

**Background Paper For the Workshop**  
**"Stakeholder Citizenship and the Health Sector"**  
**2/3 February 2002, NY**

A preliminary Collection of Example Activities, Organisations, Networks and Resources in the Areas of Health and Corporate / Stakeholder Citizenship

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## 1. Introduction

This document provides a collection of examples of activities, organisations, networks, and resources in the areas of health and corporate / stakeholder citizenship.

It is by no means complete - but rather a starting point of a "library" of stakeholder ideas and activities in these areas. We hope to add to the collection as the Implementation Conference (IC) project progresses.

The IC is all about gathering and developing ideas of action that stakeholders might want to engage in collaboratively. We hope that the examples and resources that we collect will inspire stakeholders in the IC process.

An updated version of this document will be made available at the workshop "Stakeholder Citizenship and the Health Sector", 2/3 February, NY. We are sure we will learn of more examples and resources at the workshop itself. If you can point us to other activities that should be included here, please let us know. Contact Gordon Baker at [gbaker@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:gbaker@earthsummit2002.org).

Please note that the descriptions are in most cases based on self-descriptions which are available in the public domain. As such, they do not present an 'analysis' but a collection of 'raw data'. Neither do the following descriptions imply any kind of assessment, evaluation or opinion by the partners hosting the workshop (Stakeholder Forum For Our Common Future, BP Amoco plc, Novartis International AG, Novo Nordisk A/S, Society for Participatory Research in Asia, World Information Transfer), or any other organisation or individual involved with the IC project or the workshop activities.

Criteria for inclusion in this background document were the areas of work (health; corporate citizenship); examples that might be discussed at the workshop (eg activities partners are involved in); with a preference to multi-stakeholder activities.

## 2. Examples of Activities, Organisations, Networks

### Aarhus Convention - UN ECE

The UN ECE Regional Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

The Aarhus Convention is a new kind of environmental agreement. It links environmental rights and human rights. It establishes that sustainable development can be achieved only through the involvement of all stakeholders. It links government accountability and environmental protection. It focuses on interactions between the public and public authorities in a democratic context and it is forging a new process for public participation in the negotiation and implementation of international agreements.

NGOs were involved in the drafting of the Convention before and during the Aarhus conference and were given the responsibility of organising an NGO Session — a half-day dialogue between themselves and ministers on the subject of public participation.

<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/>

Also see UNED at <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/msp/examples/ex-aarhus.htm>

### Access Initiative

World Resources Institute (WRI) is working with The Environmental Management and Law Association EMLA, Budapest, Corporación PARTICIPA, Santiago, and The Thailand Environment Institute TEI on The Access Initiative - An Initiative To Promote Access to Information, Participation, and Justice in Environmental Decision-Making.

The Access Initiative is a global coalition of public interest groups seeking to promote principles of public access to information, participation and justice in environmental decision-making. Led by WRI, EMLA, Corpo-

ración Participa and TEI, the Access Initiative is developing and pilot testing assessment tools designed to assist civil society organizations in promoting the implementation of the access principles at the national level. We are developing assessment tools and taking stock of the degree to which national governments have implemented systems to ensure transparent, participatory, and fair decision-making in accordance with their commitments made at the Rio Summit in 1992. The site presents and seeks input to the assessment tools. It also provides updates on participants and progress.

website: <http://www.wri.org/governance/accessinit.html>

## **ANPED – The Northern Alliance for Sustainability**

ANPED works in the following areas:

**Sustainable Production and Consumption (SPAC):** Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production in northern societies are one of the major threats to our future. Specific work has been undertaken on the following themes: Genetically Modified Organisms; Extended Producer Responsibility; Export Credit Agency reform; Sustainable Consumption; Corporate Accountability and Responsibility; SPAC Watch; Environmental Rights.

**Local Sustainability :** We support local activities to further Sustainable Development. Building capacity in local participatory democracy is a key objective of our Local Sustainability program. We do this by organising skillshares for NGO's interested in local work and by organising workshops at international conferences.

**Environment and Health:** As ANPED is currently functioning as the secretariat of the European Health & Environment Network (eHEN), ANPED is playing an important role in the field of Environment and Health. The task of this network is to take forward work on Environment and Health issues that came out of the WHO Ministerial Conference in London and out of the Healthy Planet Forum, the NGO forum which was organised during that Ministerial meeting. We manage the eHEN website.

**Program Area: SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION / Corporate Accountability:** Corporations are playing an ever-increasing important role in the shaping of society. Some corporations are so large that they have become more powerful than most nation-states. But even the impact of small and medium-sized enterprises cannot be ignored. But, especially Trans-National Corporations (TNCs) have an unprecedented impact on the economy, the social structure of the countries they operate in, and the environment in which their subsidiaries, suppliers, and partners are situated. Famous examples of the negative impact of corporations on sustainable development are the chemicals disaster in Bhopal with Union Carbide, the Human Rights problems in Nigeria with Shell, and the terrible environmental and labour conditions at the Irian Jaya Mine of Freeport McMoran. More recently, events like the cyanide spill in Romania, the discovery of sweatshop labour conditions in the supply chain of Nike, and the seeking of lower environmental standards by Exxon in Cameroon show that there is still a need to find ways that ensure the full positive potential of corporate behaviour in sustainable development.

Even though the impact of corporations goes beyond the mere financial or economic impact and is clearly also environmental and social, there is little accountability of corporations to society on those matters. Some national governments have implemented environmental laws and regulations, and child and forced labour is illegal in every country in the world. Yet these measures do not stop corporations from abusing the environment and the people that work for them and live around their factories. Corporations seem to be able to get away with it... most of the time.

Corporate accountability, that is in our work the ability of society to control the behaviour of corporations in those fields where that behaviour affects their sustainable wellbeing, is something that is missing in our world today, and sadly is missing also from the global political agenda. There are few tools available but they are either too costly to implement every time (consumer campaigns and boycotts), or are unable to deal with the global magnitude of the problem at hand (courts under national laws).

Instead of regulating corporate behaviour, the governmental effort internationally has been to deregulate and to extend more and more freedoms to corporations. The last attempt to codify corporate freedom was the ill-fated OECD based negotiations on the Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI).

