



## RIO+10

### World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

Johannesburg, South Africa

August 26 – September 4, 2002

The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) comes ten years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at Rio de Janeiro. WSSD presents an opportunity for Southern nations to play an active role in global environmental governance — unlike UNCED, where Southern governments participated as junior partners, worried about being lectured about environmental management by industrialised countries, while Northern governments set the agenda.

#### What has happened since Rio?

- In the last ten years, global environmental negotiations have turned into **business transactions, rather than a means of ensuring good global governance**. No political leader wants the emerging global market to be managed in the best interest of the maximum number of people; nor do leaders develop global ecological policy on the basic principles of 'good governance' — equality, justice and democracy. Instead, when national leaders meet to set rules and regulations for ecological globalisation, they invariably take positions to ensure the least possible costs to their individual national economies.
- What we see emerging in the name of global environmental negotiations is in fact an extremely **lopsided governance of the world's resources, controlled and manipulated by Northern countries**.

Only Northern concerns are taken on board: from the hole in the ozone layer, which causes cancer particularly in light skin, to the problem of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) travelling to the Arctic. Southern concerns — such as the relationship between poverty and the environment, or the impact of global trade patterns on local ecosystems — are reflected in neither environmental negotiations nor agreements.

- **The North continues to use trade and aid as levers of power**, pushing environmental conditionalities on the South; but no such levers are available to the South. For instance, Northern non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are pushing the World Bank to stop funding fossil fuel power plants in developing countries (countries that have no commitments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions). Meanwhile, Southern countries — which most likely to be affected by global warming — can do nothing to force the US to revoke its position on the Kyoto Protocol.

- Southern political leaders have consistently shown a miserable lack of vision in global environmental negotiations. They have also failed to recognise that these environmental treaties are about the sustainable sharing of the earth's ecological space — global public goods, like oceans and atmosphere, on which national economies depend. What matters most to Southern countries is not aid or technology transfer, but **the rights to an equitable share of the earth's ecological commons**. These rights will lead to long-term sustainability, by generating appropriate changes to the world's economic and technological systems.

#### ROAD MAP TO JOHANNESBURG

##### PrepCom II for the WSSD

January 28 – February 8, 2002 New York, USA  
Review of progress towards the implementation of Agenda 21 • Review of regional preparatory process • Multi-stakeholder dialogue

##### PrepCom III for the WSSD

March 25 – April 5, 2002, New York, USA  
Will result in first "review" document • Chart future work for Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD)

##### PrepCom IV for the WSSD, Ministerial Level

May 27 – June 7, 2002, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Ministerial and Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Segments • Will produce political document to be reviewed at WSSD

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#### IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

[www.johannesburgsummit.org](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org)

Information on WSSD preparations, links to registration forms

[www.earthsummit2002.org](http://www.earthsummit2002.org)

The website of the WSSD Stakeholder's Forum



**FURTHER READING****Green Politics: Global****Environmental Negotiations 1,**

Edited by Anil Agarwal, Sunita Narain and Anju Sharma

**Poles Apart: Global****Environmental Negotiations 2,**

Edited by Anil Agarwal, Sunita Narain, Anju Sharma and Achila Imchen

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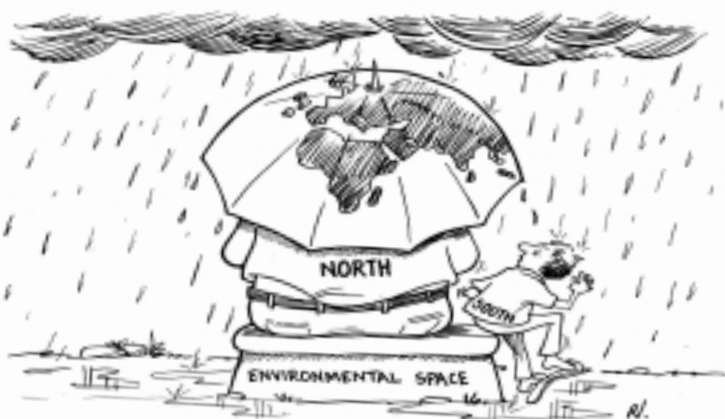
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**What should Southern governments demand at WSSD?**

- Southern nations should demand a clear articulation of the principle that the **Earth's global commons will be shared between nations and human beings on a democratic and equitable basis in the future**. They should also demand that global agreements incorporate this principle. Without equity and a sense of fair play, it is unlikely that a long-lasting partnership will develop to address and solve global problems.
- If governments are serious about addressing poverty, they have to change their focus. The process of economic globalisation will bypass or neglect at least a billion people for several more decades, when they may be able to integrate themselves into national and global markets. Until then, these poor communities will depend almost entirely on their local natural resource base. Therefore, **governments should focus on addressing ecological poverty by empowering the poor: giving them the tools they need to stop degradation of their resource base**.



- Based on the principle of equity, Southern governments should demand a system that provides equitable entitlements or property rights as economic incentives for those who use the environment in a sustainable manner; as well as *disincentives* for those who use it unsustainably. Within a globalised economy, **those who use more than their fair share of the world's environmental space should have to pay for the extra space that they use**. The proceeds of such a 'global consumption tax' should go to poor communities through a democratic mechanism that encourages helps them to manage and improve their environment.

**Challenges for Southern civil society**

- **Raise awareness on global governance issues:** With negotiations taking place in far-off capitals and beyond the prying eyes of national media institutions, **civil society in developing countries has little knowledge of the politics in these negotiations and is therefore in no position to intervene**. There is a need to improve the availability of information to promote civil society participation and keep governments on track.
- **Push Southern governments to have proactive positions:** Over the last ten years, Southern governments have played only a reactive role in international environmental negotiations. They must be pressured to unite and to take a strong, proactive stance on issues of special concern to the South, including global governance, poverty alleviation, impacts of globalisation, and finance and technology for sustainable development.



## GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS

This series provides a close analysis of important environment-related conventions and institutions from their origins, and demystifies the politics of 'saving the environment'.

A first-ever comprehensive Southern perspective of the impact of global environmental governance on the real lives of real people.

In addition to dealing with five new issues, the second volume, *Poles Apart* contains updates on the issues dealt with in the first report, *Green Politics*. The updates cover only recent developments — a complete historical background can be found in the first report.