

**AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS:  
CONSOLIDATING THE REGIONAL AGENDA TOWARDS WSSD AND BEYOND**

8<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> January 2002  
Nairobi Safari Club, Nairobi Kenya

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
(DRAFT VERSION)**

Organized by:

Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum  
WSSD Civil Society Secretariat-Africa Desk (South Africa)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum and the WSSD Civil Society Secretariat (Africa Desk) in collaboration with the Sub-Regional Focal Points for Eastern Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa and the Small Island States of the Indian Ocean held the conference titled “*African Conference Of Civil Society Organizations: Consolidating The Regional Agenda Towards WSSD And Beyond*”

The conference, which was sponsored by the Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF), was held at the Nairobi Safari Club from 8<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and was attended by 107 participants from 28 countries. Representatives from UNEP, Danish 92 Group, Heinrich Boll Foundation, the Government of Kenya and the Libyan Embassy participated as observers. The Kenyan Minister for Environment & Natural Resources, Hon Joseph J. Kamotho, officially opened it.

The conference was a follow-up to the African NGO Caucus meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya from 12<sup>th</sup> –14<sup>th</sup> October 2001 prior to the African Regional PrepCom for WSSD. The objectives of the conference were to; strengthening of African civil society organizations, the development of a common African Civil society position in the context of WSSD and beyond and finally the development of a strategy for African civil society’s engagement and participation in the WSSD process.

The following are some of the key highlights of the issues of discussions during the conference:

1. Poverty eradication constitutes the greatest challenge for African states, being more than ever deeply entrenched and economic disparities widening by the day between and within the nations
2. The need for Africans to be in charge of all the decisions affecting the continent and put to an end the numerous foreign concepts which are incompatible with the potential of Africa to realize sustainable development
3. The need for African civil society organizations to have strategic inputs into the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (Nepad) which has been adopted by African governments as the vehicle for achievement of long term sustainable development in Africa and a response to addressing the challenges of poverty eradication, debt burden and lack of democratic space.
4. African civil society organizations support globalization of economic, social and cultural relations that promotes the identities and equality of all peoples and strongly oppose the so called “*Washington Consensus*” that breeds neo-liberal and imperialistic economic capitalism
5. The need to bridge the widening gap between talk and action. Although considerable achievements have been realized in the implementation of the outcomes of the UNCED,

sustainable development remains elusive due to emphasis on environmental issues at the expense of social and economic concerns, inadequate infrastructure and insufficient funding

6. The need for integration of the principles of gender and inter-generational equity in the WSSD process

The conference recommended that African Civil society organizations should establish strong partnership and linkages with like-minded partners including African governments, intergovernmental organizations, UN and its agencies and other civil society organizations

- The conference emphasized that agenda 21 embodying the vision of sustainable development cannot be renegotiated and what remains is for the development countries to fulfill their obligations under the UNCED
- The conference elected a 14 person African Civil Society Steering Committee for WSSD charged with the noble task of coordinating and consolidating the African civil society position, agenda and participation in that regard towards and during the WSSD
- The conference discussed and adopted the terms of reference for the Sub-regional focal points and also for the African Civil society Steering Committee
- Reiterated the need for continued involvement of civil society in initiatives on poverty eradication, democratic governance, conflict resolution and prevention, civil rights, globalisation and environmental degradation among other problems afflicting the African continent
- The conference agreed that a follow up Pan African conference be held in April 2002 before the Global PrepCom IV to review CSO position and finalize the preparations for the WSSD Civil Society Forum

## **INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Edward Alitsi, Coordinator for the Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum gave the welcome remarks. He noted that preparations for the WSSD have moved into top gear all over the world and added that civil society organizations are active players in the WSSD process.

Mr. Luyanda Ka Msumza, president of the Civil society Indaba, South Africa talked on the significance of the WSSD for Africa. He remarked that it is an honour for Africa to be part of a process to redefine and define Africa's role in world events today. He congratulated the Kenya NGO Earth summit 2002 Forum for organizing the PAC with very limited resources. Mr. ka Msumza criticized the over-emphasis on conservation of wild animals at the expense of the

welfare of human beings in Africa and recommended that African should take charge of the exploitation of resources in this continent.

Mr. Bakari Kante, representing the UNEP Executive Director, Dr Klaus Toepfer, noted that the conference is important for UNEP because civil society organizations are working at the grassroots and therefore have a better and realistic understanding of the issues relevant to the Africans. He observed that Africa is ill equipped in the competition imposed by globalization and noted that WSSD is set to focus on Sustainable development integrating social and economic aspects as well as environmental aspects. Mr. Kante reported that based on the evaluation done by UNEP from the sub-regional consultations, poverty is at the top of the agenda for Africa. Other cases of importance include the issues of renewable energy, water and health. He challenged civil society organizations to help UNEP define its mandate with regard to Africa within the framework of WSSD.

In his official opening remark, Hon Joseph Kamotho, Minister for Environment & Natural Resources, Republic of Kenya observed that WSSD is not just about environment but about sustainable development as a whole. In addition to discussing issues of preservation of forests, fishing stocks, clean water, climate change, land degradation and desertification, sustainable industrial growth, the summit will also discuss poverty reduction, debt relief, control of killer diseases-HIV/AIDS and educational opportunities.

Hon Kamotho commended the civil society organizations in Africa for the work they are doing and emphasized the need for partnership with governments and all stakeholders in working for sustainable development. He remarked that Kenya is proud as the host country of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the country will do her best to meet the expectations of the global community. He wished the participants successful deliberations and extended the Kenya government's desire to have the next Pan African conference hosted in Nairobi.

## **SESSION I: OPENING OF THE FORUM**

### **Welcome Remarks**

By Edward Alitsi, national Co-ordinator, Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum

Our Chief Guest the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources Honorable Joseph Kamotho, Representative of the Director of UNEP, Mr. Bakary Kante, President of the South Africa Civil Society Organizations (INDABA) Mr. Luyanda Ka Msumza, the Coordinator of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Civil Society Secretariat (Africa Desk) Mr. Nzwana Konco, the Regional Representative for Heinrich Boell Foundation Ms Aseghedech Ghirmazion, members of the Diplomatic Corp, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Kenya National NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum in collaboration with the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) Civil Society Secretariat in South Africa, I

would like to warmly welcome all of you to Kenya and to the Pan African Civil Society Conference.

Over the last one-year, preparations to commemorate ten years since the Rio summit, moved into top gear in various regions of the world. It is a great privilege and honor that Africa has been chosen by the United Nations General Assembly during the year 2000 to host this great event. It is heartening to note that Africa has taken this challenge very seriously by putting in place structures and mechanisms for hosting the WSSD conference and preparing to share with the rest of the world its achievements, challenges and aspirations for the future within the framework of Agenda 21.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as active players in sustainable development process across Africa have initiated WSSD preparatory processes aimed at ensuring broader participation in the review of Agenda 21. This aspect was noted during the African NGO Caucus Meeting held in Nairobi from the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> October 2001. The meeting identified the need to develop a mechanism for harmonizing the preparatory process in the various sub-regions of Africa. To this end, the meeting resolved to hold a Pan Africa Conference of the Civil Society Organizations in order to develop a common African Civil Society position in the context of WSSD and beyond. My colleague, Mr. Nzwana Konco, will present details regarding the objectives of this conference.

Before I end, I would like to thank Heinrich Boell Foundation Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa for the generous financial support for this conference. I would also like to thank all members of the Coordinating Committee for having forgone their Christmas holidays in order to ensure all preparations for the conference continue uninterrupted.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to find time after the conference to sample some of our game parks, marine parks, game reserves and also to savour our diverse traditional cuisine in various outlets in the city.

I wish you a pleasant stay in Nairobi and fruitful deliberations.

### **The Significance of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Africa:**

By Luyanda ka Msumza, President Civil Society INDABA South Africa.

The honourable Minister,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Comrades and friends,

It is an honour to be a part of a process to define and redefine Africa's role in world events today. This is an important occasion in the history of Africa and African people. We as the SADC delegation feel particularly honored by the fact that Africa will host the WSSD and most likely begin to define the Development Agenda for Africa in this new millennium. On behalf of

Civil Society INDABA in South Africa, and on behalf of the Civil Society Secretariat in Johannesburg and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate our colleagues from Kenya for organizing this event, dare I say with limited resources and unlimited and unqualified commitment. This is what Africa needs today.

I have been asked to look at the significance of the WSSD process to Africa today, this is what I am supposed to do and this is what I am going to do.

For a long time now, Africa has suffered like a motherless child. We have been at the receiving end of the decisions and resolutions taken by other people on our behalf. We must put an end to this.

We have a great responsibility to Africa and humanity, we dare not fail.

Our forebears safeguarded this land for us and for future generations, we have a responsibility to continue that great tradition. If we fail, history will not take kindly to that failure. I know we are capable of not failing. I know we will not fail. I can see it in the beautiful faces of all the delegates in this room. I know we have worked through late sessions, we have worked hard to make this special event the success that it is, how can we fail on such a simple task?

When the whole environmental movement was introduced in Africa, it came as a package. "Let us save the Rhino, let us save the elephants, let us save the chimpanzee. Let us save the rainforests". These are very important things to save. Yes it is almost a shame that we had to be advised by our friends from the North to save our own elephants and chimpanzees and rhinos. But our friends are interested in rhinos, they are interested in elephants and they are interested in chimpanzees. Nobody can fight with that, if anything we should appreciate them for those concerns.

But thousands of people were killed in Burundi, in Rwanda, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) just a few of the trouble spots in Africa and the world was conspicuous for its silence. The silence was so loud one could almost hear it from a thousand miles. When 6 chimpanzees were slaughtered by starving refugees for food, the whole world cried out. When Mozambique could not afford to take care of its animals whether it was in a national park or zoo I am uncertain, rescue missions to evacuate the poor animals to places of safety were organized. Nothing was done, or very little was done for people who were faced by even greater catastrophes than the animals. There was a time when Kenya and Zimbabwe started programs to save the elephant; it was so successful, that in Zimbabwe elephants were threatening the very survival of the communities who were saving them. And yet they could do nothing to cull and control the numbers of these elephants. The whole world was shocked by the barbarism of these Africans. How dare they think that their lives are important than the lives of animals, after all in the eyes of some of our friends we were not too dissimilar to animals. Clearly there is something wrong in this thinking. Something needs to radically change in the way the world perceives our continent, Africa, and us today. We must help humanity to begin to look at us as human beings and go a step further and deal with us as human beings, made in the image of the same God that created them. It is our duty to begin the task. WSSD provides us the vehicle through which we can begin this process. For too long, we have been at the receiving end, it is time we began the



process of self-definition, definition of our Agenda, and an opportunity to persuade humanity to buy in into that Agenda.

We have remained on-lookers and by-standers to processes that destroyed us for too long. Often times we have been harnessed as partners in the exploitation of our resources and our people. For too long the wealth in the form of natural resources and our people have been at the service of Europe and the North, it is time that these resources are diverted to serve African people. I hope in our plans and deliberations, no effort will be spared in ensuring a return of these resources back to where they belong. If not, at least they must begin to serve the interest of people for whom God, in His infinite wisdom, had bestowed them.

I have strayed from my topic. I was supposed to look at the significance of the WSSD to Africa today. I hope in my digression, diversions and straying, I have given this noble gathering something to seriously think about.

As stated before, I would like to reiterate the words again,

We have a duty to Africa. The African National Congress Youth League once came out with a slogan,

**Africa first, Africa last, Africa all the time.**

**Message from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

By Mr. Bakari Kante, Director, Division of Policy Development and Law (DPDL), UNEP  
(Mr. Bakari Kante represented Dr Klaus Toepfer, the executive director of UNEP.)

Chairman, Honorable Minister and dear friends,

I am happy to be here on this occasion where a number of NGOs and Civil Society Organizations from the whole of Africa are meeting to discuss issues importance to the WSSD. I am also happy being able to recognize familiar faces that have been actively participating in UNEP's meetings as well as other international fora. Many of you also participated in the African NGO Forum held last October as well as being in the Sub-regional meetings. Since this ensures continuity, I am confident that the proceedings of this meeting will draw from the results of earlier meetings and thus can contribute to a cumulative effort. I would also like to congratulate the Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum and the Heinrich Boell Foundation for organizing this meeting.

Over the last three decades, the governments of the world have gradually come to recognize the importance of taking environment into account in their development plans. Environmental considerations, instead of being regarded as an impediment to progress, are now increasingly seen as an essential ingredient of sustainable development.

The reasons for this realization are many and complex. The obvious damage the human race is wrecking on the environment, and the negative impacts of that damage on human societies, has helped focus minds. So too, has the growth of environmental awareness and activism throughout civil society. Much of the credit must go to the NGOs and Civil Society for bringing the environment firmly onto the global agenda.

As we look back and ponder over progress made – or needed – since the 1972 Stockholm Conference and the 1992 Rio Summit, we must recognize that for almost half of the humanity, the concepts of democracy, economic growth, peace and security are now seen in the context of sustainable development. Development which is not based on these key factors can no longer be described as sustainable in the same way that economic development which leads to degradation of the environment and natural resource base cannot be said to be sustainable.

The assessment reports on the implementation of Agenda 21 and Ministerial as well as NGO recommendations for WSSD from all regions show considerable similarity in the constraints and challenges to sustainable development that they define. Some of the issues of greatest common concern are briefly as follows:

1. *Poverty* – all regions highlighted this. Although most environmental issues were seen as contributing to poverty globally, certain specific aspects such as unemployment lack of education and deteriorating life expectancy can be mentioned here.
2. *Debt Burden* – One of the main constraints to the implementation of Agenda 21 has been lack of financial flows from the North to South and the debt burden.
3. *Management of Environmental Resources* – Land degradation, biodiversity conservation and fresh water and energy can be mentioned in this context.
4. *Governance* – This is an issue that has been made time and again pointed out in all the regions, not the least by Civil Society that needs attention. The Civil Society involvement in Sustainable Development and Local Agenda 21 can be highlighted here.

Other issues that I would like to mention are health, conflicts and disasters, globalization and technology transfer.

