



A Sustainable World Is Possible!

The most unsustainable human action is war! It pollutes the air and water, wastes resources, money and lives and contributes nothing but misery.

The World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) had an official U.N. Summit. The Civil Society Global People's Forum with NGO's marched from Alexandra, (the oldest South African Black township, and one with major sections of abject poverty) to Sandton, the posh suburb where the U.N. government delegates were meeting. Here's their flyer:

Why We Are Marching!!

So that the people of South Africa and the world can tell the world leaders of the WSSD in Sandton that we want a new deal and a sustainable world: free of poverty, eco-destruction, disease and unemployment.

We will not accept a world where:

- 1.3 billion people are living on less that \$1 a day and the gap between the rich fifth of the world in the North and the poorest fifth in the South is 74:1;



Photo courtesy of the Commission on Human Security, Africa Institute of South Africa.

- Rich farmers in the U.S. and EU are subsidized \$1 billion a day and dump their produce on poor countries, whose farmers cannot compete and whose people are starving;
- 45 million more people could die of AIDS when more than half of them could be saved by treatment which they are denied because of cost;

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Cool Water for Hot Heads: —TEN MYTHS—

You Need to Believe In Before You Can Go To War

by South African Quaker Peter Willis

MYTH 1: *War can bring about peace.*

REALITY: Peace occurs when we feel no danger or threat. No enemies. If there is hate, no walls or guns can protect. At the end of war there are always losers and they have long memories. War never heals but rather seals in fear and hatred.

MYTH 2: *Defeat the enemy and they will change their minds to think the way you want them to think.*

REALITY: The defeated may fear you but not like you, won't admit his wrong or willingly take your world view, but will resent you.

MYTH 3: *War is the only way to resolve some disagreements.*

REALITY: The only way to end a disagreement completely is to find a way to agree. If you focus on what you agree about it's very difficult to wage war.

MYTH 4: *You can create security by violent means.*

REALITY: Most of us have forgotten what security is. Security is feeling no fear. Feeling secure makes it easier to help you open up, get close to others. Most of us think security is a thing we pay for: a gun or

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Art courtesy of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

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- Wealthy countries and multi-national corporations exploit cheap labor in the poor countries to make big profits but fix the terms of trade to make it hard for the poor countries to compete with them;
- Political leaders of rich countries engage in brinkmanship instead of seeking solutions to problems of poverty and environmental degradation.

Join us on the march for human development and a future for our children and our world.

Redistribute the world's wealth!

A Sustainable World Is Possible!

The World's Needs

Can there be increased corporate profit without increasing environmental degradation and poverty? Is corporate investment the way to true development for the poor?

U.S. Stance

The U.S. official delegate position was against any specific targets for cutting the number of abject poor in the world in half by the year 2015, against specific targets for the staggered implementation of renewable energy. They traded off the two, agreeing to halving the number of the world's poor but not agreeing to any specific targets on renewable energy.

We speculate on the business wisdom of this. With no pressure to develop alternatives U.S. corporations will be surpassed by others in developing the products needed. They were also uncomfortable with the clause in the com-

Does the stock exchange measure the economy that poor people live in? Does investment in corporations benefit a country?

Is Small beautiful? And what does that mean? Is there appropriate technology that is maintainable and affordable for poor people? Are we dealing with these economic questions in our schools? These are the questions that must be probed if we're to have a world for following generations.

We live on one small planet which links us all through climate and the oceans. There is nothing we do that doesn't affect the world. If we have too much trash so we have to open new landfills, where that's located affects the people who live nearby, could affect the water quality, could affect the air because garbage decomposing forms methane gas, etc.

What kind of vacation will we opt for? Will it be where the sheets and towels are replaced every day which uses more water and electricity? We can ask that that not be done. Even now water is a major problem in the world and water borne diseases are the major cause of poor health. Just the annual expenditure in the U.S. for ice cream would give the entire world in need the pure water and sanitation it needs.

The U.S. military spending would free the world from poverty. Real security comes from everyone having their basic human rights: a job, food, housing, education, health care, dignity.

