Rio + 10 which is a broad development summit.

He spoke on the reasons why organizations need to network and observed that since networking is important to NGOs, Governments, UN Organizations and Donor organizations, it should be enhanced even more.

He equated the essence of networking by presenting an analogy of computer networks. The example of the LAN in computer technology. Through the LAN we are able to;

- Share information from other stand-alone computers in the network or share information stored in a file server.
- Use one printer for all computers or terminals connected to the same server.
- Acquire software for a big number of users in the network through a single license.
- Work efficiently from different computers but avoid passing other hard copies with no fax, e-mail etc.
- The LAN is not just convenient but is cost effective in terms of time and hardware requirements. Of a complex organization (e.g. on printers) and in terms of its use of time (facilitation information exchange and teamwork)

Dr Mkandla noted that some of the advantages with networking among NGOs are as follows:

- Exchange information and experience.
- Have coordinated planning of policies and strategies.
- Coordinated implementation and follow up of agreed policies and plans.

He remarked that the tasks that face African NGOs ahead in the context of WSSD/Rio + 10 is Coordination and networking in an African context. This he noted has to have a clear purpose and reason since Networking has much potential beyond the WSSD. He challenged the NGOs that the networks that have already been established for the WSSD should not be one off exercise but should be sustained for a very long time.

Speaking on the WSSD, Dr Mkandla observed that it is an intergovernmental process and therefore the job that the civil society has is how to decisively impact into the intergovernmental process. The preparations have been decided upon at the CSD, UNEP and other intergovernmental bodies who also have determined the core issues. In his opinion, The NGO forums are very vital since they will offer alternative perspectives to those of the governments. These perspectives must impact the decision of the

governments. According to Dr Mkandla, the most important issue in the WSSD process is the issue of environmental governance at the international level with various options and he sought to know what will be the role of Civil Society Organizations.

He observed that CSOs should also consider bridging the interfaces of environment and development by introducing intercoordinated approaches.

Although Agenda 21 continues to be the basis for WSSD since it is not being renegotiated, a few sections need revision. He cited for example the principles of the differentiated responsibilities, which has to be negotiated since the north and south have different responsibilities in International Environmental Governance (IEG). Other important issues are; Financing for Development, capacity building for the south, declining ODA among others.

Dr Mkandla also spoke on the issue of dependence of Africa on the North where he observed that Africans can choose to continue being dependent or do something and rely on her own resources to develop. In doing this Africans have to understand how to turn the current weaknesses into strengths

## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AFRICAN FORUM FOR STRATEGIC THINKING TOWARDS THE EARTH SUMMIT 2002 AND BEYOND.**

Davinder Lamba of the Mazingira Institute presented this report. He commented that the Forum, which was held on 17th to 20th September 2001, was an initiative of Heinrich Boll Foundation, Mazingira Institute, African Peace Forum and the African Academy of Sciences. The Forum noted that the priority issues for the African governments are still important but the context now are different. These are characterized as the interplay of Sustainable Development, Governance and Globalization.

Mr. Lamba reported that the Forum focused discussions on the Horn of Africa since peace and development are interlinked and the deliberations looked at how this interplay affects the African socio development milieu. There was also a critical evaluation of the roles of governments, civil society and the state in very diverse ways.

### **Conclusion of the Forum.**

The Forum concluded that African countries have not set an agenda at the international level, and are more reactive in their approach and participation in international negotiating and lobbying. The conference recommended an internal and African strategy aimed at re-structuring itself from within to promote a Pan-African Agenda that seriously addresses issues of development, poverty and its attendant crisis like wars, HIV/AIDS pandemic, drought and extreme deprivation and marginalization of substantial proportion of the population.

The Forum called for;

- Re-engineering the African socio-political and cultural milieu,
- African governments to first address the issue of governance as the critical element in development. Africans need effective, pro-people governments. They are willing to work with, and support good governance.
- Upon African leaders to commit good governance and address the issues of governance in the process of discussing the route to earth summit 2002.

In addition, The Forum noted that there is an urgent need to tackle the following problems:

- ✓ The need to develop conceptual and practical methodologies for incorporating gender into governance, globalization and sustainable development. While gender mainstreaming is a significant step in addressing gender imbalance, it would be necessary to study the social cultural systems and set-ups, and to re-engineer/reframe/redesign these to address the emerging challenges.
- ✓ Develop a model on economic liberalization, targeting cross border trade and espousing Pan-Africans.
- ✓ Develop a code of conduct for natural resource use exploitation.
- ✓ Develop formal mechanisms to place value on natural resources other than market prices determined elsewhere. Global solidarity and security is a substantial issue



with trade offs that African can bargain/negotiate with. On what issues can Africa rally support for? Against what values and in whose interests?

- ✓ Developing systems that borrows from technological advances, combined with the best of African culture.
- ✓ The content of enlightened self-interest: whose interests? What can Africa take from globalization? How can Africa protect itself from globalization?
- ✓ International finance system and the debt crisis, environmental equity issues and global and ecological security.
- ✓ Need to clearly set out and define parameters for leadership, fight against corruption and waste and the need to involve citizen stakeholders.

Mr. Lamba reported that in taking a stand over these issues of concern in Africa, and in developing a Pan African profile, the Forum recommended that the best positioning strategy that African governments can take is to depend on the strengths of its own people to develop the African state, civil society and promote African development from paradigm rooted in African human and peoples rights and obligations.

He added that this would mean that Africans should reformulate the approach to development as a result of which the Forum called upon African governments to be in control of the direction of development policies, working closely with their own civil societies rather than experts from outside, to restructure governance arrangements for participation through horizontal linkages and integration of African civil societies in governmental processes and to make appointments from outside governments and party affiliations based on knowledge and merit so that Africans may collectively mainstream a regional agenda and vision towards an African Union united against poverty and focused on the true development of African Union at last.

In conclusion, Mr. Lamba remarked that the Forum came up with a metaphor “***Thinking locally and acting globally***” as opposed to the popular one, “***Thinking globally and acting locally***”. This metaphor, he noted, helps understand the link between government and institutions. The conference concluded that Sustainable Development is a subset of development and is not an end in itself. The definition of development in this case was borrowed from the Amartya Sen definition of development.

## **SUB-REGIONAL REPORTS ON THE CIVIL SOCIETY PREPARATIONS FOR WSSD**

In order to have a broader understanding of what is happening in the Sub-regions and to enable the participants to share the challenges, presentations were made from the Sub-Regions on the preparations for the WSSD. The presentations also considered the institutional arrangements. It was noted that participants should look at the area of information and how people are participating in the process as well as how Africans can liberate resources in all the regions in Africa.

### **West Africa.**

There was no participant to report on the WSSD process in West Africa but Hans Peter Dejgaard, the International Coordinator of the Danish 92 Group reported that the West African Sub-Regional workshop was held in Accra, Ghana from 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, September 2001. According to the minutes from the workshop, it was attended by 11 countries. Highlights from the draft minutes also indicate that the Sub-Regional workshop discussed NGO participation at the various WSSD preparatory processes including the Official UN PrepComs, country reports, communication and coordination and adopted a declaration (In French). In addition, the workshop identified the following as the key thematic issues for the Sub-Region;

1. Weak Governance
  - i. Waste resources
  - ii. Corruption
  - iii. Miss-allocated rights
  - iv. Institutional piracy
2. Poor education
3. Degradation of natural resources
4. International relations of power (Globalization)
5. National debts
6. War
7. Regulatory capture
8. HIV/AIDS

The main outcome of the workshop was the formation of a five person-working group composed of representatives from Togo, Guinea, Nigeria, Ghana and Niger to identify issues for each preparatory meeting towards the WSSD and to propose a West African NGO position.

### **East Africa.**

Mr. Njogu Barua, the East African Sub-Regional Coordinator from EcoNews Africa presented this report. He reported that EcoNews Africa is the Sub-Regional Focal Point for WSSD in East Africa. The WSSD process started in February 2001 in all the three East African countries of Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

In Kenya, the process has now consulted about 120 NGOs and CBOs who constitute the Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum. Financial support to undertake the activities was got from Heinrich Boll Foundation and DANIDA. He reported that National Steering Committees have been constituted in the three East African countries and the National Focal Points have been identified, as JEEP, JET and ENA in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya respectively.