While it is important to take note of the issues identified in the sub-regional meetings organized by UNEP, the Regional Economic Commissions and the Regional Development Banks as well as UNDP, we have also to be forward looking. The priorities for action that most of us would agree on deals with an area that is of utmost importance to Africa, namely, *poverty reduction*. Unless we break the vicious cycle of environmental degradation and increase in poverty, sustainable development will remain only a dream. We also need to address issues such as trade and globalization while addressing the alleviation of national and individual poverty.

I can see from your programme that you will also be deliberating on the issues that I have just mentioned. I am happy that such a gathering as yours will focus on this continent, the African continent that has lost out in the past when it comes to sustainable development efforts. The New Partnership for African Development, I hope, will break new grounds.

As far as UNEP is concerned, the key issues and challenges lie in areas such as Environmental Governance, interlink-ages of global environmental issues and integrated policy and decision-making based on a strengthened scientific basis. Some of you might have attended UNEP's consultations on International Governance and it has been pointed out that there is a need for creating a structure that would link the issues such as climate change, desertification, forests, bio-diversity and water. Greater linkages between Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are necessary. On the sectors that UNEP would like to see strengthened action after the WSSD are freshwater, oceans and seas, climate change, biodiversity, land degradation, chemicals and wastes, forest and energy. UNEP is also hoping to strengthen its programme for capacity building in developing countries in these sectors.

We also recognize the need for a global accord to fully integrate the efforts of civil society and private sector in the overall efforts of the international community to achieve the goals of environmental protection and sustainable development. UNEP is committed to continue strengthening its partnership with civil society and the private sector.

Working for environment is not only a question of collecting scientific data or putting in place administrative measures. It is also a result of the understanding on how civilizations and the ethical and spiritual values of all of us are integrated in bringing about change. Respect for indigenous knowledge in a globalizing world is something that we should not forget.

UNEP also recognizes the special needs of Africa. As I said earlier, the New Partnership for African Development adopted in Lusaka last year requires not only considerable commitment by Africans, but also poses a challenge by the continent to the international community, the UN and its members in terms of making available the necessary means for Africa's development. As you all know, I am committed to promoting Africa's interest. Various governing Council decisions and the AMCEN statement hope that the WSSD will provide strategic directions in support of Africa. The Landmark Summit in Johannesburg will be an occasion of pride and hope for Africa.

Thank you for your attention and wish you constructive and fruitful deliberations and inspiring and forward-looking outcome.

**Opening Speech by The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Hon. Joseph J. Kamotho, EGH, MP.**

The Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. Klaus Toepfer who is represented by Mr. Bakari Kante, Representatives of various organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure to be here this morning to officially open this important conference entitled “*The Pan African Conference of Civil Society Organizations: Consolidating the Regional Agenda Towards WSSD and Beyond*”. Allow me at the outset to commend the organizers of this conference whose chief objective is to consolidate the Regional Agenda towards the WSSD and beyond, in respect to the African Civil Societies.

As you all know, the WSSD, which is popularly known as “the Johannesburg Summit”, is expected to deliberate on the Environment. That is, the issues of preservation of forests, fishing stocks, clean waters, climate change, land degradation and desertification, sustainable industrial growth and a range of other familiar issues.

However, the summit is not just about the Environment. It is about sustainable development as a whole. It is about the reduction of poverty, relief from debts, controlling of killer diseases such HIV/Aids and malaria, widening educational opportunity, and linking these goals to those of conserving the natural resources upon which the poorest depend for clean water, food, fresh air and the ecosystems. In other words, the Summit is about all those issues and problems that face mankind today and especially those whose economies are not stable. It is about our present and future. In view of these facts, therefore, the task of ensuring that the issues are effectively addressed falls on all public sectors as well as the private sector including the NGOs and the CBOs and not forgetting individuals.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Summit aims at implementing the UN General Assembly Resolution 55/199 of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2000. The Resolution call for bringing together World leaders to undertake a ten years review of progress mad on the implementation of Agenda 21. At the same time, the leaders are expected to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable development agreed upon at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

To this end, countries are expected to undertake their reviews and assessments of progress made including identification of major accomplishments and lessons learnt, identify constraints and propose specific time-bound measures aimed at ensuring success.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assure you that the Kenya Government through the National Environment Secretariat (NES) under my Ministry is coordinating an elaborate national assessment of the progress that has been made. The coordinating department successfully spearheaded Kenya’s participation towards the Rio process and has also been in charge of the implementation process since 1992. It is worth noting, therefore, that one of the key milestones to report to the WSSD is that the Government in consultation with various stakeholders, has put

in place a viable Environment and Development policy backed by a legal framework namely “The Environmental Management and Coordination Act (1999)”. The instrument calls for a viable institutional framework for effective coordination and management of our natural resources. I assure you that the Act will adequately be implemented.

Coming back to the issues at hand, allow me to briefly tell you where we are at the National level in the preparatory process.

To ensure effective country participation at the World Summit, my Ministry has constituted a Multi-stakeholders National Coordinating team and various working groups. The latter have been working round the clock preparing various thematic reports. To ensure stakeholder’s ownership and consensus, the reports will be presented to a wide Multi-stakeholder National Workshop to be held during the latter part of this month of January 2002. I trust that many of the home-based Civil Society Organizations present here today will be able to attend the workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As noted earlier, I wish to commend the work being undertaken by civil society throughout the continent because the issues of environment and sustainable development though spearheaded by government, are about partnership, partnership with civil society, the industrial sector, the academic and individuals. In this regard therefore, we all need each other if we are to effectively tackle the many problems facing our continent.

May I therefore wish you the best in the next four days as you consolidate the Regional Agenda not only for the WSSD but also beyond. I urge you to remember however, that the need to alleviate poverty and disease is top of the continent’s agenda to some extent. This could be alleviated by identifying alternative livelihoods as well as changing the way we have always done things. For example, there is need to create further awareness on the impacts of cutting down trees, polluting our rivers and dumping wastes. All these create a multiplier effect and tackling them will require the effort by both the government and civil societies.

Finally to our visitors, I welcome you to see the wider aspect of Kenya beyond the conference room and a safe journey back to your countries.

With those remarks Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my great pleasure to declare the Pan African Conference of Civil Societies Towards the WSSD officially open.

## **SESSION II: RETHINKING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA.**

### **Conference Objectives and Rationale**

Nzwana Konco, Coordinator, Africa Desk (WSSD Civil Society Secretariat, South Africa)

Mr. Konco reported that the decision to hold the Pan African Conference of Civil Society Organizations was taken in October 2001 at the Pan African NGO Caucus meeting held before the African Regional PrepCom for WSSD. The meeting gave the Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum the mandate to host the conference. The objectives of the conference are;

- i. The strengthening of African civil society
- ii. The development of a common African Civil Society position in the context of the WSSD and beyond
- iii. The development of a strategy for African Civil Society's engagement and participation in the WSSD process.

#### *i. Strengthening African Civil Society*

The conference should provide the space and opportunity for:

- ✓ Addressing the weaknesses of African civil society organisations and NGOs.
- ✓ dialogue among networks and civil society organisations in Africa.
- ✓ Discussion on how to build social movements in Africa.
- ✓ African civil society organisations to find ways to overcome their legacy of acting in an uncoordinated manner – which in the past has led to disjointed efforts in major events like the WSSD.

#### *ii. Development of a common African civil society position*

- ✓ The conference was also seen as an opportunity for African civil society organisations to speak with one voice about the major political and other challenges facing the continent.
- ✓ The Pan Africa Conference will link up with processes of wide consultation with the people of the continent, in particular through the various national and sub-regional processes currently underway in the context of the WSSD.

Within this context, the Pan Africa Conference identified a number of key themes for deliberation.

- a. To review the achievements and drawbacks of sustainable development initiatives 10 years after the Rio summit.

- b. To come up with an African perspective on sustainable development.

***Phase 1: A common political framework for African civil society***

The development of a common framework should focus on three items:

- ✓ A discussion on a review of achievements and problems 10 years after Rio.
- ✓ A discussion on our view of globalisation.
- ✓ A discussion on the New Africa Initiative/Nepad.

***Phase 11: Positions on key issues identified by African civil society***

The development of a common position on African perspective on sustainable development will require the integration of the political framework with position on the specific issues that have been identified by African civil society organisations. Such specific positions could cover for example the range of issues covered under the various chapters of Agenda 21.

Given that different sub-regions and different countries – indeed different civil society organisations engaged in the WSSD process – have identified a range of positions that they would want to work on.

The conference will have to agree on a list of **priority issues** that African civil organisations would like to take to Johannesburg as common positions.

***Phase 111: A Pan Africa Conference of Civil Society in 2002***

The **third phase** of the development of common positions for African civil society would be a second Pan Africa Conference of civil society organisations. The Pan Africa Conference will have to be in time to engage the formulation of the agenda for the Ngo Forum, and for the Government process: both agendas will likely be finalized at the Forth Prep-Com.

***iii. A strategy for African civil society's engagement in the WSSD process***

The Pan Africa Conference provides us with an opportunity to develop a strategy for our engagement and participation in the WSSD process. In this light the conference should deal with a number of questions and arrive at common positions:

- a. *Formulating a common platform for Jhb2002*

The conference must therefore produce **a timetable for discussions** that will culminate in the second Pan Africa conference.

We need not to re-invent the wheel, we should draw on the resources that already exist on the continent. In particular, there are a number of continent-wide or sub-regional networks that are engaged in work around themes that are relevant to our concerns around sustainable development.

Not only do these networks provide the African process with experience on a number of key issues, but their international links also provide African civil society with conduits for engaging other progressive forces in other regions of the world.

*b. A strategy to mobilize support for our common position within Africa*

We should canvass and lobby other sectors that are not necessary part of the civil society alliance like African artist, scientists, writers and so on. We might also want to canvass support among organisations who are orientated to the market, but whose interests we might feel are close to the large majority of the poor on the continent. An example of such groups would be organisations of small peasant farmers.

*c. Development of a common position towards the WSSD preparatory process*

As African civil society we need to develop a common approach to the Preparatory Committee meetings of the WSSD process. We need to deal with how we will ensure that our voices are heard and taken seriously within those processes e.g. the coming PrepCom 2. We need to devise a strategy for intervention.

The second issue we need to address concerns the composition of the International Steering Committee for the Global NGO Forum, as well as our participation within it.

*d. Alliance building in the context of Jhb2002 and beyond*

We need to identify allies who are close to our own positions.

We need to identify allies outside Africa and work out a strategy of how to engage them.

We need an approach to two events that can facilitate this process of alliance building: the World Social Forum meeting in Porto Alegre

*e. Election of a committee to coordinate the work of African Civil Society*

The conference needs to work out a way of coordinating the plans as well as ensuring implementation of decisions. A mechanism to undertake such coordination needs to be designed, and people elected to execute the work.



## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNANCE & GLOBALIZATION: TOWARDS THE WSSD AND BEYOND**

(Keynote Address, Professor Archie Mafeje, American University of Cairo, Egypt)

In his keynote address, Professor Mafeje denoted the wide gap and the missing link between scholars and NGO activists in Africa. He proposed that Scholars and the NGOs should have a joint effort in approach of issues such as the WSSD process noting that in thinking sustainably, all perspectives must be integrated.

He remarked that NGOs have important roles to play in the African society but they do not necessarily represent civil society as some of the activities of NGOs go against the civil society at large for instance, when NGOs talk about democracy, governance & transparency, to what extent do the NGOs themselves uphold these values apart from criticizing the governments? He posed. How representative are NGOs when most of them are self selected? Much of this debate is contained in a book on Democracy, Governance and Civil Society that he is editing.

Professor Mafeje noted that another importance of collaboration between the civil society and Scholars comes out of the political reason and the organizational aspect of the work done by Scholars is important to the civil society and vice versa. This he noted is the weakness of Africa. Many times, Africans are at a loss in international forums *vis a vis* the European, Latin America and Asia, except maybe the Middle East and to some extent Latin America. He cited the example of the Durban Conference on Racism, where African NGOs lobbied successfully against African governments, many of who had been under intense pressure from the European Union (EU) and America. This set precedence and reflects the fact that confrontation in ideas does not mean violence but it is what is serviceable to the society against what is to the governments of the day.

Talking about Sustainable Development, Professor Mafeje noted that there is no standardized definition of sustainable development. People from different areas and regions all over the world look at issues from their perspectives and this is exemplified well by the American government's refusal to sign the Kyoto protocol, which for them is not good for their progress.

Secondly, the definition of sustainable development is a physical issue, but the world cannot realize sustainable development without having major political changes in the contemporary world order. The USA absorbs 30% of the world resources outside their territory, which is extremely unfair, yet they expect others who are suffering to sacrifice more. Professor Mafeje warned that the definition of Sustainable development should not be given from the North, not even from the United Nations (UN) organizations including UNEP. African should and must now define sustainable development from local perspectives and taking into account the present realities in the world

On Governance, he remarked that the concept of Good Governance was authored by World Bank and later taken up by other donor organizations like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This unfortunately, was then sold to the African governments as a pre-

condition for obtaining grants, loans and western aid. He advised that the civil society should carefully interrogate the concept of good governance since people are rejecting the concept. People want *democratic governance*, not just good governance. Good governance can be good but does not necessarily be democratic. It is time for Africans to be careful about the *good* and *democratic* governance and choose which is best for her.

On poverty and Africa, Professor Mafeje noted that people in power, who ironically talk about poverty reduction, are the same ones perpetuating poverty in African continent. It is unfortunate that they are not doing what they are talking about. The issue is not even *poverty reduction* but it is *poverty elimination*. Poverty reduction is in the national policies of African governments and it has been for many years, unfortunately not much progress is being achieved. He cited the example of Botswana where the rate of poverty is 38 % although the income per capita is USD three thousand (US \$3000). This statistic should make Botswana a developed country by any standards; yet, it is not a developed country to the best of our knowledge. Eradication of poverty would mean redistribution of resources nationally and internationally. If this is not done, the environment in certain areas will be massively destroyed. The biggest destroyers of environment are the rich people, for example, the USA are the biggest polluter of the environment in the world and are also one of the most industrialized states in the world. In backwards areas, the destruction of environment is minimal compared to the more advanced areas.