It is time for a grassroots debate on our global values. People are not poor because they are lazy. The poor often work two jobs. They aren't lacking water because they are negligent. Women and sometimes children spend many hours every day to fetch water which frequently isn't even pure.🌐

promise text requiring governments to actively promote corporate responsibility and accountability.

The poor countries dropped their insistence that the U.S. and its allies set a deadline for eliminating market distorting subsidies. World Bank/IMF/WTO demands that poor countries eliminate subsidies to open their countries to foreign goods and services (GATTs). The U.S. finally agreed to drop some agricultural export subsidies providing Japan and the EU do likewise.🌐

Sustainable means that humans only use what the earth can replenish before we need more. We are using more than that so we are bankrupting the earth.



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army, something violent to scare others away. Security is based on fear. Armies allow us a peaceful night's sleep only temporarily. The world is small. Enemies don't disappear. Violence can't cure fear. Only openness and love can.

MYTH 5: Politicians, who start wars, value life, have done everything to prevent war and would be in the front lines themselves if they could.

REALITY: It's no coincidence that leaders stay far away from the wars they start.

MYTH 6: The best form of defense is attack. Also, if someone strikes, you strike back harder.

REALITY: It feels natural to retaliate. This produces rage, violence and anxiety, not peace and security.

MYTH 7: Founders of all the great religions approved of war under certain circumstances.

REALITY: True spiritual leaders loved people—a lot, encouraged us to love one another.

MYTH 8: War is a good way to defend freedom.

REALITY: That's like saying that smoking one last cigarette is a good way to give up smoking. What is freedom? What happens in war?

- Smash up the enemy, rob him and his family of freedom.
- “War footing” means losing freedom to speak, to choose, etc. How can you create freedom by doing the opposite?

MYTH 9: The ideal would be your enemies cowering, pleading for mercy.

REALITY: a cowering, defeated enemy becomes tomorrow's opponent. Peace only works through mutual respect and understanding.

MYTH 10: The enemy is fundamentally evil.

REALITY: When a leader wants to go to war he paints the enemy as morally or religiously depraved, inferior. Demonizing the enemy is essential to get people to fight. 🌐

For space, odw paraphrased this article. To read the original article, log onto natstep@iafrica.com.

Global Environmental Degradation

“The global environment is closely related to both demographics trends and patterns of consumption and waste. Developed nations are responsible for most of the harmful emissions and the bulk of global waste. With 20 percent of the population, these nations account for 85 percent of private consumption. In contrast the world's poorest 20 percent account for only 1.3 percent of private consumption.”

Halle Joern Hanssen

World Summit on Sustainable Development or World Summit for Supporting Destruction?

“One paradigm is ecologically based, people-centered and Earth centered, the other paradigm is financially based, corporate centered and trade led.

The first paradigm is the one that inspired the Earth Summit at Rio, the Agenda 21 commitments, the Conventions on Biological Diversity and Climate Change. The other is the paradigm underlying the WTO rules of trade and the World bank/IMF Structural Adjustment and Trade Liberalization Conditionalities.

An attempt is being made to reduce WSSD to WTO, and in the process destroy the sustainability of people's livelihoods, the ecosystems that support livelihoods and our very survival. One indication of the attempt to transform the WSSD from a people- and Earth-centered process is the official directive to the media to remove the term “Earth” from all references to the World Summit and only refer to poverty or development.”

Dr. Vandana Shiva



Plowed Under: WTO and the Small Farmer

by Anuradha Mittal of Food First
(paraphrased)

The Agreement on Agriculture (AOA) of the WTO Uruguay Round became the first step in making food production a business of a small monopoly. U.S. farm policy has spurned the small farmer and subsidized agribusiness exports, forcing thousands of small family farms off the land each year. The top agrochemical corporations control 84 percent of the \$30 billion market. Cargill and Continental share two-thirds of grain world-wide.

“For a fraction of the amount American taxpayers currently pay, it should be possible to design a system that preserves family farming and builds a healthy rural America without damaging the ability of farmers in other countries to make a living. The opposition to proposed trade rules is growing . . .

