

Agenda Ya Wananchi ...

Citizens' Action Plan for the 1990's



adopted at

Roots of the Future

A Global NGO Conference in relation to the 1992 Earth Summit
Paris, 17 to 20 December 1991

Table of Contents

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Preface | 4 |
| Chapter 1 | 5 |
| Chapter 2 | 7 |
| Chapter 3 | 11 |
| Chapter 4 | 15 |
| Chapter 5 | 19 |
| Chapter 6 | 23 |
| Chapter 7 | 27 |
| Chapter 8 | 31 |
| Chapter 9 | 35 |
| Chapter 10 | 39 |
| Chapter 11 | 43 |
| Chapter 12 | 47 |
| Chapter 13 | 51 |
| Chapter 14 | 55 |
| Chapter 15 | 59 |
| Chapter 16 | 63 |
| Chapter 17 | 67 |
| Chapter 18 | 71 |
| Chapter 19 | 75 |
| Chapter 20 | 79 |
| Chapter 21 | 83 |
| Chapter 22 | 87 |
| Chapter 23 | 91 |
| Chapter 24 | 95 |
| Chapter 25 | 99 |
| Chapter 26 | 103 |
| Chapter 27 | 107 |
| Chapter 28 | 111 |
| Chapter 29 | 115 |
| Chapter 30 | 119 |
| Chapter 31 | 123 |
| Chapter 32 | 127 |
| Chapter 33 | 131 |
| Chapter 34 | 135 |
| Chapter 35 | 139 |
| Chapter 36 | 143 |
| Chapter 37 | 147 |
| Chapter 38 | 151 |
| Chapter 39 | 155 |
| Chapter 40 | 159 |
| Chapter 41 | 163 |
| Chapter 42 | 167 |
| Chapter 43 | 171 |
| Chapter 44 | 175 |
| Chapter 45 | 179 |
| Chapter 46 | 183 |
| Chapter 47 | 187 |
| Chapter 48 | 191 |
| Chapter 49 | 195 |
| Chapter 50 | 199 |
| Chapter 51 | 203 |
| Chapter 52 | 207 |
| Chapter 53 | 211 |
| Chapter 54 | 215 |
| Chapter 55 | 219 |
| Chapter 56 | 223 |
| Chapter 57 | 227 |
| Chapter 58 | 231 |
| Chapter 59 | 235 |
| Chapter 60 | 239 |
| Chapter 61 | 243 |
| Chapter 62 | 247 |
| Chapter 63 | 251 |
| Chapter 64 | 255 |
| Chapter 65 | 259 |
| Chapter 66 | 263 |
| Chapter 67 | 267 |
| Chapter 68 | 271 |
| Chapter 69 | 275 |
| Chapter 70 | 279 |
| Chapter 71 | 283 |
| Chapter 72 | 287 |
| Chapter 73 | 291 |
| Chapter 74 | 295 |
| Chapter 75 | 299 |
| Chapter 76 | 303 |
| Chapter 77 | 307 |
| Chapter 78 | 311 |
| Chapter 79 | 315 |
| Chapter 80 | 319 |
| Chapter 81 | 323 |
| Chapter 82 | 327 |
| Chapter 83 | 331 |
| Chapter 84 | 335 |
| Chapter 85 | 339 |
| Chapter 86 | 343 |
| Chapter 87 | 347 |
| Chapter 88 | 351 |
| Chapter 89 | 355 |
| Chapter 90 | 359 |
| Chapter 91 | 363 |
| Chapter 92 | 367 |
| Chapter 93 | 371 |
| Chapter 94 | 375 |
| Chapter 95 | 379 |
| Chapter 96 | 383 |
| Chapter 97 | 387 |
| Chapter 98 | 391 |
| Chapter 99 | 395 |
| Chapter 100 | 399 |

AGENDA YA WANANCHI

Citizens Action Plan for the 1990s

*adopted at
Roots of the Future
A Global NGO Conference in relation to the 1992
Earth Summit*

Paris, 17-20 December 1991

**Agenda Ya Wananchi:
Citizens Action Plan for the 1990s**

Edited by
Ron Kingham

Production Coordination
Ravi Sharma and Richard Dunbar

Layout
Noel Lumbama

Cover design
Design Plus Limited

Printed by
INDEXO, Nairobi, Kenya

Published by
Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI)
P.O. Box 72461
Nairobi, Kenya

February 1992

The contents of this Agenda belong to all people. The words herein are to be shared, circulated, discussed, expanded; but above all, acted on so that they can cease to be merely words.

Table of Contents

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| Preface | 4 | 2. Unrestricted access to information | 21 |
| Preamble | 6 | 3. Develop an effective and just United Nations | 22 |
| The Current World Order | 7 | 4. Monitor and ensure the observance of human rights | 23 |
| Understanding the Global Crisis | 9 | 5. Ratify and implement women's rights legislation | 24 |
| The People's Response | 11 | 6. Reduce military spending by at least half | 24 |
| Principles | 12 | 7. Democratize international lending institutions | 24 |
| Our Own Commitments | 13 | 8. Reduce debt burden in Central and Eastern Europe and the South | 24 |
| 1. Create a Global Alliance of NGOs | 13 | 9. Reform the world trading system | 25 |
| 2. Expand participatory democracy in government, international institutions and NGOs | 14 | 10. Establish appropriate funding flows to developing countries | 27 |
| 3. Campaign against injustice and non-sustainability | 15 | 11. Launch a major anti-poverty programme | 27 |
| 4. Expose eviction and displacement policies | 15 | 12. Rebuild our cities in balance with nature | 27 |
| 5. Promote sustainable, endogenous, appropriate development | 15 | 13. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 28 |
| 6. Promote balance between people and their ecosystem | 16 | 14. Technology transfer | 30 |
| 7. Ensure women's equal and integral participation in decision making | 16 | 15. Compensation for traditional biological knowledge | 30 |
| 8. Practice simple, sustainable and non-intrusive lifestyles | 17 | 16. Acknowledge Aboriginal Indigenous land rights. | 32 |
| 9. Rebuild cities in balance with nature | 17 | 17. Undertake land reform in the South | 32 |
| 10. Broaden the constituency base of NGOs | 17 | 18. Promote sustainable agriculture | 32 |
| 11. Promote alternative trade | 18 | 19. Integrate ecological considerations in economic planning | 33 |
| 12. Empower the socially and ecologically marginalised | 18 | 20. End nuclear power/weaponry related activities | 34 |
| 13. Educate people on the importance of cultural plurality | 19 | 21. Democratize the formulation of international accords and conventions | 35 |
| An Appeal to Governments | 20 | An Appeal to the Private Sector | 36 |
| 1. Enhance and promote participatory democracy | 20 | | |

Preface

The Agenda Ya Wananchi: Citizen's Action Plan for the 1990s is based on the resolutions passed in various workshops and plenary sessions during the Roots of the Future Conference held in Paris. The participants at this conference first received the draft Agenda Ya Wananchi which was extracted from the Compendium of Citizens Movements Responses to Environment and Development Challenges.

The Compendium, which was the basic resource material, owes its existence to the efforts of hundreds of individuals, community groups, citizens' movements and non-governmental organisations at work around the world in the struggle for environmentally sound development from the grassroots to the international level. It includes the reports of several regional and national level consultations organised by ELCI and ENDA in several regions of the world. These were followed by three NGO Round Tables organised in March, May and August 1991 to discuss the outlines for the Compendium from the consultations.

Realising the difficulty of distributing a large document like the Compendium, a synthesis was developed. Titled "Justice between Peoples - Justice between Generations" it attempted to draw some conclusions about the essence of the NGO approach, its alternative character and shortcomings. This synthesis led to the Agenda Ya Wananchi which focuses on the challenges facing both governments and citizens; but its central theme is active involvement in building a new world - a world more socially just and ecologically sound than the world we live in today.

The NGO International Steering Committee for 1992 and the international drafting committee wish to thank all those who contributed to this effort to build the Agenda Ya Wananchi upon such a rich and diverse basis.

The Committee and its Secretariat, ELCI, also wish to thank the Governments of France, The

Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Finland, The Ford Foundation, USAID, UNDP and UNEP for their financial support and their commitment to advancing the role and understanding of community based groups and NGOs working in the field of environment and development.

Members of the NGO International Steering Committee for 1992

- Martin Abraham*, International Organization of Consumers' Unions
Bella Abzug, Women and the Environment, USA
*Jean Arnold**, New Brunswick Environment and Development Group, Canada
Delmar Blasco, International Council of Voluntary Agencies
Jacques Bugnicourt, ENDA-TM, Senegal
Dorothy Davey, Aboriginal Women's Working Party, Australia
*Raymond van Ermen**, European Environmental Bureau, Belgium
Ampam Karakras, COICA, Ecuador
Davinder Lamba, Habitat International Coalition
*Khethiwe K. Moyo-Mhlanga**, Africa 2000 Project, Zimbabwe
*Raul Montenegro**, FUNAM, Argentina
Shimwaayi Muntemba, ELCI
*Mohammed Nazim**, Energy and Environment Society of Pakistan
Anthony Quizon, Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Philippines
Cyril Ritchie, UNICEF NGO Child Strategy Group, Switzerland
Muriel Saragoussi, Brazilian NGO Forum for 1992 **Co-chairperson**
Roberto Smeraldi, Friends of the Earth International **Co-chairperson**
Wouter Veening, IUCN-Netherlands

* **ELCI Members representing their respective regions**

Members of the Drafting Committee

Coordinator

Ravi Sharma, Environment Liaison Centre International

Drafting Coordinator

Ronald A. Kingham, Environment and Development Resource Centre, Belgium

Synthesis Writers

- Anil K. Agarwal*, Centre for Science & Environment, India
Ewa Charkiewicz-Pluta, I Prefer to Be, Poland
Elin Enge, Norwegian Campaign for Environment and Development, Norway
Miguel Grinberg, Promundo International, Argentina
Michael McCoy, Centre for Citizen Advocacy, USA
Bunker (Sanjit) Roy, Social Work & Research Centre, India
Edward Rugumayo, ELCI, Kenya

Special Contributors

- Anita Anand*, Women's Feature Service, India
Lic Gustavo Estava, Mexico
Jeannette Kingham-Mullaart, EDRC, Belgium
Terje Larsen, The Alternative Future Project, Norway
Shimwaayi Muntemba, ELCI, Kenya
Lucas Reijnders, Stichting Natuur en Milieu, The Netherlands
Ignacy Sachs, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, France
Ravi Sharma, ELCI
Wouter Veening, IUCN-NL, The Netherlands
Edward Rugumayo, ELCI, Kenya

Revised Agenda Ya Wananchi Drafters

- Barbara Bramble*, National Wildlife Federation, USA
Ewa Charkiewicz-Pluta, I Prefer to Be, Poland
Miguel Grinberg, Promundo International, Argentina
Maximo T. Kalaw, Green Forum, Philippines
Michael McCoy, Centre for Citizen Advocacy, USA
Edward Rugumayo, ELCI
Ravi Sharma, ELCI
Wouter Veening, IUCN-NL, The Netherlands

Preamble

Suddenly, it is like the birth of a new earth. People from across our planet are becoming the caretakers of their own destiny, building an expansive web of solidarity and social invention. They come through different paths of existence: city slum dwellers, urban tax payers, unsettled peasants, indigenous families, environmental activists, angry professionals, the graduates and the illiterates, women empowering themselves, alienated teenagers, inspired artists, grassroots educators, veteran pacifists, smiling prophets, mothers and fathers and children, and many other builders of human freedom at the end of a century scarred by totalitarian terrors. Their shared certainties go further than the most desirable revolution and are stronger than all the summits. Such irreversible commitments bind together the visionary and the victim, the strong and the weak, the loved and the lonely. Each one of us is looking for a place in such collective re-creation. Many tools are at hand.