On Globalization, Professor Mafeje noted that Africans have been given the concept of globalization and are not the authors of it. Africans have been told that globalization is a natural process. In his opinion, globalization is not a natural process; to the contrary, it is the consolidation of the powers of the rich and the politically dominant over the weak and powerless in society. Africans want a centered mode of development not the unipolar system currently in place. It is unfortunate, that those who reject and refuse to conform to the current system are hit with bombs and destroyed, as it is power game. For Africa to get space in the world arena, then the definition of the world order should not be the monopoly of the one country but should be spread out. Even the United Nations (UN) is not democratic because the five members of the Security Council can veto any decision taken by the General Assembly comprising all the member states on the strength that they contribute more resources to the world body. The UN is therefore undemocratic and countries like the USA can continue influencing important decisions yet at the same time, they are no longer meeting their obligations to the UN.

Globalization according to a book edited by Samir Amin, amounts to the capitalist of the world to unite. The southerners are critical and skeptical about globalization. The northerners see globalization as an opportunity. The African civil society fraternity should rethink the concept of globalization from the point of view of African needs.

As regards the WSSD and the fact that it will be held in Africa, there is need to determine the underlying reasons as to why Africa has been chosen to host the summit. This should be done taking into account the events of Seattle, Gothenburg and Genoa. Perhaps, the western leaders and the World Bank officials want a peaceful meeting so they decide to hold it in Africa where there will be no demonstrations and street battles. This will avoid the Seattle, Warsaw, and

Gothenburg incidences. Perhaps the western leaders may be running away from citizen's action in their own countries and if Africans also follow suit then they maybe forced to hold meetings in space. The northern NGOs are not interested in the issues of the southern NGOs if anything, they are closing all the gates to Arabs and Africans, they are concerned about themselves and Africans should be concerned about Africa.

### **AFRICA & GLOBALIZATION: THINKING LOCALLY AND ACTING GLOBALLY**

(Keynote address, Dr John Mugabe, African Center for Technology Studies).

Dr Mugabe in his presentation observed that the present regional and global environmental regimes are unable to address the twin problems of globalization and localization thus bringing in new challenges for the African civil society organizations.

He remarked that instead of Africans going to WSSD and reacting to an agenda that has been formed, they should instead think of new deals. Agenda 21 is not ten years. It is more than a century, so there is need to create a new deal to move in the path of Sustainable development.

In defining Environmental Governance, Dr Mugabe noted that many people use this notion and assume that it is common. Environmental Governance is about the *articulation of state & non-state actors to achieve common goals*, it is **not** environmental politics. Environmental governance is about instruments and structures. It is practiced at the following three levels;

- International level
- Regional level
- National/ local levels.

The instruments for environmental governance include norms, values, policies for example the international treatise entered into bilaterally and multilaterally while structures entails the agencies that undertake the implementation at all the above levels

Dr Mugabe observed that the current systems of environmental governance are *science dry* and have not recognized that efforts that are knowledge intensive are key to the achievement of Sustainable development. Environmental governance is not politics but it should be based on the generation of knowledge. In order to move in the right direction, there is need to bring in the corporate sector; the technology required to make gains towards Sustainable development is in the corporate sector. There must be a redefinition so as to bring on board the corporate actors into environmentalism; the University actors are also part of the civil society and they should claim their space. NGOs should not take all the space reserved for civil society organizations in the sustainable development domains but university and corporate actors must also play their legitimate role.

In Dr Mugabe's view, Globalization can be defined as opening up and integration of national economies with intensified use of Information, communication technologies (ICTs). It has no inbuilt logic to make it worse or better for any part of the world, Africa not excluded. Consider regionalization, which Africa has embraced, it is much the same and in any case a response to

globalization. He cited the case of South Africa, which is seen as taking the regional space within the SADC region. He observed that any country can benefit from regionalization and globalization. Unfortunately the Civil society organizations look at only one aspect of globalization-the negative aspect. The outcome of WTO Ministerial conference in Doha placed environment into the World Trade Organization (WTO). The result is that there is no environmentalism *per se* any more; environment is now part of the trade arena hence environmental values and norms must be integrated in trade rules. The result is that corporate aggregates have taken over environmentalism.

Dr Mugabe discussed the structures that are required given that globalization is taking place. The global agency of globalization, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has taken over environment as well. He observed that presently, there is no synergy and coherence in global environmental agreements. There is therefore no need for an instrument that can challenge World Trade Organization (WTO), but one that is going to be at par with World Trade Organization (WTO). Changing institutions at national levels alone will not make a difference; it will amount to nothing in the global arena.

Dr Mugabe noted that the world does not have any instrument for enforcing and monitoring environmental compliance and that is the major reason why the United States can walk out on the Biodiversity protocol, Biosafety protocol and Kyoto protocol and yet they still are allowed to send representatives to attend the Conference of Parties (CoPs) negotiations.

At the regional level, he observed that Africa requires a new environmental treaty. The African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) is old and cannot respond to new and emergent issues and challenges. A new treaty will hold state and non-state actors to task for violating environmental governance. There is also need for local realm of governance. At present, resources are being transferred from national to local levels, for instance in Kenya responsibilities are being shifted to the local level without adequate resources.

In Conclusion, Dr Mugabe noted that the following needs to be done for there to be an effective regional and global environmental governance

- The Civil society must bring the university and the corporate world in the WSSD process and the Sustainable Development domain.
- There is need for instruments and structures that can be at par with the World Trade Organization (WTO). This can be a World Environment treaty to bring compliance in the international scene.
- Resources must be taken to the local levels to march with the responsibilities.

## **PLENARY DISCUSSION**

The following issues were highlighted at the plenary discussions;

Instruments to enforce compliance: the participants observed that the two presentations were conflicting with regard to the issue of globalization as it relates to environmental governance. There was debate on the proposal of a powerful instrument to discipline the governments. Participants noted that even the UN structures including UNEP are powerless to the governments especially the government of USA which can manipulate the whole world to its whims. They sought to know what kind of empowerment will put Africans in the same footing with the Europeans and the USA. However there was an agreement that it is not possible to separate environment from politics, in order to have sound environmental management, we need sound governance, there is a lot of connection between political instability and environmental protection and the case of Southern Sudan was given as an example on how these are interlinked with the poverty issue.

Local Involvement and Indigenous Knowledge: participants observed that the peasants in the villages are grappling with these issues of environment and sustainable development yet they are being ignored despite the useful role they play. It was noted that most African Universities are euro-centric and do not adequately involve the peasants and the local indigenous people. The conference recommended that the process must include the pastoralist and indigenous knowledge contained in the African villages. The university and corporate bodies are not carriers of African needs. That is why we need to bring pastoralist and fishing community into the mainstream. The two sources of knowledge and power; the universities and the corporate, must be moulded to fit African issues. Globalization is about indigenous knowledge for instance the pharmaceutical bodies like the Body shop. As Africans we should not keep our traditional healers and pastoralists isolated, they must be integrated. When there is a detachment between NGOs and universities. What is the premise of universities, do they cater for NGOs and traditional knowledge? There are efforts in Africa that are focusing on publications of indigenous knowledge. Are academics relevant to the communities anymore? What is the place of communication, it should be holistic.

In any given society, there are different constituencies and division of labour but what they respond to is problems. African universities have not been functioning well due to lack of funds, resources and brain drain. The Universities are far behind NGOs and most academic work has come from academic NGOs. Organic intellectuals who are active in different fields have produced numerous materials. NGOs must make it a point to have an intellectual function that can bring them closer to the academia. There has to be a concentration on those centers that have a certain amount of autonomy because they want to and not because they are obliged.

You can think in terms of creating bridges, you create space by restraining. You concentrate on alternatives and resistance. When Africans were fighting decolonisation, they created movements from inside to exert pressure but they did not negotiate with the colonizers. The creation of alternatives makes it possible for actors in the north to find partners in the south and in particular Africa

Strengthening Civil society organizations (CSOs): empirical evidence suggests that where we have weak nation states, there are weak civil society organizations; this is a manifestation of the

nation states. In traditional African societies there were no civil society organizations (CSOs), according to some people. We need a strong nation state where all actors have their responsibilities defined. Civil society organizations are not NGOs. NGOs do not constitute the civil society organizations. Civil society is defined as *where the non-state actors meet the state actors*. The behavior of most NGOs in Africa is not African, many of the NGOs are post boxes of European NGOs and they should avoid behaving as them. NGOs have the responsibility of empowering the communities where they operate. Unfortunately some NGOs suck money that is meant to go to communities. We need new ethics for the NGO community.

Globalization: a participant remarked that Globalization means we are talking in a holistic manner, there is no African version and a foreign version of globalization and when we are trying to harmonize issues, we forget about what the western world is doing for Africans. There is need to bring them on board. If we talk about indigenous knowledge. In tackling issues, we are not fighting; we should consider every issue, down from the grassroots, to the top, from the village to the university and across the races.

Dr Mugabe responded that globalisation has a very interesting and complex debate. Today and in future, the world superpower is not USA, but the Peoples Republic of China. After the WTO meeting in Doha and following the events of September 11 2001, the USA has taken backseat and China is taking the lead. Africa needs to focus on China if she has to place herself strategically in the New World Order. It took China many years to be included in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Now China has a big share in terms of influencing the global process but Africa has to be aware that the United States is still a powerful nation.

However Professor Mafeje objected to the sentiments, noting that Dr Mugabe's concept of globalization is radically different from what he is am familiar with. As a historical fact, regional integration is the most important vehicle in protecting regional interest and this can be seen in the example of the European Union, the Americas and now Africans are talking of African Union. These countries are coming together to protect their interests against globalization.

Professor Mafeje further noted that Chinas role in globalization is not clear and objected to the claim that South African is threatening SADC because it is a bigger and more powerful country. The case of South Africa is the extension of white power and they can get better protection against globalization from the SADC bloc. He pointed out that a lot of studies have been conducted on the topic by intellectual organization like CODESRIA and OSSREA. In regional integration, the weakest continent in the world is Africa. There is no united position in Africa. As far as domestic markets are concerned, then regional integration is important.

Dr Mugabe responded that he is not speaking against regionalization, globalization, and nationalization. These are processes and we need to create rules that will help us achieve development. Let us go into the processes and take our space as Africans. Africa should not be seen as a weak player in the global arena. We cannot stop localization and globalization but we have to shape them to be useful for Africa.

In discussing the role of trans-national corporations, one participant gave an example of the situation in Nigeria where a lot of things happened. The peculiar problem in the Niger Delta

region as a result of the activities of the Multi-nationals. Why should the developed countries tell us to conserve the environment yet they are developed. Multi-national corporations from the developed countries are operating in Africa and devastating the environment in our countries as in the case of Mobil and Shell activities in the Niger Delta region where for over 40 years and they have continued to exploit the oil resources and have corrupted the governments. For this particular case, NGOs could not speak out because of the military regimes in Nigeria. The problem became more complicated and the indigenous people had to fight their own battles. The government was against them and the NGOs could not talk. The same western interest comes through development agencies like the USAID and they bring money and offer token rehabilitative measures for a people whose livelihoods they have destroyed. How do we treat these issues?

When NGOs talk about globalization and regionalization, they must be ashamed by their weaknesses and unprofessionalism as this is shaping NGO participation in the WSSD process. The word beyond is the most important issue in this conference. If NGOs do not start from within, nothing will change. The role of the NGOs is important, but they must build partnership with other actors in the process. NGOs have to learn to listen and respect the other opinions otherwise they are doomed to fail. There is need to distribute the work among different sections of the civil society outside the continent as well as internally. NGOs need political will from the government. It is the responsibility of NGOs to have clear structures for the future.

### **SESSION III: AFRICA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT**

#### **ASSESSMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA 10 YEARS AFTER RIO**

By Abu Bamba (NESDA)

Mr. Bamba noted that Rio gave an opportunity for Agenda 21, which was adopted as a global blueprint for sustainable development. There was global consensus and political commitment at the highest level on co-operation in the field of environment and development. This promoted the slogan of “*Think globally and act locally*”. The major chapters of Agenda 21 are as follows:

- Socio-Economic dimensions
- Conservation and Management of Natural Resources for Development
- Strengthening of the role of the major stakeholder groups
- Means of Implementation

#### *Themes of Agenda 21*

Some of the themes are; Agriculture, Atmosphere, Biodiversity, Biotechnology, Capacity Building, Production and Consumption patterns, Education and Sensitization, Energy, finance, forests, resources, water, health, human settlements, indicators, industry, information, concerted

decision making, international law, international co-operation, institutional framework, soil management, major stakeholder groups, mountains, seas and oceans, poverty, science, island states, sustainable tourism, technology, toxic chemicals, trade and environment, transport, toxically hazardous wastes.

The Assessment of Sustainable Development in Africa has been pegged on three pillars:

- Economic-GDP, per capita, inflation, FDI and the share of Africa in world trade, debt.
- Social –poverty, access to health services, HIV/Aids.
- Environmental dimension- biodiversity, ecological equilibrium for our health. Forests, land and desertification etc

#### *Social indicators*

Poverty, where people live under one dollar per day since 1990 about 50 % of the population in Africa. This tendency is growing and by the year 2000. Sub-Saharan Africa is not favoured. USD1 per day is enough in Africa but this is not the case. The misery of people is worse than poverty. We have 271 million people in less than USD 1 per day in 1998. Compare with South Asia with 522 million yet the population of Asia especially India is more than that of Africa in total. Most population does not have access to the calories.

