

eco

Wednesday
28 August 2002

Access and
Excess

World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa

EU-US: Sleeping With the Enemy?

There is more about this Summit that is reminiscent of Seattle than the circling helicopters and search-lights. Increasingly, it seems, we are negotiating a trade text, with other issues relegated to the periphery. Are environmental and poverty reduction interests once again being hijacked by the short-term demands of trade ministries and special-interest lobbyists?

As reported in Monday's *Eco*, the US Trade Representative and DG Trade cooked up a closed-room deal a few weeks ago. Many delegates (including G77 and European environment ministry officials) negotiating in good faith didn't realize that the text they were first presented over the weekend was underpinned by this deal. This is supposedly the first ever multi-stakeholder Summit. And yet the single most important document generated in the run up to the Summit is a secret paper negotiated behind closed doors! Remember the attempt by US and EU trade officials to subvert the development of a biosafety protocol in Seattle - through the establishment of a Biotechnology Working Group in the WTO.

The poor understanding of and disinterest in trade officials of sustainable development issues was striking in Doha. Here it threatens to strike a heavier blow. It could result in an action plan for poverty reduction and environmental conservation that leaves MEAs at the mercy of the WTO and rich countries free to subsidise unsustainable production and consumption - with devastating consequences for the poor.

The deadlock resulting from the apparent EU-US pre-agreement has prompted the erosion of some of the best remaining text since Bali; the G-77 and the new EC-US bloc are now reduced to trading amongst one another their responsibilities to the environment and the poor. Language to cut environmentally harmful subsidies is dropped in return for removal of language in support of biodiversity conservation, for example. This rift between the sustainable development and trade agendas was only too apparent in Seattle. Once again, we are witnessing a widening gap - ironically, through the negotiation of a text at a World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The EU-US alliance here in Joburg is weird considering that Washington appears to be on the brink of war - a new trade war with Europe. Announcing the opening salvo, the UK's *Independent* on Sunday (25 August 2002) reports that "...US trade representative, Robert Zoellick, is putting in a complaint to the World Trade Organisation claiming that the EU moratorium on GM imports and crop-testing is a restraint of trade. His action is being backed *Sleeping*, by Monsanto, the US biotechnology group

Please turn to page 3.

How Weak Can You Get?

On day two of the negotiations, things in the energy debate are really heating up. There is a proposal on the table identifying targets for the increase in the share of renewables in the global energy mix. This could have been very good news had the proposal been the Brazilian initiative, which aims for a global target of 10 percent new renewables* by 2010.

Unfortunately today at the Vienna session, the energy group chairman put forward the EU proposal of a 15 percent renewables target by 2010—but this includes all that bad stuff—large hydro and unqualified use of biomass. The proposal also states that OECD countries should increase their own share of renewables (including the bad stuff) by two percent from 2000 to 2010—a meagre sum at best.

If you can get past the inclusion of the bad stuff in the target, one might think the number 15 percent sounds great. But alas, disappointment then sets in when you find out that according to the IEA, global renewables currently stand at 13.9 percent of energy production. You guessed it, we now have a proposal for a whopping increase of about one percent over eight years! This is actually considerably less than business as usual growth in the renewables sector. Currently large scale hydro already accounts for 2.2 percent, and traditional biomass 9.5 percent. And this is the proposal of the block of countries leading the world in good renewable energy technologies? Let's get real folks. Why the rush to put out such a weak proposal now? It is early and much time is

available for sorting through the difficult issues—hopefully by Ministers.

This proposal is shameful in the face of the threat of climate change and the impacts of extreme weather events (floods, drought, fires, etc.) which have already killed thousands and made millions homeless. It is certainly not the urgent action needed and demanded of governments.