Responsible corporate environmental and social behaviour is not enforced, but instead is left to corporate self-regulation. A great deal of value can be found in voluntary approaches: Voluntary approaches give own-

ership of the policy to those that espouse them and thereby may help to increase the chances of real implementation. Yet, voluntary approaches do not deal with so called free riders (those that make a buck out of the fact there is no regulation) and in many cases the word voluntary means that if the plans are not implemented there is no sanction. When voluntary policies are broken, there is no redress in court for those who were affected negatively. Responsible corporate behaviour under a voluntary regime also becomes more optional than the current global environmental and social situation warrants. Worst yet, the simple market-based voluntary approach has been shown in theory to also not be able to meet some of the minimal targets that need to be set to achieve sustainable development.

website: [www.anped.org](http://www.anped.org)

## **Aventis Triangle Forum of the Aventis Foundation**

The Aventis Triangle Forum is a high-level meeting of decision makers, scientists and artists from North America, Asia and Europe to address questions of global change. In 2000, through three structured discussions, the Aventis Triangle Forum addressed our ability to build a common, sustainable future. The government leaders who participated in the Forum, as well as the key people from business, academia and civil society, will take back to their countries link among issues and the outlines of a common agenda to be pursued in parallel around the globe.

website: <http://www.aventis-triangle-forum.net/>

## **BP Amoco plc**

**BP Corporate reporting. Guide to our HSE and Social reporting:** "The company is committed to respond to the challenges posed by the objective of sustainable development. In our view sustainable development is a long-term strategic issue which will involve business in considerations beyond its normal responsibilities. Technology will play a central role in developing new approaches. The priorities for meeting economic, social and environmental needs in emerging markets in a sustainable way will be as important as, but different from, those in developed economies.

Firstly, BP is a member of the **California Fuel Cell Partnership**. This is a high profile effort centered in Sacramento, California, aimed at demonstrating the feasibility of manufacturing and operating efficient, clean fuel cell vehicles and fuel distribution systems under real operating conditions. Other members include two energy companies, seven automobile manufacturers and several government agencies.

Secondly, we are members of the **World Business Council for Sustainable Development's 'Sustainable Mobility' Project**. This project aims to develop a profile for mobility in the year 2030 which is achievable, affordable and sustainable in terms of conserving the worlds resources and cleaning the environment, whilst allowing all regions to develop to their maximum potential.

In the second category, there are several activities to mention.

We have a package of environmentally driven **co-operative activities with General Motors**. This includes jointly developing a fuel processor and fuel quality requirements for a gasoline fuel cell vehicle, expanding the UK LPG vehicle/cleaner fuel market, fuelling a low emission diesel-electric hybrid bus in New York City, developing novel clean diesel fuels, and some innovative in-vehicle and community outreach ventures.

With Ford Motor Company, we have announced **joint project funding for a major novel carbon dioxide management research project** at Princeton University, and are actively studying options for joint activity in improved vehicle efficiency and developing world initiatives. Both GM and Ford have also actively participated in our cleaner fuels launch programme in the USA.

Last, but not least, we have **two key fuel cell development activities with DaimlerChrysler**. The first is a joint study of the potential for using methanol as a clean retail fuel for fuel cell vehicles. The second is our involvement in DaimlerChrysler's Citaro fuel cell bus programme in Europe and Australia, in which we will provide clean hydrogen as the fuel at six of the proposed customer bus company sites."

**BP Foundation:** The BP Foundation is partnering with UNDP and Save the Children Federation to help raise living standards in East Timor. The BP Foundation, an affiliate of BP, last month provided US\$95,000

for two projects. The first, supported by a US\$20,000 grant, is the UNDP participatory poverty assessment, which will gather data from local communities to identify and finalize development strategies to help reduce poverty. The second project, aided by a US\$75,000 grant, is a microfinance programme in Dili, the capital, run by Save the Children. It will enable loans and cover start up costs and some operating expenses. The programme helps create viable small businesses and aims to reach the most disadvantaged communities, especially women and children. "BP has been working closely with the United Nations and the community to find ways to reduce poverty in East Timor, and these projects build on the work already underway," said Tim Ind, regional manager of Air BP. Gwi-Yeop Son, acting representative of UNDP, said: "We commend the support of BP, as we believe that partnerships with the private sector invigorate the fight against poverty."

<http://www.undp.org/dpa/frontpagearchive/2002/january/3jan02/index.html>

## **Consensus Building Institute**

Consensus building involves informal, face-to-face interaction among representatives of stakeholding groups. It aims for "mutual gain" solutions, rather than win-lose or lowest common denominator outcomes. Consensus building approaches are broadly applicable in all parts of the world and to the full range of international issues. Conflicts in the international arena involve multiple parties— nations, private actors, and NGOs. CBI is engaged in the assessment of numerous multilateral negotiations and institutional interventions designed to prevent or resolve conflict.

<http://www.cbi-web.org/>

## **CRESP - Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation**

A key purpose of CRESP is to develop an independent institutional mechanism to develop data and methodology to make risk a key part of its decision making. CRESP works by improving the scientific and technical basis of environmental management decisions leading to protective and cost-effective cleanup of the US's nuclear weapons and to enhance stakeholder understanding of the nation's nuclear weapons production facility waste sites. CRESP is committed to integrating risk evaluation with the concerns and duties of various stakeholders, including regulators, who are affected by or are responsible for the cleanup. It is seeking to understand the perceptions, dynamics and interests among stakeholders as it responds to their requests for data and technical perspective.

The CRESP library collection contains Scholarly Products produced by CRESP researchers, government documents related to CRESP research, and a variety of related research and general literature in the area of risk evaluation, nuclear clean-up and environmental issues. The CRESP Library Collection can be searched online with the CRESP Library Catalog.

website: <http://www.cresp.org/library.html>

## **Environment Council UK. The Brent Spar Dialogue Process**

Shell Expro's Brent Spar floating oil storage buoy attracted international media attention when a Government approved plan to dispose of it in the deep NE Atlantic was subject to a Greenpeace campaign. Following the decision to drop the plan and revisit the options for disposal, Shell Expro in conjunction with The Environment Council developed a dialogue process to run in parallel and interact with the technical development process to review all options. The process was designed to be flexible to meet the needs of stakeholders and run in parallel with the technical option development. It encompassed a wider communications plan which included regular media briefings, an Internet site and information circulars to a database of interested parties and groups who agreed to be on a list of contacts.

website: [www.the-environment-council.org.uk](http://www.the-environment-council.org.uk)

Also see UNED case study at <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/msp/ex-brentspar.htm>

## **GAVI – Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunization**

GAVI is a partnership dedicated to ensuring that all children, however poor, have equal access to these vaccines. It also works to spur the development of new vaccines against major killers that primarily affect the world's poorest people. It is founded on the principle that immunization is a human right and a key step towards overcoming poverty.

