

Millennium + 5 Summit –

A Step in the Right Direction - If Governments Get On With It

Decisions to be taken at the Millennium + 5 Summit will not only focus on UN reform and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, but also on how to deliver peace in the face of new security threats, including the threat posed by nuclear weapons and environmental degradation.

Throughout this process Greenpeace has emphasized its twin mandate.

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Human development cannot be supported on a contaminated and depleted planet. What used to be called ‘environmental protection’ has actually become ‘global self defence’; an intact environment is a prerequisite for our survival. Half of the planet's forests are destroyed,¹ and the world's oceans are in crisis from pollution and overexploitation. Over 75% of the world's fish stocks are fully exploited, over exploited, depleted or are recovering from depletion,² and climate change is increasingly recognized as an enormous overarching global threat.³ The problems of poor governance and law enforcement in both the forestry and fisheries sector, coupled with the increasing demand for products, is compounding habitat destruction and biodiversity loss on both land and sea. It retards development, compromises food security, increases inequity and undermines peace. Liberalizing trade in natural resources, particularly in the forest and fisheries sectors, has negative developmental, economic, social and environmental impacts. As such, these should be completely reviewed and assessed before this is pursued any further.

The good news is that biodiversity conservation sustains human livelihoods and development, and also reduces the likelihood of resource-based conflict.

Peace

Development cannot happen while so many resources are spent on weapons,⁴ in particular nuclear weapons.⁵ They are too expensive. They are too toxic,⁶ leaving a legacy of plutonium, radioactive waste, nuclear weapons testing sites, and radiation victims. They encourage other countries to acquire nuclear weapons, and in doing so create even more plutonium and enriched uranium. Nuclear weapons are suicidal, genocidal and ecocidal obstacles in the path to development; they can and should be dismantled in a phased programme. Nuclear weapons related issues are a major part of the cause and effect of conflicts in many parts of the world, at a minimum exacerbating situations or tipping the balance. In many cases removing nuclear weapons from the scenario would significantly decrease the rhetoric and risks of conflict.

The good news is that the largest security treaty in existence – the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)⁷ promises nuclear disarmament – and a precise 13-point plan toward this goal was also agreed at the NPT Review Conference in 2000.⁸

For UN Reform to be successful Governments need to Get On With It:

If the Millennium Summit opportunity is utilized, it will also give the United Nations the credibility it needs to deliver on the many agreements forged through it. The UN has certainly not failed us in creating opportunities for governments to set standards and agreements – governments are simply not living up to their promises – the failure is in implementation.

The General Assembly passed its first resolution on nuclear disarmament.⁹ Almost 60 years after this call to eliminate atomic weapons it is time for the General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security to establish a body to **Get On With Negotiating Nuclear Disarmament.**

The Security Council has not ever completed its first task, as defined in Article 26 of the UN Charter.¹⁰ If the Security Council had done its job we would now have a plan for the least diversion of human and economic resources to armaments. Instead the Security Council permanent members have participated in arms races and arms profiteering. Whatever shape the Security Council becomes or stays, Greenpeace says **Get On With Implementing Article 26**, the most appropriate conflict prevention and development mechanism ever dreamed up.

The Conference on Disarmament must be instructed to **Get On With the negotiation of a Comprehensive Fissile Material Treaty** to end the production, storage and use of fissile material. As a first step countries must agree to an immediate moratorium on the production of fissile materials and a timetable for the complete phase out of uranium enrichment and reprocessing for civil and military purposes.

Nuclear Weapon States are outnumbered. Non-nuclear weapon states are the vast majority of the governments on this planet and their unanimity, determination and imagination can and must apply effective pressure on the minority. Countries with nuclear weapons must **Get On With totally eliminating their nuclear arsenals** as required by their legal obligation under the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty, and starting with a phased programme of rapid reduction.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Greenpeace believes one of the most effective ways to address nuclear proliferation is to stop the further reprocessing of plutonium, and to treat existing stocks as nuclear waste. Greenpeace is calling for an immediate moratorium on and a timetable for the complete phaseout of uranium enrichment and nuclear reprocessing for civil and military purposes, and immediate negotiation of a comprehensive and verifiable fissile material treaty. This is essential to avoid to avoid a “cascade of proliferation” identified by the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change.¹¹ The IAEA still has at its heart the promotion of nuclear energy,¹² yet it is also mandated to ensure that its assistance is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose. Yet as we have seen with India, Pakistan, and North Korea, nuclear power does give rise to nuclear materials, which are used to make nuclear weapons. Countries pursuing research, production and the use of nuclear energy for ‘peaceful purposes’ are contributing to the proliferation of nuclear materials and technology, which can all too easily lead to the development of nuclear weapons. Declarations by the G-8 and others to restrict the spread of nuclear material were shown to be