Mr. Barua reported that an East African Sub-Regional meeting was held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2001. The meeting was attended by a total of 23 participants and it had the following Objectives;

- To develop a strategy for NGO involvement in WSSD preparations in East Africa. Participants discussed how they could participate effectively in the process. The strategy involved how to reach out to the governments who are to adopt NGO positions. The discussions revealed that the three countries are in different working relations with their governments. Kenya and Uganda are working well with the government unlike Tanzania where a deliberate effort should be made to bring the NGOs and the Government to work together.
- Determine the capacity needs of the NGOs in East Africa and the meeting identified Lobbying, Advocacy, Networking and Training as priority issues.
- Establish a coordination strategy for the Sub-Region. The meeting established a 10 person Sub-Regional Steering Committee composed of the three Coordinators and three representatives from all the countries
- To discuss and draw up an Implementation plan-key issues were identified including time frames.
- Prioritize the issues that require Sub-Regional lobbying. This were identified as follows:

#### Uganda

- Sustainable Agriculture
- Biodiversity and Forestry
- Integrated Freshwater Management
- Climate and Energy
- Sustainable Economic and Social Development

The Crosscutting themes are;

- Development and Poverty Reduction with a Gender Perspective
- Institutional Reforms, Good Governance and Civil Society participation.

#### Kenya

- Agriculture, Land & Desertification.
- Natural Resource management
- Financing for Development
- Education for Sustainability
- Major Groups (Youth/Children, Women, Indigenous people)

- Sustainable development of Tourism
- Sustainable Human settlements
- Biodiversity

#### Tanzania

- Energy
- Poverty
- Climate change
- Agriculture

The Crosscutting themes are;

1. Poverty Reduction.
2. Gender and Development.
3. Institutional Reforms.
4. Good Governance and Civil Society Participation.

The approach puts an emphasis on grassroots involvement. Mr. Barua reported that Kenya has been divided into five regions to facilitate Sub-national consultations, which will culminate, into a National Forum and the same applies to both Tanzania and Uganda.

Mr. Barua also reported that there was an emphasis on fundraising and the Sub-Regional Steering Committee was tasked with the responsibility of fundraising.

Concerning the issue of networking, He reported that the Sub-Regional Steering Committee is going to link up with the East Africa Community secretariat. The meeting emphasized that the East African group should have representatives in the WSSD working groups at all the levels.

#### **Southern Africa (SADC).**

This report was presented by Mr. Amade Suka from Mozambique. He reported that the Southern Africa Region (SADC) had a meeting that was held from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2001 in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. The meeting was attended by representatives from all the SADC countries except Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia whose representatives were absent. Most of the countries made it clear that they did not have money and the decisions taken were not to be binding but to serve as principles.

Mr. Suka reported that the meeting prepared the document "*The World Summit on Sustainable Development-A Call to Action*"- This document was first developed by the South African INDABA. It was discussed and adopted in the SADC meeting. The document is being used in Southern Africa and it gives broad guidelines on how the South Africans are to approach the WSSD process. A separate document dubbed the "*Bredell Declaration*" was drafted for the Nairobi meeting and it was circulated among all the member countries of the SADC.

Mr. Suka reported that in the Bradell Declaration, the SADC Civil societies, called upon the governments to;

1. Draw up and implement appropriate policies that respond to the needs of the people to eradicate poverty.
2. Take responsibility for delivering basic services to people.
3. Create space for civil society to participate effectively in the development and review of policies and initiatives, and their implementation, including the SADC protocol.
4. Show political will and direction with regard to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Sub-Region by:
  - Allocating sufficient resources to deal with the pandemic
  - Challenging the patenting of medicines which is an obstacle to healthcare for all
  - Guaranteeing access to medication
5. Unite the region to deal with critical issues:
  - i. Peace and security
  - ii. Debt eradication
6. Build and encourage the growth of participatory democracy in our countries and in SADC, and African institutions. This includes meaningful and well-resourced decentralization.
7. Find common ground with regard to sustainable development solutions for SADC

Mr. Suka observed that the Bredell Declaration is the document that will develop the SADC position to be input to the Africa Position Paper.

Reporting on national preparations, he said that in South Africa there are nine provinces and the Forum has had two workshops in all of the provinces firstly; to launch the document “*The World Summit on Sustainable Development, A Call to Action*” and secondly, to develop the South African Agenda. The next step in the process will be a national conference to take place in December 2001. He reported that the process has tried to be very inclusive. Many activities are still in the pipeline. Many other SADC countries are starting to work on the process. In relation to the working with the governments, the debate here in South Africa’s case is that they recognize the importance of engaging the government process and influencing it, but this is just one part since this process is an opportunity to mobilize the CSO to influence the depth and the capacity of CSOs to mobilize and design the WSSD process. These are fundamental and address the question of legitimacy to come up with a social movement. The NGOs in South Africa are also finding out the areas that impact on the social economic and environment issues.

Mr. Suka noted that all the parts of the texts in the document “*World Summit on Sustainable Development, A Call to Action*” were not geared towards influencing the government process but also to address the issues affecting the civil society. In his opinion, NGOs should have their own evaluation of Agenda 21 and produce their own reports.

### **Central Africa.**

This report was presented by Ms Jean Marie Tindija from Cameroun. She reported that the Rio + 10 process in Central Africa has focused debates on Governance until October 2001. Thereafter, the Sub-Region held a meeting in Doula, Cameroun that brought together representatives from five countries namely Rwanda, Cameroun, Equatorial Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Other Central Africa countries including Central Africa, Sao Tome, Chad and Gabon did not participate due to the short notice.

Ms Tindija reported that the main objective of the meeting was to identify Sub-Regional issues including the policy issues of the region. Others were to;

1. Prepare a Sub-Regional perspective of Central Africa.
2. Prepare an evaluation of Agenda 21 in each country on what has happened since 1992. The discussions yielded the following as the issues of concern to the Sub-Region:
  - Biodiversity
  - Good Governance.
  - Conflicts.
  - Globalization and Commerce.
  - Health
  - Human Development.
  - Poverty

Ms Tindija reported that the meeting also came up with a Work plan based on the long term and short-term perspectives. The work plan was agreed upon but it is being written up. It is clear from the plan that there should be another Sub-Regional meeting very soon.

### **Small Island States.**

This presentation was done by Mr. Rajen Awotar from the Republic of Mauritius. Mr. Awotar noted that he was presenting on behalf the Small Island States (SIS) of the Indian Ocean region. Most of the NGOs in the Sub-Region are not working on the Rio + 10 process or Agenda 21.

He reported that the Small Island States had a meeting with the representatives from all the islands. The discussions were geared towards the following areas of concerns;

1. Plan of Action regarding financial growth,
2. Capacity Building,
3. Energy.
4. Climate change where he observed that the Small Islands are very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. They also discussed the issue of the Kyoto Protocol and recorded their unhappiness with America for refusing to sign the Kyoto Convention yet America is the most important polluter in the world.
5. Disasters. Mr. Awotar observed that the Small Islands are very prone to disasters some of which include Cyclones, Drought, Climate Change among others.

6. Globalization-Small Islands are isolated from mainstream markets since they are small economies and cannot access markets in Europe and other major markets in Asia and America.
7. Financial (FDI) flows are very slow. Few countries are interested in investing in the Small Islands States but they are very keen on investing in Tourism. He reported that the states are however refusing to open up their markets to the big tourism industries in the Small Island States.
8. Poverty.
9. Capacity Building needs especially regarding the financial support from UNDP/GEF, which has not done much for the Small Island States.
10. Loss of Biodiversity as a result of natural disasters. These biodiversity are unique and their loss is very expensive. The SIS are the victims of all these problems and the international community must do something.

Mr. Awotar observed that due to their vulnerability, the Small Island States need a special vulnerability fund and the North have been fighting this request down to avoid responsibility.

He also noted that the awareness levels of Agenda 21 are very low in the Sub-Region and most of the NGOs have not even heard about Agenda 21. He reported that in Mauritius, they have started the preparations and almost finalized the national evaluation where they are involving all the stakeholders including students, teachers and others. There is going to be four regional forums and one national forum to finalize the Mauritius NGO perspective, the report will be given to the Minister for Environment since the government of Mauritius has engaged a consultant to work on the government report. Mr. Awotar observed that unfortunately, In Mauritius 90 percent of the people are not aware of the Agenda 21 nor its contents.

### **North Africa.**

Dr Emad Adly from Egypt gave a brief presentation on behalf of the North African Sub-region. Dr Adly reported that the Sub-Region is planning to do a partnership workshop with support from the Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF) in Egypt that will bring together 25 participants from the West Asia region and North Africa. He reported that NGOs are involved in the national processes in Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. Highlighting the role of partnerships with the government in sustainable development, He remarked that his major concern is how NGOs will be organized at the WSSD. In Dr Adly's opinion, African NGOs should use the WSSD as an opportunity to work together, build on the experiences already existing. Define ways of communication and effectively bring forward the African Agenda.