Only self-affirmation is urgently required.

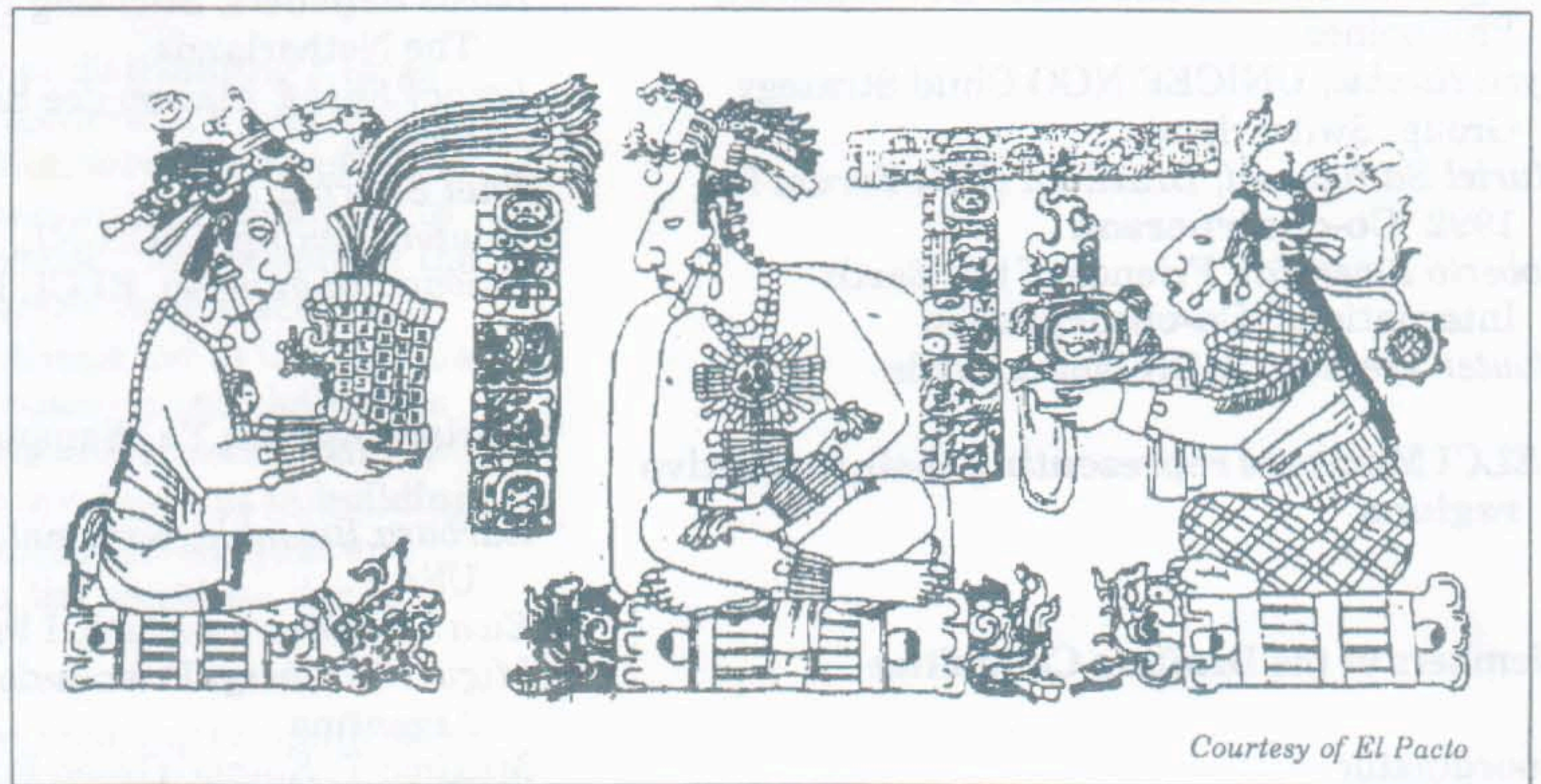
Beyond words and shadows. Like children facing their first rainbow. In the name of a growing planetary celebration.

We share a common crisis, the collapse of the clean air, water, soil and the biological diversity that are our requirements for mutual existence. And we share a common destiny, as yet unwritten.

Linked to us in a web of kinship, all living beings are interdependent - using, sharing, cleansing and replenishing the fundamental elements of life support, since in the nature of things the refuse of one has always been the nourishment of others.

The last two hundred years have been a very destructive period. We have polluted the soil, water and air and driven many human societies and countless wild life species to extinction. We have damned the rivers, torn down the ancient forests, poisoned the rain and ripped holes in the sky. Science has brought joy as well as pain, and the prosperity of the industrial world has been acquired at a terrible price.

Science has taught us that all creation is matter and energy interacting in an elegant dance of life, and that biological and cultural diversity are the foundations of stability. Certain ideas resonate with truth; certain convictions are inherently right; certain insights originate in the deepest heart of our lives. Just as social justice and equality of opportunity irrespective of gender, colour or race are non-negotiable goals of a healthy humane community, so certain biological principles, ecologically based and morally inspired, must become fundamental elements of a new politics of hope. And where our knowledge is so limited as to preclude a



reasonable estimate, we must err always on the side of caution. These precepts must be at the base of the new value and belief systems within which future generations must live.

The Current World Order

In the last decade of this century, we face a world struggling to deal with critical problems, some of which, in the context of environment and development, are:

Systems of governance that sunder watersheds and ecoregions and that subjugate the individual and the local communities, their environments and their traditional practices and potentials for the sake of the highly centralized economic and political control and which destroys their self-respect, sense of identity, and ability to self-govern, and which imposes upon them external solutions that are more often ecologically destructive and socially unjust.

A world market system that is rapidly growing and integrating the use of the world's natural resources, even though it largely brings benefits only to a small minority and, even worse, fixes product prices in a way that fails to capture the ecological costs of production and, thus, discounts the future or passes the costs on to the world's poor, often living on the margins of the human habitat.

A world financial system in which the poor are today enmeshed in the proverbial moneylenders' clutches - "I can't pay but I will pay" - the result of which is that the South actually transfers about US \$50 billion to the North each year and over US \$200 billion are lost by the South in brain drain, declining terms of trade and protectionist measures in industrialized countries. The cumulative result of all this is that Southern populations get fewer investments in schools, hospitals and the environment.

A military system which is incompatible with sustainable development. Too many people in the world are still suffering the ravages of war which is at the same time the worst cause of the damage of the environment. The threat of mass destruction still hangs over humanity. The Gulf War was the evidence of the continuous acceptability of warfare as a political tool. After the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, it would

have been logical to dissolve NATO. Instead, it has been strengthened to be used as a tool to preserve world-wide hegemony. The process of disintegration of totalitarian regimes in Central and Eastern Europe has turned into war in some countries, other countries of this region are on the brink of war. Even peacetime "normal" military activities continue to have a very negative impact on the environment.

A global culture in which the world's cultural diversity - which is itself the historical result of the world's ecological diversity - is getting subjugated and destroyed by the dominant economic and technological processes, resulting in a world-wide growth of both state and civil violence as suppressed populations reassert their cultural identity and as indigenous, subsistence-based peoples struggle to regain or retain their land base.

A global lifestyle and value system in which there is never enough, and there is such a lot that is so unnecessary; and which fails to revere the sacred earth and its myriad of home places.

A global power structure where economic strength is translated into political and military hegemony which is in contradiction to the requirements of a democratic world order. Together with the establishment of exclusive power centres, such as the G7, these structures devalue and undermine the role of the United Nations as an agent of peace and promoter of human values built around consensus and sustainability.

A global gender blindness which has consistently diminished the role, contributions and value that women, 50 % of the world's people, make to human, social and economic development and to environmental protection.

Development strategies and projects which are unsuited to the special characteristics of the ecosystems in which they are carried out, leading to degradation of mountainous regions, coastal areas, forests, deserts, semi-arid regions

and the human life environment.

The degradation of human settlements, including rampant urbanization, the decline of rural economies, and the lack of effective strategic or local planning, thus aggravating social and economic inequalities of every kind and threatening to destroy all efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Homelessness and landlessness on a global scale result from wars, disasters and the alienation of land from poor people due to commercial "development" pressures. Urbanization is accompanied by extreme poverty with a lack of urban services impinging harshly on the health and labour time of women and children in particular.

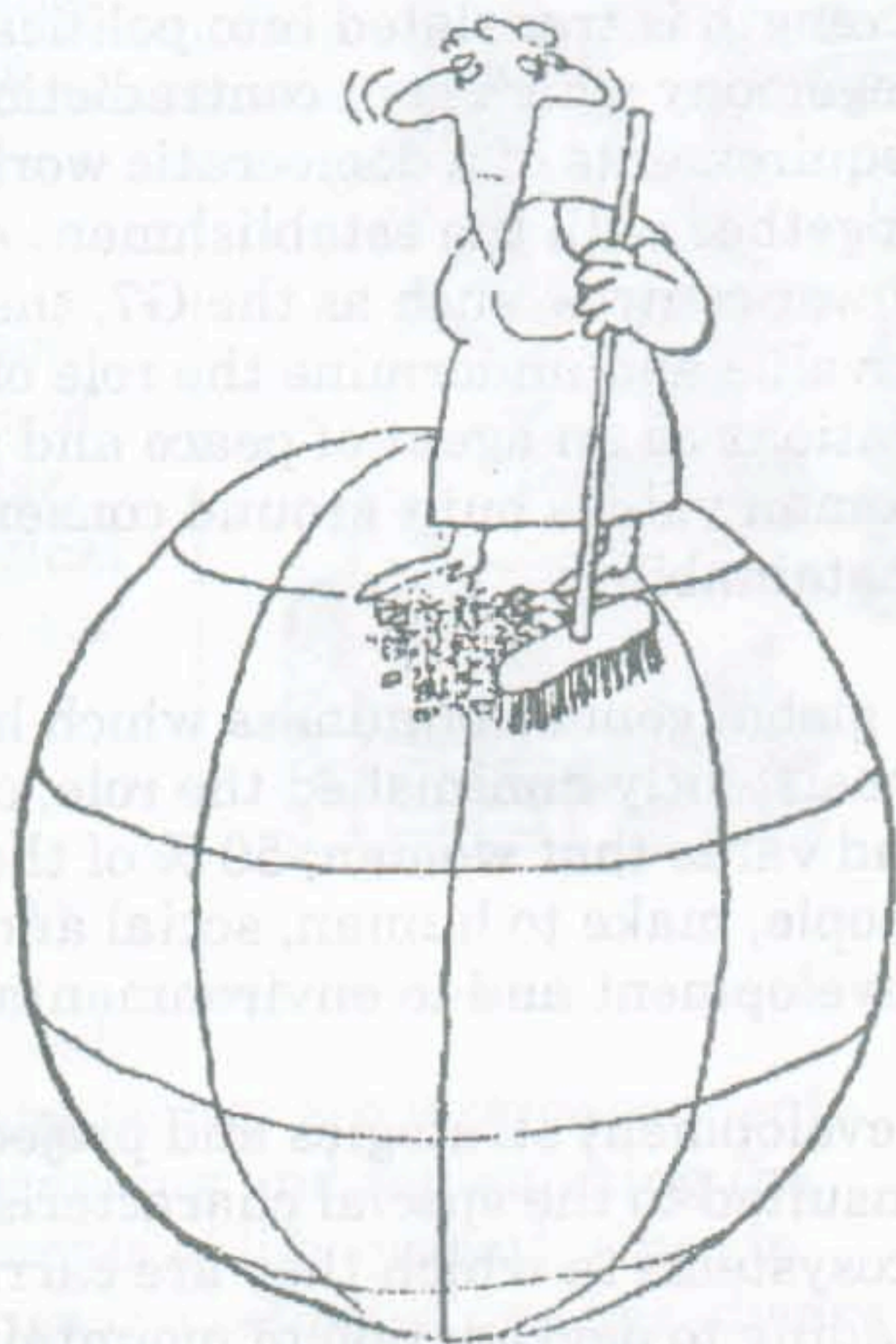
Degradation of human health is the inescapable consequence of degradation of the environment. Failure to incorporate the health of citizens and communities as a major resource when planning and evaluating development as a whole leads to an unsustainable downward resource cycle for

local, regional and global communities.