The message is clear: it is time to stop artificially expanding trade without regard for the consequences.”

For further information log onto:
www.wedo.org/wssd/survival-kit.htm

US — STOP DUMPING ON AFRICA!

That was a placard in the march and seen often at the Summit. And what do we dump? These most unappreciated items:

- Obsolete, old, polluting technologies. Often the recipients don't understand the inherent dangers of these technologies.
- Genetically engineered seeds. Many countries have declared they don't want genetically modified (GM) seeds. Accepting these items would exclude them from most European markets. Yet the U.S. continually takes advantage by offering only GM seeds such as corn to African nations trying to feed starving populations.
- Pesticides that are banned in the U.S.

A desperate need exists to develop an international code of conduct to deal with transfer of technologies, aid and trade.🌐

Not Quite Seattle!

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), like many conferences sponsored by the U.N. and WTO, has an official delegate part (at Sandton), and an NGO (non-governmental organization) and civil society parts (at NASREC), unfortunately many miles away. Buses are provided free to registered delegates but they run only once an hour and can take easily an hour to get from one to the other.

Kofi Annan, the U.N. Secretary General said,

“The United Nations once dealt only with Governments. By now we know that peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without partnerships involving Governments, international organizations, the business community and civil society. In today's world, we depend on each other.”

Thus the frustration of NGO's not allowed in to the official forum because of fire regulations limiting numbers. Fortunately, a meeting with President Mbeki and U.N. reps has partially solved the problem.🌐

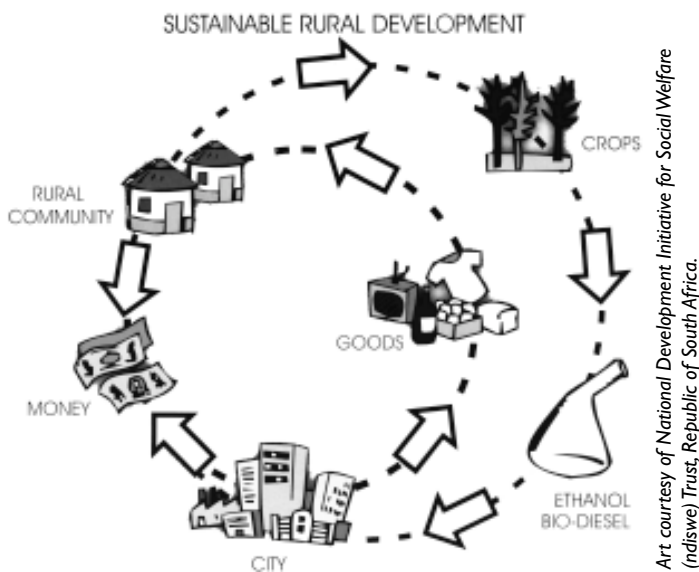




Photo courtesy of Africanwomen: Focus on the World Summit for Sustainable Development, News Design Associates, Inc.

Human Rights South African Style

Just the day before the opening of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), a march was broken up by police who threw at least one stun bomb, injuring a young woman. The next day these leaflets appeared:

Dear police officer:

It has come to our attention that the SAPS (South African Police Service) may not be aware of the Bill of Rights. We suspect this because our peaceful candle march to deliver a petition was disrupted and prevented by the police on Saturday 24 August. So just to remind you:

“Everyone has a right, peacefully and unarmed, to assemble, to demonstrate, and to picket and to present petitions.”

South African Bill of Rights

“The state must respect, protect, promote and fulfill the Bill of Rights”

Yours sincerely,

A Protester

And:

Dear President Mbeki:

It has come to our attention that you may not be aware of the Bill of Rights. We suspect this because many people have been arrested during peaceful marches in the run up to the WSSD.

So just to remind you:

“Every citizen is free to make political choices, which includes the right to campaign for a political cause.”