Board members include:

- The Bill and Melinda Gates Children's Vaccine Program at PATH
- National Governments
- IFPMA Public Health and Research Institutions
- World Bank
- Rockefeller Foundation
- UNICEF
- WHO

The Vaccine Fund is GAVI's mechanism to raise new resources and channel them to health systems in the world's poorest countries. Since the partners of the Alliance provide direction and support, administrative costs are kept low – approximately 98% of Global Fund resources go directly to countries. The Vaccine Fund was created with an initial grant of \$750 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Since, the governments of Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Netherlands have raised total resources to above \$1 billion for 2001-2005. More countries, corporations and foundations are expected to contribute to the Vaccine Fund. Principal efforts are to: provide new and under-used vaccines, with corresponding safe immunization equipment, and to help governments strengthen their basic immunization services.

Vaccine Fund created with initial \$750 million grant from the Gates Foundation, and further \$250+ million from governments of Norway, UK, USA and the for 2001-2005???. The fund is financially independent and makes its funding decisions based on the recommendations of the GAVI Board???. Initial 5 year commitments for more than \$600 million.

Of the 25 countries that were approved in the first three rounds, 11 countries have already received their first instalment of financial support from the Vaccine Fund to strengthen their health infrastructures, and 5 have received shipments of vaccines. Working with newly developed, long-term purchasing agreements with manufacturers, GAVI and the Vaccine Fund have already committed to purchase more than 300 million doses of vaccines over the next three years.

"The power of GAVI is in the collaboration between partners", said Ms Bellamy, who will take over as chair of the GAVI board, following the two-year term of Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director-General of WHO. "When you have UN agencies, industrialized country donors, vaccine manufacturers, and developing country health officials all sitting around the same table, public health programs can be much more effective."

website : [www.vaccinealliance.com](http://www.vaccinealliance.com)

## **Global Corporate Governance Forum**

To meet the growing demand for governance reform worldwide the World Bank Group and OECD have entered into a framework agreement for cooperation, at the heart of which is the convening of the World Bank Group and OECD Global Corporate Governance Forum. This is a new international initiative which will bring together the leading bodies engaged with governance reform worldwide: multilateral banks active in developing countries and transition economies, international organizations, country groupings, engaged with governance reform, alongside professional standards setting bodies, and the private sector.

The Forum provides a convening venue for the leading players in governance worldwide. Its theme of partnership between the public and private sector is established through a Private Sector Advisory Group, which comprises internationally recognized business leaders serving in an individual capacity, drawn from developing, developed and transition economies.

website: <http://www.gcgf.org/>

## **Global Reporting Initiative**

The Global Reporting Initiative is an international multi-stakeholder effort to create a common framework for voluntary reporting of the economic, environmental, and social impact of organisation-level activity. GRI's mission is to elevate the comparability and credibility of sustainability reporting practices worldwide. The GRI incorporates the active participation of businesses, accountancy, human rights, environmental, labour and governmental organisations.

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) was established in late 1997 with the mission of developing globally applicable guidelines for reporting on the economic, environmental, and social performance, initially for corporations and eventually for any business, governmental, or non-governmental organisation (NGO). Convened by the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the GRI incorporates the active participation of corporations, NGOs, accountancy organisations, business associations, and other stakeholders from around the world.

The GRI vision is bold. It has brought together disparate reporting initiatives into a new multi-stakeholder, global process with long-term implications for disclosure, investment and business responsibility. Its success will lead to:

- Expanded credibility of sustainability reports using a common framework for performance measurement;
- Simplification of the reporting process for organisations in all regions and countries;
- Quick and reliable benchmarking;
- More effective linkage between sustainable practises and financial performance.

On the basis of this vision, the United Nations Foundation awarded a \$3 million partnership grant to CERES and UNEP to support GRI activities. From 2000 - 2002, the GRI will pursue:

- Creation of a permanent, independent host institution for the GRI;
- Continued periodic revision of Sustainability Reporting Guidelines developed through the efforts of a global, multi-stakeholder process;
- Extending the reach of GRI to all regions of the world to enlarge its reach and ensure continual feedback to enhance the quality of the Guidelines.

website: <http://www.globalreporting.org/>

## **Global Sullivan Principles of Corporate Social Responsibility**

The objectives of the Principles are to support economic, social and political justice by companies where they do business, thereby, helping to improve the quality of life for communities, workers and children with dignity and equality. Companies are encouraged to endorse a set of principles consistent with the legitimate role of business. These principles involve developing and implementing company policies, procedures, training and internal reporting structures to ensure commitment to these Principles throughout the organization.

website: <http://www.globalsullivanprinciples.org/>

## **International Confederation of Free Trade Unions**

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), was set up in 1949 and has 225 affiliated organisations in 148 countries and territories on all five continents, with a membership of 157 million. It has three major regional organisations, APRO for Asia and the Pacific, AFRO for Africa, and ORIT for the Americas. It also maintains close links with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) (which includes all ICFTU European affiliates) and International Trade Secretariats, which link together national unions from a particular trade or industry at international level.

**Priorities for Action:**

At its 16th World Congress in Brussels in June 1996, the ICFTU laid down five priorities for action:

- employment and international labour standards,
- tackling the multinationals,
- trade union rights,
- equality, women, race and migrants,
- trade union organisation and recruitment.

#### **On Multinational Enterprises:**

- One of the most pressing tasks facing the international trade union movement is to address the power and influence of Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) as part of a trade union response to globalisation. The combination of the growth of foreign direct investment, technological changes, international financial markets and a wide range of deregulation and privatisation measures have made it possible for MNEs to be in the drivers' seat of the global economy.
- The challenge for the international trade union movement is to ensure that companies respect workers' rights in every part of the world where their influence is felt and to establish a genuine global dialogue between unions and MNEs.
- The International Trade Secretariats (ITS) have the primary responsibility for dealing with global companies. They are the major instruments for workers to come together at international level inside enterprises and industries. The ICFTU works in partnership with ITS in many areas including efforts to strengthen international trade union solidarity and build global social partnership.

### **International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)**

ICLEI is the international environmental agency for local governments. Local Agenda 21 is the action plan for a sustainable development of a municipality, set up by local authority together with the local stakeholders and citizens, aiming to enhancing the sustainability of communities through: environmental protection; economic vitality; and community well-being. Steps toward a more sustainable future include developing community-driven strategic planning and collaborative regional planning; improving community and building design; decreasing sprawl; and creating strong, diversified local economies while increasing jobs and other economic opportunities.

website: <http://www.iclei.org/>

### **Living With the Genie**

On March 5-7, 2002, 300 people will come together at Columbia University's Low Library Rotunda to discuss one of the great challenges facing our increasingly global society: the governance of scientific and technological change.