### **Ethiopia**

This report was presented by Mr. Million Belay from FFE Ethiopia. Mr. Belay noted that in Ethiopia, the WSSD is not the end for NGOs but they are using the WSSD process to strengthen the CSO position. He noted that locally, there are two processes one of which involves consultations with the NGOs and the other is to influence the governments. He reported that ten issues were identified in Agenda 21 review in Ethiopia namely;

1. Combating Poverty,
2. Agriculture and Rural Development
3. Combating Drought
4. Promoting Education and Public Awareness.
5. Promoting Sustainable Human Settlements-Mr. Belay noted that this was coincided with the World HABITAT day and they organized a debate between the Government and Civil Society Organizations. The above five issues were synthesized and given to the Government. The National Environment Programme (NEP) representatives gave a guideline for the presentation of the issues of Civil Society Organizations, which were followed. Mr. Belay reported that Ethiopia has produced the document where the five issues are summarized and it has various components including the Best Practices, the failures and reasons, new initiatives among others.

The document was distributed to the governments and the NGOs attended the session. He noted that the process has more than 200 NGOs. These were divided in groups and did an input into the government process. The five chapters will be included in the government paper. However, he remarked that the document is not final, since this will be produced in the form of a book. He expressed appreciation to the Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF) for the financial support to carry out the exercise in Ethiopia. Mr. Belay noted that the other remaining five issues to be reviewed are;

1. Integrating environment and development in decision making
2. Fragile Ecosystems including Managing Mountainous Development
3. Combating Desertification
4. Conserving Biodiversity
5. Energy

### **PLENARY DISCUSSIONS**

The issues arising out of the Sub-Regional presentations are discussed in a summary form below. These include questions to the presenters, clarifications and comment and suggestions on the way forward. The discussions are divided according to the Sub-regional presentations.

#### *Discussions: East Africa*

**Davinder:** -There is a generic question. Are the issues that emerge really in Agenda 21? What new issues are we presenting? . Do we reframe old issues in new forms? This will come out in the discussions at the PrepCom.

**Aseghedech:** -The issues in the three countries are crosscutting. In order to be effective politically, which topics do we take in order to be effective? This must be discussed without ignoring our problems. Secondly, in Kenya could you clarify how the collaboration exists between the governments and NGOs? On what issues in particular?



**Mr. Mkandla:** -This concerns the hierarchy of issues, Could you put a better perspective on the issues. Has anything been done to implement Agenda 21. Are there new issues here or are we happy with the implementation.

**Mr. Barua:** - On emerging issues, Kenya has identified these and examples include Biotechnology and globalization. These are being considered. On topics for political effectiveness, NGOs are going to consider. On the relations between the Government and the NGO, it is only in the Environment field where we are working together. In the Project Implementation Plan, there is a budget for a meeting between the NGO and the government steering committees.

On the situation on the implementation of Agenda 21, we are not happy with it; we have recommended a research to find out what the situation is on the ground. Research has been taken up as a priority area. The findings will help to focus on the sub-national consultations.

**Mrs. Mkandla:** -A lot has been done, but how legitimate are our working? If there is a forum of 120 NGOs, how do you communicate with these groups?

**Yvonne:** - Are there a way forward for the East African process?

**Nicky:** -On the legitimacy of the group, the process was started by engaging NGOs working on the field of environment and development. All of them are invited. We had consultations in February after the UNEP CSO meeting. In March, we broadened the scope. The NSC is inclusive of representatives from all the regions, not administrative but environmental zones. This people form contacts within the main body and we liaise with them to reach their local networks. Everybody has been engaged and we are planning on the research, which will be followed by sub-national consultations. Outcomes from the regions will be used as a legitimate way of representing the regions.

**Barua:** -The issue of legitimacy must arise due to the diversity of influence. We held the sub-national workshop in Naivasha, which involved representatives from the grassroots.

**Kimbowe:** -in Uganda, the question on legitimacy keeps on coming and how do we go about it? Do we call all the NGOs? We invited 80 people for the first meeting, but only 35 came, if we wait and ask ourselves the legitimacy question, then we cannot move.

**Nyange:** -On the issue of EcoNews Africa position, we were consulted in Tanzania and Uganda and we both agreed and approved that EcoNews Africa should be the Focal Point. This is not an issue now since we supported them; they have the mandate, capacity to move the process.

We should flag participatory methods, principles of participation and we try and get a different approach on the locals. We can agree on key set of principles on participation- this will be brought up on the emerging issues.

**Davinder:** -On legitimacy, perhaps we confuse this with advocacy i.e. if you are an advocate of an issue, then you speak on behalf of the others. I would like to recognize the

emerging of a new issue in the presentation and this is the impact of globalization since biotechnology is covered in Agenda 21.

**Mr. Mkandla:** - On way Forward, Did the groups discuss the issue of international environmental governance and the coordination of the conventions and also the CSDs and UNEP and what role they play in the scenario?

*Discussions: SADC*

**Aseghedech:** - With regard to HIV, I was missing the issue of prevention, you are only talking about those who have been infected, what are you doing about it. We need to deal with the issue of prevention to break the taboo and this we can draw the experiences from South Africa.

**Nicky:** - I am concerned with some issues that are missing for instance. Looking at the issues that will come up in UNEP, you do not mention Biodiversity, Forests that are elements within the broad agenda of WSSD. Are you planning to include them?

**Davinder:** -The Bredell declaration is very interesting piece of work that underwent to the process and there are a lot of similarities. Some of the issues raised in it will be very uncomfortable to the African governments for example, should the region look at the issues from common positions. We have political systems that reward you with undemocratic positions and I am sure this will be palatable to the governments. There is a lot of homework to do on the emerging papers. We note the failure of the post Rio system to deal with these issues of Agenda 21. This is the beginning of identifying the issue and adopting the latitude and the question of the biosphere etc.

**Mr. Mkandla:** -section 5 of the report is very refreshing. The issue of war, peace has been raised, however what is the effect of war on the environment as witnessed in Sierra Leone and other war torn African countries like Congo and Rwanda? Can we get into consensus to involve both the governments and Civil Society Organizations to stop war on the basis of its effects on the environment? There are specific campaigns currently going on for instance the campaigns on the protection of the Great Apes, on deforestation among many others and these could provide a focus and act as a flagship.

**Mr. Nyange:** -NGOs and government relationships must be examined with care. NGOs are supposed to be watchdogs of what the governments are doing. In Tanzania, the Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) managed to block a multimillion investment because they are independent and this could not happen if there were very close with the government of Tanzania, which was supporting the project. NGOs should not advocate for hostility against the government, but for NGOs working closely, with the governments, then they can be compromised and this will affect their operations

**Dorcas:** -I would like to make an observation on all the reports, the trend here is to bring out what has not worked but aren't there best practices that that we might want to

replicate in Africa where we can use as a showcase to take to Johannesburg. As Civil Society Organizations, We need to identify these.

*Discussions: Central Africa.*

**Edward:** The central question is there national processes in Central Africa or you are working at the regional level only?

**Ms Tindija:** -We work at the national levels and have activities and also the regional but this was a general discussions.

**Edward:** -How do they plan to proceed with the process? Do they have plans to link with the governments at some stage? Or remain NGO process alone?

**Ms Tindija:** -We realized that whatever decision made and activity, there were at the government but not at the NGO levels, we will try to link with the government in the future.

**Ms Tindija:** -The action plan considers the issue of finance and they are going to look for this.

**Nyange:** -Central Africa zone is affected by instability and the movement is difficult, how does this affect your process?

**Ms Tindija:** -This was discussed during our meeting since we had representatives from Rwanda and Burundi and they have come up with a plan of action that will address the issues of war and conflicts.

**Davinder:** -Two new issues that have emerged from the Central African report are Governance and Globalization. Observation on conflicts, the international communities let us down considering the situation that happened in Rwanda i.e. the Principles 24 and 25 of the Rio Declarations are not adhered to always. The resources to save the genocide were not put together. The question that arises from this is, why for instance were some aspects of the Agenda 21 given more attention than others?

*Discussions: Small Island States*

**Mr. Mkandla:** -On disasters, UNEP has come up with a policy on disasters and a paper has come out called "Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Response". This paper is important since it is going to be discussed at the 22<sup>nd</sup> UNEP Governing Council in 2003. Secondly, the question of Small Island States being affected by the activities on the continents, There will be a conference to review the effects of Land Based Activities on the Seas and Coastal Marines. The NGOs should look and participate at their conference.

Third point on the Environmental Vulnerability Index-UNEP is working on this for the SIS and you might want to check on this so that you engage the government as well. In order to get these papers, NGOs should need to check on accreditation to the UN e.g. UNEP sends all these papers to all the accredited NGOs.

*Discussions: Ethiopia*

**Aseghedech:** -State what those who are working in the government and have supported this process e.g. the.

**Million:** -We have the blessing of the governments.

**Edward:** -How was the report written?

**Million:** - In every meeting, there were paper presentations which was followed by debates where people discussed all the five Chapters and this was shared again.