But worse was to come in the discussions. The US, in reaction to the EU proposal, in what can only be described as ironic prose, began their intervention by saying, "all of you know that the US is the world leader in the research on renewable technologies." They argued that "targets do not make sense for developing countries." (Though the US thinks they do make sense in the Kyoto context.) Japan, anxious not to upset their US friends, said that they are "fully in line with the US—targets could lead to less flexibility with national energy policies." And that "we should take

Continued on page 2.

Will the US and EU Go to Wa(te)r?

Wednesday is water day at the Summit. The past days have been full of hope and disappointment for the sustainable management of water.

Japan and Canada get today's *Eco* award for agreeing to support the EU and G77 target to halve the number of people without access to sanitation by 2015. The two remaining dirty boys of sanitation are the United States and Australia. It seems their bizarre policy is to supply water to half the 1.5 billion people presently without water, while not removing and cleaning the unsanitary result. *Eco's* suggestion to our South African hosts is to re-house the US and Australian Government delegations in the old section of Alexandra, a convenient six kilometres from Sandton, to rekindle their enthusiasm for sanitation for the poor.

The EU is not blameless either, however. Despite a lot of wailing after PrepCom 4 at the loss of text requiring states to cooperate to sustainably manage transboundary rivers (and groundwater), and promises to fight to the end to reinstate this desperately needed measure, the EU is now missing in action.

Please turn to page 4

The Perils of Setting a Biodiversity Target

After Monday's lengthy discussions on the importance of biodiversity, based on the useful WEHAB paper on the topic, it may come as a surprise that the only meaningful implementation target on the issue is in deep trouble. And the trouble is coming from a surprising source. Even the US, famously recalcitrant on many other targets, has indicated its willingness to accept the goal of reversing the current decline in biodiversity by the year 2010.

But now the G-77, which of course includes the most megadiverse nations, is having second thoughts. The group has offered an alternative biodiversity text that eliminates any notion of reversing the decline of biodiversity entirely, and has also questioned the ecosystem approach. This is all ironic on three accounts: the same countries have of course accepted the goal and the approach in the CBD itself, and the ecosystems approach is essential for poverty alleviation.

Some explanation is called for. It appears a number of countries are concerned that the financial boon they hoped would issue from the CBD's access and benefit-sharing provisions has not, in fact, occurred. Perhaps they are waiting to see what efforts, in addition to the recent decision to increase the Global Environment Fund replenishment, the rich countries are willing to put forward. But blocking a target on these grounds will ultimately be self-defeating, because without a specific goal, the effort to mobilize financial resources for biodiversity conservation will be even harder.

There is a ray of hope, however. In late night discussions of the natural resources chapeau, the EU, displaying the kind of determination we'd dearly like to see on other issues, has defended both a biodiversity target and the ecosystem approach. So it's still possible that the heads of state of the world's most megadiverse countries will not, at the end of the day, have to explain the extinction of the WSSD's only real biodiver-

From Global Hero to Global Zero

The Story Behind Canada's Ten Years of Inaction Since Rio

A long time ago, Canada was known throughout the world for its progressive stance on environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity. Canada was widely viewed as an international environmental champion.

Ten years after the Rio summit, where it played a leading role, Canada is on Greenpeace International's "Filthy Three" list: a list of three infamous countries that have substantially contributed to the slowing

down, blocking, obstructing and delaying of progress on matters relating to the Rio conventions and agreements.

It is probably worth mentioning that after creating substantial loopholes within the Kyoto Protocol (with the help of some of their JUSCANZ friends), after receiving twice the amount of sinks credits they were asking for in Bonn in July 2001, and then coming back to ask for a further concession in the form of so-called "clean energy credits," Canada still hasn't ratified the Kyoto Protocol.

While China, a country without a stabilization target under Rio reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent between 1990 and 1997, Canada, a country with such a target, increased its emissions by roughly the same amount.