No society is equipped to deal with the accelerating impacts of science and technology. Today, many different areas of science and technology are advancing synergistically, multiplying the rate and magnitude of both technological change and societal transformation. On the one hand, access to advanced technologies proliferates, and the production of novel, transforming technologies is becoming routine. On the other, the distribution of the benefits and costs of scientific and technological advance is highly uneven, both within nations and between them. Meanwhile, the culture of discovery and innovation is changing as private funding outpaces public research investments, patent protection expands to emerging types of research findings, and ownership of knowledge becomes a critical issue in the global marketplace. Institutions of governance designed to safeguard the collective public interest are unable to keep pace with the transformations created by emerging knowledge and innovation. No more powerful and complex symbol of this tension can exist than the unspeakably horrifying September 11th collision between those who possess unprecedented technological sophistication and those who resorted to the simplest tools to express their utter alienation from the human community.

In the face of such challenges, we seek to stimulate a broad societal commitment to reflection, discourse, and action about how society should govern the way that it continually remakes the world with science and technology.

website: <http://www.livingwiththegenie.org/>

## **Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Project (MMSD)**

MMSD is an independent two-year project of participatory analysis seeking to understand how the mining and minerals sector can contribute to the global transition to sustainable development. MMSD is a project of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) commissioned by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). Find reports, draft reports, charters, calls, guidelines, etc.

<http://www.iied.org/mmsd/index.html>

Also see UNED case study at <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/msp/ex-mmsd.htm>

A set of Principles for Stakeholder Engagement has been developed as part of IIED's Mining and Minerals for Sustainable Development project, commissioned by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. [http://www.iied.org/mmsd/global\\_act/stakeh.html#principles](http://www.iied.org/mmsd/global_act/stakeh.html#principles)

## **Montreal International Forum (FIM)**

FIM provides a neutral setting for an annual forum in Montreal for reflection and active learning about the interaction between civil society and the multilateral system. In so doing, the Forum draws lessons from NGO experiences that can strengthen the voice and participation of civil society actors in the multilateral system. Beginning in May 2002, FIM will also convene a larger biennial conference with a similar objective. Find FIM-commissioned discussion papers of case studies wherein civil society organizations have influenced the multilateral system. Website in English and French.

website specialized on civil society participation in multilateral institutions: <http://www.fimcivilsociety.org/>

## **Novartis International AG**

"The foundation of our approach is written in our Corporate Citizenship Policy. It is an expansion of the existing Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Guidelines, the Code of Conduct and refers to all aspects of the UN Global Compact. It is consistent with the Novartis core values and based on the fundamental rights of every individual, such as the protection of privacy, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of association, non-discrimination, and the right to be heard. Our Business Sectors are currently establishing proper structures and allocating sufficient resources; the process is complemented by audit checklists and practical measures such as transparent communication, regional management workshops, rigorous reviews of internal practices, updating of business procedures, performance assessments, controls, and changes of technology standards, among others.

In the era of globalization, Novartis faces an increasingly complex situation because innovation can sometimes lead to risks, costs and imbalances that extend beyond national borders. Novartis cannot solve these issues alone and so it aims to build partnerships with other stakeholders such as the various public institutions, international organizations, and the private sector. The co-operation with them can lead to a more sustainable development, which in this case means the more equitable sharing of the benefits of innovation.

Novartis is working together with leading public and private organizations to improve the health of people living in the developing world. This public-private partnership can better utilize the resources and strengths of each partner. For instance, Novartis supplies at cost an innovative malaria treatment, Coartem, to the World Health Organization (WHO) for use in developing countries. In a global effort to eliminate leprosy, the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development provides multi-drug therapy for free to the WHO. It is a \$35 million commitment to eliminate the disease by 2005. In endemic malaria areas, Novartis provides its innovative malaria drug at cost to the WHO. There are various patient assistance programs for leukemia and support projects for the children of AIDS victims. A Research Center for Tropical Diseases has been established. The Novartis Foundation (<http://www.novartisfoundation.com/>) aims to improve the quality of life of the poorest people in developing countries through programs & contributions to development policy discussions. **Projects and Programs include work on:** leprosy & health; social development; publicaions on de-

velopment Issues; business ethics & globalization; population growth & sustainable development; development Dialogue; international symposia; cooperation with other organizations.

**Singapore research institute for tropical diseases:** Basel / Singapore, 8 November 2001 – Novartis announced today the establishment of a new tropical diseases research center in Singapore involving a SGD 220 million investment. The center will be called the Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases and is the result of an agreement between Novartis and the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB). The objective of the Institute is to advance medical research in the area of progressive infectious and parasitic diseases that affect so many people in the developing world. Historically, due to the high cost of drug discovery and development, there has been little focus on funding research in this area, especially as the financial returns have been viewed as unattractive. Novartis views this as a long term endeavor to enhance the discovery of preventative and effective treatments for diseases like tuberculosis (TB) and dengue, and ultimately reduce the overall affliction of tropical diseases and improve the prosperity of developing countries.

**AIDS Orphans in Tanzania:** The Humuliza project conducts 14-week programs with orphans with the aim of stabilizing the children psychologically and socially. The program is based on group interventions and also a "child-to-child" approach. This recognizes that children who have similar experiences can benefit from exchanging information and understanding that their situation is not unusual and is in no way a "failure." This approach also takes account of the fact that young people are much more willing to accept emotional support from people of their own age than from adults. There are also some income-generating methods that the project uses. For example, the project offers the orphans to work for their breadwinners, such as grandparents, and receive 150 Tanzanian schillings for each completed project. This enable the children to make a contribution to supporting themselves, while at the same time promoting cohesion between the generations. In some cases, the project also pays school fees.

**CareCard Drug Discount Program to Aid Needy Elderly Who Lack Prescription Drug Coverage:** Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation introduced a discount program called the Novartis CareCard. Scheduled for official launch in January of 2002, the CareCard is designed to make prescriptions more affordable for low-income elderly who lack drug coverage. An estimated 10 million Americans are expected to qualify for the CareCard. Novartis also issued an industry-wide call to action, encouraging other pharmaceutical companies to create programs to deliver real value to the low-income elderly. The Novartis Care Card<sup>SM</sup> will be available free of charge. With the Novartis Care Card<sup>SM</sup> program eligible Medicare recipients should receive savings of 25% or more on selected Novartis outpatient products. Eligible Participants must have annual income less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (approximately \$26,000 for an individual; \$35,000 for a couple) and not currently have alternative prescription drug coverage such as Medicaid, Medigap, or employer-sponsored retiree coverage.

**Novartis Germany Forum events:** Partnerships and external activities enable Novartis to increase its knowledge base and extend its effectiveness in managing health, safety and environment issues. Partnerships are also essential for working toward sustainable development and the global issues facing our company and society today. Some of their key partnerships: Public forums - held in Germany, Italy and Japan with different stakeholders to discuss controversial topics related to our activities, learn from stakeholder perspectives and collaborate on developing new solutions.