**Edward:** -In connection with influencing the Governments does the process of influencing the government going to be a continuous process after the Johannesburg conference?

**Million:** -There is a time limit for the government and the right place for us was there and after that they submit their reports and stop.

**Davinder:** - We must differentiate the different sections of the government since we are talking about the state. What of where the governments are violating the agreements. There are independent bodies that are constituted in the state. Do the CSOs need where they can influence. This meeting should differentiate the state into organs and develop different strategies with the sections of the states.

We must target different parts of the state and it seems all the participants direct their collaboration with the Ministries of Environment.

**Nicky:** -African NGOs should now be able to identify which areas they have capacity to influence and where. There are the issues of capacity and lobbying and we should not take this for granted. How can we learn from each other and use the experiences of our colleagues who have been in the process for a longer time.

**Dr. Isooba:**-On the question of the time to stop the influence on the government, this time of preparation has been a godsend opportunity and we should not leave it after the preparations.

**Muraguri:** - I have a question; the report was written and presented to the government. Are the NGOs in Ethiopia satisfied that their issues have been taken up in the report?

**Million:** -We can do whatever we can do at this time. Secondly, we have a future plan to influence the government with whatever outcome we produce. We are recognized as a leading NGO in influencing the government. At this juncture we cannot do anything, but we shall be able to follow up.

**Annabel:**-there is a limit towards influencing the government and we have to see how much we can influence the African position and the NGOs should know what we want in the African Position, we may not have another chance where we can be able to influence the African position.

We are considering the political opportunity and identify a team of people to help us identify the strategic approaches towards the WSSD

***Mr. Solomzi Madikane from South Africa Moderated this Session.***

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## **STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE AFRICAN REGIONAL PREPCOM AND INCLUSION OF THE NGO REPORT INTO THE AFRICAN COMMON POSITION (ACP) PAPER.**

### **Strategy Development.**

The session Moderator Ms Dorcas Otieno observed that the purpose of the Strategy Development was to achieve the following;

- ❖ Give the NGOs a framework to participate at the Ministerial meeting during the African Regional PrepCom.
- ❖ Discuss the issues that have already emerged.
- ❖ It was suggested that the discussions should follow a three-point strategy by looking at the papers and reports. The question of globalization has spread out more and it affects all the issues in Agenda 21. Last area is looking towards the approach to Johannesburg-pull out the principles that are emerging from all the reports and having lined up these issues, how do we prioritize these issues?

It was noted that the Rio outcomes had a number of commitments and declarations-reduce poverty and also to restore deteriorating ecosystems. The participants recommended that the group should pull together what has emerged in all the sub-regional presentations and come up with a common agenda. The governments will take a balance sheet on what has been going on since 1992.

Nicky observed that we need to synthesize all the issues that have arisen from the reports and include the unique issues from various regions.

We could look into what is expected of us in the process and tie these to the time frames, a strategy of implementing the outputs within the time.

### **Key Issues**

Participants then went into an exercise of identifying some of the key issues considered to be very important and the following were the Issues identified;

1. Poverty reduction
2. Capacity Building
3. Biodiversity
4. Trade and food security.
5. HIV AIDS
6. Globalization
7. Land degradation
8. Conflict resolution-refugee problem
9. Energy & climate change
10. Financing for sustainable development

However, it was noted that different parts of the Africa have different concerns that are very important and therefore, the meeting was requested to only consider the principles

that override all these themes for instance the question of good governance underpins all the issues and it would be easy to develop a framework. All these issues are concerned with what is taking place and it is safe to set some common latitudes that look at the assessments of the progress and the setbacks in the implementations of the outcomes from Rio.

In discussing the Positioning African Agenda, participants agreed that there should be Principles to consider in harmonizing the African Thematic areas. It was noted that this is important that the group come up with a framework on how NGOs are going to input into forthcoming conferences and PrepComs. In order to do this effectively, NGOs need common values and principles. This is all related to the issue of coordination, which are going to be region specific, country specific etc. NGOs should focus on a common formula on how they are going to proceed with the WSSD preparations locally and regionally.

At this juncture, it was agreed that the meeting divides itself into groups and the Group discussion to focus on the following issues;

- Answer the question of how far NGOs have come since Rio by doing an appraisal of the achievements of Agenda 21 as well as discuss the inputs to the CSD in January 2002 These should look at all the key areas that Rio agreed i.e. to what extent is the promise that human beings are at the center on development realized.
- Develop a CSO Road Map to Johannesburg (WSSD), the group will generate an African approach to Johannesburg; NGOs should not be reactive but proactive. Hence start from a premise and then move forward since it is not possible to discuss all these issues.
- The most important thing is the African approach to Johannesburg and to prepare for the African Caucus meeting. Set up a roadmap to the Johannesburg and consider the events ahead.
- The meeting of the African caucus and the outputs, which should include the immediate input into the ministerial segment as well as the pan African meeting. How do we relate the principles to the process? How are we going to deal with the immediate inputs e.g. the African Ministerial session?

## **GROUP REPORTS**

### **Group II: Structural and Financial Constraints to Sustainable Development in Africa.**

Ms Michelle Pressend did the reporting for Group II. She reported that the group agreed on the following issues as structural and financial constraints to sustainable development in Africa;

1. Finance-Developed Countries committed to give 0.7 % of the GDP to developing countries towards sustainable development, but this was not done
2. Governance In Africa, the role of the United Nations, regional organizations and governmental bodies.
3. Capacity for implementation of the Agenda 21 was lacking.
4. Peace and conflict resolution in Africa
5. Civil society participation
6. Debt cancellation
7. HIV AIDS
8. Trade
9. Globalization

### **Recommendations.**

These were the recommendations made by the Group on overcoming structural and financial constraints to sustainable development in Africa.

- Strong international compliance and enforcement mechanisms.
- Debt cancellation
- Strong links between trade and environment
- Strong commitment for financing sustainable development.
- Review and restructure international governance and the UN system in terms of decision making and encourage peace
- Strengthen governments to play a key role in development.
- System to involve major groups

### **Group I: An African CSO Road Map to WSSD in Johannesburg**

Philip Osano did the reporting for Group II. He reported that the Roadmap to WSSD was prepared on the basis of the need to consolidate a common African Regional position. The Roadmap looks at key events and major activities before the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and how the civil society can have maximum input into these events.

#### **A. Official UN PrepComs to Earth Summit 2002.**



#### *African Regional PrepCom*

The African Regional PrepCom will be a High Level African Ministerial Session. It is to be held from 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October 2001 in Nairobi. Among the issues for discussions are to Develop an African Ministerial Paper (The African Common Position) and hence the need to develop a civil society position on the African Ministerial position. (NGO report attached as annex I)

#### *Global PrepCom II (CSD 10)*

The second Global PrepCom will be held in New York from 28<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2002. The PrepCom will do a review of Agenda 21 and it will also be the first session of Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Session involving discussions between the civil society (Major Groups) and government. Major groups have been requested to submit reports before 1<sup>st</sup> December 2001 to the CSD secretariat in New York.

#### *Global PrepCom III (CSD 10)*

The third Global PrepCom will be held in New York from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2001.

#### *Global PrepCom IV*

The Global PrepCom IV will be held in May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002 in Indonesia. It will be a High Level Ministerial Session and will discuss the following issues;

- Future priorities and partnership approaches
- Making globalization work
- Technological changes
- Social economic issues.

Because of the above issues, this particular PrepCom was identified as being very critical for the NGOs and Civil society groups since it is also the last High Level Ministerial session before the Johannesburg Summit

## **B. Other-Official Meetings**

#### *Rome + 5 (The Food Summit)*

The World Food Summit +5 will be held in November 2001 in Italy. It will do a Review of outcome of 1996 food summit

#### *WTO Ministerial Conference*

The WTO Ministerial meeting will be held in November 2001 in Doha, republic of Qatar. It will discuss the following issues;

- Economic globalization
- Trade
- Finance
- Intellectual property rights

#### *Bonn Water Conference*

The Bonn water conference will be held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2001 in Germany. The conference serves as a preparatory step on freshwater issues for the WSSD. The main objectives are as follows;

- To develop recommendations for the summit on water and sustainable development issues building on the progress achieved in the implementation of Chapter 18 of Agenda 21
- Identifying the remaining obstacles and define necessary actions
- Further aims to contribute to the fulfillment of the water related international development targets

#### *Financing for Development Conference*

The conference will be held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2002 in Monterrey Mexico and will be attended by the Heads of States and Governments from all over the world. The conference will discuss the following issues;

- Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development
- Mobilizing international private resources for development
- International trade as an engine for growth and development
- Sustainable debt financing
- Revitalizing ODA and Commitments for the North
- Strengthening the role of the UN

### **C.Civil Society Preparatory Events**

#### *Nairobi meeting (on going)*

- Exposing the roadmap to develop it comprehensively
- Start preparations toward participation at PrepCom IV in Indonesia.
- Multi stakeholders dialogue forum at PrepCom II in January 2002. (Proposal that the deadline for December be extended and the South African NGO Caucus team take a lead in coordinating the NGO report preparation)

#### *Pan African Conference*

The Pan African Conference will be 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2001. Issues are still under more discussions on expectations and improvement on content

#### *Southern Summit.*

The Southern Summit will be held in Algiers at dates to be determined in January 2002

#### *UNEP Global Youth Forum*

The Forum will be held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002 in Denmark and it will develop an International Youth Statement to the WSSD

#### *World Social Forum*

### **Group III: CSO Input into The African Ministerial Statement.**

Mr. Oupa Lehulere did this report on behalf of the other group members. The group was charged with the task of looking at what to input into the Ministerial meeting from the civil society perspectives. The Group first did a Summary of the African Ministerial Statement and identified the following overriding issues.