#### *Political indicator.*

There will be no sustainable development if there is no political stability. In Africa, there are many wars and conflicts and coups are so many

#### *Environmental indicators,*

The UNEP Geo 2000 report considers the following environmental issues for Africa

- Biodiversity
- Deforestation-land degradation
- Forests
- Water
- Urban environment

#### *Achievements since Rio*

Some of the achievements include;

- 1) Creation of national, sub-regional and regional institutions for the implementation of Agenda 21: national sustainable development commissions, etc
- 2) Formulation of local agenda 21
- 3) Elaboration of National Environmental Action Plans (NEAP)
- 4) Setting up of integrated development policies and legislative frameworks



- 5) Improvement of international co-operation mechanisms and creation of New financial mechanisms e.g. GEF and the African development fund.
- 6) Public participation and emergence of an organized civil society
- 7) Ratification of international conventions and MEAs
- 8) Harmonization of national, sub-regional, regional and global policies: implementing the recommendations of MEAs
- 9) Capacity Building
- 10) Inclusion of Environmental Education in the curricula

### *Failures*

- 1) Too much emphasis on environment, for example the World Bank put too much money on environment and not enough in poverty reduction and Sustainable Development issues in a country like Madagascar
- 2) NEAPs have no socio-economic sides of Sustainable development. Human beings are the most important not the animals. The reason for non-implementation is simple; no money
- 3) Share of Africa in the World trade has declined since it is less than 2 % of the world trade. Africa has no negotiating power in the world.
- 4) In many countries, there were no socio-economic development e.g. no information flow.
- 5) Institutional instability
- 6) Duplication and lack of synergy in environmental agreements like the conventions.
- 7) Continued negative impacts on Africa
- 8) Funding
- 9) Weak collaboration amongst the CSOs community and with their government counterparts

In conclusion, assessments of the state of the world and development trends since Rio demonstrate continuing negative impacts on African natural resources, economic wealth and social values

### *Emerging issues*

- 1) Globalization shaping the world and deepening poverty, marginalizing peoples and nations and accelerating ecological disintegration in Africa.
- 2) Synergies between the three Rio-born conventions.
- 3) New development paradigms e.g. the New Global Deal, NEPAD and the African Union
- 4) Inclusion of fighting against HIV AIDS into development programmes as a factor reducing the life expectancy in Africa

### *Challenges/Africa's Agenda*

Mr. Bamba identified the following as challenges for Africa on the road to WSSD and beyond:

- Poverty alleviation
- Debt issue and financing for Development (+ 20 % of GNP dedicated to the reimbursement of the debt)/financial resources/needs of the states/increased ODA
- Impacts of globalisation on the implementation of Agenda 21
- Effective implementation of Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) with the participation of all stakeholders and minority groups
- Integration of environment and socio-economic development dimensions into all development schemes
- Governance, democracy, streamline environmental governance (conflicts, civil unrest)
- Transfer of appropriate technology

**THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD),**  
(By Oupa Lehulere, WSSD Civil Society Secretariat)

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is important because President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe referred to the importance of the Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Doha in Qatar in November 2001 and how this introduced new issues to the global agenda. The WTO Ministerial meeting in Doha was the first major forum dealing with the themes that New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) deals with. At the meeting, Africa was split right in the middle with South Africa leading the SADC delegation agreed that there should be opening of new rounds of talks. The Developing countries insisted that the developed countries must honour the Marrakech agreements based on the Uruguay rounds. The rest of Africa opposed this alongside India. It is important to locate a unifying vision for Africa after the Doha and it will be interesting if Nepad achieve this

African Heads of Government and States adopted new Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia. Before that, it had undergone several changes i.e. it was the merger of the Millennium Africa Recovery Plan (MAP) and the Omega Plan, which brought forward the New African Initiative (NAI). NAI was finally transformed to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). NEPAD has received widespread support from the north. It has become a framework for African governments intervention in many conferences, Doha included as well as the African Regional Prep-Com for WSSD.

*Context Of Nepad*

NEPAD comes after two and a half decade of global economic slow down outside the USA and a time of growing poverty in Africa. It is also comes at a time of deterioration of African trade share and commodities collapsing mired with the debt trap

NEPAD intends to eradicate poverty and promote the role of women in development. Some of the steps identified include Conflict prevention, maintenance of Law and order and the promotion of Democracy & human rights

### *Sources Of Poverty as Identified By Nepad*

Nepad identifies the following as the sources of poverty in Africa:

- Colonization
- Weak capital skilled class
- Failure of the Social Adjustments Programmes (Saps)
- Failure of leadership
- African potential not fully realized since African integration in the global economy is limited

### *Nepad Programmes*

- Integration in the globalization process-what south Africa presented in Doha was consistent with this agreement.
- Privatization of infrastructure provision
- Endorses the “Multi pronged poverty reduction programmes championed by a number of organization and multi lateral agencies”
- Emphasize that agriculture & rural development must produce excess
- Market access but silent in the issues of non-reciprocal trade
- Create favorable conditions for capital inflows and urges African governments to create risks.
- Reduction of debt-it retreats from debt cancellation
- Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative and the fact that Africa provides an carbon sink on rainforest

### *Assessment of Nepad*

- The Doha experience is important to Africans, and raises the issues that who owns the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). Is it governments or the people?
- Nepad is market based. More time has been spent creating synergies with the corporate world and it is silent on role of civil society organizations for instance the role of women and youth are not well defined.
- It does not propose poverty reduction strategy in any way.
- It is loaded by recommendations from the north and Multi lateral institutions like Bretton Wood

## **GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN THE QUEST FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – A HISTORICAL AND AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE.**

By Wahu Kaara, Kenya Debt Relief Network (Kendren)

The history of humanity is the history of the social dynamics manifested by the social roles that every member of respective society plays in the quest of livelihood. The demand of the quest for livelihood determines the organization and management of respective society, which is the total sum of its identity. The social roles, which in essence are socially constructed, are therefore the backbone of the social, economic, political framework that guarantees and sustains the system in place. It is this framework that determines the value and importance of who a woman is and who a man is in regard to what each contributes to its sustenance. The culture, the values, the altitudes and even the aspiration of the society prescribe to this arrangement.

Discussing Gender perspectives in the quest for Sustainable Development is in essence discussing the history and the future of the African People.

The history of the African people threads its gender construction in its three significant historical material periods – Pre-colonial, Colonial and Post-colonial as social dynamics were dictated by the economics and the politics of the time. In Pre-colonial period, gender roles complimented each other with no conflicts and served the demands of respective communities as their both oral history and literature tells. The socialization process prepared each girl and boy for the roles they were to take as valued and important members of their communities. The cultures and traditions put in place mechanisms and social support that guaranteed complimentary roles of *women and men, boys and girls* with a value system that guaranteed security for all members of society. This translated itself in every member's commitment to their roles for their benefit and that of others. Values and norms of production and distribution were known to all and were also accessible to all.

The colonial period disrupted this arrangement by targeting the man for the market economy. The slave trade with its valuable human commodity took the able and young men of Africa leaving the old men and women to manage the affairs of their communities. Women found themselves doing things that were being done by men. Old men with their retirement watched helplessly as women were being forced by demands of life to take roles that were meant for men for all the generations they knew. In other words women were braving the challenges because the societies had to survive. New patterns of respective roles were emerging within the old cherished and known framework. Gender complimentary roles transformed to sowing the seeds of gender conflicts, suspicion and conspiracy at the expense of the African people. This disruption and insecurity was perfected when Africa was parceled to colonies under colonial interests. The men continued to be the target of the market economy, which was controlled by the colonialists to provide labor and also service the economy.

The post – colonial experience further alienated the African man from the demands and the dynamics of their communities especially those that were co-opted and accommodated to benefit

in exchange of serving the interests of the market economy. On the other hand women continued to take both their roles and those of their men counterpart as situation and circumstances dictated. Some women also found themselves co-opted and accommodated to serve the interests of the market economy depending on their social status.

It is this competition between men and women to serve the market economy that makes the gender issues debatable instead of informing on the concrete questions on pertinent issues of how the market economy impacts on the lives of people and especially women who are the manifestation of the suffering of those that are marginalized.

With globalization, the marginalized people inform more on what should be important to all women and men of goodwill. Address the imbalances of the market economy. There has been a deliberate action by the forces of the market economy to decapitate the linkage of the bonds of an excluded people not blinded on the basis of gender but strengthened by the will and commonwealth, a people seeking to entrench their dignity and live life to its fullest. A far cry from the mechanization of the forces that have saddled our families with the acrimonious tag of poverty hidden, corruption jinxed hopeless continent.

Poverty just like riches does not discriminate between men and women. It is this reality that gender alliance is crucial for quest of sustainable development, which cannot be actualized, with the levels of poverty experienced in Africa.

The emerging popular social movements for social transformation demands that inclusiveness and partnership is the basis of creating social frameworks that are viable for both economic and political stability.

This framework must guarantee access to goods of life to people for what they are as human beings but not for the tags prescribed for exclusion. Reclaiming the value of life which is equally important to both men, women and to the planet is what will guarantee sustainable development and its sustenance. The partnership of gender in this quest for sustainable development is therefore not a discussible matter if the 21<sup>st</sup> century has to remedy the crimes committed against humanity and the environment.

The history of humanity is what we are discussing, to understand what is happening in social transformation in the past, now and in future in the African context. The history of a society ...

## **PLENARY DISCUSSION**

During the plenary the following issues were raised;

### *1. Assessment of Sustainable Development*

Participants questioned the validity of the statistics from the World Bank (WB), which they claimed only takes into account the trade in the manufacturing but not raw materials. These statistics do not take into account a lot of issues. How much is Africa importing for instance? It cannot be 2 %. Africa does not manufacture goods, however our raw materials are lowly priced.

The implementation of the post Rio conventions has been wanting in Africa and NGO s should play a key role in advising the governments to reject conventions that will not work in Africa, otherwise we will not implement treaties that cannot work in view of the poverty situation in the continent. Africa must reject that we are a permanent market for foreign technologies; plans must be created in developing countries to invest in local resources and technologies.

### Africa & Globalization

It was noted that Africa has a big challenge; the analysis presents the fact that our conditions in the post- Rio era is bleak. Africans are poorer than before the Rio Summit. We know the reasons and we must take into account the position we stand for at WSSD. It should not be theoretical but must be a workable solution for the continent. Given that a lot has been written and discussed on globalization, what remain are the alternatives that we give to our people. On definition of globalization as neo-liberal global capitalism, the question is can Sustainable development be achieved in the environment of neo liberal capitalism?

The civil society was however warned not to try and internalize what others in the west have rejected. From the situation that we see today, it is summed up as the situation that Africa is facing. This is a contradiction paradox to resist the world process and or be crushed by the process. We have people who insist that Africa should go together with the rest of the world. This may be the only option; unfortunately, Africa is t too poor to resist. This should be the essential part of our reflection, and then we can have an input in Johannesburg summit.

African leaders complain at international meetings, saying there is a problem with globalization. We have to grapple with concepts that can bring benefits for Africans. We have suffered for so long and it is time for us to speak, Africa is a miserable continent. If we are representing the civil society organizations, then we are sure that these concepts are not working, let us try even if the governments will let us down.

Globalization is continuous and shares a lot of characteristics with imperialism except that there are some fundamental differences

### NEPAD

The plenary discussed the chances of success of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) taking into account the fact that it is based and driven by the west. There was realization, that in communities, there exist non-monetary resources in conflict resolution but the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is silent on this for instance, the use of traditional leaders in solving conflicts as in Uganda

New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) mentions *privatization of infrastructure provision*. The experience in Nigeria is that only the multi-nationals are capable of taking the infrastructure provisions. The national government collects all the money but what do they use

the money for, this will lead to further colonization since the multi-nationals will take over and the poor will suffer.

The opportunities to influence New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) are minimal. It has been adopted and the African Union will be launched in South Africa and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is the framework. There is no desire on the part of the governments to open up New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) for discussions, as you it may be rejected. NEPAD is not an African agenda; its entire framework is cultural heritage. We do not recognize that as a resource. It talks of African values yet there is no African value in it; it is loaded by western ideals. South Africa is a central player in this new initiative and South African corporations are huge players in this initiative and they have followed this agenda consistently to that end. New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) cannot reduce the cultural heritage, no Africa is sellable, i.e. provision of resources and acting as carbon sinks etc.

The money for Nepad will come from the west. Since 1960s Africa gets money from the west. There is also need to pay attention to corruption that is missing in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). As long as corruption exists, the money will come but just go into the pockets of some corrupt officials and leaders

#### *Gender Perspectives in the Quest for SD*

It was noted that with the world census situation; women make over 50% of the population and although most countries signed treaty on the women, the implementation of the agreements is far from adequate there was a call for increased mainstreaming of women in decisions making processes at both the national and international levels

Ms Wahu clarified that the presentation on gender, it contextualises the discourse on gender to include both men and women and brings about the issue of social transformation in the society with reference to both pre-colonial and post-colonial periods. She noted that during slavery, the issues happened, the society did not understand why these changes took place, when we are looking at alternatives; we have to refuse the differences and diversion in the society. We need to understand the semantics and definitions as we see how the society has moved from stage to stage determined by power relations. The political aspects are about economic control, we do not have to take responsibility on wars that we did not wage nor we started. We need to develop a message. There were times when black and white was the issue but the reality today is that of the *haves* and *have nots*, the fundamental question is power relation between women and men in the society.