Increasing exposure to various hazardous waste and toxic chemicals has an adverse effect on human health. In addition to ecological disasters which repeat from time to time (Bhopal, Chernobyl etc.) numerous chronic changes may be especially dangerous for future generations, such as inborn errors, mental retardation, increased infant mortality, etc.

The main reason for these global threats is a voracious development process, for which the industrial civilization of the world is mainly responsible - in collusion with its outposts in the South.

A different way of development is necessary, one which is sustainable and where ecological and social concerns for all humanity and future generations are given priority. However, such sustainable development is incompatible with quantitative growth. Therefore the concept of sustainable development, as seen by the Brundtland report is inherently contradictory.



Courtesy of FOE Link

Understanding the Global Crisis

We are today living in a world where all "development paradigms" seem to be breaking down. The industrialized countries have consistently followed a path in which every attempt has been made to externalize environmental and social costs and which has disregarded the possibility of utilizing the renewable resource flows within bioregions. Wealth accumulation in the North has often been a factor in environmental and social destruction in the South. And, in the North itself, unemployment is today a factor that affects 20 million people without much prospect of this problem being solved in the near future. "Dualism" is thus no longer a special attribute of the South. Social control over the uses of technology is also conspicuously absent in the development path followed by the industrialized countries. At the same time, both the Central and Eastern European countries and the debt-ridden countries of the developing world are also suffering from extremely predatory natural resource-use patterns. Unless this changes, these countries cannot achieve equitable and sustainable development.

In the case of many Southern countries - and the same holds more or less for the countries "in-between" the North and the South, for example, the Mediterranean countries - external factors have played a key role in their economic stagnation: the debt trap, adverse terms of trade and neo-protectionism on the part of the industrialized countries. These factors must be removed to allow future development in the South. The 1980s have been described as the "lost decade" in several parts of the world. For the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the decade may have been one of hope and frustration, the latter because the Western consumers' paradise was not immediately reached after (formal) democracy got its chance. We strongly believe that, in order to deal with the global ecological crisis and in order not to expand a totally unsustainable consumption pattern to other parts of the world, a "structural adjustment" has to take place in the industrialized world, which has caused most of

the ecological problems through its profligate and wasteful consumption and the associated production systems. The countries in the North can be helped with their structural adjustment by missions from other parts of the world, such as the mission of four people of the South to the Netherlands, who gave a penetrating analysis of the contradictions in that society and stated the following:

"In a sense, you could say the Western civilization and its Northern peoples are living a hopeless case of drug addiction. No matter how clearly you communicate to them that their behaviour is destructive to themselves and also to others, they cannot control it. They just keep on taking more and more, unless they are forcefully restrained."

Industrial countries are morally bound to repay the "ecological debt" they have accumulated. But to get equitable and sustainable development, developing countries should also not obscure the fact that their model of "growth through inequality" is now reaching its limits, leaving behind enormous social tensions and ecological damage. Governments in the developing world must learn to trust their own people and the ability of their own communities to manage their natural resources.

In the case of the Central and Eastern European countries the present state of economy which affects their current choices has been mainly determined by internal factors, such as the huge, in many cases unrepayable debts, outdated industry, wasteful production, etc., which all exacerbate ecological crises in the region. Yet, the solution to these problems to a large extent lies in the hands of the West. This is because the severe debt problems, the lack of the capital resources and the gap in technologies reduce the autonomy of these countries in determining their own development patterns. This influence forces the Central and Eastern European countries in two opposite directions simultaneously, both unsustainable. There is a strong drive within these societies to uncritically

adopt the development model of the overconsuming North. One way of wasting human capacities and nature's resources is changed for another while the newcomers attempt a pathetic race to catch up with the North. It is also likely that they face a new kind of colonization and will follow the same track as the South. Yet, the period of transition is their biggest chance. If only these pressures could be alleviated, the Central and Eastern European countries stand a better chance to develop in a more sustainable way. The equitable cooperation between the West and the East, the mutual learning between South and the Central and Eastern European countries at all levels holds the possibility of providing for more appropriate environmental solutions to facilitate this process. The paradoxical chance of the Central and Eastern European countries is to learn from the mistakes but also good experiences of the West and the South alike. Paradoxically, the Western expansion in the Central and Eastern European countries which serve as new untapped markets is to the disadvantage to the West and in fact to the whole planet because it puts off the adoption of the sustainable solutions to the global crisis.

We acknowledge and affirm that the right of people and communities to a place to live in security and dignity is of nature: the soil, the forests, the waterways and the air. This human right is internationally recognized and codified as the right to adequate housing in many treaties of international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 25) and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (art. 11).

We are convinced that the only way human beings can live in harmony with each other and with nature is through a respect for women's capacities and for cultural plurality; the creation of a fairer, frugal and equal world in economic terms; the development of a technological system with a human face that is built on self-reliance and endogenous needs; and, the development of a system of both global and

national level governance that is built upon "participatory\grassroots democracy" in which all human beings have the right to information and access to appropriate mechanisms to participate in decision-making processes that affect their progress, their culture, their health and their environment, and in which respect for the evolutionary destiny of all species, and for the integrity of natural systems is a fundamental ethic.

Cultural plurality is essential. We need cultural plurality for both peace and ecological sustainability, because we humans are members of ecosystems. Earth's diverse Ecoregions have made us behave and live differently and to acquire different worldviews. At the same time, being part of the biosphere imposes upon us a sense of common oneness. It is this "diversity in oneness" and "oneness in diversity" that all of us - citizens and, most of all, governments - must learn to appreciate and respect. Peace and harmony cannot be built upon cultural arrogance arising out of economic, technological or military power. It is also essential that the profligate consumption patterns of the global elites be arrested and changed rapidly, for they are a far greater factor in and threat to global ecological damage than the growth in the numbers of the poor in the South. Ecological sustainability will demand a respect for women's contributions and capacity to contribute special expertise to environmental management, as well as equality in the degree of personal responsibility required of men and women in their contributions to sustainability. Equitable economic growth - one that focuses not just on the poor and their basic needs but also on the specific developmental needs of women in terms of food, education, health care and employment opportunities - can itself play a major role in reducing population growth, as has been found in several parts of in developing world.

The People's Response

We are proud that the citizens' environment and development movement, which itself has flowed in great diversity and now reaches all corners of the globe, has brought these concerns to the fore of global consciousness. After nearly three decades of active struggles and mobilization, the movement has the following major achievements, amongst others, to its credit:

The movement has asserted the need for human beings to accept the constraints posed by nature and to live in harmony with each other and all other species - a need that is now widely accepted, especially by the youth and the environmentally conscious public.

The movement has challenged the technocratic vision of society and asserted the principle of "participatory democracy" - that it is not enough to have the right to elect a few leaders once every few years to a parliament and then allow them to take all decisions with the help of their bureaucrats and technocrats, but that all citizens have the right to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives and their environment on an everyday basis. The right to one's environment is today accepted as a right of all beings.

The movement has reasserted the human and environmental rights of marginalised groups and groups without any political votes - from women and children to indigenous communities, nomads and traditional fisherfolk - and thus rekindled a respect for global cultural plurality, which was completely lost during 500 years of colonialism and which was succeeded by an extraordinary technological arrogance in the last half of the 20th century.

We are serious in our commitments to build sustainable lifeways. We are especially committed to listening to, learning from, and working with the Aboriginal and other Indigenous peoples of the world. They have the skills, knowledge, experience and spiritual learnings in sustaining the earth and her communities. From them we are learning to

change our ways of working and living, of making decisions, and of sharing and caring together.

The work of grassroots activists, both in the North and South, has repeatedly shown that it is indeed possible to develop alternative, ecologically informed environmentally-sound, highly productive and people-based energy, agriculture and natural resource management systems, based on self-respect, self-reliance and endogenous needs. In particular the movement has demonstrated through successful environmental projects which have been initiated, managed, and led by women (as presented at the Global Assembly of women and the Environment) that women, based on their skills, roles and experiences, have specific and valuable contributions to make on issues related to the environment and the development of alternative sustainable technologies.

Most of all, the movement has helped to create a global consciousness about "one world" and our basic integrity as "one humanity". Our ultimate unity is as members of the human species, part of a living biosphere. What we do in one part of the world ultimately impacts on another; what the rich in the North or the South do to the world's poor ultimately comes back to them as their own problem. We have indeed shown it is possible to build a new world - a world more ecologically sound and socially just than the world we have today. We must build upon our own past work and achievements to construct what we think is right, and fight what we think is wrong. We also appeal to the world leaders attending the UN Conference on Environment and Development that they must not go to this vital meeting - at a time when the world faces an extraordinary environment and development crisis - with petty personal and national agendas. They should go with a vision for the 21st century and a dream for a new deal. It is our future that they will be determining and we will not forgive them for their failure to move towards a greater justice and a regeneration of Earth's ecosystems.

Principles

It must be understood by everyone that the real issue is not protecting the environment per se, but how to manage environmental resources to best effect sustainable social, economic, and physical development. The principles to be applied must be understood as holistic and interdependent and should include the following:

- ecological integrity, including the reduction of social and cultural vulnerability, must be maintained;
- the satisfaction of basic needs for all is the first and unequivocal duty of humankind, locally, nationally, and globally;
- all material and non-material human needs and rights of the world's present and future generations, in particular the right of every woman, man and child, to live in peace, security and dignity, must be guaranteed and fulfilled;
- conditions which facilitate and sustain social self-determination, particularly autonomy, self-reliance, participatory democracy, and cultural integrity must be created; and
- current and inter-national equity with respect to material and over-material human needs in terms of gender, religion, and race must be achieved and sustained at all levels of human organization.