#### From Rio to Johannesburg

The ministerial statement included a restatement of Rio principles, an African position for Rio 92 where the major issues for Africans included; Reverse underdevelopment, Rapid rate of environmental deterioration, which is as a result of economic inequality and Mainstreaming of gender

#### The statement goes on and does an Assessment of development in Post Rio years

Including the commitments by the governments to enhance Support of good governance. It notes that although Globalization provides opportunities, most countries especially in Africa continue to be marginalized due to Lack of access to markets and therefore, despite increased efforts, progress is slow. The document also revisits the Earth Charter Among the Priority issues in the statement is that any good global programme for sustainable development must address poverty as a condition to the success.

It also noted the New African Initiative (NAI) as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development.

Mr. Oupa reported that the civil society put forward the following list as points of intervention to the ministerial statement;

- HIV/AIDS-resource allocation and patenting issue, access to medication
- Debt cancellation
- Government responsibility to service delivery and they cannot abdicate this to private services.
- Participatory democratic culture
- Globalization is a threat to Sustainable Development
- Mainstreaming of the major 'marginalized' groups i.e. youth, disabled and indigenous people
- Develop a Pan African model of economic liberation.
- Promotion of paradigm shift from macro-economic stabilization to models of development
- Need to form strategic alliances for Africa
- Relates environment, security nexus with good governance and democracy
- New African initiative is not based on any consultation and did not involve the civil society
- Code of conduct for natural resource exploitation and to use the non-market means of valuing natural resources better
- Initiate better working relations between CSO and governments
- Distribution
- Importance of special measures for Small Island States (SIS) missing from ministerial reports.

- Dignity of Africans requires the eradication of dependency on multilateral institutions i.e. World Bank, IMF etc
- Financial speculation is an obstacle to Sustainable Development and that the Tobin tax must be imposed

A Task Force team was selected to work on the issues from the presentations by the groups and develop a Civil Society Position paper for the African PrepCom.

## **PAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON WSSD**

### **Background**

The need for a Pan Africa Conference is brought about by the fact that there is Lack of concerted efforts between the regional NGOs and civil society in Africa, often leading to disjointed efforts between the regional NGOs in their approach to events and activities like the preparations for the WSSD.

Participants observed that there is need to recognize all the efforts that are done at the sub-regional levels and noted that these must be brought together at a Pan-African meeting which will addresses the weaknesses of NGOs. They also noted that the meeting will be very important ahead of the second Global PrepCom in January 2002 to position the African Civil Societies to participate effectively in the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues Sessions. It was further observed that the main issues in Africa with regards to NGOs and CSOs are as follows;

- The New African Initiative, Sustainable Development and participation
- Equity, international solidarity and Sustainable Development
- Poverty
- Promoting Peace and Governance
- Trade and Environment
- Sustainable Development and Globalization

The Pan African conference will therefore aim at bridging the handicaps that may prevent the African NGOs from having a positive influence on the WSSD and also meet the following specific objectives;

- To review the achievements and drawbacks of the Rio summit towards sustainable development in Africa and come up with an African perspective of sustainable development.
- To gain consensus among civil society and NGOs on what issues Africa as a continent should submit to the earth summit in Johannesburg
- To permit the sub-regional civil society initiatives in Africa to come together and consider areas of commonalities and joint platforms

### **Plenary Discussions.**

A suggestion was put forward that the conference be held in Mid-December 2001. The participants observed that It is very important for the conference to take place as soon as possible but the question is "Are we able to prepare for a Pan African conference in two months?" They noted that the general objectives and structure are to be discussed but this is linked with the funding.

Dr Adly said that the timing may not be appropriate for the Islamic nations since the proposed dates will be the second half of Ramadhan hence it will be very difficult for Islamic countries to prepare for the participation in such a conference. He reported that Ramadhan will fall between 15<sup>th</sup> November to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2002.

A clear dialogue among certain Africa networks is needed. How do we ensure participation e.g. between women and youth. There must be proper guidelines prepared for participations

At this juncture, Hans-Peter Dejgaard from the Danish 92 Group requested that the Focal Points clarify where they are with national assessment reports and when they will be ready.

Jan observed that the Pan African conference is an occasion to develop an action oriented strategy so that we can have a clear work plan. Every participant therefore would know his/her role up to the Earth Summit and beyond. He posed the question "Are we building up an African core team?" A concise table of actions is needed detailing what needs to be prepared and by who?

A brief update was done on when the NGOs in every country are expected to be through with the national reports and the outcomes were as follows;

- ❖ Ugandans national report will be ready by 15th January 2002
- ❖ Tanzania national report by March 2002
- ❖ Kenya national report by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2002
- ❖ North Africa country reports should be ready by the end of 2001 and will be followed by a Sub-Regional meeting in January 2002.
- ❖ Mozambique national report out by late March 2002
- ❖ Ethiopia has finalized the first round of consultations with issues that are pertinent in Ethiopia and the report is ready.
- ❖ Central African countries will have the national reports ready by January 2002
- ❖ West Africa In January or March 2002.

Ms Asegedech noted that the Pan African meeting is for setting the political agenda and will not be for evaluating national reports. This is a chance for all stakeholders to make a point. This gives all sub regional activities a chance to come and compile together.

Timing is important. If we can't get together this year next year is out as there are too many PrepComs. From the Heinrich Boll Foundations point of view and logistical consideration, the Pan-African conference was fundraised for 2001. It may not be viable for 2002.

Nicky raised the issue of when Africans shall speak and be visible to a level above talking amongst themselves, something that isn't low key.

Patrick observed that the objectives of the workshop can't work without the individual country reports to enable us to work or justify the discussions

Dr. Adly noted that it is important to know the capacity of our partners. The objectives must be clear. If its history we're evaluating we don't need to prepare. Objective isn't going to Johannesburg but what happens after. The lessons learnt, experiences are important for the future. We have to say exactly what solution we want. The Pan African Conference must be a motivation and not just produce a document and in that sake the Pan African meeting is a very important initiative.

Soli reiterated the fact that the meeting is important and it needs to be clear on how we go about the preparations as well as consider the issue of legitimacy. How do we harness civil society sectors?, Are we going to get equal participation of Multi-Stakeholders?, How do we build social movements among the African community?

He noted that we have to look beyond funding but how do we commit ourselves and what areas are important to prepare our group to ensure a preparatory committee.

According to Ashley, An African conference needs to be shaped by the participants themselves, we don't need to be ashamed that as NGO's we talk more than do anything. We shouldn't bind ourselves to talking about UN documents but that we as civil society want to be the ones to define the issues and the agenda. Perhaps it should happen earlier so that we are prepared as a block.

Peter observed that the last chance to unite and split up UN Agenda is Johannesburg. Johannesburg is the option to go together with one Agenda. Expectations on Africa from the West is on civil society groups and not on Governments.

Million questioned the national preparation issue. The Pan African meeting should be as soon as possible. He recommended that the meeting be held towards the end of December

Mbekar note with appreciation on the work being done by NGOs. After 21 years African are serious, speak in languages of youth and women. He suggested that the conference be held between the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of December when Ramadhan is over. Africans are shy and must speak out on political issues. What has made bridging difficult is movement especially because of finance

Edward reminded the meeting that it shouldn't be construed that the conference closes a chapter on any Pan African meetings and gatherings but it is an initiation of a process. It is quite critical to come up with views that are creative and positions that capture aspirations of people on sustainable development. We must find time and resources to consult with the people as widely as possible. The general objective could be addressed from a political point. Let's not lose sight that the national consultative process must go on and shouldn't be hampered by the Pan African meeting.

Nzwana observed that National processes is important and the Pan African meeting will not counter the national preparations but will instead should strengthen Sub Regional and national processes. There is no reason not to have another Pan African meeting next year

Some participants observed that the main concern is how do we make a follow up of all the issues we are discussing and how do we ensure implementation?