#### **SESSION IV: PARALLEL GROUP SESSIONS.**

(REPORTS FROM GROUP DISCUSSIONS)

## **GROUP 1: ASSESSMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA 10 YEARS AFTER RIO.**

The group discussed what has been Africa's achievements and shortcomings in moving towards sustainable development over the last 10 years, what strengths and weaknesses have contributed to these achievements and shortcomings, the role played by African governments, civil society and multilateral institutions in moving the continent towards sustainable development and lastly, the effect of globalisation on sustainable development in Africa since Rio

### **1. Achievements and Shortcomings**

#### *Achievements.*

- Elaboration of strategic framework regarding environmental issues
- Funding mechanisms like Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and African Development Bank (ADB)
- Elaboration of National Action Plans (NAPs) and National Environmental Action Plans (NEAP)
- Ratification of multilateral conventions
- Emergence of new civil society
- Environmental consciousness
- Sensitization and public awareness
- Increased participation of African countries and civil societies in multilateral dialogue
- Involvement of the community in the management of natural resources
- Level of awareness of civil society substantively increased
- Strategic action plan to combat desertification
- Emerging trends on building partnership between governments and Civil society organizations (CSOs)
- Conscientization of government to work with communities
- Creation of semi-private organs working on various conventions
- Creation of environment ministries in many African countries
- Emerging environmentally sound enterprises
- Income generating activities based of natural resources and revenues revert to locals

#### *Shortcomings*

- Access forbidden to population for resources in protected areas
- More emphasis on environmental issues compared to social and econ issues
- Poverty increase not addressed by the National Environmental Action Plans (NEAPs)
- Insufficient funding
- Poor info flow
- Institutional/ political instability
- Small shares of African countries in world trade



- Lack of synergies between multilateral conventions
- Inadequate national policy and imposed policies
- Lack of African model for development
- Taxation system too high
- Lack of education on environmental issues
- Lack of strategy on sustainable development.
- Bad governance
- Disparities between policy and implementation
- Conflicts wars and their negative impact on development
- Dependence on external powers
- Increase in health problems
- Inadequate allocation of resources

The overall balance sheet is negative

## **2. Weaknesses**

- Lack of partnership between Civil society organizations (CSOs) and government in some countries
- Lack of capacity for negotiations in multilateral agreements
- Lack of technological know-how in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Dependency syndrome
- More concern about politics rather than social issues
- Priorities of foreign investment

## **3. Role of African Governments**

- Signature of conventions (the dotted line mentality)
- Policy making
- Legalizing of policies
- Creation of environmental ministries and environmental institutions
- Funding by government in collaboration with donors
- Creation of an open space for civil society involvement

## **4. Role of African Civil Society Organisations**

- Public awareness and education
- Grassroots community development
- Proximity to work
- Role of watch dog
- Fundraising for environmental protection

- Facilitation of implementation of conventions
- Creation of partnership
- Duplication of effort
- Lack of coordination of activities

## **5. Role of the Multilateral Institutions**

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirement in major projects
- Capacity building
- Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and financial opportunities for small and medium scale projects
- Creating partnership between projects in different countries with experience sharing
- Capacity building
- Donor driven projects
- Some conditional ties promote corruption
- Great disparities between international and local experts (benefits)
- Insufficient use of local expertise in project design and evaluation

## **6. Effects of Globalization**

- Increase in direct foreign investment
- Over exploitation
- Poverty escalation
- Increase in indebtedness of African governments
- Desperation of small scale business because of dumping of low quality imported products
- Unemployment
- Brain drain
- Undermining indigenous knowledge
- Erosion of national sovereignty

## **GROUP 2: AFRICA AND GLOBALIZATION**

The group discussed the process of global economic integration and the forces driving the process, how Africa has been integrated in the process and the effects of the integration on African economies. The responses from African governments and civil society organizations to the process of integration in global economy. Finally, the group made recommendations on what attitudes the African Civil society should adopt towards the globalisation process

### *1. How do we understand the process of global economic integration?*

Globalization or neo-liberal global capitalism (NGC) to be precise has not brought about sustainable development to the world. The vast majority of the people of the world continue to

live miserable livelihoods of poverty hunger disease and lack of shelter. Social inequities have escalated while natural resources are used unsustainably without regard for the majority of the present citizens of the world and the posterity of intergenerational equities.

Yet these is happening when following the achievements of scientific and technological revolution never experienced before in the history of the world, there is enough wealth and production to eradicate poverty and improve welfare of all.

Unlike previous developments in capitalism, globalization depends less on land or capital than in information industries. So it controls research and development, patents, licenses copyrights and associated with knowledge industries.

The poor nations under the framework of these global inequities were the same ones under colonialism. The low tech and high polluting industries are located in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) while the high tech and knowledge industries are located in richer nations.

The following are the characteristics and manifestation of NGC:

- *Dynamism*: science and technology is used to create constant change
- *Optimism*: promises that those embracing will be better off, if not today, tomorrow
- *Globalism*: it reaches all over the world (assisted by free trade and economic deregulation)
- *Information technology*: under the premise of electronic revolution.
- *Information imperialism*: freed by technology from the local constraints, it can move to whatever level of wages, rents, taxes, and government regulation to guarantee high profits
- Flexible capital accumulation
- Multinational corporations or transnational corporations: these are sometimes larger than national economies imbued with immense bargaining power with centralized strategic global decision making
- Institutional support: the tripartite institutions of the BrettonWoods and the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Competition with states: diminished power of states ignoring any harmful local effects from its activities. Civil societies presented as alternatives to the state
- Ambivalence towards democracy: although stable democratic institutions provide the best environment. NGC has been prepared to support stability at the expense of freedom and justice. NGC fears strong trade unionism and examples abound of favoured regimes in spite of eminent autocracy. Uganda, feudal regimes in the Middle East and lately Pakistan (in the pretext of fighting global terrorism)
- Oligopoly: some industries entirely controlled by Multi-national Corporations (MNCs)
- Destabilization
- Environment damage
- Commodity and identity fetishism: those who embrace tend to engage in conspicuous consumption patterns, those who miss out tend to fall back on cultural, religious or racial identities as defense
- The gap between the poor and richer nations is widened.

## *2. What are the forces driving Neo-liberal Global Capitalism?*

Besides the ones identified in the manifestation of NGC, the driving force for NGC is global capitalism and the quest for profits at all costs and using the tripartite institutions of the Bretton Wood and the World Trade Organization (WTO). NGC operates on the premise of weakening state power and coerce them to accept their terms.

Political unity amongst the imperialist states in the ambition to create further economic blocs can only compound the problem for Africa. e.g. recent unification of the European Union (EU), the Euro as currency among others

## *3. How has Africa been integrated into the process and what have been the effects of this integration on Africa*

We cannot address NGC in isolation of the World Trade Organization (WTO). World Trade Organization (WTO) has sanction instruments that coerce the non-complying states. For political reasons Africans have weak negotiating skills on issues concerning and relating to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Africans are usually unprepared for international meetings often times without answers for the sharp lobbying of the western government representatives.

What is happening is that the World Trade Organization (WTO) is corporatizing the United Nations (UN). In fact in the last three years, World Trade Organization (WTO) challenged three conventions that contradict World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. Some governments were in fact punished for their commitments to the conventions opposed to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

## *4. How has Africa reacted to globalization?*

After being weakened in all aspects, African states have been subdued to give in. instrumental in this regard is the World Trade Organization (WTO) sanctions, World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

## *5. What is the reaction of African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to globalization*

There are basically four reactions, viz;

- i. Outright rejection as it was perceived not to be in the best interest of Africa. Considerable research has been made in this regard and instead those of this view are asking that Africans come up with *Afro-centric* alternatives.
- ii. To perceive the forces of globalization as naturally occurring, a natural phenomenon so to speak, and that Africans or indeed anyone else can do nothing to stop this force. (Per Mugabe)
- iii. To perceive globalization as a double-edged sword, with good and bad sides. The proponents of this view want Africa to adopt the

good and leave the bad sides. The question is, can we isolate the bad?

- iv. The last reaction is that globalization is a formidable force that cannot be ignored; it is a process that must happen. Ours is to it make it work for us.

#### *6. Can we adopt a common position as African civil society?*

Based on the reactions it is difficult for a common position to be agreed upon. However the following positions were proposed:

- i. That however important or destabilizing globalization is or maybe, the African civil society must ensure that the African interest must prevail. Therefore though Africa is opposed to the model of neo-liberal imperialist globalization enshrined in the “*Washington Consensus*”, Africans are still amenable to a model of globalization of economic social and cultural relations that promote the identities and equality of all people.
- ii. Any form of globalization that does not address poverty is not favourable for the African people.
- iii. African Civil society organizations can marshal solidarity and strengthen linkages to ensure that globalization works for Africa. Linkages .can be in the form of forging linkages with the civil society organizations worldwide

African Civil society organizations must be cautious of the choices they make and remember that as civil society organizations they are under governments. African governments are said to be weak, so the Civil society need to establish their weak points and advise so that they can better influence the UN process.

### **GROUP 3: THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT**

This group looked at New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and discussed the level of public discussion around it, the involvement of the African Civil society and the possibility of NEPAD to eradicate poverty and move Africa towards sustainable development. Finally the group made recommendations on what attitude the African CSO need to adopt with regard to Nepad

#### *1. What has been the level of public discussion around New Partnership for Africans Development (NEPAD) in African countries?*

It came to the fore that New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) has not gained any public debate in most African countries and most people got to know about it through personal means and contacts. Most people are eager to know more about what the document entails and

how beneficial it would be to the African countries. It was also realized that even in South Africa where the initiative was began most of the people have no idea about what the document entails let alone it's associated benefits to communities.

*2. Has African civil society organizations (CSOs) been involved in the discussions around New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).*

Based upon what emerged in the previous question. The answer was a big no. Though some were briefed on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative, most were ignorant of the initiative except through media.

*3. Is New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) likely to achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development?*

Since members were not abreast with issues New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) seems to address wasn't any firm stand on this issue but the response that came out was that since there wasn't much public discussions around New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African union has already adopted it in July 2001. The challenge now is how civil society organizations could influence the implementation for it to help solve some, if not most of the problems that have plagued the African continent.

*4. What should be the attitude of African civil society organizations towards New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)?*

Once the public have been ignored in the formation and formulation processes of the document, the only thing civil society organizations (CSOs) could do is organize for a national and sub-regional level workshops to discuss the document thoroughly and to come up with a strengthened position reflecting the grassroots perspectives for implementation before it is presented at Johannesburg summit.

It was also recommended that although the public was ignored, it does not mean that Nepad is detrimental to societal development. It could equally be beneficial to Africa.

It also came out that in spite of the adoption of NEPAD by African governments and some sections of the civil society organizations it could still come out with meaningful strategies to influence the implementation process.

Also there might be a lot of governments who are not even interested with the NEPAD so civil society organizations should not give up on that initiative.

#### **GROUP 4: GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN THE QUEST FOR SUSTAINBLE DEVELOPMENT**

This group discussed the place of gender in Africa's quest for sustainable development, assessment of the position of the status of women in Africa 10 years after Rio, the role played by

Africa's governments and civil society organizations in promoting the role of women in the post Rio era and lastly, the impacts of globalisation on the advancement of the position and status of women in Africa.

In discussing the place of gender in the quest for sustainable development, the group noted that we today recognize the historical importance of bringing central government and men together for an open and constructive dialogue. Since they are our leaders in most of the governments that participated effectively during the Rio conference in 1992.

We note a major problem with sustainable development; diplomacy is its very agenda. What arises is whose agenda was it? Who promoted it? And who accepted it? What was the position of our African governments?

We have realized that unless all sustainable development problems are addressed within an integrated perspective that takes into account the local especially the women, the local within the global and global within the local. There will be little confidence within the developing Africa that the women concerns are being taken into account in the sustainable agenda. The human resources of women is never recognized and is under utilized in relation to the input, realizing that 52% of labour is contributed by women who are marginalized economically, socially, culturally and politically both in employment and under employment, men have dominated most of the key areas even when it comes to decision making they are more male dominated

Gender males who are in the offices as managers or in political position earn much higher income than a farmer who produces cash crops, or food crops, at times there are delays in paying them. The relationship between men and women is another problem of deep concern within the context of sustainable development as relates to the poor at the grassroots, rural and urban slums and no worthwhile attempts have been made at the communities in terms of alleviation of poverty and wise use of natural resources. On this note therefore, it is enough evidence today of our participation and believe that the process of economic regionalization is going to by pass or neglect at least a billion people for several decades more until we pick up better capacities to integrate the marginalized poor who live in highly degraded lands.

Governments have been signing conventions, treatise in most conferences for decades but so far there are no indications of improvements in their performances especially as regards power and resource sharing. Since the female gender has creativity to deal effectively with the improvement and revitalization of their performance. There should be an enabling legal, financial framework to support women's activities. Governments should ratify all the conventions pertaining to women as this would enforce the constitutional and legal framework as well as administrative procedures to transform agreed rights into domestic legislation, so as to strengthen the legal capacity of women to full and equal participation. There is need to revisit the Convention on Elimination and Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Indigenous and cultural laws demoralizes the gender female most in the set up, where foreign martial is never recognized for either.

Few countries have lived to the agreement on 40% representation of women in parliament i.e. Uganda, Gambia etc while other governments have rejected affirmation of women as a result of Beijing platform

Harnessing of the women (female) gender, indigenous knowledge and action oriented research and policy analysis have not been conceptualized in terms of cut backs in social expenditure, economic services, education and health and in the removal of subsidies on food and energy.

Changes of socio cultural behaviour.

In assessing the position and status of women in Africa 10 years after Rio, the group observed that of the 1.3 billion people living on the very edge of existence in the world. Africa has a share of 40 %. The total number of poor households does increase as consequence of population growth, an increase of undernourished people, failure of the slums economy to support increased productivity of agriculture, lands due to little alternatives.

Marginal lands unsuitable for farming are often highly susceptible to soil erosion, loss of soil fertility and desertification, which undermines the livelihood of impoverished migrants.

Any effective sustainable development policy aimed at changes in fertility rates, child mortality, population movement and structure and related to changes in the use of natural resources, must focus on women since they are the primary users and managers of a number of essential natural resources such as water and agriculture

The group also discussed the role that was played by African governments and the civil society organizations in advancing the position and status of women in the last 10 years as well as the effects of globalization on the status and position of women in the last 10 years.

## **PLENARY DISCUSSION**

The following discussions were highlighted in the plenary discussions

### Gender

African governments should ratify CEDAW without any reservation. It should be fully reflected in national constitutions with legislative powers. Civil society organizations should show utmost commitment to women and not just women NGOs. It was also recommended that rural women should be involved in processes of sustainable development. The themes here are all critical but we need better involvement of civil society organizations and follow up on all implementation. We need to come up with capacity building, raise fund and lastly look for partnership within the framework of sustainable development.

### Nepad

Participants observed that the analysis of Nepad is well presented, but the civil society did not discuss the fundamental objectives of this initiative. In Johannesburg, we should discuss this document and the civil society organizations should have proposal to make. The group should have worked on the fundamental plan of this document e.g. on agriculture and the impact of rural areas.