This we must remind ourselves

All life is sacred. Yet while consuming the fruits of the Earth, we have brought her to the brink of destruction and threatened our continued existence in our very home. Whatever we have done to the Earth we have done to ourselves and our children. Recognizing this, we set forth the following principles for living in balance on a healthy planet.

This we must learn and teach our children

Integrity of Creation: The Earth with its diverse life forms is a functioning whole. We have a pressing obligation to respect all strands in this web of life and preserve them for future generations.

Community in Diversity: The Peoples of the Earth form a global community whose health, peace and well-being rely on our respect for the richness of its diversity of culture, beliefs, traditions, gender and indigenous groups.

Partnership and Responsibility: The principles of active cooperation between peoples, respect for human rights and participatory democracy, including access to education and information, are prerequisites to an equitable, peaceful and just society.

Sustainable Development: All our activities must take place within the limits of the Earth's capacity to regenerate.

New Thinking: We recognize the need to recreate economic, social and security structures to reflect true ecological, societal and cultural costs and benefits.

This we must do

We are committed, by the above principles, to care for and restore the Earth's equilibrium as it is the only way we can sustain ourselves and future generations.

Keeping this in mind, we propose the following plan of action, firstly, to ourselves, and, secondly, to governments and other actors, to move towards a more socially just and environmentally secure world.

Our Own Commitments

While we, citizens, citizens' groups and community groups, demand a number of urgent actions by governments, it is also our responsibility and duty to expand the scope of civil action in protecting the world's environment and moving towards equitable and sustainable development. We have, therefore, agreed in Paris that our own priority agenda will include the following:

1 We commit ourselves to the building up of global alliances and working together in our struggle for planetary justice and sustainability and we offer our wide-ranging experience and expertise to the global community to this end.

Citizens' groups, community groups, environment, development and consumer organizations across the world - as distinct from organizations associated with profit-making institutions - are united in their single most important desire to expand the role of the civil society in governance and to reinhabit our life places in a socially just, equitable and ecologically sustainable manner. We must work together even more intensively than we have done in the past, both within our bioregions and across national boundaries, to change the behaviour of national elites and state, international and commercial organizations.

But it is important that we further democratize our own work patterns. Urban and issue-based groups must work closely with community groups and/or constituency-based citizens' groups, and carefully avoid adopting a representative role without an appropriate legitimating process. Similarly, Northern citizens' groups, howsoever well-intentioned, must work closely with and consult with Southern and Eastern citizens' groups before taking up issues of global concern on their behalf. Relations between citizens' groups from the North and South should be built on true and equal partnership and they should not mimic the dominance-dependence relationship of the governments of the North and the South. There

is a lot that we can learn from each other and it is our bounden duty to document our struggles and our successes and failures and keep each other informed.

In particular the establishment of the direct links and cooperation, mutual learning and networking between the citizens' movements in the South and in the Central and Eastern Europe could open new pathways in transformations towards sustainable development. Once a spirit of mutual trust is established, we will find that citizens' groups across the world have an enormous amount in common and that all such distinctions like North, South, East and West begin to dissolve as the cultural, economic and ecological integrity of life places become undeniable. It is our duty to work together to rebuild an understanding of our Earth as a dynamic system of life-places and bioregions, and to build a vision of "one world" even as our governments may try to carve it up into artificial units.

Specific Actions

To present in one full report the true tragedy of the so-called "Peaceful Atom" before and after Chernobyl, the current effort of the International pro-Nuclear Lobby to advance its enterprises as an "alternative" to Global Warming and the Greenhouse Effect, and the evidence of the cancer/leukemia plague taking place everywhere as a global consequence.

To research and to produce documents on human cancer induced by environmental causes and toxic feeding practices.

2 We commit ourselves to a struggle for the expansion of participatory institutions and governance in all watersheds and ecosystems and at the planetary level to secure

a just, equitable and sustainable world. People's participation is the ultimate guarantee of justice and sustainability. Both corporate democracy and representative democracy - the concept that we can every few years elect a set of leaders to rule us - have proved inadequate to protect the world from the ravages of environmental destruction and increasing economic inequalities. We demand an expansion of our role in the control and management of our environment. We will claim an expansion of our role in the governance of our life places and we will work for the education and empowering of the people at large to make an informed choice of products and just and sustainable lifestyles.

We have fought and lobbied against a technocratic vision of society in the past and we intend to do so with greater vigour in the future. Our work has shown amply in the past that an open and participatory development process is not only capable of ecological wisdom and restoration but it is also more just and mutually respectful of our fellow human beings. We will struggle for charters and national and international laws that guarantee freedom of information with respect to products, projects and policies that are likely to affect our health and environment, and mechanisms to intervene in decision-making processes. We will also struggle for a clear mechanism for citizens' groups to participate in the activities of the United Nations, international conventions and international financial institutions like the World Bank and eventually to render such financial institutions superfluous.

We commit ourselves to develop participatory democracy in our own ranks. The structures in the movement for environment and development must be basically democratic, transparent and gender balanced. A broad involvement of the grassroots is necessary to ensure that sectoral interests and bureaucratic superstructures do not emerge. Participatory democracy is not only a value in itself but, in the long-term, a prerequisite for efficiency and success.

We need a political culture in the movement, where rivalry and resistance to cooperation have to be torn down. Each organization has its qualities and limitations. It is through open dialogue and cooperation where our different qualities are utilized and we have the possibility to gain political strength and qualify each other.

Specific Action

To produce a full world-wide report on the Debt Crisis, which parties have been benefited by it, the true meaning of the so-called "Nature for Debt Swaps", plus the emerging concepts of "Environmental Debt" of the North with the South and of "Environmental Security".

3 We commit ourselves to campaign against all those national and international organizations and interests who disregard the imperatives of justice and sustainability.

National elites, commercial/industrial organizations, and government and international institutions have often disregarded the impact of their activities on the environment and the people, especially the poorer and more marginalised sections of human society. While we welcome the change in attitudes that has taken place within governments and companies towards the environment, we believe that a lot more environmental and social responsibility is still needed to arrive at a truly just and thriving planetary citizenship. We will continue to act as active watch-dogs and we will continue our campaigns, including those against unresponsive international institutions and transnational companies.

In particular the help of Northern NGOs and citizens' movements is needed to provide adequate information on the intentions of

Western companies moving or expanding to Central and Eastern Europe or the South so that the processes destructive to ecosystems and social fabric could be challenged.

Specific Actions

To prepare a full report describing all the major environmental and social crimes committed IN THE NAME OF DEVELOPMENT (big dams, nuclear plants, Green Revolution, mindless urbanization, destruction of forests, etc.), plus a special section on Multilateral Banks and Foreign Aid.

To gather all scattered initiatives related to the preservation of the Amazonia and the Antarctica, for a constant monitoring of whatever destructive actions take place, so as to prevent further damages.

To organize a world-wide campaign denouncing the growing violence of death squads all over, murdering social activists, union leaders, indigenous leaders, street children and war resisters, including a generous solidarity campaign to help the radioactive victims of Chernobyl (Ukraine) and Goiania (Brazil).

4 We commit ourselves to expose the role of all national and local governments, developers, planners, landlords, property speculators, international financial institutions, aid agencies, or any other entities carrying out, advocating, or tolerating the practices of forced eviction or displacement, and we demand that they refrain from this practice.

5 We commit ourselves to the development of equitable and sustainable human settlements, natural resource management systems and technologies and to

the progressive development and articulation of a reinhabitability concept of self-reliant, endogenous and appropriate development.

Citizens' groups across the world have played a major role in the past in developing alternative technologies for a wide range of human endeavours and needs, ranging from agriculture and forestry to energy and waste treatment. We have also played a major role in articulating the need for and the contents of an alternative appropriate development process. But we realize that a lot more needs to be done and we intend to work with greater commitment in the years to come to realize systems of production that are in harmony with nature and socially non-violent.

We support the concept of self-reliant, endogenous development and decry the role of bilateral and international agencies in promoting the role of external experts and undermining the development of endogenous expertise. In the name of aid and cooperation, these agencies have often promoted external concepts that have destroyed local management systems. The role of United Nations agencies, including UNDP and the World Bank, has been particularly unsalutary and disastrous in foisting harmful foreign experts on the South. We commit ourselves to oppose all external efforts to undermine local expertise and self-respect and self-reliant capacities of local communities and we decry the cynical invocation and superimposition of the term bioregion by global entities. Bioregions are naturally defined places in which free societies reciprocate nature's creativity.

6 We commit ourselves to promote the integrity of the balance between the health of human individuals and communities and the health of their diverse local, regional and global ecosystems.

Ensuring a priority for such a balance between people and their environment will result in economic and trade developments which do not

destroy natural environments, create unmanageable wastes or destroy human potential.

7 We commit ourselves to ensure women's equal and integral participation at all decision making levels of all policies that affect environment and development, including the UNCED process.

We recognize women's contribution to global environmental strategy; to local environmental management and development and we fully support the full Women's Action Agenda from the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet and Recommendations from the Global Assembly of Women and the Environment: Partners in Life, which are hereby incorporated by reference into this Agenda Ya Wananchi.

Both gatherings assured the substantive input of women to the UNCED preparatory process. The Global Assembly focused on women's success stories in the conservation of nature, the management of natural resources and in the environment and development movements. The emphasis was on how women can empower themselves, what they can do to offset the ecological crisis as intertwined with the crisis in development.

Formulated from the stand-point of diverse experiences and knowledge of women, The Women's Agenda 21 covers a wide range of social, ecological, political and cultural issues. To a large extent it corresponds with the nature and scope of this document.

Among many important action points, the Agenda includes the condemnation of militarism, and in particular of nuclear, chemical, biological weapons. The stress is on the need for immediate cuts in military spending and the immediate ban on nuclear tests as well as phasing out nuclear power production and use. As an alternative, Agenda 21 reflects women's support for the development of

environment-friendly sources of energy. There is a strong statement demanding the cancellation or reduction of debt and a call for fair terms of trade. In a number of specific provisions, living conditions of women, poverty, land rights and food security, as well as women's access to credit and housing rights are addressed.

There is also an emphasis on the health of women and children, the health of environment and on the connections between the two issues. Women reject a simple equation between population explosion and environmental crisis and demand the control over their own bodies.

Among other specifically addressed topics is the call for the direct popular regulation of research and development on biotechnologies. The larger context of ethical values in science and the need for appropriate technologies for women and environment are also addressed.

Women commit themselves to work for the adoption and further improvement of the Code of Environmental Conduct by business, industry and governments, and as one of their political tools point to women's consumer power and the power of education and information.

The affinity of position is not the only reason this conference endorses the Women's Agenda 21 as well as the findings and recommendations of the Global Assembly of Women and the Environment: Partners in Life. The transformation of the current realities, the projects to re-inhabit and regenerate our bioregional spaces would remain a desirable but a utopian goal if we do not employ the power of solidarity - the mother of all transformations. As a community of citizens' movements we will not succeed in fulfilling our goals and dreams if we do not cooperate, stand up for each other and provide mutual support.

8 We commit ourselves to practise simple, sustainable and non-intrusive lifestyles and to educate the public at large about

its importance and the value of traditional cultures.