[http://www.novartis.com/hse/stakeholder\\_relations.shtml](http://www.novartis.com/hse/stakeholder_relations.shtml). Also see UNED case study at <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/msp/examples/ex-novforum.htm>

## **Novo Nordisk A/S**

Specialist in Diabetes care.

Diabetes: 150 million people in the world currently suffer from diabetes, but little appears to be underway in the developing countries to alleviate its impact or combat its growth.

Novo Nordisk's **LEAD initiative** (Leadership in Education and Access to Diabetes care) programme will share knowledge, develop local capacity and provide cheap drugs (at max 20% of price in developed world) and financial support. Structured along WHO declared focus areas for improving access to healthcare in developing countries:

**WHO**                      **Novo Nordisk**

Develop national disease strategies	'National Diabetes Strategies': create collaborations with specific health authorities in setting up national diabetes strategies.
Build national healthcare capacity	'DAWN' (Diabetes Attitudes, Wishes and Needs) study analyses the behavioural, social and psychological aspects of diabetes; providing new patient information. 'World Partner Project' is a survey conducted in six developing countries for benchmarking good access practices. Aims to develop 'sustainable diabetes models' that benefit very low-income sufferers, with acceptable financial returns to providers.
Provide at best possible price	Tiered pricing structure is in place; insulin offered to public health systems in poorest countries at maximum of 20% of the average price in North America, Europe and Japan.
Provide additional funding	'World Diabetes Foundation' (established 2001); independent foundation for funding diabetes care in developing countries; board includes experts, patient organisations, NGOs and minority representation from Novo Nordisk. EUR 67 million committed over ten years, for education, awareness and treatment in developing countries.

**Novo Nordisk: World Diabetes Foundation:** On 13 November 2001, Novo Nordisk announced it will establish an international foundation - the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF) - to support, financially and otherwise, projects aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge of diabetes; preventing, diagnosing and treating diabetes; educating and training health professionals; improving distribution of medicine; and improving access to proper diabetes care. Subject to shareholder approval at its Annual General Meeting in March 2002, Novo Nordisk will donate approximately 500 million DKK (approximately 67 million EURO) to the foundation over the next ten years. The WDF is part of a broader Novo Nordisk LEAD initiative.

**Diabetes in the developing world:** Scientific progress and technological innovations in the 20th century have brought about major improvements in global health and markedly improved the quality of life. However, the progress has not been evenly distributed all over the world, and there is an inverse relationship between the distribution of need and the distribution of resources.

The developing world carries 90% of the disease burden, yet poor countries benefit from only 10% of the resources that go to healthcare. Furthermore, while there is continued progress in developed countries, the situation in developing countries is deteriorating, and the gap between rich and poor is increasing. The situation is aggravated by the current AIDS epidemic, as most of the people with HIV/AIDS live in developing countries.

The WHO estimates that one-third of the world population still lacks regular access to essential drugs. This figure rises to over 50% in the least developed parts of Africa and Asia. Many factors become barriers to healthcare access in developing countries:

- Lack of healthcare infrastructure,
- Social and political factors such as civil conflicts,
- Lack of education and
- Shortage of financial resources.

Mechanisms for public financing of healthcare are non-existent in most developing countries, thus health costs typically represent out-of-pocket expenditure for people with severely limited means. (According to WHO, 80% of people in developing countries pay directly for some or all of their own medicines). In many instances, the choice is between healthcare and food or clothing. Such financial constraints inevitably result in under-consumption of healthcare services.

**Diabetes is a huge problem in the developing world:** Although infectious diseases still constitute the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in developing countries, WHO predicts that non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases will become the world's main disablers and killers within the next quarter-century. Diabetes can be found in almost every population in the world and its prevalence has reached epidemic proportions. Using epidemiological data, WHO esti-

mated the global burden of diabetes at 135 millions in 1995, with the number reaching 300 millions by the year 2025. Most of this increase will occur in developing countries, which will therefore bear the brunt of the diabetes epidemic in the 21st century. The diabetes pandemic — which consists primarily of Type 2 diabetes — has evolved in association with rapid cultural changes, aging populations, increasing urbanisation, dietary changes, decreased physical activity and other unhealthy lifestyles and behavioural patterns. Without effective prevention and control programmes, diabetes will most likely continue to increase globally. Recent research shows that diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in people aged 20-74 years and it is also the leading cause of end-stage renal disease. The risk of leg amputation, heart disease and stroke is much higher for people with diabetes compared to those without diabetes. In developing countries, the prevailing poverty, ignorance, illiteracy and poor health consciousness further add to the problem. Studies have shown that for uneducated, unemployed people, especially those living in semi-urban or rural areas with no access to even the bare minimum of healthcare facilities, there are likely to be delays in diagnosis, and serious diabetes-related complications. Furthermore, many people with Type 1 (ie insulin dependent) diabetes die before they are diagnosed or soon after diagnosis due to inadequate access to treatment. In addition to personal suffering, diabetes accounts for a significant amount of national healthcare spending: In the US, more than one out of ten USD for healthcare is spent on diabetes, and one out of four Medicare dollars pays for healthcare for people with diabetes. With the present trend, diabetes is likely to take more than a third of the health budgets in 15 to 20 years. A 1997 WHO report concluded that due to its frequency and to the cost and suffering imposed by its complications, diabetes is one of the most daunting challenges posed today by chronic diseases.

Thus, it is clear from the available information that in the future diabetes will constitute a severe burden on the already fragile and under-resourced healthcare systems in the developing world. Most of current health-related initiatives in developing countries are aimed at high-profile communicable diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. In fact, developing countries face a double burden of disease. They suffer a considerable backlog of common infections and malnutrition. At the same time and without having addressed these challenges, they have to cope with the emerging problem of non-communicable diseases, of which diabetes is one of the most common.

## **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): Biotechnology**

**Biotechnology and Food Safety NGO Consultation Meeting:** The OECD has been helping governments since 1982 in forging international guidelines for the development of products using modern biotechnology. The OECD is now intensifying its work in the areas of biotechnology and food safety. One important element in this work is consultation with civil society.

A large number of representatives of scientific associations and NGOs met to discuss biotechnology and food safety in November 1999. Representatives of some 50 bodies from civil society and from the scientific and business communities attended. Discussions focused on three main topics - consumer concerns, environmental concerns and agro-food concerns.