It was noted that NEPAD has good ideas to steer Africa to sustainable development however there is need for extensive information sharing on the document especially among the African civil societies so as to widely spread the message to other member states who are not yet well conversant. It was agreed that civil society go through the document in their sub regional meetings to peruse the language used in the document, analyze it from the local perspectives and give suitable recommendations to be forwarded to governments after gaining consensus.

Furthermore, it was noted that the document is to be presented by governments, as the African agenda and this should be an African initiative not of western influence but purported to be an African agenda. Civil society organizations, are to engage the government, debate Nepad with them and come up with home grown solutions, so as to come up with a consensus, if that is not possible, Civil society can present a parallel document.

NEPAD is demanding a Marshal Plan, which needs massive funds, and unless Africans are part of the initiative, it will not realize development. Globalization only is supported because it brings in equality to all people. Africans have to go back to the agenda at the independence and avoid these confusions like sustainable development. As Africans and taking the historical perspectives of the African countries, there was no money at independence but Africans succeeded. The forefathers had the spirit and determination to succeed. Now if we tap the local resources in Africa, then we can succeed. We look like we are refugees in our own lands, we do have options.

### *Africa & Globalization*

Participants admitted that globalization is like a natural wind but should not just be let to blow; something has to be done to make it work for Africa. In general, African people are not opposed to globalization as such but are opposed to neo liberal globalization called the “Washington consensus”

It was noted that there were three options that African civil society organizations can take with regard to globalization and that for the first time African civil society organizations can come up with a clear position on globalization. The three positions for civil society organizations are;

1. Reject globalization completely
2. Globalization is inevitable and we must live by it
3. Globalization can be accepted and we only reject the bad effects and accept the good effects.

In considering which of the above positions, Africa must consider the facts that she is weak and lacks negotiating capacity in the international scene and in that matter, we have to have African priorities to override all the other interests. The question on who is going to take the lead in development was brought up, is it the Bretton wood institutions or the United Nations. During the UN World Social Summit in Copenhagen in 1995, UNDP took the lead on development issues especially in Africa, later after that, the World Bank (WB) took over. As a result of this, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) proposed by the World Bank has shunted many

homegrown solutions, which were outcomes of the Copenhagen Social Summit including the National Capacity 21 programmes.

There were suggestions for alternative macro economic framework, in view of the fact that we are dealing with so many development concepts; Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative, the Global Compact, the Debt issue and all these can be linked to the Millennium Declaration and the overall place of the United Nations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Also put into question was the role of the World Trade Organization (WTO) *vis a vis* those of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It was observed that powers have been shifting from the UN agencies to specialized agencies.

Discussions on Globalisation and the preparations towards the Financing for Development (FfD) conference, it was observed that all these are giving illusion to Africans. In the past, Africa has been engaging with imperialism, colonialism and then neo colonialism all of which were rejected. Now it is globalization and in the process African countries are engaging with the World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organization (WTO) among other bilateral agencies all of which come up with insensitive conditions. These are not going to develop Africa; instead African should focus on internal resources both human and natural resources.

The conference, noting that Africa is weak and cannot reform globalization yet Africans are suffering massively, called upon the governments of the world to revisit the 0.7 GNP agreement at UNCED to be revitalized so that northern countries meet their obligations in order for Africans and other developing countries to be able to overcome the sustainable development challenges. It was noted that most of the conventions have financial implications attached and the developing countries are not able to meet their obligations due to lack of financial resources. Unfortunately, the mood in developed countries even in Europe now is moving towards neo-liberalism. Denmark for instance where the Vestra party is now in power, has cut down the budget for foreign development. The Danish government has even abolished the Ministry for international development and this is a pointer to gloomy picture ahead.

#### Assessment of Sustainable development

With regard to the assessment of sustainable development in Africa, the discussions concluded that there is need to think more on what has happened and why there were failures ten years after Rio. What were the problems with the governments, UN institutions and the civil society organizations? . Although policies in Africa are inadequate, there is room for improvement. The fundamental issues are the manner in which policies are formulated which is in a centralized manner and then handed in to communities. If policies are good and no dear enforcement of it, then they are useless. There is therefore need to overhaul the policy formulation process in Africa and make it people centered.

African governments have ratified conventions but they were not implemented. The civil society organizations should help the governments implement these conventions. Funding for Global Environmental Facility (GEF) has questions. What are the facilities or the mechanism for NGOs

to put in place in order to access these funds; there are a number of procedures and conditionalities to get access to these funds and these are restrictive.

## **SESSION 5: STRENGTHENING AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN WSSD**

### **SUBREGIONAL REPORTS**

Sub Regional reports were presented by the following sub-regions:

1. North Africa
2. West Africa
3. The Horn of Africa
4. Central Africa
5. Southern Africa
6. The small island states (SIS) of the Indian Ocean
7. East Africa.

The North Africans reported that they would be having the Arab-African Ministerial meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2002 to be held in Cairo, Egypt. The Central Africa reported that some of the achievements in the sub region include;

- Creation of the Brazzaville process in sustainable management of ecosystems in Central Africa
- Management of a common plan from the summits of heads of states in 1999 in Yaounde, Cameroun
- The development of national forests plan, health, training programmes and cooperation programmes
- Adoption of strategic plans for the use of the forests
- Drafting of a document in good governance and strategies for poverty reduction
- Existence of NGOs e.g. the African NGO for Forests, Network of Protected Areas in Central Africa etc.
- Capacity Building the creation of the University of Management of Tropical Forest by UNESCO to improve the quality of the life of the people.

The challenges are the globalization, the depreciation of the CFA Francs, the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and the armed conflicts in the region causing displacement and destruction of natural resources. These problems have the consequence of reducing the effective implementation of Agenda 21.

The civil society organizations have noted negative response to the above issues and witnessed lose of biodiversity, bad governance and no democracy. There are conflicts, which are increasing, loss of resources and intensification of poverty and illiteracy, escalation of endemic diseases. This gloomy picture can give NGOs hope due to the opportunities that they have for

example; Central Africa still has much resources. Globalization has also favoured the region and enabled it to share global exchange whether we are poor or rich. The problem is only due to the bad governance of the leaders *vis a vis* the opportunities we have.

Within the SADC sub-region, the major issue is poverty and the sub region are reiterating that poverty should be the main theme for the WSSD process and should be high on the agenda. Climate change also should also be prioritized.

The SADC NGO group was developed at a consultative meeting in October in South Africa. The core group of five is based in Namibia and they represent 11 countries of the SADC region. They participated at the SADC meeting in Mauritius in September 2001. The group has developed a list serve to ensure more effective information flow from the members and to share information and do better coordination. The sub-region is planning a second meeting in March 2002.

Hans Andersehn from Ibis (Namibia) also gave a background on the Danish 92 group support to the NGO Rio + 10 process. The funds are from DANIDA to support NGO participation in the Rio + 10 process in the South, specifically Africa, Latin America and Asia. The project supports processes going on presently. Website of the project [www.rio10.dk](http://www.rio10.dk) and there are pages sub-regions

The Small Island States reported about the process in Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles and Mauritius. In Madagascar the government of Madagascar has put in place institutions after Rio to promote environmental protection and poverty reduction but there has been laxity in collaboration between the NGOs and the governments. NGOs are not well-coordinated and organized regarding Rio + 10 process. On the Rio + 10 process, there is inadequate involvement of the private sector organizations, women, NGOs working on different areas of health, poverty, human rights, sustainable development. Generally, the civil society organizations have not been involved and are not aware of the process. Comoros has minor involvement of the civil society organizations.

In Seychelles, There is much awareness on sustainable development issues. The country has good tourism projects; developed in the small islands and they have also adopted sustainable tourist development. There is a wide network of NGOs that have developed national level activities in the Rio + 10 process.

In Mauritius, only two NGOs have been active in the Rio + 10 process. They have completed national evaluation of the Rio outcomes and are now planning a national workshop. Governments have the institutions in place but there is acute shortage of funds to do the implementation. Poverty is a real issue and cuts across other issues. There is lack of investments save for tourism projects only, and the government is conscious of the issue of sustainable tourism, Integrated coastal zone management to avoid pollution of lagoons and seas through waste disposal in the sea.

The government is putting in place mechanism to handle disasters like the frequent cyclones and this need to mitigated as the effects and consequences are devastating.

Climate change is top on agenda and the Small Island States (SIS) are following keenly the developments in Kyoto protocol. The conference should send a strong message to the United States that they should act on this issue.

The governments requested the international community to assist the Small Island States (SIS) as agreed in Rio summit and the Barbados Plan of Action for Small Island States (SIS), unfortunately all the promises have not been fulfilled.

Capacity Building & Educational programmes are priority areas for the Small Island States and there is also need to promote national and international agreements

In east Africa, the national assessments are not complete but they are going on through research and workshops by NGOs. The process is supported by Denmark through the Danish 92 group

The major issues from the Horn of Africa include; Desertification, armed conflicts which is causing untold sufferings to the people and are forcing the governments to allocate huge resources to purchase arms, which should have been used for sustainable development. Water, the issue of Pastoralists who are most affected by armed conflicts and the fact that most of the rebel groups do operate from pastoralist areas and this makes them insecure to invest in their future. Their local knowledge is undermined, their environment degraded, their rights as humans violated and the sum of all these is forcing them to live unsustainably, Education & Training: horn of Africa, Somalia and southern Sudan in particular, is having children without education for more than a decade and without access to funds due to lack of recognition. Resources for education and training are used to pay for war. The few educated serve other countries than their own people.

## **SESSION 6: ALLIANCE BUILDING IN THE CONTEXT OF WSSD**

### **Keynote Speeches**

By Professor Dani Nabudere (Afrika Study Center) and Dr Abou Gustave (NESDA)

In his keynote remarks, Professor Nabudere noted that African Civil society organizations should build alliances with all the sections of the society in the continent and beyond. These alliances should be at cross border levels. He cited the example of pastoralists who in most cases do not respect the boundaries and also the Mandela African College that moves with respect to the African culture.

He challenged the CSO to build alliances with the informal sector. He noted that women are at the center of crisis and there is so much to learn from them. The knowledge contained in African cultures is strong enough to build alliances. Some of the target groups for instance would be the Non-Aligned Movement, the Third World Network (TWN) in Africa, the Jubilee 2000 Alliance, NESDA, AOYE, Ibis, the Danish 92 group, the Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBF).

### *Events for Alliance Building*

Professor Nabudere challenged the civil society to use the upcoming events to build alliances; the United Nations NGO Southern Caucus and the World Social Forum to be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The civil society organizations alliance building strategies should go beyond

2002. Professor Nabudere observed that there is need to rekindle the debate in social movement and redefine the jargons that have dominated the debate since 1992, this is only possible if the movement is retraced from the 70s.

The Civil society also has to link with the *indigenous communities* who have diversity within their knowledge systems. He noted that diversity is not possible in science, but the diversity in the indigenous communities include both cultural and biological. To the contrary, natural science does not accept diversity but proposes uniformity. Professor Nabudere said that Amartya Sehn emphasized this in his book; “*Development and Freedom*” where he puts sense in political freedom. The civil society movement must therefore make Africans self determined in future. He reiterated the need to strengthen conflict resolution mechanisms within the African continent since conflict is a major issue in resource competition and in attaining sustainable development.

Professor Nabudere observed that the liberation struggle is not over. It must mean globalization of solidarities and not economic globalization where some few people want to dominate others. Civil society organizations must develop a new global agenda. The period beyond Johannesburg must be the opportunity and there has to be alliances with the anti-globalization movement in the west. Science is not exclusive to Europeans. The people still have a voice and they must be integrated in the decision making process. African communities must be strengthened in the struggle against globalization.

Professor Nabudere recommended that communities must intensify practical campaigns against the Multi-national companies that exploit their resources so that they cannot be exploited. He cited the example of the Maasai *Osiliki*, which is working against the British Army campaigning for compensation against the landmines that killed people after the World War II in Kenya. He also spoke about the struggle of women in Tana River in Kenya and the Tiomin mining case in Mombasa. He observed that ethnic communities are powerful if NGOs join them for instance the Ogoni People’s Movement in Nigeria that is fighting the exploitation by the Shell Oil Company.

In Conclusion, Professor Nabudere challenged the participants to reflect Beyond 2002 Johannesburg summit and embark on a new programme based on the resources of the people of Africa.

In his keynote presentation, Dr Abou Gustave noted that building alliances towards the WSSD is a unique opportunity to save the planet Earth after Rio 92. He further observed that idea of sustainable development is a synonym of dialogue with the community who have to preserve the assets of their resources. Members of civil society organizations should have partners in order to achieve sustainable development.

Dr Gustave remarked that the greatest challenge to sustainable development is the lack of *participation* and *integration* in the decision making process and welcomed the fact that the United Nations organizations are engaging and cooperating with the civil society organizations in the preparation for the WSSD. In the continent, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) has given Africans the opportunity to re-construct an Africa where their aspirations

are included. The participation of the civil society in developing the NEPAD mechanism must put an emphasis to institutionalize the participation of youth, women, and traditional leaders in Africa. Dr Gustave further noted that there is need institutionalize the African civil society community. He proposed the formation of an institution called “The Forum of African Civil Society Organizations in Sustainable Development”. He observed that this forum would influence the view of the United Nations as well as other Inter-governmental bodies. It would also interact with African Inter-governmental institutions like the African Union (AU). He recommended that civil society should define an organization chart for the proposed forum that will help strengthen the problems on the ground for example a forum with a secretariat, committee of supervisors. The secretariat is supported by focal points. The secretariat will come into alliance with the United Nations, the European Union (EU) among others. The rationale for this is that civil society should be aware of their weaknesses and also be able to establish a representative community of all the civil society organizations in Africa.

In Conclusion, Dr Gustave challenged the civil society organizations to work together and more closely with the respective national governments as well as to form strategic alliances with like-minded organizations of the north so as to interact with other networks beyond the continent.