It was at the start of this century that Mahatma Gandhi had stated: "There is enough in this world for everybody's need but not for anybody's greed". That dictum holds more true today than ever before. For economic development to be ecologically sustainable, it must begin and end with human needs, but must recognize that human needs are co-equal with the needs of all other species as we are mutually dependent on each other. The idea that, because something can be sold in the market it is an indicator of human needs, must be treated with caution.

Public education is an area of major challenge for the consumers, environment and development movements, as is the recovery of ecological literacy among peoples who have lost their traditional understanding of nature. These movements have to make the public aware of not only safe and cost-effective products on the market, but also of environmentally caring and sharing lifestyles. Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell, neither necessary nor good for us.

9 We commit ourselves to the rebuilding of our cities in balance with nature. We support the redesign and rebuilding of the physical infrastructure of them, especially focusing on creating compact urban centres served by energy-efficient transportation systems.

We support the restoration of the natural elements in and near our cities in order to ensure their integrity, and to refresh our spirits.

10 We commit ourselves to a truly interdisciplinary approach which is to be used to reflect the reality and complexity of life so as to include not only scientists, extension workers, and others dealing

with the biological and geophysical fields of human knowledge but also those experts in and knowledgeable of cultural history, indigenous folk ways, environmental ethics, political science and social customs vital to the maintaining of all life on this planet as a total and interdependent eco-system.

Within the objectives of this system of world-wide and bioregional monitoring and study of biodiversity and cultural diversity, there should be the practical goal of clarifying those values necessary for promoting a truly sustainable and equitable approach to development and new economic systems which are fair and sensitive to both people's rights and environmental quality.

Within the organization of this system there should be channels for conflict management which recognize that conflict is an inevitable accompaniment of coordinating different knowledge systems and/or initiating change.

Specific Actions

To develop further the emerging cooperative and supportive decision-making structures in which advocacy for mutual advantage replaces adversary black-and-white competitive bargaining; and the full sum of the evidence is considered rather than the perspective of one dominant framework alone.

To research and to report on the degradation of Universities and Research institutions, with the consequence of tying young people to the parameters of the Establishment while social invention and new trends for cooperative living become luxuries of affluent citizens of the North.

11

We commit ourselves to Alternative Trade. We should explore alternative trading systems by shifting from the

present traditional government-to-government or corporation-to-corporation (TNCs) trading systems, and establish community-based cooperative or consumer, people-to-people trading of basic and essential goods. Examples of such trade include: direct linkages between producers and consumers cooperatives which number more than 20 million people in Japan. Similarly, international people's trade of banana and sugar coming from the Philippines to Japanese consumers.

12

We politically commit ourselves to a struggle for the empowering of the socially and ecologically marginalised people - the poor, the colonized, the indigenous people, the traditional fisherfolk and the nomadic populations to maintain their subsistence lifeways.

Dominant groups have often used their economic power and technological might to appropriate the natural resource base and the habitat of the marginalised peoples. This has led to their further impoverishment and cultural brutalization. Social justice demands that these groups be empowered once again to control their resource base and use their traditional ecological prudence to manage and utilize it sustainably for their survival and growth.

In developing sustainable livelihoods, we must seek the guidance and leadership of the aboriginal indigenous peoples of the world. They are the original environmentalists who have sustained their lifeways for generations.

Aboriginal indigenous peoples of the world were appointed custodians of their land and were under an obligation to uphold the balance of the environment, the rhythm of the land as well as their obligation towards each other spiritually. But all that ceased to be when they were dispossessed of their land by colonialism and with the genocide of their people.

Aboriginal Australians say they were there for the first sunrise, when all the laws of the land

were handed down to them by their spirit ancestral beings way back in the Dreamtime. i.e. time of creation.

*The law says: We don't own the land
The land owns us
We must obey the law
The law of the land*

Specific Actions

To set up an expanding program for supporting the struggles of all endangered ethnical minorities of the planet, of which the Yanomami of Brazil and the Huaorani of Ecuador are tragic examples. Preparation of a GREEN BOOK of Social Planetary Injustice (maps, diagrams, basic facts) so as to develop an international campaign. This project can go together with the real story of 500 years of the white man's presence in the Americas.

To advance studies and reports on the problems posed by the new situation in Central and Eastern Europe, and the social/environmental tragedy of Central America after more than 10 years of "civil war".

13 We commit ourselves to a major programme to educate people world-wide of the importance of cultural plurality and respect for people's traditional resource use patterns and lifestyles.

The world's cultural diversity is a direct response to the world's extraordinary ecological diversity. Each society developed its own worldview, patterns of human-nature interactions, as adaptive social behaviour to live in harmony with its environment. There was immense ecological wisdom in the traditional cultures of the world environment. The sustainability of the human civilization depends



Courtesy of ICDA

on the maintenance of and mutual respect for this cultural plurality.

Modern society, arrogant about its technological might, has often denigrated traditional cultures and has been responsible for a form of cultural domination that has been both destructive of the

physical environment and the endogenous social processes.

The search for the lost cultural identity is resulting in social and political upheavals and has sown deep hatred amongst communities. For citizens' groups seeking a just and sustainable world, the promotion of a world-wide respect for cultural diversity is a priority concern.

Specific Actions

To work for the continued and increased protection of cultural goods, monuments, works of art, etc., as important elements of our "roots".

To develop a program of popular Green Education involving key social institutions as trade unions, scientific research centres and grassroots associations (neighbours, women, youth, consumers, etc.) including the publication of "How To..." teaching manuals centred on Social Ecology (an explanation of how modern society works and how it could be transformed).

An Appeal to Governments

We call for the following steps to be undertaken with a sense of urgency:

1 We call upon all governments to enhance and promote participatory democracy in all issues and at all levels, in other words to guarantee the political rights of individuals, urban and rural communities and citizen's groups to reinhabit their home places: protecting, restoring and sustaining their environment and themselves, and enhancing their lives and cultures.

A prerequisite for ecologically sustainable and socially just development is people's participation in the decision-making on the use of environmental resources. Only when they feel that it is also 'their' decision, will these decisions and the concomitant obligations be upheld by the people. Such power cannot be left to governments and industries alone. It is the natural, and thus universal right of people to partake in decision-making that affects their lives, whether these decisions are taken inside or outside their national boundaries.

Citizen's groups, local communities and individuals ought to have the right - which in certain countries they already have - to intervene in decisions on industrial siting, transport and energy infrastructure and the use of natural resources. This is the ultimate guarantee that governments and industries observe environmental prudence and undertake ecologically sound and socially responsible production. Local communities, and especially communities of indigenous people, must have unquestionable rights to their forests, rivers and other natural resources and be allowed to harvest and manage them in their traditional and sustainable ways. Attempts by international agencies or multinational companies to control forests and other natural resources, be it in the tropics or in the temperate zones, should be resisted and rejected, as this would threaten local autonomy over the control of these resources.

Access to government information, the right to bring governments to courts, and accountability of governments are essential conditions for a meaningful exercise of the rights of participation.

Specific Recommendations

To incorporate environmental objectives in communication policies and to give space and time in State-owned radio and TV stations, and wherever they exist, magazines and newspapers, to environment and development NGOs, so as to let them reach citizens without filters.

To facilitate in provincial and/or national Parliaments a free office for the equivalent of the Argentine Permanent Assembly for the Environment, as it exists at the Buenos Aires House of Representatives. This is a Citizen's gathering place for lobbying purposes, contributions to laws being drafted, analysis of Parliament projects, and other matters related to the environment/development issues. It has been modeled by Human Rights organizations after the trend set during the dark dictatorial years and it is part of the rebuilding of democratic institutions.

2 We call upon all governments to ensure that citizens and citizens' groups have unrestricted access to any information about products, processes and projects that are likely to affect the environment or human health, regardless of whether the activity is controlled by the state or the private sector for civilian or military purposes, and this right should be a global right applicable also to any transnational activity or agent.

Governments should put strong restrictions on commercial advertisement promoting technologies, products, etc., leading to the destruction of the environment.

Information is power. Thus an important guarantee that the environment will be protected in the interest of local communities and also world-wide is for all relevant information to be freely and generally available. For example, governments should disseminate information about the suitability of building materials, the availability of sustainable technology for human settlement development and agriculture, and the toxicity of waste products.

All governments should enact Community Right to Know Laws requiring all business corporations to file publicly available reports on the toxic and hazardous chemicals and other substances they use and release to the environment. Such laws will help foster citizen based corporate accountability.

Specific Recommendations

To tell their societies which recommendations of the 1972 Stockholm Action Plan were really instrumented, and why most of those compromises remained "frozen" for almost two decades, bringing environmental tragedies to worst parameters.

To study and to publicize periodically the impacts of the environmental problems on public health, agriculture, air quality, wildlife, water resources and the mental welfare of the people. To set up monitoring systems in big cities, so as to establish control measures of emissions in order to protect the citizen's right to a safe environment.

3 We call upon all governments to develop a powerful and effective United Nations with a clear and defined role for citizen's groups.

Given the alarming rate of global environmental degradation and the need for people's participation to halt this degradation, a more democratically governed UN system has to be developed in which citizens' groups have a clear role to play. Through better representation of these and other concerned groups, a holistic perspective of development instead of the sectoral and economical view can be promoted. The moral authority of the UN, necessary for it to play an effective role in global sustainable development, is seriously hampered by the fact that its most powerful organ, the Security Council, is dominated by the five "official" nuclear powers of the world. If their veto power is not abolished, participatory democracy on the global level will never be achieved.

In a "new style" UN, management and monitoring of the environment by UNEP and the other relevant programmes and agencies will involve citizen's groups as a matter of principle.

How can one, for example, monitor the global biodiversity without consulting the indigenous communities? Parallel to the UN system, governments could establish an Auditor for Sustainable Livelihood, composed of independent experts and representatives from citizens' groups and NGOs, which would constantly evaluate whether sustainability is indeed being promoted and whether this is done in a just and efficient way.

Contrary to a Worldwide Authority for the Environment as proposed by some, such an auditor would not have the power of sanctions but would just rely upon the moral and publicity generating power of its reports.

To monitor the implementation of international instruments at a global level, a Commission on Sustainable Development should be established which should have a tripartite structure for governance, being composed of representatives of Southern and Northern governments, transnational corporations and NGOs. This commission should have three sub-commissions:

1) a sub-commission which should monitor financial and technological transfers and control these transfers on basic principles of sustainability;

2) a sub-commission to monitor the implementation of a U.N. - International Code of

Courtesy of ICDA



Conduct for transnational corporations and other basic principles of sustainability; and

3) a sub-commission to monitor the implementation of binding international instruments relevant for sustainable development which should consist of 26 independent experts. The sub-commissions should have the authority to request an advisory opinion from an International Court.

Apart from this global commission, regional monitoring mechanisms must be established.

There is a need for an International Court which could adequately deal with sustainability matters. For this reason, this court should have compulsory jurisdiction on cases about sustainability and non-state actors should have legal standing and an equal opportunity to sue.

The Commission on Sustainable Development should fulfil the role of a public prosecutor.

Specific Recommendations

To set up in every country an open process of public debates on the need to transform the United Nations Organization, so as to make it more representative of the peoples of the planet, considering the existent proposal for a tri-cameral constituency.

