

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2004

Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Addressing the WEHAB agenda

Organized by TERI, New Delhi, 4-7 February 2004

Online at <http://www.teriin.org/dsds>

In brief . . .

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 6

Leadership is Key to Sustainable Development

Chairperson Dr Claude Martin

Speaker Mr Børge Brende



The smallest effort from the smallest of us can contribute towards achieving universal sustainability goals. There is a pressing need to transform words into action, focus on specific issues, and ensure that commitments are met. The role of the Commission on Sustainable Development is important to review the progress in meeting goals, identifying obstacles, and ushering in appropriate policies.

Assessments from the United Nations Development Programme confirm that India, China, and South Korea are on track with regard to reducing poverty in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals. Any remaining problems can be addressed through political courage and action at the local and national levels.

The impressive achievements in the water sector in the 1980s were negated by the subsequent mismanagement of the infrastructure developed. Due to inadequate training in operation and maintenance, many water sources have become defunct. The investments in the water and sanitation sectors were, thus, not sustainable.

Right now the challenges lie in three major areas: (1) governance, (2) financing for creative solutions, and (3) mobilizing all relevant actors. Good governance, at both local and national levels, will effect improvements in the quality of life, prevent inefficient and wasteful use of water, and improve pricing and distribution of water. We also need a global perspective on financing, though capital inflows alone cannot solve the problem. We need innovative financial institutions that improve the access of the poor to credit.

MR BØRGE BRENDE



Successfully mobilizing all actors in the development process is another key factor. The urgent needs of millions of people can be met only through concerted actions on the part of the public sector, communities, civil society groups, and the private sector.

Meeting the water and sanitation targets call for integrated water management, increased official development assistance, better financing mechanisms, and good governance. There is also a need to strike a balance between participation, leadership, and ownership.

In India, new opportunities are now provided through the Panchayati Raj system in terms of building local capacity. However, the conflicts between representative and participative forms of democracy can undermine the conducive environment and these need to be urgently resolved.

PLENARY SESSION 7A

Taking Stock: Have We Achieved Anything Since WSSD?

Chairperson

Dr Jan P Pronk

Members of the panel

- Ms Sheila Dikshit
- Mr Pekka Haavisto
- Mr Elliot Morley
- Mr Erich Stather



The first ministerial session, coming nearly at the close of the summit, attempted to strike a note of optimism.

Though limited, there are indications of some success stories in sustainability since the Johannesburg summit. The global political framework is tending towards bilateral and multilateral negotiations; processes such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development are transparent and involve a number



MS SHEILA DIKSHIT

MR PEKKA HAANISTO



of countries and a diversity of stakeholders. There is sustained commitment towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals for providing access to safe water and sanitation to the poorest people and poor countries by 2015.

In comparison to declarations from Stockholm and Rio, the output from Johannesburg is weak in terms of actions, mainly because trade issues hog the limelight in international negotiations. The challenge is to combine the interests of environment and sustainable development with trade negotiations.

There is an urgent need to establish good governance practices and develop long-term partnerships between the government and the community. A good example is the Delhi government's Bhagidari initiative to partner with the citizens towards environmental improvement.

For sustained long-term benefits, environmental issues must be integrated into poverty reduction and development strategies. Sustainable energy use is a critical issue of concern and needs to be strengthened. There is also a need for transparency and proper reporting by national and multinational corporates on social and environmental issues. Finally, to operationalize sustainable development, it is imperative to convert political and social resolve into concrete action by implementing a bottom-up approach with genuine stakeholder participation.

MR ERICH STÄTHER



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PLENARY SESSION 7B

Charting the Path Ahead: Creating Political Resolve and Forward Momentum

Co-chairs

- Mr Børge Brende
- Mr Apolonio Ruiz Ligerio

Members of the panel

- Mr Omar Abdullah
 - Prof. Yoginder K Alagh
 - Mr Pieter van Geel
 - Ms Martha Wangari Karua
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The session focused on identifying critical elements that would help the global community cross the threshold from commitments to concrete

achievements and convert ambition into reality.

The ministers felt that for every three steps taken forward in achieving the goals, lack of synergy pushes us back two steps. Coordination is imperative among nations, within nations, and among various stakeholders. Synergy between private investment and public funding is necessary to cover extra costs involved in sustainable solutions. The problem is not of inadequacy of funds but of the absence of 'catalysts'. Corporate social responsibility can ensure that investments are not for profit alone but also for development.

Steps forward should involve new institutions and processes encompassing technical and financial support to farmers and artisans to adopt sustainable solutions; early warning systems; and integration of trade strategies. It is important to arrest the politically motivated reversals whereby resources meant for local bodies are going to higher-level bodies.

Agricultural and rural diversification is vitally important to ensure that there are no setbacks to the Millennium Development Goals. One way forward is integrated water resource planning that has a holistic

approach and takes environmental concerns into account. The management of water resources integrates well with other goals like improvements in health and food security.

Efficient use of existing resources must be the primary concern, rather than dependence on official development assistance alone. The government must provide the leadership and facilitate coordination among all stakeholders.

Increasingly, political resolves concerning sustainable development are couched in such dualities as: 'Should an all-encompassing subject like this, which covers all aspects of life, be tackled by political resolve or used as a tool to win elections?'

The ministers felt that sustainable solutions may seem expensive in the short run but will ultimately prove to be cost-effective. The discussions following the ministerial presentations stressed that 'monitoring' is a key parameter for ensuring the success of

development programmes. For monitoring to be effective, it has to be holistic rather than project-based. It should be a coordinated and collaborative effort, ensuring minimum time lag in information flow.