South African Bill of Rights



Water, a Human Right

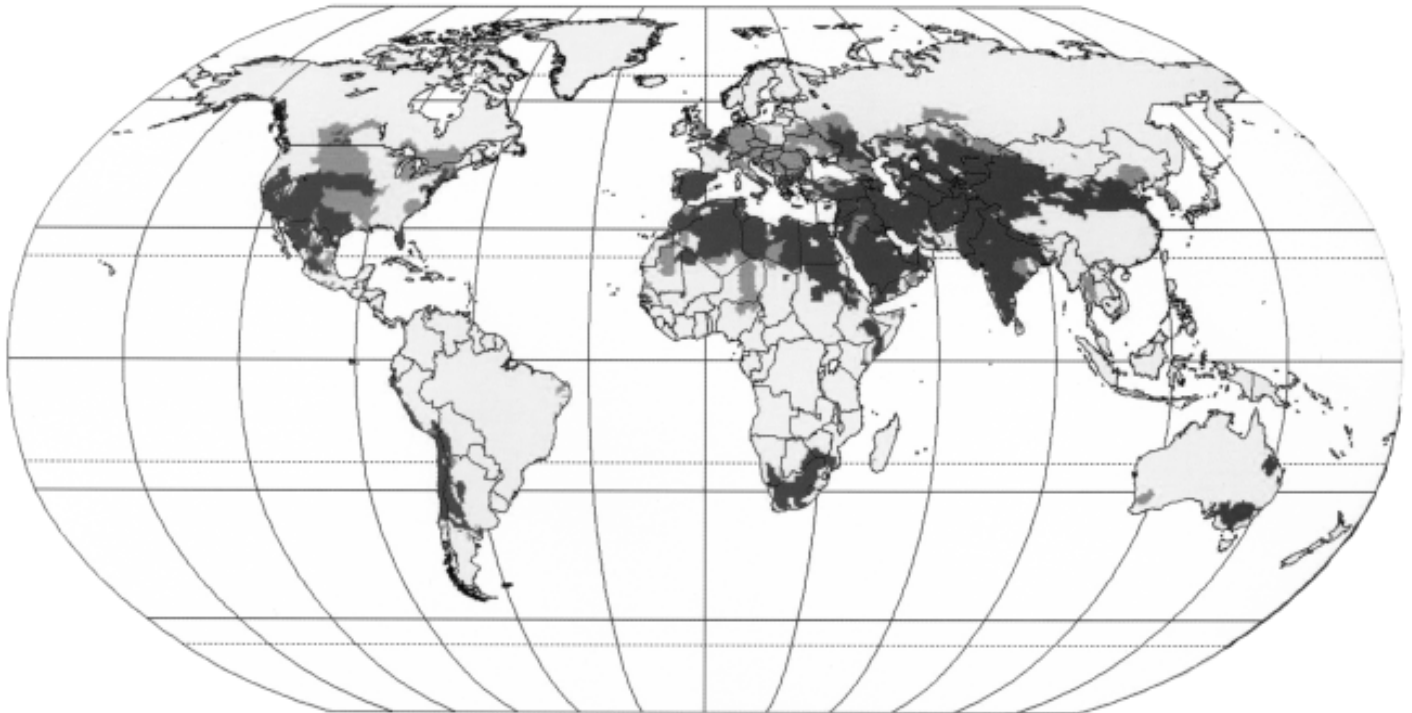
The commodification of water is making it inaccessible to many poor. The Water Dome was a venue for companies who profit from it or have new technologies. There were panels of experts espousing that and panels of experts who explained the legal agreements under GATTs that encourage privatization, as well as the U.N. Human Rights conventions that make water and access to it a human right. Unfortunately, the WTO agreements are very technical and countries have got themselves into situations they can't get out of because they didn't understand the exemptions or how they could use them. Also, some politicians are looking to profit.

Cochabamba, Bolivia is a case in point. The water delivery system was inefficiently run and the mayor was pushing for a dam. He contracted with Bechtel to provide

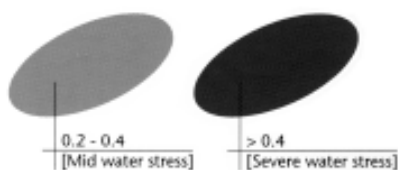
both. Immediately, the rates doubled so many couldn't afford water at all. The people began a protest which became very large and well publicized around the world. The dam wasn't built so the mayor used this as an excuse to tell Bechtel he couldn't guarantee their safety. Bechtel is suing under GATTs saying they're deprived of their profits.