## **PLENARY DISCUSSIONS**

During the plenary discussions, the following issues were highlighted:

- The need for intensified involvement of the African Civil society groups in bringing to an end Conflicts and wars that are abound in Africa. The civil society groups must question the involvement of foreign governments in the wars going on in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Sierra Leone among others. The conference recommended the involvement of the *indigenous communities* in finding *long lasting solutions* to the numerous conflicts in the continent so as to overcome the present obstacles.
- The need to involve African luminaries in the WSSD process and cited the example of Professor Adebayo Adedeji former head of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Professor Mustapha Tolba, former Executive Director of the United nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali, the former Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) among others.
- The need to redefine the Continents relation with the West especially with the present trend of globalization. The conference noted that at present, the relationship is not based on equal strength since the two are not at par. One participant wondered what arguments could Africa give to the west. Participants observed that the money from Europe should not be the fundamental process in Africa’s development and interaction with the west. The conference therefore recommended that Africa not continue focusing on World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to fund all the development projects, instead there should be a way in which, for instance the African Development Bank (ADB) be strengthened using resources generated internally.

- The conference also condemned the rampant corruption by governments in the continent and called to an end to this as it also resulted in impoverishing Africans
- One participant remarked that Africa cannot be said to have failed. The consultants from the West cost Africa a total of US Dollars 10 Billion per annum. At the same time, Africa exports raw materials against manufactured goods. The money stolen from Africa by some ruling elites and dictators goes back to European banks and the money is not returned back to the continent but remains in Europe when these leaders die. This trend contributes immensely to the increasing poverty in the continent because African countries have to repay back these loans with additional interests.
- The plenary noted that the issue of Brain drain is now a serious problem in Africa and recommended that measures need to be put in place to ensure that the current trend is halted so that African professionals can contribute to the long-term development of the continent.
- The issue of military intervention by African governments in the countries in armed conflicts was condemned and an example given of Uganda which is intervening in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was noted that this is a mistake and it should be stopped.
- There was a recommendation for closer collaboration with governments in consistent with the objectives of the civil society organizations, which are to promote, freedom, education and protection of the environment.

The group that discussed the African Civil society networks reported on their discussions. The group noted that these networks/alliances do exist and they cut across many sectors; health, education, environment, agriculture, research, humanitarian activities, human rights and legal issues among others.

They noted that the role played by these networks in the struggle for sustainable development in Africa include;

- Advocacy
- Capacity building
- Mobilization
- Education and training
- Resource mobilization
- Lobbying
- Research examples FAWE and AWORD

Majority of the women networks are not involved in the WSSD preparatory process. From a regional perspective, much has been realized but the issue now is how to take this up at the national level and to the grassroots as well. The group observed that this involvement couldn't be



generalized; it is country specific for example in Nigeria, no national consultation has taken place and this was ascribed to lack of funds. The group made the following recommendations;

- Avoid rhetoric, generate tangible ideas. There is need to create a critical mass. This will ensure that our respective constituents are well aware of the route to WSSD and that they understand the process.
- Dissemination of information on the process, trickle down effect through the existing networks/caucuses prior to Johannesburg
- Intensify sensitization
- Integrate in the existing programmes
- Mobilize financial resources in order to actualize the various activities
- Intensify media campaigns packaged in a culturally acceptable mode
- Take stock of activities undertaken prior to Johannesburg since this will serve as an indicator of the civil society high level of commitment to sustainable development

With regard to how the women can use WSSD to build African gender networks, the following recommendations were highlighted in the group report

- Build and enhance the existing networks and alliances
- Make the mission clear
- Ensure that language is inclusive
- The models should be homegrown and responsive to the ideals of sustainable development

Other groups discussed on engaging with the UN agencies, global civil society organizations, African governments and inter-governmental organizations.

## **SESSION 7: SETTING AN AFRICAN AGENDA TOWARDS WSSD**

### **TORS For the Sub-Regional Focal Points (SRFPs)**

The following were agreed upon as the TORs for the Sub-regional focal points;

1. Conduct Sub -regional consultations on the WSSD
2. Provide the forum for the harmonization of ideas.
3. Identify focal points for thematic issues in the sub-region
4. Develop mechanisms for effective communication and participation among various networks and NGOs/CSOs within the sub region
5. Coordinate activities towards WSSD and participation on the PrepComs
6. Provide periodic update/progress report to the WSSD Civil society secretariat in Johannesburg

7. Ensure gender and youth mainstreaming on issues related to WSSD
8. Access to information should be a necessary part for the Sub-regional focal points. Most issues are from the national settings and such national issues should be strengthened to support the Sub-regional focal points (SRFPs) and positions

The conference recommended that there be national focal points in every country to coordinate and consolidate the national processes. This will facilitate coordination if effected. In principle, there was an agreement to do this either through the UNDP sponsored Capacity 21 programmes but this is not mandatory.

With regard to the above points, the plenary noted that these activities should aim at ensuring the presence of African NGOs towards Johannesburg in the various preparatory activities. It was also agreed that the harmonization of ideas is suitable since different countries have different programmes and concerns.

It was recommended that, where possible members of the civil society organizations should be involved in government delegations to WSSD but this should not mean that the agenda for the civil society is lost in the process, the reason is to ensure communication with the governments since they are the ones who make the decisions as parties to the conventions. It was agreed that NGOs should be flexible when approaching the governments since the agenda of NGOs should be in Johannesburg as well.

The conference requested that the WSSD secretariat should come up with a timetable of activities, given the fact that there are a lot of meetings and conferences concerning the WSSD. This should be circulated widely among the civil society groups in the continent  
It was generally accepted that the above Terms of Reference (ToRs) should be taken as generics to give room to particular Sub -regions which might need and should be able to add to them if and when they would like to do so.

### **TORS For The African Civil Society Steering Committee for WSSD**

The participants agreed to form an African Civil Society Steering Committee (ASC) for WSSD to be taking the responsibility of assisting the civil society organizations to be actively involved in the WSSD and not beyond.

The ASC would cover all the different Sub-regions in a way that all the countries will be represented. The principle of being part of the committee is to be voluntary and transparent. The conference proposed and adopted the following ToRs;

1. Facilitation: this should be done through establishing an open ended mechanism and assist all CSOs to be involved in the WSSD process and get their inputs. This will take into consideration the need to assist CSOs to be accredited for participation at the WSSD and also in the PrepComs.

2. Co-ordination: This should be among the committee members (Internally) and with the civil society organizations and other partners, inside and outside of Africa (externally). Coordination is to be done in a full spirit of partnership including with governments and all the inter-governmental organizations. Coordination include during the summit, since there will be a lot of coordinating activities. Recommendation is that there should be a strong coordinating team working 24 hours as it happened in Rio.
3. Distribution of tasks: This is to done among different members and to build on the different capacities that exist in Africa. Use voluntary capacity in the members and NGOs to undertake effective work.
4. Dissemination of information: This can be achieved in two (2) ways; between different members of the ASC and civil society organization in African countries in relation to WSSD. Reporting on different activities before and after the PrepComs. The thematic lead agencies will facilitate the process reporting based on selected themes and the reporting will continue after the Johannesburg summit.
5. Identifying: (not to be in charge or represent) the representatives of the African civil society organizations in the different events before and during Johannesburg. The steering committee will also help in nominating resource persons for different forums and platforms as regards thematic areas.
6. Resource mobilization: This should be done through the coordination process so as collaborate with other actors to provide technical and financial resources for the sub-regions to implement their activities before and during Johannesburg

Further discussions around the proposed ToRs identified the following major issues;

- i. The need to have the steering committee continues with the reporting after the Johannesburg summit. This was realized out of the fact that the steering committee is up to work up to WSSD, yet the committee should have the responsibility of reporting and follow up actions to avoid a gap on who is to be responsible for reporting.
- ii. On accreditation of civil society with the UN, it was clarified that there is also a body within the UN which facilitates the issue of accreditation, the steering committee cannot do that, as it is not their responsibility, however for the civil society organizations who do not know how to fill the papers and how to be accredited, the steering committee should be able to assist and play the facilitation role only by assisting NGOs to know the procedures of accreditation. They will help the accreditation office if and only they refuse to accredit the respective NGO. There was an agreement that the steering should help the NGOs to get accreditation with the United Nations.

- iii. Some participants raised concerns with regard to the identification of representatives to the Global PrepComs and also to the meetings before and after WSSD. They recommended that this should be part of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Sub-regional focal points (SRFPs) since they are more in touch with what is going on in the national and sub regional context. Secondly, there are needs for a binding time frame for communication among the wider group.
- iv. The participants agreed that there should be a management committee within the steering committee, which is tasked with the responsibility to identify the needs and programmes in terms of thematic areas for the African region as well as the need to elaborate on the envisaged relationship between the African steering committee and the International Steering Committee for WSSD.
- v. The committee was therefore tasked with the responsibility to ensure effective information flow before and during the WSSD. It was also recommended that the Steering Committee should have a newsletter at the WSSD to keep the NGO delegates informed at the various stages of the negotiations taking place during the WSSD. This should be a good information dissemination mechanism. The newspaper will spread information on what will be happening and to help NGOs in coordination.

### **Composition of the African Civil Society Steering Committee for WSSD.**

With regard to the composition of the African Civil Society Steering Committee for WSSD, the discussions yielded the following proposals;

The need to have representation from each Sub-region where every Sub-region elects **one** person with an alternate. In a situation where there is a problem especially some Sub-regions where communication is a problem, the particular Sub-region should come up with a mechanism on how they solve the communication problem.

The need to elect representatives who are not having assignment elsewhere with WSSD process and those that are committed and available for the process.

Adequate representation of the women, youth and marginalized groups:

There is need for women representation in order to capture gender issues. The youth issue is also very important, it is important to look at the youth too. Other marginalized groups in society like

the disabled should also be taken into consideration. The Sub-regions need also to think of the disabled and the indigenous people.

### *SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS*

1. -Sub-regional focal points (SRFPs), there should be the alternate where each sub region do there best to have one person be a woman to cover the gender issues. Sub-regional focal point-there should be one Sub-regional focal point (SRFP) representation and an alternative. It is incumbent upon the sub regions to decide how to split the balance between the focal points and the representation.
2. -Identify from 4-6 thematic areas, that can be expanded, based on the most important themes and these be added.
3. Gender representative one representative for the gender issues, not necessarily women is to be nominated by the women's caucus. In addition to the gender balance, we need a gender representative and this was agreed upon unanimously.
4. Youth group to nominate one representative for youth. The steering committee must have a youth representative and how the youth representative will be elected.
5. Committee not composed on the basis of themes and has the power to co-opt people to work with the themes.
6. The theme people are not full time members of the committee but will from time to time be called upon to undertake various tasks based on their unique specialization and experience with certain themes. The sub regions have identified the themes of the concern to the particular sub-regions. The steering committee has a duty to coordinate the process and if they lack capacity, they can co-opt the professionals in order to achieve a coherent form at of reporting. These individuals or organizations can work as lead agencies on particular themes.
7. The overriding goal of the Committee is the idea of representing Africa and not representing a sub region. This steering committee is going to fulfill the conditions of the terms of reference. All the sub regions need to present a report to the committee on a regular and periodic basis

Sufficient consensus was arrived at and the conference formally adopted the following principles regarding the role and composition of the African Civil Society Steering Committee for WSSD;  
That the committee must have:

- Gender representative
- Youth representative
- One representative per sub region and an alternate from the same sub-region
- Be gender balanced
- People who will accept nominations and those who nominate them will have sufficient time to give to the process.
- The committee will look at all the themes from all Sub-regional focal points (SRFPs)
- Cluster the themes, ensure that there is a secure expertise and coordinate the drafting of the process of position, yet they are not themselves a committee of expert

In addition, the committee was mandated to take the list of all the themes from all the sub-regions, identify common issues, get the issues that are missing, identify lead institutions that will coordinate the positions of the themes but does not take over the thematic process.

### **Election of Members to the African Civil Society Steering Committee**

The elections were carried out based on the following commonly agreed criteria

- Each of the respective Sub regional group to elect a representative and an alternate member.
- The Women Caucus to elect the gender representative
- The Youth Caucus to elect the youth

The following individuals were elected to serve as the members of the African Civil Society Steering Committee for WSSD. The elections were done by the respective sub-regions and endorsed by the conference at the plenary. The gender caucus elected the gender representative and the youth representative was voted at the plenary.

#### **1. NORTH AFRICA**

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## 6. SMALL ISLAND STATES

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#### **7. GENDER/WOMEN'S CAUCUS Representative**

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#### **8. YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

- a) PHILIP OSANO (Kenya)  
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#### **Representation to the Global PrepComII and the World Social Forum**

The following persons were identified as those going to attend the Global PrepCom II in New York.

1. ABOU Bamba
2. RAJAN Awotar
3. EMAD Adly
4. JEAN MARIE
5. LITHER Musyimi
6. MELCHEZIDEK Lutema
7. MENSAH Todzoroh
8. WAHU Kaara
9. ANNABEL Waititu
10. HASSAN Abdel Ati
11. MILLION Belay

Ms Annabel Waititu was requested to convene a meeting with all of them so as to lay strategies for the African participation at the PrepCom II in New York.

Professor Nabudere was the only participant available who was to attend the World Social Forum in Porto Allegre, Brazil

### **WSSD YOUTH PROCESS**

Philip Osano did this presentation. He noted that youth participation in the WSSD process covers the following three levels; National, Regional and International levels.

#### *Youth for Sustainable Development Process*

This process was initiated in February 2001 during the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the UNEP Governing Council in Nairobi, Kenya in February 2001 by UNEP Youth programme in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment, Sweden and the Nature & Youth NGO in Denmark.