<http://www.oecd.org/subject/biotech/ngoconsultation.htm>

Also see UNED case study at <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/msp/examples/ex-oecd.htm>

**OECD and Biotechnology:** Health care in the developed world is facing a massive surge of new knowledge and new technologies, deriving in particular from modern biotechnology and genomics, and driven forward by the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry. How should governments react, respond or intelligently anticipate the resulting implications for public policy? In February 1995, the OECD established a working group on Human-Health-Related Biotechnologies. The first responsibility of this group was to oversee a major study on the economic aspects of such innovations. This report contains two parts:

- Part I: Biotechnology and Medical Innovation: Socio-Economic Assessment of the Technology, the Potential and the Products. As the title indicates, this volume focuses on the details of the technology and on methods of economic evaluation and presents illustrative case studies. It addresses the increasing interest in such methods, not only in governments, but also among academic researchers with an interest in public policy and in economics; as well as industrial firms, large and small, whose innovations are expected to withstand such appraisal. (see also Health Policy Brief Part I)

- Part II: Biotechnology, Medical Innovation and the Economy: The Key Relationships. This part of the report looks at economic appraisals and decisions e.g. on reimbursement, which are an important dimension of socio-economic assessment. It is in the public interest, indeed essential for survival and competitiveness in an open world economy, that governments encourage innovation and provide appropriate conditions within which companies may successfully launch products and services, profiting from the general rapid progress of knowledge and scientific understanding.

## Partnership Brokers Forum

Building partnerships for sustainable development: A project of the Resource Centre for the social dimensions of business practices, commissioned by the Partners in Action programme, a partnership of the United Nations Staff College and The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum. Brokers carry responsibility for the process of building a partnership and ensuring its effective functioning. The partnership building process is a complex process with four distinct phases - each phase requires the broker to fulfil specific tasks or responsibilities which in turn require distinct roles or skills. To support the broker in this process, a leadership compass will help the broker select the appropriate roles within phases. The broker is representative of a new kind of leader, one that guides and supports rather than directs.

website: <http://www.partnershipbrokers.net>

## People First India

Universal Charter of Good Governance for global sustainability: At the turn of the millennium, the world is witnessing major advancements in science and technological innovations. New frontiers are being established in technologies such as information, genetics, ocean, space and nano. The world is also witnessing unprecedented expansion in industrial growth, generation of wealth, financial markets and globalisation.

website: <http://www.peoplefirstindia.org/5universal.htm>

## Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)

PRIA is a Delhi based voluntary development organisation, striving for socio-economic and socio political equality and welfare. PRIA undertakes a wide range of social initiatives within the perspective of participatory development and research. Its key interventions are in the area of Civil Society Development, Local Self Governance, Environmentally Sustainable Industrial Development and promotion of citizen's Participation in Development. Women and marginalised section find special focus in all our work. PRIA is proud to reach out locally, nationally and globally.

The three primary strategies of PRIA's work comprise of:

- Capacity Building entails direct capacities of various stakeholder of civil society.
- Policy Advocacy involves influencing policies enabling participation and empowerment of the marginalised.
- Knowledge Building entails critical and systematic study of issues and institutions which enable or disable citizen participation in the democratic processes. "Knowledge is power" is the essence of PRIA's philosophy.

**Projects undertaken at PRIA include:** AIDS and the Health Care Workers; Case Study on VEC; Citizen Education; Civil Society, Citizenship and Social Action; Dynamics of realising safe and healthy working environment; Enabling Environment for Civil Society; Environmental Damages and unaccountable deaths of Migrant Labour Gujrat earthquake; Governance of Voluntary Development Organisations; International Forum on Capacity Building of Southern NGO's; John Hopkins Comparative Non Profit Sector Project; Mind Project; Multi Stake Holders dialogue for Environmentally Sustainable Industrial Development Perspective; Participatory Research - An Alternative; Plight of race Course Workers in New Delhi; PPME Alumni Intervention; PRIA 20 years Aniversary Programme; Promoting Citizens Advocacy and Monitoring; Reflections on Participatory Evaluation; Resourcing Civil Society; Strategic Planning; Strengthening Citizen's Monitoring;

Strengthening Capacity for Participatory Development; Study on Assessing Impact of Capacity Building interventions of RSOs and PRIA at the grassroots; Study on Effectiveness of village level Institutions; Study on Shraddanand Mahilashram's Parishramalaya; The Common Wealth Millennium Project; The plight of workers in Export Processing Zone in India; Understanding Participation; Women Workers: Gender Concerns vis - a -vis Occupational health; Womens Empowerment through Literacy and Livelihood Project

**AIDS and the Health Care Workers:** The study 'AIDS and Health Care Workers' is based on a detailed survey of three selected hospitals of the Municipal Corporation, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The Municipal Corporation, Mumbai runs three medical colleges, one dental college, five nursing colleges and three colleges for physiotherapists. The corporation also manages 25 public hospitals and 25 maternity hospitals besides a network of municipal dispensaries and community health workers. These sections are represented by many unions. The study selected three large hospitals -- KEM at Parel, the TB Hospital at Sewri and Nair Hospital in Central Mumbai. [http://www.pria.org/cgi-bin/studyreport.htm?r\\_reportid=16](http://www.pria.org/cgi-bin/studyreport.htm?r_reportid=16)

**Governance of Voluntary Development Organisations** (-Dr. Rajesh Tandon and Veronica George): The governance of VDOs has remained an area of limited study, though it is beginning to gain attention. This paper attempts to describe the various dimensions, aspects and issues related to governance of VDOs. [http://www.pria.org/cgi-bin/studyreport.htm?r\\_reportid=40](http://www.pria.org/cgi-bin/studyreport.htm?r_reportid=40)

**Multi Stake Holders dialogue for Environmentally Sustainable Industrial Development Perspective:** Industrial development is generally welcomed by all - Governments that plan and provide the infra structure for the development, by industrial houses and contractors who invest in implementing these plans and look forward to obtaining profits, and the public at large - who see industrialisation as an opportunity for employment and a way to enhance their quality of life. On the other hand, there are voluntary organisations and environmentalists who understand the need for industrialisation, however, they concern themselves more with the negative impacts of this process - pollution, degradation of natural resources, the dislocation or displacement of communities, the breakdown of structures that support traditional occupations and community institutions.

This continuous struggle between people and alien policy, environment and development is not a new phenomenon. The struggle seldom finds space for resolution, since all the parties concerned are very definite in their opinions and views and negotiations are seen as weakening of stands. What is needed therefore is a sustainable and realistic solution where the interests of all parties are protected and a conducive atmosphere created for the co-existence of community and the industry. For this, an alternate model should be developed keeping in mind the ground realities and limitations.