Not content with having wasted all this time and energy over the last ten years, Canada has decided it would try to cover its tracks. The federal government initiated a multi-stakeholder process to develop Canada's National Report to the WSSD. Here's what one of the NGO representatives had to say about the whole experience:

"This is a more than usually disgraceful, not to say duplicitous and insulting way for the government to handle the hard work—mostly volunteer—of a large number of concerned Canadians. It is a betrayal of the members of the group, who—foolishly, it turns out—took the government at its word and worked in good faith, and is yet another shameful example of the way this government works when it comes to the environment, for which it clearly does not give a damn."

Canada has a commitment problem and it's time to change that. Canada can and should turn around. It's time to get serious about the environment again. For one, Canada should start by ratifying the Kyoto Protocol.

Toxics Tussle

US and G-77 Attack ¶ 22

Tuesday morning's Vienna session negotiation over paragraph 22 was not a pretty sight. Efforts by negotiators, notably the US and the G-77, to weaken key elements of Paragraph 22 reflect the inherent weakness of consensus decisionmaking in these negotiations: Decent, forward-looking language gets mangled because when one tries to please everyone it is usually not helpful to anyone.

Disagreements centered on at least four issues:

- ▶ Whether to set a target date of 2020 (or set no target) for action on toxic chemicals;
- ▶ whether such action should "significantly reduce" (rather than "not lead to") adverse effects on human health and the environment;

Stop press

ECO went to press as the US began systematically to disembowel the Means of Implementation text. Aided and abetted by the EU, the US negotiators back-slid their way through text on foreign direct investment, reforming the international financial architecture, and-most destructively-funding of international organisations and agencies. It seems the US is determined that any agreement reached here must fall short even of their Monterrey commitments. Can we hope that these hard-faced US positions will see the EU-US deal begin to crumble?

- ▶ whether the precautionary approach should be receive explicit mention (or not);
- ▶ and whether risk reviews of heavy metals harmful to human health and the environment, with specific reference to mercury, should be undertaken for the purpose of determining what international response is appropriate (or staying silent on linking the assessment to a purpose).

From the standpoint of public health and the environment, the first choice is clearly preferable in each instance, but it remains to be seen whether the public interest will prevail. Stay tuned.

Weak, from page 1.

into account national specificities, energy security, economic growth, and, errrr, environmental considerations." What about all those Japanese renewable technologies? The two largest solar photovoltaic companies in the world are Japanese. We thought Japan would be jumping for joy at the opportunity to have new renewables have a larger share in the energy mix, but sadly, bad alliances seem to be prevailing.

And on the subsidies debate, the EU stepped forward, wonderfully, and supported the New Zealand proposal to accept the need to remove subsidies. If only the US would do the same. Ah, but rather than arguing on substance, the US said that they do not like others telling them how to proceed. Wonder if their anti-terrorist allies feel the same? Their refusal to address subsidies adds up to continued corporate welfare for the dirty and the powerful: business as usual.

*What are new renewables? The good stuff—wind, solar, modern biomass, geothermal, small hydropower, and marine energy. That means it excludes the bad stuff—large hydropower dams and unqualified use of biomass. For those of you new to the debate, biomass consists largely of firewood, dung, and agricultural residues, an area where good work can be done on efficient stoves and sustainable harvesting, but it is often a source of adverse social and environmental impacts.

Enemy, from page one

that has been at the centre of the development of GM crops."

This news brings us back to an issue at this summit: the relationship between trade and environmental rules. Since its creation two years after Rio, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has been used to challenge the right of any country to take measures to protect its environment and its people. When a country feels threatened economically by a trade-restricting measure of another country, it may request a legally binding ruling by a WTO dispute settlement panel. The trouble is that WTO dispute settlement panels do not have competence on environmental issues, especially concerning the decision-making importance of the precautionary principle - the science-based approach enshrined in Principle 15. The threat of WTO sanctions against environmental measures also has had a so-called chilling effect on the development and ratification of major environmental agreements, most notably the Kyoto Protocol on climate change and the Biosafety Protocol on GMOs.