To prepare and distribute widely on a national basis a "Report to the People" much more explicit than the mostly technical "national reports" drafted for UNCED. Such a "state of the environment" document should constitute a very clear statement, reinforced by local reports on local environmental problems, plus the description of the measures provided for their solution.

4 We call upon all governments and the UN to further develop international law and systems to monitor and ensure the observance of human rights.

More than four decades ago, the human community proclaimed a bold and revolutionary vision of the future. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserted that every person on the face of the planet has certain fundamental rights, including a decent standard of living with adequate food and shelter, productive work - fairly compensated -, proper education and a healthy environment. The Universal Declaration also asserted fundamental rights of all to democratic participation in the workplace, community and country and the maintenance of cultural identity.

The dramatic disruption of the global ecosystem and the rate of disappearance of many species other than human make it necessary to also include a right of future generations to a healthy environment and to include the whole community of life in the definition of what constitutes the environment. Nowhere in the world are these rights enjoyed by all persons. Yet they are the normative standards against which the performance of economic, social and political institutions - both within nations and across nations - ought to be judged. They have achieved broad international acceptance as the goals towards which we must continue to strive in our efforts to build a more just and sustainable future. These rights should be the basis for the urgently needed further development of international environmental law, which can only be effective if social and economic equity exists throughout the world.

Equity now is an essential condition for the new environmental conventions and for the implementation of the existing ones. Strong and effective environmental law is an essential condition for equity towards future generations and for respect for the community of life as a whole. Broad participation by citizen's groups in the formulation, implementation and

verification of international environmental law is essential to make this law effective. Their experience should be used in the creation of a model for monitoring and compliance of national and international environmental law.

Citizens' groups should not only have standing in national courts, but also for international environmental law, if they observe that their country is violating international conventions. At the same time, they should be able to bring environmental grievances before regional and international courts, since, rather than governments caught by short-term economic compromises, they may claim to be the voice of the future and of nature.

5 We call upon all governments to ratify and implement the Convention for Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; and to those recommendations specified for government in the Women's Action Agenda 21 adopted at the World's Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet and the Participants Findings and Action Points adopted at the Global Assembly of Women and the Environment: Partners in Life.

6 We call upon all governments to reduce their military spending at least by half and to transfer these funds for anti-poverty and environmental management programmes, and new educational curriculums centred in the creation of a cooperative awareness of Planet Earth and its dwellers.

Already agreed disarmament in Europe has the potential to create a considerable peace dividend - at least around \$100 billion a year, possibly rising to between \$200 and \$300 billion a year by the year 2000. Total potential savings over the 1990s can be between \$1500 and \$2000 billion. The former military confrontation in Europe still absorbs the bulk of the global military spending - at least \$600 billion out of a total \$950 billion world-wide every year.

There is a need to redefine security concerns to encompass security and sustainability and the environment. Governments must undertake programmes to stimulate and support the conversion of military industrial activities to sustainable civilian economic activities.

Specific Recommendations

To create a Department of Social Innovation, with an appropriate budget, so as to promote the design of new "experimental villages", using renewable energies, home waste recycling, etc., as training projects for a different future, based in human solidarity, and not suicidal competition.

To incorporate at all levels of the educational system not merely "environmental" studies linked to botany and zoology, but a comprehensive multidisciplinary framework for designing new social structures; instead of pushing the reproduction of the daily routines that create most environmental dramas.

7 We call upon all governments, and especially Northern governments, to democratize the decision-making structure of international lending institutions, and upon all governments to make their operations more accountable to the public at large, particularly through free access to information and involvement of citizens' groups.

8 We call upon Northern governments to reduce the debt burden of the Central and Eastern European and Southern countries.

The current debt burden and the fact that this has resulted in a net transfer of financial resources from the poor to the rich is both morally shameful and financially and ecologically unsustainable. It can only drive these countries into a vicious cycle of loans following loans steadily pushing them into a financial abyss.

Debt relief is today a basic prerequisite for the South and the East to move towards sustainability but we must realize that the debt relief does not automatically lead us to a sustainable development path - it is only a first step. Ecologically sustainable development demands adequate "financial space" to secure the present and then to safeguard the future. Unless industrialized countries take strong steps to mitigate the debt crisis, such steps will not be taken in developing countries. Pollution control equipment alone will constitute a multi-billion dollar annual market in these countries. Serious efforts by the industrialized countries to deal with the debt crisis will create a sense of trust and confidence in developing countries and improve the negotiating environment at UNCED.

9 We call upon Northern governments to reform the world's trading system.

It is absolutely vital that the world moves towards a "fair trade" system rather than a mythical "free trade" system. The Uruguay Round must not deal with issues like subsidies, intellectual property rights and agriculture without taking into account environmental concerns and the legitimate developmental aspirations of the South. Major changes in the present international economic system must be undertaken in the areas of national macro-economic policies which promote export-led growth, large debt service repayment and unjust interest rate policies, if we are to assure environmentally and socially sustainable development.

The objectives of environmental protection and sustainable development must take precedence over trade "liberalization". Improving the terms of trade for countries of the South is a prerequisite for achieving sustainability locally and internationally. Fair prices for traded products, which incorporate their full environmental, social and gender costs can provide the basis for equitable terms of trade.

The effect of a trade accord to increase or decrease a nation's or group of nations' food self-sufficiency is a critical measure of its fairness. Therefore, accords that decrease food security are undesirable.

Regarding Terms of Trade, Northern governments should:

Stop the dumping of subsidized agricultural exports which unfairly compete with Southern agricultural produce (i.e. phasing out the European Community's and the US's present systems of export subsidies).

Remove tariff and non-tariff barriers on products from the South as appropriate.

End the multi-fibre agreement and ensure no further barriers are imposed on textiles and clothing imports from the South, except those barriers based on legitimate environmental regulations.

Recognize the right of all countries to protect and stimulate agricultural production to promote food self-sufficiency.

All governments must stop subsidies and other forms of incentives to the export of environmentally hazardous and/or outdated products and technologies no longer acceptable in their country of origin. Governments should take steps to require the foreign behaviour of domestic corporations to conform to domestic policies. Eastern European and Southern countries should not be retaliated against by northern governments and economies for

protecting their markets and people against environmentally hazardous investments, technologies or products.

Regarding International Trade Mechanisms, we note with regret the late recognition by the GATT that environmental concerns merit consideration in the context of trade policy. Moreover, we note that the final text of the Uruguay Round of the GATT will likely have failed to address environmental regulation in any specific terms while continuing to broadly deregulate transnational corporate behaviour. Indeed, the GATT Working Group on the Environment is not constituted to strengthen environmental protection but instead to anticipate trade-distorting impacts in order to minimize potential regulation.

Therefore, we call upon civil society and governments to ensure that the negotiation of environmental regulations occur within fora other than the GATT. These alternative fora include regional trade agreements, UNCTAD and UNCED, among others.

We also note that the GATT appears likely to evolve into a new multilateral trade organization (MTO), an international institution with even broader powers than the GATT. We find the rapid promotion by the Northern governments of the MTO proposals to be ironic, given that during the negotiations on the agenda of UNCED the Northern countries rejected proposals for new institutions.

Our major concern with the GATT and its proposed evolution into an MTO is the lack of a participatory and democratic structure resulting in a lack of transparency, a lack of accountability and lack of equity.

We call on all governments to halt the process now under way to transform GATT into a "multilateral trade organization" and to create instead an International Trade Organization that would be democratically accountable, equitable and transparent.

Specifically, membership and control should be proportionally representative, based upon the population of participating countries. Neither GATT in its present form nor the Uruguay Round Agreement can provide such prerequisites.

Among the policies that a fair and equitable ITO would address are commodity agreements and the negotiating of terms of trade; internalization of social, gender and ecological costs; allocation of revenues from environmental taxes and tariffs to enable environmentally benign production; regulation of the restrictive business practices of transnational corporations; macro-economic policies including currency exchange rates and debt; and the role of other global institutions including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Finally, a fair ITO would respect the right of national democratic decision-making and avoid the further erosion of cultures, North and South.

Regarding Transnational Corporations and Trade, any international trade regulatory organization (present or future) should adopt standards for regulating and constraining the operation of transnational corporations.

Regarding GATT and UNCED, any final agreement of the GATT should remain open to amendment by the delegates to UNCED on matters of environment and sustainable development, and the relationship between UNCED and GATT should clearly provide that the operation of international trade negotiations should be constrained by larger consensus about sustainability expressed in decisions taken by UNCED. If this is not done the contemplated GATT agreement would directly and seriously undermine the intention of the original terms of reference for UNCED as determined by the forty-fifth session of the UN General Assembly.

Specific Recommendations

Governments should delay implementation of the Uruguay Round until after UNCED and make the implementation of all the GATT rounds conditional on full environmental and social impact statement.

Raise commodity prices through bilateral arrangements, with parallel objective of internalizing environmental and social costs. Reform existing multilateral trade agreements (e.g. GATT) and trade policies to support rather than hinder these objectives. Secure interim "special and differential" treatment of developing countries in trading arrangements.

Renegotiate GATT or a completely new agreement on principles of accountability, transparency, equity and environmental sensitivity. This will involve new, cross sectoral institutional arrangements.

10 We call upon Northern governments to establish appropriate funding flows to developing countries.

Compensatory financial transfers in terms of aid or special funds for the environment are inappropriate as long as current trade and economic practices continue. Northern countries should pay polluter and user taxes and compensatory payments for ecological debt to finance natural resource restoration and sustainable livelihood in the South and East.

Northern governments should support a Global Environment Facility and other facilities that are established for the purpose of providing financial and technological resources to local community initiatives for sustainable development as well as environmental monitoring processes and communications

programmes. The source of funding should come from tax impositions on unsustainable development activities in Northern countries. Such a facility should be decentralized and involve NGOs and peoples' decision-making levels and have democratic representation and transparency. The present Global Environmental Facility set up by the World bank/UNDP/UNEP needs to conform to these criteria by the time of the Earth Summit in Rio in June 1992 to be acceptable, otherwise it should be stopped.

11 We call upon all governments, especially Northern governments, to launch a major anti-poverty programme financed through an international consumption tax on the world's rich.

This programme should be in the nature of a major employment programme which mobilizes the labour of the world's poor to regenerate their degraded environment. Ecosystem restoration activities - reforestation, water conservation, soil conservation in the world's most degraded bioregions - are extremely labour-intensive. It is possible to employ millions of poor people in the world's most degraded bioregions in environmental restoration and permaculture development activities, thus launching major anti-desertification and anti-poverty programmes simultaneously. With ecological regeneration, this programme can create millions of sustainable livelihoods. The programme will probably not cost more than US\$40 billion annually.

It is the moral responsibility of the rich to eradicate poverty. But while the world market system is growing and integrating our use and consumption of the world's ecological resources, we are producing an ever greater number of poor people.

12 We call upon all nations, UN, UNEP and UNDP to recognize that our cities are the nexus of human life and we

must develop strategies for creating Ecocities based on the broadly accepted principles of ecological sustainability. We must re-build our cities in balance with nature, so as to meet there all basic human needs.

13 We call upon all governments to establish a system for reducing greenhouse gas emissions based on a principle of equitable rights to permissible emissions without destabilising Earth's atmosphere.