#### **Activities;**

Youth Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (Borgholm Summit) held from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2001 in Sweden. The conference brought together 217 youth representatives from 110 countries to initiate the national youth preparations towards WSSD. At the conference, the participants produced the document “ *Resolution for Change*” and “ *A Call to Action*” more details and report available at [www.youth.se](http://www.youth.se)

#### *Evaluation of African Youth participation at the Borgholm Conference*

At the Borgholm conference, African delegates comprised a paltry 12.4 % of the total participants. The number of African countries represented was only nineteen (18) with representation from the following African countries;

1. Algeria
2. Angola
3. Burundi
4. Cameroun
5. Cote d' Ivoire
6. Eritrea
7. Gambia
8. Ghana
9. Kenya
10. Liberia
11. Mauritius
12. Mozambique
13. Nigeria
14. South Africa

15. Tanzania
16. Togo
17. Western Sahara
18. Zimbabwe

### **Issues identified by the African Youth**

The following were some of the issues that were identified by the African youth during the meeting in Sweden

- Poverty
- Role of transnational corporations (TNCs) in Africa
- Debt relief
- HIV/AIDS
- Conflict & Wars
- Environmental racism
- African youth participation in international events
- Gender equity
- Role of international financial institutions in the development process in Africa

The youth made the following recommendations;

- That in future, conference organizers should have wider consultations with African youth on ideas for the agenda
- The trend of making African participants to be used as rubberstamps should be stopped
- That there should be fair representation at future conferences
- That there should be equitable representation for the benefit of all the participants according to language distribution in Africa (Arabic, English, French, Portuguese etc)
- There should be increased funding for African youth participation to all the PrepCom meetings
- There should be effective networking among African youth groups and the group supported and endorsed the South African Youth Team to take lead in mobilizing youth participation in the WSSD process at the global level.
- The meeting recommended that there should be an African Youth Meeting before or during the African Regional PrepCom.

### *Challenges for African Youth in the WSSD process.*

The following are some of the challenges for African youth groups in the participation in the WSSD process;

- Lack of information and low awareness on the WSSD process
- Poor organizational skills and weak institutional framework
- Lack of resources, both financial and human
- Little or no support from the governments and civil society organizations (CSOs)
- Low capacity to fundraise and mobilize resources as well as to sustain communication between and among themselves and with other relevant sectors of the society.

#### *Youth Participation at the African Regional PrepCom for WSSD*

During the African Regional PrepCom for WSSD held in October 2001, UNEP sponsored a number of youths to participate in the event. The youth had a follow up meeting to the Borgholm meeting and developed a youth statement which addressed the following issues:

Called for an African Youth Forum to be held before the Global Youth Forum in March 2002. The Government of Senegal offered to host the Youth Forum in early March 2002. The Government of Libya has also shown keen interest and the Libyan Ambassador in Nairobi is doing a follow up to this.

The other issues that were contained in the youth statement are as follows;

1. HIV/AIDS
2. Youth Policies
3. Youth Involvement in NEPAD
4. Debt Cancellation
5. Globalization
6. Gender & Equity
7. Insecurity
8. International Legal Instrument on the Youth
9. Earth Charter

#### *International Review of Chapter 25 of Agenda 21*

African youths participated in the international youth review on Chapter 25 of Agenda 21 (Youth & Children's Involvement in Sustainable Development) as members of the "Ad Hoc Working Group for the International Chapter 25 Youth Review", an international coalition of youth organizations and individuals from around world. The report produced is to serve as the UN Secretary-General's note for the Multi-stakeholder segment of the Second Preparatory Committee. Youth from the following African countries were involved;

- ❖ Kenya
- ❖ Cameroun
- ❖ Zambia

- ❖ South Africa
- ❖ Ghana
- ❖ Nigeria

The key areas identified in the paper are as follows;

1. Access to Education and creating awareness on Sustainable Development
2. Access to information and engagement at all levels of decision-making
3. Youth unemployment
4. Missing concerns in Agenda 21
  - I. HIV/AIDS
  - II. Unsustainable consumption lifestyles
  - III. Wars and conflicts
  - IV. Trade and poverty elimination
  - V. Climate change

### ***UNEP Global Youth Forum***

The UNEP Global Youth Forum is to be held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002 in Denmark. Youth delegates from all the fifty-three African countries are expected to attend the forum. The aim of the Forum is empowering young people to act in order to improve the environment-through concrete actions as well as advocacy work and participation in democratic processes. The overall themes for the Global Youth Forum 2002 will be;

- The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)
  - Collecting young people views on sustainable development activities since 1992
  - Producing a youth input to WSSD
- The right to clean environment
  - Linking global environmental concerns and the recognition of the right to live in a healthy environment.

Following will be the topics for discussions;

1. Freshwater
2. Climate change-energy
3. Poverty
4. Consumption and lifestyle
5. Trade and environment
6. Biodiversity
7. Food security and new technology

## **PLENARY SESSION**

Philip Osano (Kenya) was nominated to be the youth representative in the steering committee and the conference recommended that the committee that strong efforts be made to bring the youth together before the WSSD to develop the African youth agenda that is devoid of donor influence.

### ***Other Issues***

The conference heard and adopted resolutions on Somalia, a statement by the Women Caucus, The Civil Society input to the Open Ended Ministerial Meeting on International Environmental Governance (Bonn, Germany). Statement of the southern Sudan representative condemning the oil exploration in Sudan

### ***The Pan African Conference II***

The conference adopted and endorsed the Concept paper for the African preparation towards WSSD. The African Civil Society Steering Committee for WSSD was officially given the mandate too organize and coordinate the Pan African Conference II to be held in May 2002 before the final PrepCom so that there can be consolidation of the outcomes of PrepCom II and III.

Ms Vore Seck from Senegal delivered the Closing Statement. She thanked the government of Kenya and the Minister for Environment for having authorized the venue of the African civil society conference to be held in Nairobi, the Heinrich Boell Foundation (hbf) for sponsorship and UNEP for participation and encouragement. The Pan African conference secretariat for the organization, members of the Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum and all and the resource persons who gave the keynote address for the conference.

She expressed hope that the national, sub-regional and the PrepCom consultations as well as the activities of the African Steering Committee will enable Africans to finalize the position of the African Civil Society for WSSD and beyond

*“ In such international meetings good intentions are always there and when we have to carry out those intentions, we come up with social and personal interests, Our interest here is Africa, we can and will serve Africa at any level”.* Chief Tiemeko Justin, Cote D’ivoire



## **ANNEX 1: POLITICAL STATEMENT**

### **AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY POSITION TOWARDS THE WSSD 2002 AND BEYOND**

#### **PREAMBLE**

“For a long time now, Africa has suffered like a motherless child. We have been at the receiving end of the decisions and resolutions taken by other people on our behalf. We must put an end to this... Something needs to radically change in the way the world perceives our continent, Africa, and us today. We must help humanity to begin to look at us as human beings”.<sup>1</sup>

#### **INTRODUCTION**

We the representatives of African civil society organizations meeting in Nairobi, Kenya from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2002 for the “*African Conference of Civil Society Organizations: Consolidating the Regional Agenda Towards WSSD and Beyond*” with the aim of:

- Strengthening of African civil society,
- Development of a common African civil society position in the context of WSSD and beyond and
- Development of a strategy for African civil society’s engagement and participation in the WSSD process.

And following up on the deliberations and resolutions stemming from the Pan African NGO Caucus meeting held in Nairobi in October 2001 assert thus:

Whereas:

1. We recognize that poverty eradication constitutes the greatest challenge for African States, being more than ever deeply entrenched and economic disparities widening by the day between and within nations;
2. We note that Africa has been at the receiving end of numerous foreign concepts incompatible with the potential of Africa to realize sustainable development;
3. We realize the need for Africans to interrogate these concepts so as to ensure that Africa’s interest reigns supreme over all other considerations;

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<sup>1</sup>Per Luyanda ka Msumza, President South Africa Civil Society INDABA in his address at the official opening of the Conference.



4. The African Governments have acknowledged the New African Partnership for Development (NEPAD) as the vehicle for achievement of long-term sustainable development in Africa, and that NEPAD though supported by the North, constitutes an ambitious response to growing poverty, debt burden and lack of democratic governance and offers a framework for Africans to bargain in the international platform under the ambit of the African Union (AU); there is need for African Civil Society organizations to have strategic input into NEPAD.
5. Globalisation can be seen as breeding neo-liberal and imperialistic economic capitalism, the African Civil Society Organisations supported globalisation of economic, social and cultural relations that promotes the identities and equality of all peoples and strongly opposed to the so-called “Washington Consensus”;
6. Considerable achievements have been realized in the implementation of the outcomes of the Rio Summit, sustainable development remains elusive as a result of emphasis on environmental issues at the expense of social and economic concerns, lack of infrastructure, insufficient funding and the widening gap between talk and action.
7. Discussing Gender perspectives in the quest for sustainable development is in essence the discussion of the history and the future of the African people;
8. African Civil Societies cannot achieve any meaningful reversal of trends opposed to sustainable development without linkages and partnership with respective governments, inter-governmental organisations, the United Nations and other Civil Society Organizations beyond the continent;

To this end the Pan-African Conference:

1. Set up the African Civil Society Steering Committee for the WSSD with the noble task of coordinating and consolidating the African civil Society position, Agenda and participation in that regard towards and during the WSSD.
2. Resolved that there was need for African Civil Societies to form alliances with like-minded partners based on shared values and visions. The following were identified as potential partners:
  - a. Governments
  - b. Inter-governmental Organisations
  - c. The UN and its agencies
  - d. Global Civil Society Organisations
  - e. The African Corporate sector
  - f. Youth and Women Networks

g. Strategic Northern Partners

3. Agreed that NEPAD and other Euro-centric concepts should be interrogated in the context of African perspectives and needs, to be defined to unmask any propaganda.
4. Emphasized that Agenda 21 embodying the vision and promise of the realization of Sustainable Development cannot be re-negotiated and what remains is for the Developed Countries to fulfill their obligations under the UNCED.
5. Recognized that the WSSD falling at the onset of the New Millennium, a decade after Rio and being held in Africa presents an opportune moment to take stock of our achievements, illuminate on our constraints and chart the course for the future.
6. Set up a task force to harmonize the thematic areas and those of key concern for Africa as a whole towards the WSSD.
7. Agreed that a follow-up Pan-African Conference be held in April 2002 before the Global Prep-Com IV to review CSO position and finalize the preparations for the WSSD Civil Society Forum.
8. Reiterated Civil Societies need for continued involvement in initiatives and the solutions to the following problems; Poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution, democracy and civil rights, globalisation, environmental degradation like desertification, governance (democratic)
9. Supported the location of UNEP in Nairobi, Kenya and also expressed deep concern on the situation in Somalia and Southern Sudan. The conference condemned the perpetuation of wars in African countries

**“Africa first, Africa last, Africa all the time!”**



Keynote Address 45min  
Prof. Archie Mafeje  
**Sustainable Development, Governance & Globalization: Towards  
the WSSD and Beyond**

**1100 - 1130 TEA BREAK**

**1130 - 1200** Plenary Discussion on Keynote address 30 min

<b>Part 2:</b>	<b>Developing the African Civil Society Position on Sustainable Development</b>
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**1200 - 1330 Africa and Sustainable Development in the  
Current Context**

**Plenary Presentations**

1. Assessment of SD in Africa 10 years after Rio  
Mr. Abou Bamba - NESDA - 15 min
2. Africa and Globalization: Thinking Locally and Acting Globally  
Dr. John Mugabe - ACTS - 15 min
3. The New Partnership for Africa's Development  
Mr. Oupa Lehulere - 15 min
4. Gender Perspectives in the Quest for Sustainable Development  
Ms. Wahu Kaara - Kenya Debt Relief Network - 15min

**Reactions to the Presentations - 30 min**

**1330 - 1430 LUNCH BREAK**

**SESSION CHAIR: -**

1430 - 1630

Parallel Group Sessions

- Assessment of SD in Africa 10 years after Rio
- Africa and Globalization
- The New Partnerships for Africa's Development
- Gender Perspectives in the Quest for Sustainable Development

1630 - 1700

**TEA BREAK**

1700 - 1830

Report Back and Plenary/ Panel Discussions  
from Parallel Sessions

***End of Day Two***

*Part 3: Strengthening African Civil Society*

*Participation in WSSD*

**Day 3:**

**10<sup>TH</sup> JAN 2002**

**SESSION CHAIR: -**

0830 - 1000

**Reports on Sub-regional Focal Points**

North Africa  
West Africa  
Eastern Africa  
Central Africa  
Southern Africa  
Small Islands

10 minutes report, 5min clarification per region

1000 - 1100

*PLENARY Discussions*

1100 - 1130

**TEA BREAK**

**SESSION CHAIR: -**

1130 - 1220

**Alliance Building in the Context of WSSD**

**Keynote Address -Prof. Dani Nabudere- 20min/ Dr. Aboua Gustave- 10min**

Reaction from the floor 20min

**1220 - 1330**

**Parallel Sessions**

- Engaging with UN Agencies
- Global Civil Society Organizations
- African Governments and related intergovernmental (commonwealth, African Union, G77 etc.)
- African Civil Society Networks
- African Civil Society Networks - Gender
- African Civil Society Networks - Youth

**1330 - 1430**

**LUNCH BREAK**

**1430 - 1600**

Reports and Plenary Discussions

**1600 - 1630**

**TEA BREAK**

**SESSION CHAIR: -**

**1630 - 1730**

International Steering Committee

**1730 - 1830**

**Setting an African Agenda for WSSD**

*End of Day Three*

<i>Part 4: Towards Pan Africa Conference II</i>
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**Day 4:**

**11<sup>TH</sup> JAN 2002**

**SESSION CHAIR: -**

**0830 - 0845**

Presentation of TOR for African Civil Society SC

**0845 - 0945**

Discussion of TOR for African CS SC and Election of Members

**0945 - 1045** Programme of Work for PAC II

**1045 - 1100** **TEA BREAK**

**1100 - 1130**

- PrepComm II - 10min, Soli Madikane, WSSD Civil society secretariat
- Porto Allegre- 10min, Oupa Lehelure, WSSD Civil society secretariat
- Youth Summit- 10min, Philip Osano, Unep Youth Advisory Council

**1130 - 1230** Presentation of Conference Statements

**1230 - 1300** **C L O S U R E**

**1300 - 1400** **LUNCH**

**\*\*\*\*\* End of Conference\*\*\*\*\***

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