Maude Barlow, Canada, praises South Africa for the only constitution in the world that lists water as a human right and for providing 7 million people with water after 1994. But she supports the South African Municipal Workers Union challenge of privatization of water.

In Joburg the first 6 kiloliters are free. After that there is a graduated scale of fees— an idea for us in water starved California and the rest of the affluent world.



Stress indicator according to drainage basins, circa 1995 (withdrawal-to-availability ratio).



Source: UNESCO-WWAP

Map established by the center for Environmental Research, University of Kassei, for the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP).



Experts fear water (blue gold) will be the next reason for wars.

South Africa Working for Water provides 40,000 jobs to clear invasive plant species from forest and grasslands that use inordinate amounts of water.

Barlow feels the debate on the wise and equitable use of water is just beginning.

Tony Clarke in Blue Gold tells the story of the corporate assault on water “commons” and the complicity of governments and international institutions.

The U.N. Human Development Report makes clear that Human Development shares a common vision with

human rights. “Under the right to housing is the right to water; a dwelling without water does not serve the right to housing,” Miloon Kothari stated.

In the Declaration on the Right to Development, it recognizes “that development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom.”[Ⓜ]

Headlines from South African Newspapers

September 1, 2002, *The Sunday Independent*:

Now Swallow This: Dirty Water Kills 2.2 Million People a Year

World Will Have to Get Tough with the U.S.

Grueling Week for Editors Weighing the World Summit against Big Brother II

September 2, 2002, *Terraviva* (the unofficial record):

Marches Highlight Breach in Trust between the Talkers and the Talked About

Spin Doctors Prepare to Turn Failure into Success

Social Change Needed to Aid Sustainable Development

Recycle/Reuse/South African Style

Recycling was everywhere at the World Summit with segregated trash bins for paper, compost, metal, plastic and other materials, but it has really just begun there.

Reuse is a longer used method —making something out of nothing! Christmas tree ornaments of beaded balls from old deodorant roll-on applicators, recycled note paper, albums and gift boxes, some using dried, boiled elephant dung for fiber texture!

A friend decided there must be something she could do with all the newspaper she reads so she bought a form to make bricks, soaks the paper (torn or not) stuffs it into the brick form, squeezes the water out and dries the paper bricks. They burn slowly with no smoke out the chimney! We’re going to try it!

A traditional beaded bracelet made by beading one side of safety pins connected with elastic had a new twist: instead of glass beads slick colored magazine paper was used! Very attractive!

Beer bottles were turned into glasses by cutting off the bottom and fusing it to the top to make stemware, as shown on the adjacent brochure cover. Some of this recycling will be for sale and some displayed at the Annual International Handcraft Sale in November.[Ⓜ]



Photo courtesy of Green Glass, Braederstroom, South Africa.

odw Calendar — DO JOIN US!

Barby & Vic Ulmer recently returned from the World Summit on Sustainability and welcome invitations to do presentations. The subtitle, "How Can We Live Without Bankrupting Our Earth," insures it's a participatory program.

NEXT TRIP! Guatemala and Cuba/focus on Grassroots Sustainability. Tentative dates: July 6-27, 2003. Let us know if you want more information.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 6:30 p.m. potluck, 7:30 p.m. program
odw presents "South Africa Revisited."

Annual International Handcraft Sale

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Carved wooden boxes, wall plaques, toys, baskets, batiks, beaded work, whimsical animals made from banana fiber, handmade paper, mobiles, dolls & more! The woman or man who makes the craft links the creativity among all humankind. Give a gift that gives life to the maker and joy to the receiver and the giver!

Directions to *odw*: Take 85 to Saratoga Ave exit, go northeast to Cox, right on Cox one long block, right on Paseo Presada one short block, cross intersection and make a U-turn to be in front of 13004.

Look for the house with the lavender door.



Photo courtesy of the Journal of the Wildlife and Environment Society of SA, WESSA.

our developing world

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