It is vital to prevent the destabilisation of the earth's climatic systems. The emissions of greenhouse gases should be reduced by 75% by the year 2030 to be below the critical level of affecting the climate on the globe. This reduction should be done by the industrial countries keeping in mind the principle of emission per capita.

A system should be established to allow countries which do not use their quota to trade them with those who exceed theirs. This tradeable emission system should however not develop into an easy way for the rich countries to pay their way out of the need of controlling pollution. It should therefore only be open to industrial countries which have implemented reduction goals for greenhouse gases pointing towards the critical level per capita, and which accept international surveillance.

We call especially upon the government of the U.S. to stop jeopardizing the international climate convention and endorse a national reduction goal. We also resist the nuclear lobby trying to use the climate debate to strengthen the nuclear power industry. It should form no part of the sustainable energy strategy.

The hope, however, is that a new strategy can employ state-of-the-art energy conservation technology, and renewable

sources of energy. Thus the South may leap over the North's obsolete profligacy with fossil fuels and the dangerous romance with nuclear power. Especially the North, supporting development of public transport, alternative fuel and electric/solar automobiles, state-of-art engine, motor, lighting, and building design will arrest energy waste and diminish the greenhouse effect.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), set up by the UN, stated in its final report in 1990 that based on current trends, we could expect an increase in global temperature between 1.5 - 4.5 degrees by the end of the next century. This would mean climatic conditions which mankind has never previously experienced. It could lead to a major rise in sea-level, salt water infiltration of groundwater reserves, changes in precipitation patterns extensive enough to negatively affect the main grain growing areas of the world, and an increase in the incidence and severity of storms. It could in fact lead to a general destabilisation of climate which would affect all human activities; particularly threatened would be agriculture, since planting and harvesting patterns would be seriously disrupted.



On the basis of the preliminary documents it does not appear that this issue will be seriously addressed at the UNCED meeting in Rio de Janeiro. Most industrialized countries are refusing to take the lead in curbing greenhouse gas emissions although there can be no doubt that they are mainly responsible for generating them. Between 1950 and 1985 the industrialized countries (including Central and Eastern European countries) contributed 82% to energy related CO₂ emissions. The share of the northern countries in global CFC pollution was even higher. According to UN figures it was 95% between 1931 and 1989. Relating these figures to the fact that only one quarter of the world population lives in the industrialized world, it becomes clear that the high per capita emissions of the North are the central threat to global climate which need to be overcome.

This could be achieved by Northern governments making a commitment to:

- stop the production of CFC's, rather than phasing them out over a ten year period agreed upon under the Montreal protocol or eliminate CFC's by the year 1995 at the latest;
- undertake a crash programme to reduce CO₂ emissions by energy conservation, increasing energy efficiency on both the supply and the demand side, and by making changes in organizational structures and lifestyle. The largest potentials for CO₂ reductions lie in the energy use of private households, traffic and transportation, industry and the public sector;
- help bring about as quickly as possible the ecological renewal of Central and Eastern Europe, so that a major CO₂ reduction can be implemented in these countries;
- develop methods of total energy accounting systems ("cradle to grave" accounting: energy production, transportation, fuel burning, storage of wastes, etc.) and to compare the total costs of conventional energies to those of alternative, renewable energies before investing in new power plants for fossil fuels or nuclear energy;

-develop and promote - North and South - decentralized, efficient, non-polluting technologies for the production and use of energy;

-reduce methane and nitrogen oxide emissions in agriculture by converting from the energy and material intensive conventional agriculture to organic agriculture and change agricultural policy to support the transition to organic farming and permaculture.

It is the task of Northern countries to:

- reduce their emissions drastically, in order to allow for at least the minimum necessary increase of emissions of the South;
- support the South in building up an environmentally friendly and culturally appropriate technological structure.

It must be emphasized that a number of the measures proposed for fighting global warming are at the same time measures which are necessary for other reasons as well; for example:

- saving energy reduces not only CO₂, but reduces also those substances causing acid rain and high local ozone concentrations;
- eliminating CFC's not only helps to protect against global warming but also protects the stratospheric ozone layer;
- protecting forests in the North as well as the South is not only an important factor in binding CO₂, but also a contribution to the protection of many species in comprehensive and ecological biodiversity.

A policy aimed at reducing global warming is thus also a policy to reduce "Waldsterben", the destruction of the stratospheric ozone, soil erosion and the extinction of various species.

Any climate agreements should be based on equity so that negotiations on GHG emissions

and to finally solve the problem of global warming should be based on the cumulative historical amount of GHG emissions by the North, eleven times greater than those of the South applying the principle of "who damages should pay" on a per capita basis.

Transnational corporations together with governments or in spite of governments, are engaged in industrial activities which contribute to the rapid increase of CO₂ emissions. TNC's should be held accountable for this environmental damage.

Nuclear Power is not an alternative solution to global warming. Particularly, because of its numerous risks, including damages to environment and health, the unsolved problem of its waste, its enormous costs and military implications.

In relation to methane emissions (CH₄), it should be noted that all its sources such as wetlands, warming permafrost lands, garbage landfill, natural gas and oil industry leakages, and coal mining have not been well evaluated. It is clear that these emissions from Northern sources provide a greater percentage of methane emissions than what can rightly be attributed to deforestations, cattle grazing or rice cultivation in the South.

We recommend in the North taxation of fossil energy, large hydroelectric power plants as well as of nuclear energy as long as this highly unacceptable and unsustainable source of energy is not phased out. These taxes should be used for efficient use and conservation of energy and renewables. Transitional help should be given to those who cannot cope with the additional costs. This can be a first step towards shifting the base of taxation from income on labour to energy.

All governments should establish laws protecting other countries against transboundary pollution and other forms of ecological aggression.

14 We call upon all governments to assist in the development, dissemination and use of technologies, with an emphasis on traditional knowledge, for energy, agriculture, industry, transport, urban services and waste treatment sectors that result in efficient and non-polluting use of energy and materials.

Northern governments have a special responsibility to ensure that these technologies get transferred to Eastern and Southern countries on fair and preferential terms.

Many technologies needed for improved agriculture and sustainable harvesting already exist in the knowledge of indigenous people. Some of these traditional systems require the same support in terms of research and development as any other technologies to adapt them to specific regional conditions. Governments should adapt educational curriculums to recognize and emphasize traditional knowledge and technologies which are often more suited to local ecological conditions.

15 We call upon all governments to prevent the extension of patent protection onto life forms and to establish a system of royalties and compensation for the use of traditional biological knowledge and genetic material, and preferential access of Southern nations to modern biotechnology.

Plants and animals are the basis upon which all human life depends and are therefore the most important natural resource. Control over plants, animals and their genetic material as well as over biological processes must remain in the hands of the public.

Genetic material should be preserved in the country of origin and these countries should receive proper compensation for the benefits that these genes bring to other countries.

Mechanisms other than monopoly control must be developed to reward innovators - especially indigenous peoples and local communities - for their contributions. Peasant rights must be protected in the same manner as those of plant breeders.

Present Intellectual Property Regimes favour established interests. A very comprehensive protection of intellectual property is being forced through the GATT negotiations by means of political trade-offs. It is imperative that UNCED insists that no decisions be taken in the GATT or other fora which promote further loss of biodiversity.

If genetic material is allowed to become private property, control over the diversity and quality of plants and animals will lie in the hands of a few.

While private and corporate knowledge is today patented and has a financial value, community



knowledge about biological products remains a free commodity. The South provides all kinds of plants, seeds, herbs and various biological resources for genetic variability, including traditional knowledge about their uses, which have transformed the world's pharmaceutical and food industry. Genes collected from the South will continue to play a major role in the North's agriculture. The North pays nothing to the South in return for these genes collected and nurtured by Southern farmers for centuries or for the knowledge provided by indigenous communities and traditional herbalists while most technical knowledge emanating from the North is protected by patents. Has any entrepreneur paid any royalties to the American Indians for the knowledge they have given the world about rubber, quinine, curare (without which modern surgery would have been impossible), potatoes, tomatoes, avocados, tobacco and corn? What royalties has Ethiopia received for its coffee and Madagascar for its vanilla? It is a matter of global justice that the use of all knowledge, not merely private and corporate knowledge, is suitably compensated. The North must learn to respect the intellectual property rights of the South. And to observe and emulate the traditional sustainable indigenous food system and to preserve their locally - adapted and diverse crop varieties.

In future, genetic material should be preserved in the country of origin and these countries should receive proper compensation for the benefits that these genes bring to other countries.

Governments should immediately recognize the true value of biodiversity, and take it into account in all decision-making.

Governments should renounce the manipulation of genes, which encompass a high degree of risk.

In all probability genetically altered organisms will fundamentally interfere with natural ecological cycle thus bearing consequences not yet foreseen. Moreover, initiatives under way to

map the human genome raise very fundamental questions about human rights, values and privacy.

We commit ourselves to fostering an evolution in human culture that will preserve Earth's biodiversity throughout the coming millennia, while at the same time fostering diversity of culture, and alliances of local communities that will permit them to regain control over their resources and their ways of life.

16 We call upon all governments to acknowledge Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples' ownership of their lands prior to colonization and to include this recognition into all government constitutions. Governments must promote and legislate Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination.

Governments must compensate Aboriginal Indigenous peoples for the dispossession of their lands. This does not imply that governments can expropriate lands against the will of indigenous people. They must work in partnership with Aboriginal Indigenous peoples for all development projects especially mining, forestry and fishing and ensure free access to their traditional food resources. Governments must legislate to protect sacred sites and to recognize tribal traditional practices that sustain the land. Governments must ensure constitutional and legislative requirements are implemented at all levels of the governmental processes.

17 We call upon Southern governments to undertake land reform. Equitable redistribution and appropriate use of land is a key measure for introducing equity into development programmes in the South and an important prerequisite for moving towards sustainable land use systems and reinhabitory societies.

Land distribution programs should respect

customary tenure assistance and take full account of the productive potential of different ecosystems.

Without access to land and security of tenure on it, people will not support programmes for sustainable development. For millions of people in developing countries, the concept of sustainability will seem to be a threat if it denies them the wherewithal for adequate shelter and a livelihood. Access to land is a basic necessity for everyone and if people know they have a clear right to their own plot and commons, they will more easily accept the need to look after it and not degrade or pollute it.

Resettled communities should be provided with food subsidies for six months until they harvest their first crops, be advised on sustainable agricultural practices such as permaculture, and on house-building and other activities in an ecological and sustainable fashion.

18 We call upon all governments to actively promote sustainable agriculture.

Application of models of organic, ecological or biological agriculture and permaculture is essential for achieving sustainability in land use. Prices should include social and environmental costs of production, processing, trade and disposals.

Farmer rights need to be recognized under existing international human rights conventions.

International trade negotiations should be based on criteria of sustainability, including the precautionary principle. The precautionary principle implies that probable impacts (on environment) will be taken into account in policy and pricing decisions.

Systems such as sustainable agriculture, urban gardens, community supported agriculture and

permaculture and the family farm, all devoted to polycultural crop production, enhance local food production and sustainability.

Specific Recommendations

Direct support from governments through funding for production costs, education, land conservation and land use reform need to be provided to groups and individuals involved in sustainable systems.

Recognition of organic farming and gardening practices as part of sustainability. Organic production eliminates the dependence on external sources of fertility and pest control. Support for organic systems will also reduce the impact of the petro-chemical industry on food production.