At this juncture, there were discussions on the role of Central Africa since the sub-region feels isolated from the process in terms of finance, sub regional processes.

Edward noted that there is need to create political space so that when we're all ready with national positions Africans can then have a full-fledged political Pan African meeting.

The meeting stressed the urgent need for setting up coordination mechanisms for the conference including the way forward and main issues concerning the logistics and participation.

Regarding the Contents of the conference, Ali remarked that the discussions should focus broadly on the Agenda that we need for the conference but the coordinators will sharpen the finer details.

### **Conference Objectives**

Discussions emerged on some of the would be objectives of the Pan African Conference and participants gave the following suggestions;

- This is going to be a political Agenda aimed at creating political space. It should therefore address such questions as how we can influence governments and other policy-making bodies. African Civil society groups need a common way of approaching this since in Agenda 21, Chapter 27, implores that governments and CSOs come up with mechanisms of working together.
- Zoli felt that African NGOs need to redefine the role of African civil society, by looking at what are the challenges since new social movements are emerging and these are influencing the political processes .we must define what we want to achieve e.g. on lobbying, the CSO is a part alongside the trade unions and the governments. We need to understand what is our strategic intervention.
- Participants also felt the need for a redefinition of sustainable development from an African perspective and delegates were referred to look at the conclusions from the African Forum for Strategic Thinking Towards Earth Summit 2002 and beyond held at the Safari Park Hotel in September 2001.
- Zwala suggested that the conference should also consider for discussion, the whole determination of the development agenda, who determines the development agenda for Africa and how do we find room to participate. In response, Mr. Zuka noted that the CSO groups have to criticize and also come up with alternative solutions that can work.
- It was agreed that one of the main arguments that tilted the decision for the conference to be held this year, is that the conference should take the opportunity to determine how we are going to influence the events next year.
- Participants also recommended that African success stories should be documented and put in print so that we do not focus on failures only and forgetting that there are best practices which have worked in many African countries.
- Jan remarked that the approaches to develop the content should discuss the different issues that are being raised here. On the process, it is very vital that the end, we discuss the contents but we also find the key demands in which we are going to lobby the governments even at the PrepComs. This will mean that the outcome is concrete enough.
- Yvonne suggested that the conference should discuss the issues of Globalization. She observed that this should be raised since they are not working for Africa and it is imperative to find if it is possible to get an alternative to it.



- Peter reflected on the important issue of the Road Map and the concern of the North for the tight timetable for the preparations. He observed that there is also acute lack of political Agenda in the WSSD process noting that only 40 weeks is remaining to the WSSD and the time is extremely limited. As of now, there are no clear political Agenda on what the Heads of States and Governments are going to agree upon during the WSSD. He noted that only the speeches by the government's especially that of South Africa have given some indications on what may be going on at the Highest Governmental level. He warned that unless we provide the political Agenda, it is likely that many Heads of States will not go to South Africa for the WSSD. We need to create a political Agenda as soon as possible and this could be part of what the Pan-African conference should target at achieving. He reported that The Denmark government presented a New deal called the 'Global Deal' and there is an urgent need to construct a political proposal together both Europe and Africa. The northern NGOs are ready and willing to build a civil society deal with the counterparts in Africa and Latin America.

On coordination, the participants agreed that there is need to determine who participates and how is this going to be done. It was suggested that a Task Force be constituted to work on the Agenda on the content and venue. On the venue, there should have a focal point, which should not be South Africa. Michelle suggested that we need an African focal point in addition to a Political Steering Committee to push forward the political Agenda.

Ms Aseghedeche reported that most of these had been discussed when the South African NGO Steering Committee was in Nairobi and now we have a very short time remaining and therefore to form a task force or committee is not effective. There must be somebody doing the logistics and the content. The meeting has to decide here today that the person who is going to organize this conference will contact everybody. S/he must know the materials and the process. Logistics take a lot of time and you cannot be involved. Somebody is going to be paid for that, but everybody must decide on the content. The logistics should be left out.

She reported that on Coordination HBF is going to hire a consultant who knows the whole issue of Rio + 10. HBF will provide the computer, the office but the content will be done by the African group and suggested that a team of about three people should be identified who will work closely with the Coordinator on developing the content.

Most participants felt that the secretariat should be outside the HBF offices, support could be given to some of the NGOs in Nairobi to act as the secretariat. It was reported that a similar arrangement is happening in Egypt and this is a Pan African meeting and the same should be done.

Yvonne recommended that the group need to give the mandate to the Kenya National Steering Committee to organize the Pan African Conference.

Mr. Rajan supported Yvonne on the issue adding that HBF is not going to intervene in all this. They are simply providing a space but the National Steering Committee in Kenya is a good proposal. Mr. Barua echoed the same call. He suggested that the Coordinator for the Kenya process should play a major role in the coordination of the Pan Africa Conference.

Mr. Nyange noted that the National Focal Point in Kenya has the capacity to do the Coordination and Nairobi is the central place to organize the conference. It is proper that the Kenyans are going to be the host and HBF will facilitate this.

## **THE INTERNATIONAL NGO COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

This presentation was done by Soli Madikane from South African. He gave a background of the proposed International Steering Group (ISG)

### **International Steering Group (ISG)**

He reported that the ISG is to be formed to play a governance and leadership role over the process of planning (global agenda) for leading up to the Global Civil Society Forum of the WSSD in Johannesburg, September 2002. He noted that the ISG will provide checks and balances with respect to the work of the secretariat taking into the account engagement of all civil society NGOs participation in all regional formations.

He reported that the ISG shall exercise its governance and leadership role with respect to both the content as well as the logistical and practical organizational dimensions of the secretariats work. The ISG shall ensure that there is dialogue between north and south related to content issues, establish a democratic process in relation to the summit

### **Formation and process**

Soli reported that representations to the ISG will be drawn from all regional formations namely; (Europe & North America, Africa, America Caribbean, West Asia, Asia Pacific) each region is expected to have three (3) representatives and shall determine its leadership

### **Criteria**

Soli put forward some suggested criteria for the ISG as follows;

- Representatives be drawn from all regional formations of the CSD
- To consist of a balance of NGOs (Cross sectors, including international NGOs) from the North and South
- Embrace a firm democratic process that allows a conducive environment for dialogue.
- Experience and long proven experience and background in sustainable development issues.
- Commitment and investment of time, resources and energy into the process leading to the summit itself.

### **Functions**

Some of the functions of the ISG will include;

- Set procedures and guidelines to be followed in receiving inputs and content from regions and countries
- Follow up and monitor the implementation of guidelines to ensure equity in participation and issue identification
- Constantly review whether the objectives of the summit as set out by the UNs mandate are being properly pursued and where necessary engage the secretariat on this matter

- Provide advice and inputs as requested by the secretariat towards the build up and successful implementation of the Global forum including an assessment and critical path of the ISG towards the summit
- Discuss and make recommendations as to the balance between the range of issues to be addressed in the programme/agenda including the programme of action for the Global event

### **Powers**

The ISG may;

- Request the secretariat to account/explain/defend particular decisions; the form of such accounting may be in written form or in verbal reports in the course of ISG meetings
- May act as an appeal body for groups who feel their issues and concerns are not being sufficiently incorporated, this appeal function will only last until 60 days before the start of the summit.
- Make its own evaluative report available at the end of the summit if it so wishes
- Decide on the agenda, resource people and programme relevant workshop, side events in relation to thematic issues) for global events
- Develop a collectively owned NGO Resolution emanating from the proceedings of the NGO global event to be tabled in the official session of the UN in Sandton

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

The closing remarks were made by Dr Emad Adly from the RAED/AOYE, in Egypt

Dr Adly said that he was very pleased that the meeting has reached almost all the objectives and all the participants need to use the experiences, knowledge from the different countries in order to pursue whatever has been decided on.

He thanked the Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF) On behalf of everybody else, as well as all for the participation and the contribution, which was useful.

He challenged the group to continue working together even at the UNEP meeting and ahead. He expressed hope that the support and partnership with HBF will continue even after the Earth Summit 2002 and beyond.

## **ANNEXES:**

### **Annex I: AN AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY POSITION**

#### **REPORT OF THE AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM IN NAIROBI, KENYA ON 15<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2001**

#### **AN AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY POSITION TO THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL PREPCOM IN PREPARATION TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, JOHANNESBURG, SEPTEMBER 2002**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) takes place at a time of serious environmental, political, social, and economic crisis for Africa, and indeed for the world in general.