Since the GM food controversy received attention and public concern in the mid-1990s, the WTO has been one of the main weapons used by the US to fight GM crops and food having a special regulatory treatment. In February 1999, the US together, with Canada and Australia, formed a cartel of grain-producing countries known as the Miami Group to prevent the adoption of the Biosafety Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Their goal was to prevent, with threats of WTO sanctions, the

adoption of a protocol recognising the right of any country to say no to GMOs on the basis of the precautionary principle. They managed to delay the adoption of the Biosafety protocol, and tried instead to create a WTO working party in Seattle. The tactic sank together with the Seattle conference, and the Biosafety protocol was adopted eight weeks later at a meeting in Montreal in January 2000. The US (which is still not a party to the CBD, and therefore is not entitled to sign its Biosafety Protocol) continues to undermine this instrument.

As an example, when Sri Lanka decided in 2001 to ban GMOs in food and agriculture in order to protect its biodiversity and competitiveness in world markets (given the increasing consumer demand for GM-free food), the US Embassy in Colombo threatened with economic retaliations, including a WTO dispute settlement panel. The thought of being condemned by the WTO and having

to pay a fine for compensation is scary for a small country like Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lanka parliament was forced to "suspend" the law against GMOs.

A dispute against the EU takes more effort, even for the US. The news of this new US-EU trade war should trigger a reconsideration of the EU position at this summit. The US has already proven a false friend with steel tariffs. While the EU and the US plot together to impose the WTO agenda here in Joburg, the Bush administration is plotting against the EU behind its back. If it wants to protect itself against the arbitrary nature of the US, the EU would be better off proposing here in Johannesburg that negotiations on trade and the environment take place under the aegis of the UN ECOSOC, and not within the WTO where there is an obvious bias against sustainability and environmental measures.

Save the SPAC!

One of the critical elements that this Summit needs to address is sustainable production and consumption—aka SPAC. A potential ten year work plan has been in the offing for some time, which could provide some much needed targets and incentives on eco-efficiency and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation.

Despite the EU having been a champion of this issue at the past few PrepComs, we are now down to only a few proponents, notably Norway and Switzerland. And where is the G77 on this? It looks as if they have withdrawn their support, using the SPAC target as a possible bargaining chip for a better finance package.

But in the end, with the US totally disengaged from this debate, this can hardly be called a negotiating strategy. This does not bode well for a balanced summit package, which—in order to be successful—will need to look at both access to resources and reducing consumption.

Wake up—and SAVE THE SPAC!

Parktown Prawn

► WEHAB, YOUHAB, WE ALL HAB FOR WEHABs!

The Parktown Prawn has been observing with interest the various WEHAB sessions, although it is less than crystal clear what their purpose is. In order to try to find out more on this, Mr. Prawn went out into the streets and started asking random people what the deal is with WEHAB. Here are the 5 most interesting "WEHAB-isms:"

5. We hab NOT agreed to that! (US)
4. W is for waffling, E is for erase all good targets, H is for...
3. No sirree – we haben't struck any backroom deal! (US and EU)
2. Behaw, Hebwa, Ahewb – what did you say again? (confused delegate after a day at the Sandton Convention Centre)
1. Weeeeeehaaaaaab!!! (a NGO freaking out at

actual targeted language being agreed by Canada and Japan on sanitation)

The Prawn has had a great time watching and reflecting on the WEHAB discussions. He is sure glad he's not a NGO, who had to queue for an hour to get into the discussions.

Tomorrow, WEHAB focuses on water and energy. Certainly not two contentious issues....the US yesterday expressed concern about the energy thing. Apparently, they were heard saying that delegates had the right to express their opinions on renewable energy, but just no right to force the US to take them on. They seemed quite upset, as if the class bully was twisting their arm. Poor US.