Recognizing that trade and export of commodities are a result of surpluses in sustainable production, becoming the focus of production itself.

Governments need to drastically reduce production based subsidies, which continue to support corporate and monocultural agricultural.

19 We call upon all governments to integrate ecological considerations into economic planning and management of natural resources, with mandatory comprehensive environmental impact studies of all development proposals, full public participation in decision-making, and special care for maintenance of fragile ecosystems and respect for traditional land management systems.

All ecosystem types need to be cared for so that there is no further loss of biological diversity and in cases where protection of natural areas involves areas which are being sustainably used

by indigenous or traditional peoples. Any intervention should only be with the agreement of these people and with their full involvement in the management of the protected areas.

Participatory management of the local ecosystem should be the basic principle in human settlement management, contributing towards better environmental management globally. This should be the basic socio-political unit in a participatory democracy. The environment is the substratum on which all agriculture and industrial development takes place. Sustainable use of the environment demands ecological sensitivity in economic decision-making, and an appropriate mix of regulatory mechanisms and economic tools; these must provide adequate public disclosure of development plans, and incentives and disincentives to protect fragile ecosystems. All ecosystem types, including island ecosystems, high latitude ecosystems, mountains, forests, arid and semi-arid regions and coastal ecosystems have special characteristics which limit their suitability for certain types of development.

The key issues affecting forests are both internal (national) and external (international). Internally, the major issues are related to the contradiction between development projects (roads, mines, dams) and forest conservation. The dominant but faulty view regards forests as only a source of timber, ignoring their role in watershed management, biodiversity conservation and the livelihood of forest peoples. International issues include unfair terms of trade between North and South; the overconsumption of tropical resources by industrialized countries; the destructive impact of Structural Adjustment Programs dictated by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

We reject the view that forest destruction is a problem primarily of the South, which ignores the dire state of forest cover in the North; which blames over-population and poverty in the South

for the destruction of tropical forests, while ignoring the pre-eminent role of state and commercial interests in opening up the forests to destruction; which seeks to increase the authority and control of states and international agencies at the expense of local communities; and which sidelines such critical issues as agrarian reform and the need to secure popular rights over land and other resources.

UNCED should resist suggestions for additional central control or global management of forests by corporations or international agencies.

Arid and semi-arid lands are often used as testing sites for nuclear devices or other armaments and dumping grounds for toxic wastes. Mountainous and hilly regions have a key role in regional and global climate; they protect biological and cultural diversity; and are often a focus for the spiritual life of nearby peoples. They, too, are threatened with inappropriate development. Coastal and marine areas are the subject of development schemes, off-shore dumping and intensive industrial fishing that are destroying once productive ecosystems and traditional livelihoods. Destructive developments in fragile ecosystems are usually supported by financial incentives and substantial research, while traditional land management systems lack any financial support. Governments should concentrate on assisting the adaptation and dissemination of traditional knowledge, while curbing the interference by outside development interests. Land use decisions should involve full participation by local people. Ecosystem conservation will depend on reduction of external debt by the highly indebted nations and implementation by governments of economic improvement programmes which incorporate agrarian reform and reduce the pressure of migration by dispossessed people.

Northern governments must take action to safeguard Northern forests and to regenerate their own forest cover. In particular, we demand a moratorium on commercial logging in the

primary forest ecosystems in the North, especially the temperate rain forests and boreal forests; the setting aside of large areas of still untouched primary forest; and greater participation of local people in forest management.

20 We call upon all governments to stop new nuclear research, testing, development, production and proliferation of nuclear technologies, to halt uranium mining and to phase out nuclear power production, replacing it progressively by environment-friendly energy sources. Governments should also stop the dumping, siting, or placement of environmental hazardous facilities in vicinity to communities anywhere, and to halt the export of radioactive wastes to other countries. Nations responsible for generation of such wastes should be responsible for cleaning them up.

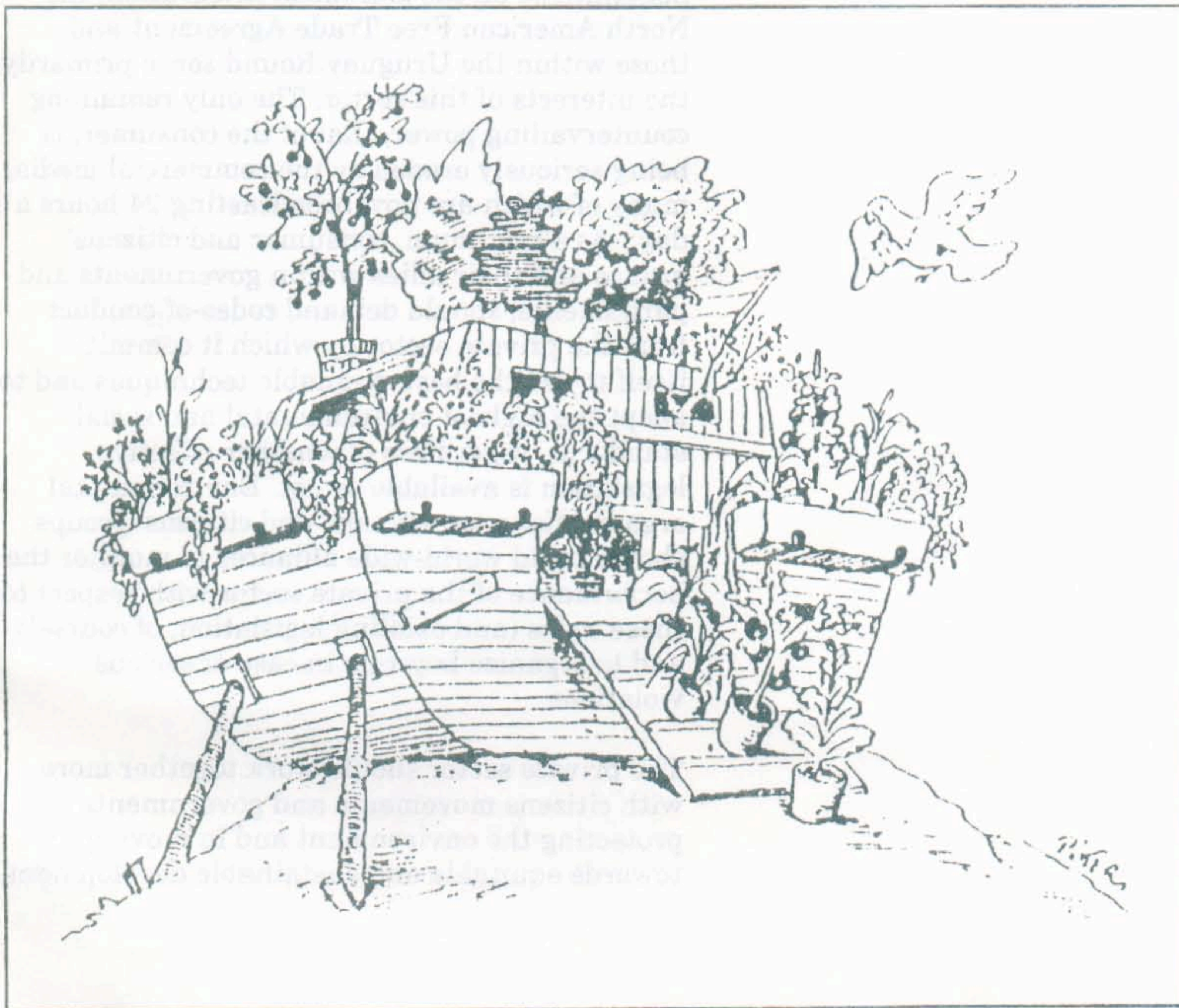
We call for a ban on food irradiation and urge support for research of alternative medical diagnosing and healing methods which do not involve the use of radiation, and for on site, above ground, storage of nuclear wastes which is safely monitored.

We demand an immediate stop to nuclear testing of any sort and for any purpose, including the French nuclear testing programme in the Pacific.

21 We call upon all governments to recognize that conventions, treaties, programs and projects that affect the life of a society must be drawn up with prior consultations with the people who should be able to monitor the fulfilment of such agreements. The exchange of information, research and technology should be appropriate, ecologically sound and socially just. It should be basically free, and therefore not restricted by intellectual property rights or high costs; it should not cause

unemployment and it should take into account the interests, ideas and technologies of indigenous peoples, local communities and women.

The lack of implementation of international instruments is a major obstacle towards effective global policies for ecologically sound and socially just development. NGOs should have the right and commit themselves to participate in the development, monitoring and verification of international law on local, national, regional and international levels. Full, meaningful and intelligible information on environmental problems, environmental law and its implementation is essential for people's participation in sustainability policies.



An Appeal To The Private Sector

All major enterprises should refrain from further developing, manufacturing and delivering goods and services which increase the burden upon the already creaking ecosystems of the world, which alienate the individual from his/her natural surroundings and which use up natural resources for the benefit of present, unequally divided consumption, which thus will not be available for future generations.

Rather than governments, the transnational companies (TNCs) seem to have become the major power holders in the global arena. With the world market having become one, a titanic struggle is going on between the major TNCs to secure their positions on this market. Because of the grip of the private sector through the economic ministries on the governments, the negotiations on the European integration, the North American Free Trade Agreement and those within the Uruguay Round serve primarily the interests of this sector. The only remaining countervailing power, that of the consumer, is being seriously eroded by the commercial media, many of which are now broadcasting 24 hours a day. As a minimum, consumer and citizens' groups and their allies within governments and parliaments, should demand codes-of-conduct from the private sector by which it commits itself to use the best available techniques and to adopt the highest environmental and social standards, regardless of whether effective legislation is available or not. Environmental organizations, consumers' and citizens' groups should build world-wide alliances to monitor the performance of the private sector with respect to these codes (and existing legislation, of course!) and to organize boycotts in case of serious violations.

The private sector should work together more with citizens movements and governments in protecting the environment and in moving towards equitable and sustainable development.

Agenda Ya Wananchi

The Roots of the Future Conference had more than 1200 people from 150 countries who are struggling to be the caretakers of their own destiny, building an expansive web of solidarity, citizen's groups, social invention and action.

This solidarity rejects the current systems of governance as they destroy the world's cultural and ecological diversity through highly centralised economic and political control. It is this system that is responsible for the current international financial structure in which the developing countries actually transfer about US\$50 billion to the Northern economies each year and lose over \$ 200 billion through declining terms of trade and protectionist measures to the industrialised countries. This loss cannot be compensated by the few billions of dollars of official aid that the developing countries receive each year.

It is a struggle for self-determination and affirmation through actions like peasants halting their production of export crops and moving towards subsistence farming in some countries.

Agenda Ya Wananchi advocates some recommendations for action whereby citizens and their organisations take their fate in their own hands, not relying upon governments or the private sector for solving the current ecological crisis.

It also highlights strategies to build alliances between citizen's groups, indigenous people, environment and development organisations in order to change destructive policies at national and international levels.

Agenda Ya Wananchi is a document which initiates a global process in which citizens show that it is possible to build a new world - a world more ecologically sound and socially just than the world we live in today.

Published by
Environment Liaison Centre International
P.O. Box 72461
Nairobi, Kenya