After years of unrestricted abuse of the environment, pollution, erosion of biodiversity and skewed development in favour of the north, we now face the prospects of serious environmental disaster. This is manifested by global warming, climate change, accelerated deforestation and desertification, and the pollution of oceans and communities. This crisis poses a threat to millions of livelihoods and indeed to life itself on earth.

The environmental crisis now threatening our future is as a result of the accelerated social devastation now gripping our continent and the world. Hunger, poverty and diseases are on the increase, unemployment, inequality within and between nations has widened, and social tensions are on the rise. On the other hand, environmental degradation in turn compounds the impoverishment of the African people.

Economic crisis, stagnation and sometimes disintegration of African economies have now become a permanent feature of our landscape in Africa. Years of externally imposed structural adjustment programmes have failed to deliver the promise of growth and development. To the contrary, African terms of trade have worsened; we face accelerated de-industrialization and the continents economic infrastructure is deteriorating rapidly. External debt continues to be a crushing burden on the African economies and people. More resources now flow out of the continent in excess of investment flows into the continent. The promise made in Rio of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) equal to 0.7% of the GDP of developed countries has never been realized

While we are convinced that the crisis of our continent is not fully of our own making, we point out the important fact that a long history of autocratic governments, corruption, greed, patronage and violation of human rights by the ruling elites has contributed to the crisis now being faced by the continent. The lack of prioritization for resource allocation is cause for concern. Rising social tensions and the self-interests of the ruling elites and

foreign commercial interests have fuelled the continent's wars. Insecurity, political and social instability have deepened Africa's environmental and development crisis.

We acknowledge that it has become crucial for Africa to recognize the relationship between security, human development and the environment in our continent. It is however equally important for us to recognize that issues of security and the environment are inextricably intertwined with those of democratic governance. Security and the restoration of the integrity of the environment cannot be realized without democratic and participatory government.

Whereas the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 represented brave and laudable attempts to address the twin challenges of poverty and ecological disasters, the world's leaders have failed to rise to the challenge. Lack of implementation, *meager* resource allocation, unequal allocation of resources between north and the south, and the absence of political will, have undermined the promise of the Earth Summit.

We note that the New African Initiative (NAI) is being promoted as a path of sustainable development for Africa. We draw attention to the fact the NAI did not emerge out of a process of consultation that involved all aspects of civil society. This goes against a culture and practice of participatory democracy. We also note with concern that the NAI has all the aspects of structural adjustment programmes imposed by the Bretton Woods institutions on the continent.

The forces of globalization that have shaped the world and our continent in the last decades have deepened and entrenched poverty, marginalized peoples and nations, and accelerated ecological disintegration. This globalization process has entrenched unequal power relationships between the north and south and has undermined the sovereignty of African nations.

### **OBSTACLES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA.**

In the midst of this crisis, African peoples and governments have faced formidable obstacles in their attempts to promote sustainable development and in the implementation of Agenda 21. The following are some of the problems:

1. Lack of financial resources.
2. Lack of human resource capacity to implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Agenda 21.
3. Commitments and conventions relating to agenda 21 are not legally binding.
4. Lack of technology and knowledge transfer from the north to the south as a result of restrictions placed by new trade regimes e.g. the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs)
5. Decision-making in the international governance system is skewed against Africa and other poor countries.
6. Unfavorable economic and trade conditions imposed by the World Bank, IMF and WTO.

7. High external debt and debt service costs
8. Poor governance (lack of democratic government, human rights abuse and corruption)
9. Inter and intra state conflicts and wars
10. Increase in HIV/AIDs
11. Food insecurity
12. Desertification
13. Poverty (e.g. 60 000 per day get poorer in Africa)
14. Unemployment (lack of quality jobs, loss of skills)
15. Mining exploration and exploitation (e.g. inequitable distribution of mineral wealth and lack of mining policies)
16. Pollution (even at community levels)
17. Lack of basic services (water, health services, education, electricity, and public transport)
18. Lack of access to information and public participation
19. Biotechnology (leading to loss of biodiversity, food production for small scale farmers and loss of indigenous knowledge)
20. Lack of homegrown macro economic policies
21. Lack of sustainable agriculture (pastoralism, chemicals)
22. Somalia situation, where there is no national government.
23. Lack of political will to implement environmental conventions
24. Trade barriers (access to market, terms of trade,
25. Trade in small arms on the continent
26. Environmental degradation and pollution (exploitation of marine resources, desertification, and deforestation), even at community levels
27. North not implementing environmental agreements in Africa

### **THE AFRICA (CIVIL SOCIETY) COMMON POSITION**

Mindful of the crisis facing the continent and the obstacles that stand in the way of the implementation of Agenda 21, we call upon the African governments to unite with their people and rise to the challenges facing Africa today. We note with concern that the Draft African Ministerial Statement – “Towards a New Culture of International Partnership” - to be discussed in Nairobi on 17 to 18 October 2001 has serious omissions and oversights. We call on the Ministers to take practical action and to incorporate the following proposals in the African Common Position to the WSSD:

1. The need to put HIV/AIDS high on Africa’s agenda and in particular to allocate sufficient resources to fight this scourge. Patent laws need to be reviewed in order to facilitate access to medication.
2. Africa’s debt must be cancelled immediately - it is not enough to call for lower debt service costs and debt reduction.

3. African governments must take responsibility for the delivery of public goods and services (social and environment) and protection thereof. Prioritization of needs is essential. Privatization of all services is an abdication of responsibility.
4. Government must develop programmes for poverty eradication, which should include access to land for the landless, food security, decent work, etc.
5. African governments must commit themselves to systems of participatory democracy and eradicating corruption. This means a culture and practice that ensures access to information, justice, and rights to participate in all aspects of decision-making, by launching a negotiation process leading to the adoption of the binding instrument guaranteeing the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.
6. Organized labour must be involved in any effort to change production and consumption patterns  
This also means mainstreaming the major marginalized groups like youth, women, pastoralists, disabled and indigenous people.
7. The process of globalization that is currently underway is a threat to sustainable development. African governments must unite with their people, and with other progressive forces all over the world to combat globalization and its effects.
8. African governments must commit themselves to join with their people to develop a pan- African model of development.  
These models must include the adoption of measures to end financial speculation, like the Tobin Tax.
9. African leaders and governments must recognize civil society as partners, and initiate a process of forming strategic alliances with forces from other parts of the world that are committed to a people-centered development.
10. Mobilize to resolve all wars and conflict on the continent and mobilize for democratic governments and governance.
11. Although youth form the majority on the continent, it is of concern that youth issues have been omitted in the African Ministerial position. Governments must recognize and acknowledge the role of young people. Governments must create and enhance mechanisms for greater involvement of young people in all aspects of sustainable development. Youth must also be seen as instrumental in promoting peace in areas of civil strife.
12. Call on all African governments to open up discussions on NAI immediately by involve civil society, organized labour and other major groups



13. Processes to clean up and care for the environment should involve all organs of civil society.
14. Africa must develop and implement Codes of Conduct for the utilization of the natural resources of the continent. These Codes of Conduct must develop and promote the use of non-market means of valuing the continent's natural resources. All existing policies should also conform to the Codes of Conduct.
15. We note with concern that the Draft Ministerial Statement does not address the special developmental needs of Small Islands States, Somalia and others. This is a grave omission, and the African Common Position needs to address this issue.
16. We recognize that existing trade regimes are skewed in favour of the north and multi-national corporations (MNCs), which has resulted in the collapse of commodities prices and has created other problems. Government must call for trade regimes that will protect the development needs of the Africa and encourage pan African trade and improvement of cross border infrastructure.
17. Governments must ratify international conventions and immediately develop national strategies/regulations for the implementation and enforcement of conventions, such as the Biosafety Convention, The Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), Kyoto Protocol, International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention, including codes on intellectual property rights.
18. African government must develop strategies and codes to facilitate the transfer of environment friendly technologies on terms favourable to the development of Africa. The existing technology and knowledge regimes must be changed.
19. The south must be proactive in setting its own environmental agenda, rather than being reactive to the global agenda.

### **COMMITMENTS OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

*As Civil Society, we commit to:*

1. Work with government as partners in sustainable development
2. Strengthen civil society through networking and information sharing
3. Forming partnerships with other role players in sustainable development
4. Promote professionalism amongst all Civil Society
5. Better co-ordinate Civil Society involvement

6. Promote cross-pollination of diverse Civil Society organisations

**CONCLUSION**

The restoration of the dignity of the African people requires that Africa end her dependency on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. These institutions have brought untold harm to the continent and her people, and have played a singular role in the impoverishment of the African continent.

We welcome an acknowledgement in the ministerial statement that Gender inequality is an obstacle to sustainable development. Africa must translate this acknowledgement into a real commitment by allocating sufficient resources to the promotion of gender equality, and immediately address the serious lag in gender mainstreaming at all levels.