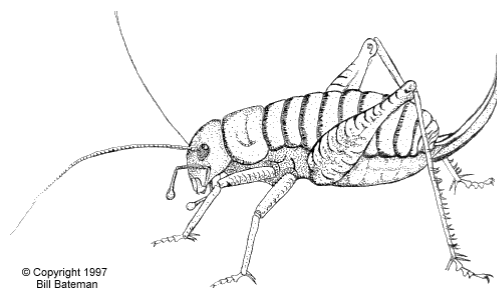
► In Tuesday morning's Vienna session, the conversation turned to paragraph 22, to wit: a suggestion "that chemicals [should be] used and produced in ways that dramatically reduce adverse effects on human

health and the environment. . . ." This caused a member of the US delegation to comment that chemicals like pesticides are designed to have an adverse effect on the environment, so trying to stop that doesn't make sense. Well, it makes sense to the Prawn. . .

► Overheard by the Prawn, while recycling spilled bits of croissant in the media coffee shop, one reporter to another, "I can't quite figure the numbers on the capacity of this place. It's at least as big a pro basketball arena in the states, and those hold 20,000."

► Prawn has heard from unimpeachable sources that at the end of the energy session last night the US was becoming annoyed and fractious, complaining about how "a few countries" were trying to dictate the outcome of the debates. Hmm. We should explore this irony.

► Serious bad news on the human rights front: Yesterday the G-77 were taking a very hard line, insisting that all references to human rights be removed from the declaration draft. Prawn hopes this is building a bargaining position and may be relaxed, but she's worried.



Prime culprits include France, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany, who purport to be leaders in transboundary river initiatives, such as the Europe-wide Water Framework Directive with its 2015 target for sustainable river basin management.

Similarly, the US professes great concern for cooperative transboundary river management to promote peace, security, and development. Any action? Only a drop in the bucket for ad hoc, Type 2 photo opportunities. Even the G77 is allowing the broader interests of its members to be subverted by a small group of influential developing countries led by Turkey, which is seeking to prevent agreements for managing international or transboundary rivers, fearful of constraints on their plans to fully exploit rivers in their territories.

Eco suggests that our hosts take the EU delegates and Turkey to visit their US and Australian colleagues in Alexandra. There, South Africa can explain its world-class river and water management laws and programmes focussed on river basin management, investing in conserving the source of water for people and nature, and eradicating poverty by employing the disadvantaged in this work. South Africa is a shining example—one which the Summit should learn from and emulate.

There is still hope! Attendees at Wednesday's WEHAB plenary session on water and sanitation and the African Water Ministers meeting can demand inclusion of an agreement to cooperate to sustainably manage transboundary rivers. We still have time for the Ministers and Heads of State to seize the opportunity to sustain our sources of water—sources of life.