The document highlights the proceedings of a Public Hearing on March 14, 1999 in Chiplun (Maharashtra) organised by Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and Parivartan:

[http://www.pria.org/cgi-bin/studyreport.htm?r\\_reportid=18](http://www.pria.org/cgi-bin/studyreport.htm?r_reportid=18)

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

## **Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future (formerly UNED Forum)**

Stakeholder Forum has gathered a multi-stakeholder International Advisory Board (IAB), which comprises of some of the most important bodies, associations, networks and organisations within the various stakeholder groups. Stakeholder Forum therefore has the opportunity to work closely with those groups and those who represent them at an international, and in some cases, regional level. Successfully forming this IAB is an expression of the trust that stakeholders have in Stakeholder Forum as a body that neutrally and effectively facilitates a space that stakeholders can use to build trust and relations, engage in dialogue with each other.

Stakeholder Forum's activities around the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) since 1993 have build a track record of experience with working with all kinds of stakeholders, developing mechanisms of stakeholder participation at CSD meetings, facilitating stakeholder communication. Stakeholder Forum was closely involved in developing the CSD Stakeholder Dialogue mechanism, and has been actively participating in preparing and carrying out the CSD Dialogues since 1998.

Stakeholder Forum has also coordinated multi-stakeholder dialogues at other international fora, notably the 8<sup>th</sup> Informal Environment Ministers Meeting (Bergen, Norway, Sept 2000); and the International Conference on Freshwater (Bonn, Germany, Dec 2001).

Stakeholder Forum's recent work on multi-stakeholder processes adds to the body of relevant experience (all material at [www.earthsummit2002.org/msp](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/msp)). A methodological framework and a step-by-step guide for multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs) was developed, in order to contribute to the development of principles of stakeholder participation and engagement. The draft report went through broad consultations and was discussed at an international multi-stakeholder workshop in April 2001. The report presents a number of building blocks for MSPs: analysing 20 examples at international, national and local levels, clarifying the goals and various types of MSPs; their role in the context of the ongoing debate on (global) governance; their value and ideological basis; and relevant findings from the social sciences. The step-by-step guide is a check-list of questions, which need to be addressed when designing, carrying out and evaluating an MSP. The result of this work has been published as a book with Earthscan, London, in January 2002: "Multi-Stakeholder Processes for Governance and Sustainability. Beyond Deadlock and Conflict" (by Minu Hemmati).

Stakeholder Forum's domestic activities in the UK further add to the body of relevant expertise. Since 1994, UNED-UK, the domestic programme of Stakeholder Forum, has facilitated multi-stakeholder round tables on various issues that have been on the international agenda. Results of these round tables have been fed into the UK Government, the EU and the UN. Since 2000, UNED-UK is working on the UK preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and has been commissioned by the UK Government to organise such round tables on a number of issues identified as UK priorities (see [www.stakeholderforum.org](http://www.stakeholderforum.org)).

Stakeholder Forum's international work programme has been focusing on the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development since 1999. The international team has developed a main information hub for all stakeholders ([www.earthsummit2002.org](http://www.earthsummit2002.org) website; Network 2002 newsletter; background briefing papers; etc) and engaged in capacity building with stakeholders from around the globe to enable them to make efficient use of and contributions to the Summit process. It will continue to gather stakeholders around the preparatory meetings to provide space for exchange, identifying common ground, and overcoming differences, with the goal of making stakeholder participation as effective, transparent and equitable as possible, and strengthen the intergovernmental process.

#### **Relevant publications & websites:**

Dodds, F (ed) 2000 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2001). Earth Summit 2002. A New Deal. London: Earthscan

Dodds, F (ed) 1997. The Way Forward. Beyond Agenda 21. London: Earthscan

Enayati, J 2001. Online Debates on Earth Summit 2002 on Sustainable Cities; Participation of Marginalized People; HIV / AIDS; Corporate Responsibility. Report, [www.lifeonline.org](http://www.lifeonline.org)

Hemmati, M 2002. Multi-Stakeholder Processes for Governance and Sustainability. Beyond Deadlock and Conflict. London: Earthscan (Jan 2002)

Hemmati, M & Schaefer, B (ed) 2001. Gender Perspectives for Earth Summit 2002: Energy, Transport, Information for Decision-Making. Report from an International Workshop held in Berlin, Germany, Jan 2001, hosted by the German Government, the Heinrich Boell Foundation, and UNED Forum

Hemmati, M 2000. Access and Benefit-Sharing: Relevant International Agreements and Issues for Dialogue Between Stakeholders. Background paper the Joint UNED Forum & Novartis International Side Event CSD-8: "Access and Benefit-Sharing: Building Equitable Partnerships Between Local Communities and International Corporations?"

McHarry, J 2001. UNED Forum Background Paper for LifeOnline: Promoting Involvement in the Search for Sustainability - We are all Stakeholders Now. <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/es/life/participation.pdf>

Morley, D (ed) 2000. Access to Water and Energy. Report from the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue at the 8th Informal Environment Ministers Meeting in Bergen, Norway, 2000

Osborn, D & Bigg, T (eds) 1997. Earth Summit II. Outcome and Analysis. Edited by Derek Osborn & Tom Bigg. London: Earthscan

[www.earthsummit2002.org](http://www.earthsummit2002.org): main information hub on Earth Summit 2002

[www.earthsummit2002.org/msp](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/msp): work on multi-stakeholder processes

[www.unedforum.org](http://www.unedforum.org): on domestic round tables and preparations for Earth Summit 2002

[www.earthsummit2002.org/workshop](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/workshop): Gender Perspectives on Earth Summit 2002 workshop, Jan 2001

[www.earthsummit2002.org/wssd](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/wssd): social development material & process for Copenhagen+5

[www.unedforum.org/health/index.htm](http://www.unedforum.org/health/index.htm): Healthy Planet Forum 1999; NGOs at the Pan-European Environment & Health Conference, London 1999

### **The Copenhagen Center - New Partnerships for Social Responsibility**

The Copenhagen Centre's conference "Partnerships and social responsibility in the new economy" in June 2001 aims at taking further the development and dissemination of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and to encourage the implementation of new social partnerships across national borders and across the borders between private and public, market and society. The concern is to ensure that CSR and new social partnerships will become part of everyday practice and mainstream policies within the realm of the New Economy.

website: <http://www.copenhagencentre.org/main>

### **The Global Public Policy Project**

The purpose of the Global Public Policy Project was to prepare a report that would examine a range of global challenges and the potential contribution of global public policy networks to address them. Since the publication of the final report, the project's staff has presented its findings on multiple opportunities in the United States as well as Europe. The present activities of the Global Public Policy Project are concentrated in the research field as well as providing a platform for interested people to exchange information and 'lessons learned' about global public policy networks.

website: <http://www.globalpublicpolicy.net>

Case Studies on GPP Networks at <http://www.globalpublicpolicy.net/CaseStudyAuthors.htm>