The WSSD should be used as benchmarks for governments to establish key performance indicators to commit themselves to implement safe minimum living standards necessary for ensuring quality of life and environmental quality for all, especially the poor.

**A decade of INACTION IS OVER, It is now time for ACTION!!**

## **Annex II: Programme**

### **PROGRAMME FOR THE AFRICAN NGO CAUCUS MEETING AT PAN-AFRIC HOTEL ON 12<sup>TH</sup> –14<sup>TH</sup>, OCTOBER 2001.**

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**Saturday: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2001.**

1.45 – 2.00 PM Registration

#### **Section 1**

*Moderator Mr. Edward Alitsi, Chairman, Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum*

2.00 – 2.15 PM: Welcome Remarks Aseghedech Ghirmazion, Director, HBF-  
Regional Office for East & the Horn of Africa.

2.15 – 2.45 PM: Keynote Address- Coordination & Networking at the Regional  
level (Dr. Strike Mkandla)

2.45 - 3.00 PM: Davinder Lamba,  
Executive Director, Mazingira Institute.  
Short input from the Conference on Sustainable Development,  
Governance and Globalization, An African Forum for Strategic  
Thinking Towards the Earth Summit 2002 and Beyond.

#### **Section 2**

*Moderator, Solomzi Madikane, Executive Head: International process WSSD –Civil  
society secretariat, South Africa.*

3.00 PM –4.00 PM: Sub-Regional Reports

- West Africa.
- Southern Africa
- Eastern Africa
- Central Africa
- North Africa

4.00 - 4.15 PM: Tea Break

4.15-5.00 PM: continuation of Sub-Regional Reports

5.00-6.00 PM: discussions, pulling together recommendations towards a common position for final development and legitimacy in Pan African Conference)

**Sunday: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2001**

**Session I:**

*Moderator, Ms Dorcas Otieno, Kenya*

9.00 – 10.00 AM: Recap of Key issues from the previous day/ Discussion.

10.00 – 10.30 AM: Tea Break.

**Session II:**

*Moderator, Nicky Nzioki, CREUMHS, Kenya*

10.00 - 1.00 PM: Strategy Development for Participation in the African Regional PrepCom and inclusion of the NGO report into the African Common Position (ACP) Paper.

1.00 - 2.00 PM: Lunch

**Session III**

*Moderator, Nicky Nzioki, CREUMHS, Kenya*

2.00-4.00 PM: -Review of the Agenda for the African PrepCom  
-Way forward

4.00 - 4.30 PM: Tea Break

4.30 - 5.00 PM: Closing

**Annex III: List of Participants.**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.**

**The African Caucus meeting  
13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> October 2001, Pan-Afric Hotel Nairobi, Kenya.**

<b>NO</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>
1	Patrick Muraguri	Africa 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	Kenya	<a href="mailto:africa@alphanet.co.ke">africa@alphanet.co.ke</a>
2	Rajen Awotar	MAUDESCO	Mauritius	<a href="mailto:maudesco@intnet.mu">maudesco@intnet.mu</a>
3	Njogu Barua	ECONEWS AFRICA	Kenya	<a href="mailto:enbarua@yahoo.com">enbarua@yahoo.com</a>
4	Philip Osano	UNEP Youth Advisory Council	Kenya	<a href="mailto:mcosano@yahoo.com">mcosano@yahoo.com</a>
5	Jacob Muli	CREUMHS	Kenya	<a href="mailto:mulijm@yahoo.co.uk">mulijm@yahoo.co.uk</a>
6	Mbekar Daniel	Huma Multi Purpose Women Group	Kenya	<a href="mailto:aorachak@yahoo.com">aorachak@yahoo.com</a>
7	Davinder Lamba	MAZINGIRA INSTITUTE	Kenya	
8	A. Ghirmazion	HBF	Kenya	<a href="mailto:nairobi@hbfa.com">nairobi@hbfa.com</a>
9	Angire Geoffrey	HBF	Kenya	<a href="mailto:ngire2002@yahoo.co.uk">ngire2002@yahoo.co.uk</a>
10	Strike Mkandla	UNEP	Kenya	
11	Mildred Mkandla	EARTHCARE Africa	Kenya	<a href="mailto:ecaf2002@yahoo.co.uk">ecaf2002@yahoo.co.uk</a>
12	Kowalzig Jan	HBF	Kenya	<a href="mailto:jan.kowalzig@foeeurope.org">jan.kowalzig@foeeurope.org</a>
13	Soli Madikane	WSSD Civil Society Secretariat	South Africa	<a href="mailto:soli@worldsummit.org.za">soli@worldsummit.org.za</a>
14	Nzwana Kanco	WSSD Civil Society Secretariat	South Africa	<a href="mailto:nzwana@rdsn.org.za">nzwana@rdsn.org.za</a>
15	Oupa Lehulere	WSSD Civil Society Secretariat	South Africa	<a href="mailto:searatoa@netactive.co.za">searatoa@netactive.co.za</a>
16	Michele Pressend	GEM	South Africa	<a href="mailto:michele@gem.org.za">michele@gem.org.za</a>
17	Edward Alitsi	ELCI	Kenya	
18	Juliet Nduta	WYOCC	Kenya	<a href="mailto:zinduta@yahoo.com">zinduta@yahoo.com</a>
19	Yvonne Khamati	WYOCC	Kenya	<a href="mailto:wyocc@avu.org">wyocc@avu.org</a>
20	Paul Murungah	First Rank	Kenya	<a href="mailto:pmurungah@yahoo.com">pmurungah@yahoo.com</a>
21	Hans Peter Dejgaard	Danish 92 Group	Denmark	<a href="mailto:hp@Rio10.DK">hp@Rio10.DK</a>
22	Annabel Waititu	ELCI	Kenya	<a href="mailto:elci@alphanet.co.ke">elci@alphanet.co.ke</a>

23	Dorcas Otieno	KOEE	Kenya	<a href="mailto:sika@kenyaweb.com">sika@kenyaweb.com</a> <a href="mailto:berylotieno@yahoo.com">berylotieno@yahoo.com</a>
24	Kimbowa Richard	Joint Energy & Environment Project	Uganda	<a href="mailto:jeep@imul.com">jeep@imul.com</a>
25	Nyange Francis	JET	Tanzania	<a href="mailto:jet@africaonline.tz.co">jet@africaonline.tz.co</a>
26	Nicky Nzioki	CREUMHS	Kenya	
27	Huha Chege	HBF	Kenya	
28	Jeanne-Marie Tindja	GRAMUE/REFADD	Cameroun	<a href="mailto:jmindja@yahoo.fr">jmindja@yahoo.fr</a>
29	Hailu Nega	CRDA	Ethiopia	
30	Million Belay	FFE	Ethiopia	<a href="mailto:millionbelay@yahoo.com">millionbelay@yahoo.com</a>
31	Yonad Yohannes	FFE	Ethiopia	
32	Khulu Mbongo	CS Indaba-Youth	South Africa	<a href="mailto:khulu@nedlac.org.za">khulu@nedlac.org.za</a>
33	Omeno Suji	Africa 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	Kenya	<a href="mailto:sujisus@yahoo.com">sujisus@yahoo.com</a>
34	Amade Suka	UNAC-CORE Group SADC	Mozambique	<a href="mailto:UNACADvacacla@teledata.mz">UNACADvacacla@teledata.mz</a>
35	Ashley-Green Thompson	SANGOCO	South Africa	<a href="mailto:ashley@sangoco.org.za">ashley@sangoco.org.za</a>
36	Joseph Migwi	HBF	Kenya	
37	Isooba Moses	Uganda Wildlife Society	Uganda	<a href="mailto:uws@imul.com">uws@imul.com</a>
38	Kesete Abraha	HBF	Kenya	<a href="mailto:kesete@hbfha.com">kesete@hbfha.com</a>
39	Dennis Roisschaert	UNEP	Belgium	
40	Dorothy Kagwa	Environmental Alert	Uganda	<a href="mailto:ewalert@imul.com">ewalert@imul.com</a>
41	Tom O. Onyango	Huma Multi Purpose Women Group	Kenya	<a href="mailto:otomondi@yahoo.co.uk">otomondi@yahoo.co.uk</a>
42	Frank Msafiri	NCCD-Kenya	Kenya	<a href="mailto:fmsafiri@hotmail.com">fmsafiri@hotmail.com</a>
43	Eloma Ikoeri	FES/REFADD	DR Congo	<a href="mailto:hpeloma@yahoo.fr">hpeloma@yahoo.fr</a>
44	Ali Hersi	SALTICK	Kenya	<a href="mailto:ahersi1700@yahoo.com">ahersi1700@yahoo.com</a>
45	Emad Adly	RAED/AOYE	Egypt	<a href="mailto:aoye@link.net">aoye@link.net</a>