MS MARTHA WANGARI KARUA

MR ELLIOT MORELY



PROF. Y. K. ALAGH



MR OMAR ABDULLAH



MR PIETER VAN GEEL



VALEDICTORY SESSION

Joining Hands: Common Goals and Partnerships Across Borders

Chairperson

- Mr Björn Stigson

Members of the panel

- Dr Claude Martin
 - Dr R K Pachauri
 - Dr Jan P Pronk
 - Ambassador Arne Walther
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The valedictory session identified lessons learnt, gaps persisting, and other key issues in the implementation of partnerships for sustainable development.

Fruitful partnerships are more than mere memorandums of understanding. They are builders of synergies across interest groups, and deliverers of win-win situations for all. They require substantial commitment of time and resources. Partners must share clear, common goals and make compromises. The number of partners and partnerships itself needs to be limited to enhance efficiency of action and avoid duplication of efforts.

Feasibility analyses are thus important before the initiation of partnerships and the identification of appropriate partners.

However, conflicts are inherent in partnerships, arising from differences in the goals of

different stakeholders or inequitable distribution of decision-making power. These are exacerbated by resource scarcity. The foundation for a successful partnership lies in the realization that those with more power and wealth must share more with the underprivileged to reduce disparities.

The need of the hour is to move away from negotiation towards implementation. Monitoring of action, though essential, cannot replace action. Local capacity must be built during implementation for establishing ownership and ensuring sustained benefits. This would also assist in replicating successful examples at reduced costs.

Many lessons can be learnt from coordination at the international level, common experiences across

nations, and actual project implementation at the grass roots. A formal framework is needed to assess partnerships and create a body of knowledge from which experiences can be disseminated and success stories

replicated, particularly in technology development.

We are now at the crossroads; the path we choose will determine whether we succeed in meeting the challenges our world faces. Along with great threats, we have unique opportunities and resources available. The track record since Rio and Johannesburg may cause pessimism but a pessimistic view can trigger action, as it is hard to solve problems we cannot identify. There are no easy solutions and difficult trade-offs are involved. However, there is hope that new global leaders will emerge. While partnerships are necessary, the more important question relates to the global governance required to take us where we want to go.



DR R K PACHAURI



DR JAN P PRONK



AMBASSADOR ARNE WALTHER

DR CLAUDE MARTIN



CONCLUDING SESSION

Summary of DSDS 2004 and Plans for the Future

Dr R K Pachauri

Dr Pachauri wrapped up DSDS 2004 by expressing gratitude to the participating world leaders and eminent intellectuals. They elevated the level of discussion, allowing the audience to benefit from their knowledge. He added that the summit's current size and structure facilitates frank and outspoken discussions. Tying up with media partners can help disseminate knowledge from the summit to the world; videoconferencing or webcasting would allow more people to tap into the rich discussions.

While the presence of high-profile leaders could bring organizational and security problems, middle-level officials could just as effectively communicate the summit dialogue to their superiors.



There should be greater attempts to include young persons, like students and younger professionals from government and business. Community leaders should be encouraged to share their success stories and their frustrations about ground-level practicalities.

The summit could be made more interactive through, for instance, the use of Chatham House rules. The ambit of participation could be increased by reaching outside Delhi to form a broader coalition of partnerships in setting the summit agenda. There is a need for higher participation by women. A summit output in the form of a report or consensus statement would contribute to the summit's visibility and credibility.

As they said it . . .

The enthusiasm and leadership demonstrated by organizations like TERI can have a crucial impact on sustainable development.



Mr Børge Brende
Hon'ble Minister of Environment,
Government of Norway, Oslo;
Chairman, United Nations
Commission on Sustainable
Development, New York

If one is the minister for development, the major enemy one has to struggle with is the minister for finance.



Mr Pekka Haavisto
Hon'ble former Minister of
Environment and Development
Cooperation, Government of
Finland, Helsinki

The road may be long and winding but we do have a compass to chart the route to sustainable development.



Mr Pieter van Geel
State Secretary, Ministry of Hous-
ing, Spatial Planning and Environ-
ment, Government of the Nether-
lands, The Hague

If we [politicians] cannot build the resolve, let institutions like TERI and the courts do it. Put pressure on us to build the resolve for sustainable development.



Mr Omar Abdullah
Hon'ble former Minister of State for
External Affairs, Government of
India, New Delhi

Is poverty eradication only an income issue?



Dr Claude Martin
Director-General, WWF Interna-
tional, Gland

Enormous lessons can be taken from one part of the world into another, despite differences in culture. There is a need for a formal framework for partnerships.



Dr R K Pachauri
Director-General, TERI, New Delhi;
Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel
on Climate Change, Geneva

The scarcest resource is power... Those with more power ought to share and take two steps backwards.



Dr Jan Pronk
Chairman, Water Supply and
Sanitation Collaborative Council;
Special Envoy for the
Secretary-General, United Nations

Nothing is unlimited, particularly water. We must make the people recognize the necessity of conserving water.



Ms Sheila Dikshit
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi,
India

It is a mistake to present the sustainability agenda in terms of environment versus development. They must go hand in hand.



Mr Elliot Morley
Hon'ble Minister for Environment,
Department for Environment, Food,
and Rural Affairs,
Government of UK, London

We will never achieve the Millennium Development Goals if we focus only on aid and not on maximizing existing resources.



Ms Martha Wangari Karua
Hon'ble Minister for Water
Resources Management and Devel-
opment, Government of Kenya,
Nairobi

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