eco-equity

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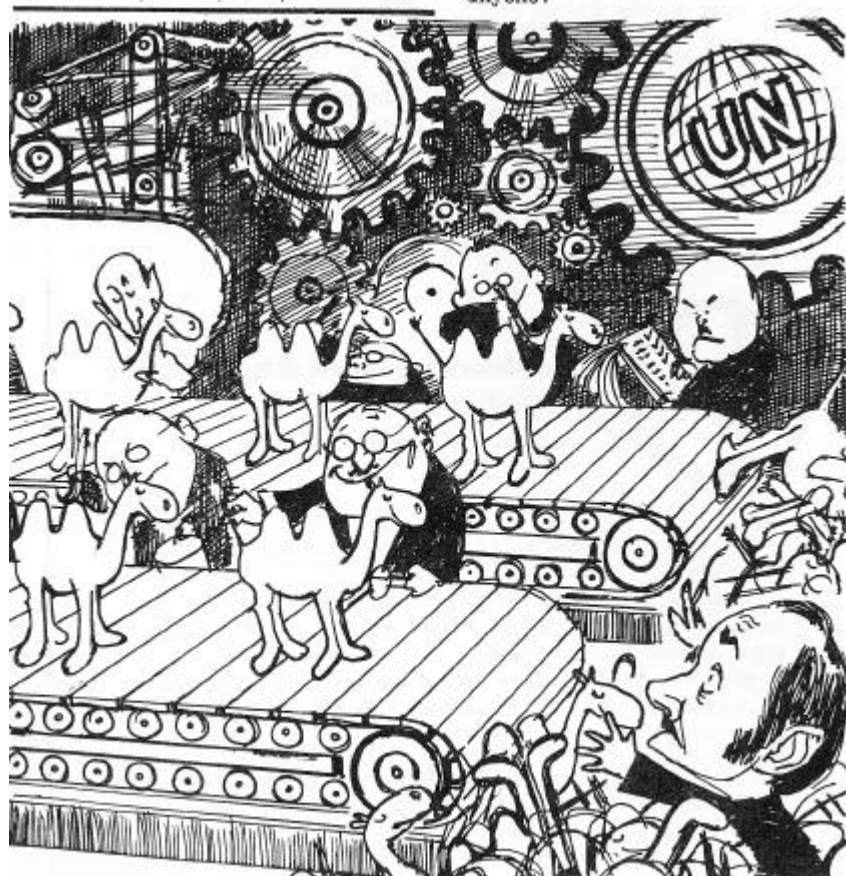
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Eco is posted on several websites including greenpeace.org, earthjustice.org, anped.org. Please send letters to [## Joint Call for Action by WBCSD and Greenpeace](mailto:ecoedi-</p>
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The announcement by Greenpeace and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) that they will jointly “call for action” on climate change and Kyoto, today at 19:15 at the Auditorium of the IUCN Environment Centre (Nedcor building) is intriguing journalists, UN officials, delegates and observers (both from business and NGOs). In Rio, Greenpeace and WBCSD fought like cats and dogs. What is bringing them together today? If you want to know, come to the auditorium at the IUCN centre, at 19:15 sharp. Refreshments will be served at the end (but no champagne: this is not a merger, say officials from both organizations).



Thirty Years Ago in Eco

A camel, they say, is a horse designed by a committee. The Stockholm Conference looks like distinguishing itself by developing the world's first camel assembly-line, with the added advantage that it is labour-intensive.

The subtleties of the mass-production process are illustrated by a few examples from the Tuesday sittings of Committee 3. The raw material was a suggestion that, “Governments be especially mindful of actions in which there is an appreciable risk of effect on climat.” Now, “mindful” might have been expected to offer genuine scope for adjustment and “appreciable,” or “effect,” for amplification. Sophisticated modern camel-making, however, unerringly pinpointed the most fruitful opportunity for refinement: the word “especially.” After half an hour, several hundred people flown in from all over the world decided (by 15 votes to 11, with 34 abstentions) to delete the word. The time was spent in dignified and vacuous proposals from those distinguished delegates most proficient in polysyllabic speech.

Later in the same session the US delegation strove for the augmentation of a clause that asked governments to “consult fully other interested states” about possible climatic modifications. The US wanted consultations only “whenever practicable.” This was too devious for the Uruguayans. How can consultations between states fail to be “practicable”? Regretfully, the US withdrew its proposal. . . .

It will be one of nature's more telling ironies if man's fondness for camels leads him to surrender on their behalf his niche in the biosphere.