as meaningless as the United States granted nuclear technology to India just this year. Safeguards have shown themselves time and again to be inherently fallible, while the raw material for nuclear weapons continues to grow and itself poses a proliferation and security threat.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements now number approximately 200 and are an important means to addressing global environmental problems. But governments are not fully implementing them, and nor are governments adequately controlling the pollution and depletion of forests, oceans and climate caused by private industry. Governments must **Get On With establishing a United Nations Environmental Organisation** to effectively coordinate the implementation of these MEAs. The world must reaffirm that MEAs have the primary competence to determine environmental objectives and the necessity of trade-related environmental measures as part of MEAs.

Greenpeace Recommends the Millennium Summit adopt the twin principles of 'environment for development' and 'disarmament for development' by:

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- 1.** Establishing a global network of protected areas by 2010 on land and 2012 at sea to preserve biodiversity and sustainable resources for development, as well as achieve the 2010 biodiversity target;¹³
- 2.** Supporting a moratorium on high seas bottom-trawl fishing to halt one of the most destructive fishing practices threatening deep-sea life in international waters;
- 3.** Supporting and promoting good governance structures, policy reform and law enforcement in the forestry and marine sectors to ensure socially and ecological responsible forest and oceans management;
- 4.** Consolidating the environmental standards machinery by establishing the United Nations Environmental Organization;¹⁴ which should establish a mechanism to review the social and environmental consequences of trade policies;
- 5.** Agreeing on concrete steps towards advancing accountability of the private sector;

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- 6.** Demanding the immediate commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament;
- 7.** Reaffirming the obligation of the Security Council to produce the plan for the least diversion of human and economic resources to armaments required under Article 26, and requiring that plan be delivered within one year;
- 8.** Declaring an immediate moratorium on all nuclear reprocessing;
- 9.** Immediately commence negotiations on a comprehensive fissile material convention addressing the production, storage and use of all fissile material;
- 10.** Appointing Special Envoys and providing technical support for processes leading to the establishment of nuclear weapons free zones in the Middle East and North East Asia;

- 11.** Reaffirm commitment to the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty and the decisions and resolution made at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences as well as the rapid entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

¹ World Resources Institute (WRI) (1997) *The Last Frontier Forests: Ecosystems and Economies on the Edge*. WRI, Washington DC. Available at: http://pubs.wri.org/pubs_description.cfm?PubID=2619

² *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*, FAO, 2004

³ Incidents of drought have doubled between 1970 and 2000. 2003 was the hottest summer for 500 years. World wide effects of climate change cause 160,000 deaths per year, which is expected to double 2020. See <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/climate-change>

⁴ According to the Stockholm Peace Research Institute's 2005 Year Book, global military spending reached \$1.04 trillion in 2004. <http://yearbook2005.sipri.org/>

⁵ US spending on nuclear weapons alone averages \$ USD 35 billion per annum. Susan Willett, *Costs of Disarmament – Disarming the Costs: Nuclear Arms Control and Nuclear Rearmament*, UNIDIR, 2003, p. 65.

⁶ Global contamination from fallout due to atmospheric nuclear-weapons tests alone amounts to 30 million curies. Howard Hu, Arjun Makhijani, *Nuclear Wastelands, Global Environmental and Health Effects of Nuclear Weapons Production*, MIT Press, Cambridge, 1995.

⁷ Article 6 of the NPT obliges all parties of the treaty to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

⁸ The Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference included a road map for disarmament that included 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to achieve complete disarmament were agreed to by all governments.

⁹ The very first resolution adopted by the General Assembly in January 1946 called for the "elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction." It established the Atomic Energy Commission to prepare for the elimination of atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction from national armaments under a system of effective safeguards.

¹⁰ Article 26 of the UN Charter reads: "In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in Article 47, plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments."

¹¹ The Report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, “A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility” identified the changing international security environment and the diffusion of technology as potentially causing a “cascade of proliferation.”

¹² IAEA Statute Article II.

¹³ The 2010 target for significantly reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss was endorsed in 2002 by ministers at the previous Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) conference and by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002.

¹⁴ The UNEO should have a mandate to: provide effective financial, technical and political support for the coherent and coordinated improvement and implementation of existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA); to ensure effective compliance and dispute settlement with legally binding MEAs, including compliance by governments, international economic institutions and transnational corporations; reaffirm that the MEAs and not the WTO have primary competence to determine environmental objectives and the necessity of trade related environmental measures as part of MEAs; and promote and participate in a joint UN review of the impact of existing trade agreements on sustainable development.