Eco 1, Number 3, Stockholm, 8 June 1972

attention seeking

A special Eco insert from the groups listed below

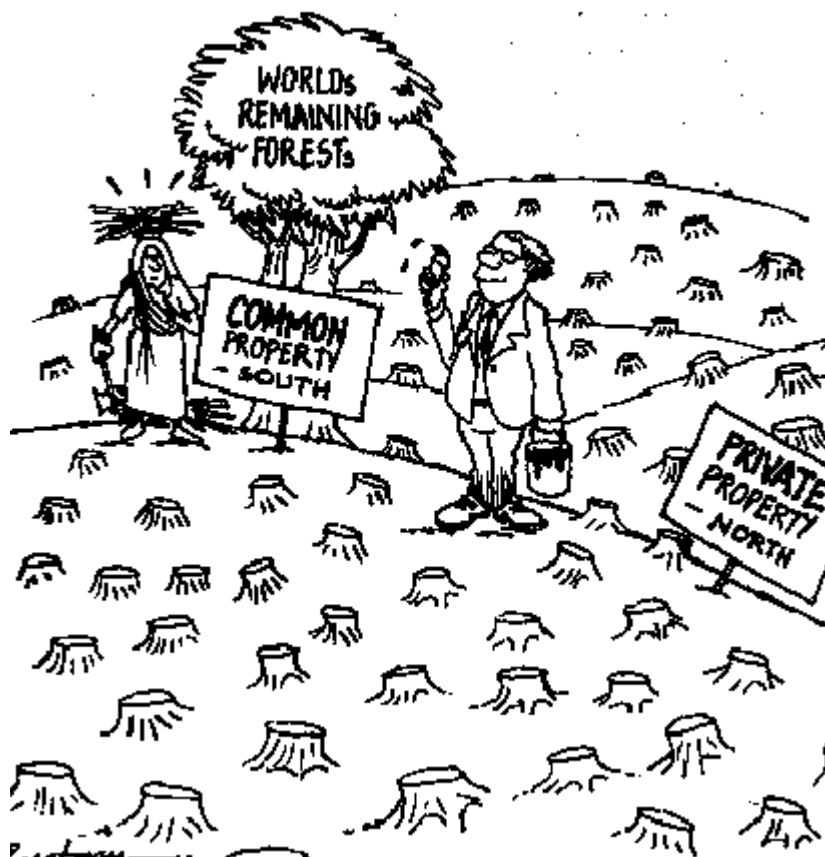
TRADE MIGHT NOT RIGHT

By Anju Sharma, Centre for Science and Environment, CSE, New Delhi

Tucked away in the latest Means of

Implementation draft is a bracketed line that has not yet generated much interest here in Joburg: “[Eliminate unilateral trade sanctions used to reinforce the environmental agenda]”. Yet, the acceptance or rejection of this one line could indicate whether the world—both governments and civil society—is genuinely ready for a trade regime based on equal standards for everyone. It is a line well worth fighting for, if we want to ensure that both rich and poor are accountable for environmentally unacceptable behaviour, rather than just placing developing countries at the receiving end of the trade-sanctions stick.

Why is it so important to remove this bracket? After all, one of the biggest challenges facing global negotiations



today is to make sure that nation-states comply with their international commitments. But so far it is industrialised countries that have forced compliance on developing countries, by threatening

to withdraw aid or apply trade sanctions. And sometimes, the aim is not even to ensure that those punished meet their multilateral commitments, but to force them to comply with rich-country national legislation or moral codes, to which the poor countries have never subscribed in any global forum. For instance, the US banned shrimp imports from several Asian countries, because they did not use turtle excluder devices (TEDs) while catching the crustaceans. At no point had the affected countries committed themselves to using TEDs. Yet, the US felt justified in forcing them to do so by using the trade lever.

All is fair in ensuring environmental compliance and protecting

species, conservationist groups may say. But the extremely unfair nature of such one-sided environmental policing becomes apparent when applied to another, much greater compliance

quandary faced by today's world: how do we make the US meet its commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, let alone take moral responsibility for the disasters its behaviour will inflict on the rest of the world, particularly on the poor and vulnerable? Bangladesh and poor island nation states are about to be flooded by rising sea levels, but how do they push Uncle Sam into action? Should they impose trade sanctions? Threaten to withdraw aid?

The sheer ridiculousness of this suggestion reveals the totally unbalanced nature of trade and aid compliance tools. Yet rarely has this been considered, not

even when such sticks have been built into global treaties. For instance, to make developing countries comply, the Montreal Protocol relies on the threat of withholding financial aid from its Multilateral Fund, set up to help developing countries meet their commitments to move to ozone-friendly technologies.

A crucial challenge is to devise rule-based tools for compliance that are equally available to the rich and poor. Until this happens, rich countries should refrain from using their financial might to bully poor countries. God forbid if any other country found a way to force its national legislation or moral codes upon the US, or even to make the super-

power comply with its commitments. Senators would crawl out of the woodwork to defend US sovereignty and the rights of the American people to do as they jolly well please.

If rich countries are indeed serious about practising the "rule of law" that they keep thrusting on developing countries, then they should have absolutely no hesitation in removing the brackets on this one crucial line in the trade text. Otherwise, not only are they intoxicated by their levers of power, they are also hypocrites incapable of practising what they preach.

"Beggars" Protect Environment for Planet Earth

By Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists, Kathmandu

While the Nepali government is holding out a begging bowl for the WSSD, civil-society representatives are asking the government to raise the issue of compensation for the cost of environmental protection.

"Why should we protect biodiversity for the whole planet, while our people are suffering from hunger?" asked one delegate at a national seminar organized by Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists and Nepali Network for Sustainable Development. Nepal has set aside 18 percent of its land for conservation, 5.4 percent to community forestry, while 29 percent of the country's 147,181 sq. km is covered by forest.

Dr. Minendra Rijal, member of the governmental National Planning Commission and team leader of Draft Committee on Sustainable Development Agenda of Nepal (SDAN) said that a poor country like ours has no option but to beg for economic development. But civil-society representatives protested.

"The industrialized nations should compensate us for sinking their carbon in our forest," said the renowned conservationist and tourism entrepreneur Karna Sakya. Others insisted that rich countries should compensate us for the global warming which they have caused, and which appears to be disrupting the monsoon pattern and diminishing the glaciers of the Himalayan region.

All Southern NGOs are welcome to seek attention, as this insert aims to give more voice at the Summit to civil society in developing countries. This springs from the Rio+10 Project, facilitated by the Danish 92 Group, working in Africa, Latin America and Asia through a series of national and subregional networks coordinated by the following organizations.

Southern Africa: EMG; Mozambique: ABIODES; Namibia: Desert Research Foundation within the NANGOF NGO Forum; South Africa: ENJF, ENDABA and the WSSD NGO Secretariat. East Africa: EcoNews, Kenya; Zimbabwe: Zero Regional Environmental Organisation; Uganda: The Rio+10 Coalition; Kenya: EcoNews and ELCI; Tanzania: JET; West Africa: Friends of the Earth Togo and networks in 11 countries. Ghana: ICA. South East Asia: WWF-Philippines, alongside WWF in Indonesia (with IPF), Malaysia, Thailand (with NGO COD), Vietnam and national NGO networks. South Asia: CSE India; Nepal: Forum of Environmental Journalists; Bangladesh: Forum for Environmental Journalists; South America and Argentina: Fundación Ecológica Universal; Brazil: Vitae Civilis; Ecuador: Fundación Natura and IUCN Quito; Bolivia: Fundación Tierra; The Amazon: Coordination of Indigenous Organisations in the Amazon including rainforest peoples in Peru, Guyana, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, Venezuela, French Guyana, Surinam, and Colombia. Central America and Costa Rica: CICAFOC, supported by UNES and Enlace Sur Sur; Nicaragua: Centro Humboldt; Guatemala: Fundación Solar; El Salvador: UNES.

Signed articles express the authors' and their organizations' views, which are not necessarily shared by all the aforementioned organizations or by the ECO Coalition. Please submit comments and suggestions to: ecoattention@yahoo.com.

Eco agreed to publish the first story, "Trade Might Not Right," in a spirit of openness and a free exchange of ideas. Readers will not be surprised to know that the members of the Eco-Equity Coaliton do not agree with several of the assertions in the story or with its conclusions. —*The Editor*