### **Trade Knowledge Network**

Research Project: Trade and Sustainable Development Resources. Building on the ongoing UNCTAD/UNDP country project on Trade and Environment in India, the proposed project aims at reviewing and using experience in business partnerships and multi-stakeholder approaches to support India's efforts in meeting certain objectives in the context of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in a cost-effective and developmental-benign way.

website: <http://192.197.196.001/tkn/resources/research/undp-diff.htm>

### **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**

Creation of Multi-stakeholder Advisory Panels on Environmentally Sound and Economically Viable Management of Secondary Lead in India and the Philippines: The project focuses on two clusters of activities:

- a preparatory, analytical phase for creating the multi-stakeholder panels, which reviews lead supply and demand in India and the Philippines and the effectiveness and efficiency of trade restrictions and supportive measures to enhance sustainable lead management;
- a series of meetings of a multi-stakeholder advisory panel in India and the Philippines identifying the most suitable instruments and policy measures for encouraging sustainable lead management, including sound lead recovery.

website: [http://www.unctad.org/trade\\_env/leadpro.htm](http://www.unctad.org/trade_env/leadpro.htm)

### **United Nations Environment Programme**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), established in 1972, works to encourage sustainable development through sound environmental practices everywhere. Its activities cover a wide range of issues,

from atmosphere and terrestrial ecosystems, the promotion of environmental science and information, to an early warning and emergency response capacity to deal with environmental disasters and emergencies. UNEP's present priorities include:

- Environmental information, assessment and research, including environmental emergency response capacity and strengthening of early warning and assessment functions,
- Enhanced coordination of environmental conventions and development and development of policy instruments;
- Fresh water
- Technology transfer and industry
- Support to Africa

website: <http://www.unep.org>

Including an article on the **mutli-stakeholder work on voluntary initiatives**: "UNEP In First Multi-stakeholder Workshop On Voluntary Initiatives" (September 2000): Thirty five representatives of industry, governments, labour, environmental groups and academic institutions met recently with senior officers of UNEP to review the lessons learnt from voluntary initiatives and the steps that need to be taken if they are to become environmentally effective and publicly credible tools for sustainability. Experiences were shared on different types of voluntary initiatives, including: Responsible Care programme of the chemical industry; Experience of the Netherlands Government with negotiated voluntary agreements; Partnership of the international financial industry with UNEP; Sustainable Fisheries Initiative of the Marine Stewardship Council ; Automotive Voluntary Initiative of the European Commission; and Sustainable workplace initiatives of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Participants agreed that voluntary initiatives must not undermine the need for an effective regulatory and legislative framework, and that key challenges in the future include finding the right policy mix, ensuring that workers are involved, and clarifying the role of non governmental organizations and other stakeholders. "Workers are both producers and consumers and voluntary initiatives will not contribute to sustainable development if workers are not involved in their design, implementation and monitoring" emphasized Lucien Royer, Coordinator of Health, Safety and Environment of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). "Our experience is that voluntary initiatives do not go beyond business as usual if they do not involve societal actors other than industry in setting the targets that we need to achieve," said Gulio Volpi, World Wildlife Fund.

The 1992 Earth Summit formally encouraged the development of voluntary initiatives in Agenda 21 as an experimental policy tool to achieve sustainable development objectives. Voluntary initiatives have since multiplied in use and diversity, ranging from improving environmental practices in specific industry sectors such as chemicals and finance, sustainable management of resources such as forests and fisheries. But "there are diverse points of view as to the real environmental effectiveness of voluntary initiatives, their relation to regulations and other government policy tools, and the role of different stakeholders in making voluntary initiatives an effective tool for sustainable development" pointed out Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel, Director, UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics.

## **United Nations Global Compact**

At the World Economic Forum, Davos, on 31 January 1999, UN Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan challenged world business leaders to "embrace and enact" the Global Compact, both in their individual corporate practices and by supporting appropriate public policies. These principles cover topics in human rights, labour and environment. You can find examples of how companies are currently incorporating aspects of the nine principles into their business practices.

Compact participants have announced a range of partnership projects with NGO's, UN agencies, and other civil society groups. Project themes include HIV/AIDS, the digital divide, education, community development, disaster response, health and the environment. Companies involved include Aventis, Ericsson, Placer Dome, Unilever, Globo, ABB, Aventis, Martha Tilaar, Eskom, Suez, and SAP.

**Cooperation with GRI:** The Global Compact and the Global Reporting Initiative are voluntary initiatives that complement each other. The Global Compact promotes responsible corporate citizenship through learning

and action on the basis of nine universal principles. The Global Reporting Initiative promotes transparency and accountability through reporting. The two initiatives have always supported each other with the United Nations Environment Programme being a key partner in both."

<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/un/gc/unweb.nsf/content/gcandgri.htm>

"Companies participating in both initiatives have long stressed the understanding that the GRI is a practical expression of the UN Secretary-General's Global Compact. This understanding was reaffirmed at a recent meeting of the Global Compact, held in London / Denham. Therefore, companies may wish to use their involvement in the GRI as an example of their commitment to the Global Compact. This recognition serves to confirm the complementarity between the Global Compact and the Global Reporting Initiative and will facilitate corporate engagement in both initiatives."

<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/>

Also see UNED case study at [www.earthsummit2002.org/msp/examples/ex-gc.htm](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/msp/examples/ex-gc.htm)

And: Citizens Compact on the United Nations and Corporations at

[www.socialwatch.org/2000/eng/updates/globalcompact/citizenscompact.htm](http://www.socialwatch.org/2000/eng/updates/globalcompact/citizenscompact.htm)

## **United Nations Secretary General's Report on Partnerships**

A UN Secretary General's Report on "Cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector", which was prepared for a UN General Assembly debate in November 2001.

Jane Nelson, who drafted the report, has considered a large number of sources and inputs from governments, UN agencies, and stakeholders, and produced a very useful resource indeed. The Global Compact website's comment: "While most media coverage of the delayed debate of the General Assembly has focused on the threat of international terrorism, the formal agenda has prompted member states to consider other central issues not widely reported, such as the evolving scope of UN partnerships with other international actors, particularly from the private sector. In preparation for the General Assembly debate the Global Compact office prepared an extensive report exploring the range of cooperation between the UN, the international business community, and civil society. The study was drafted by Jane Nelson, a public policy specialist with the Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum. The report provides a comprehensive survey of the UN's partnership activities, including the Global Compact. The analysis discusses, among other issues, measures to enhance policy dialogue and advocacy; the mobilization of private funds; information-sharing and learning; engaging the private sector in developing countries; and partnerships to facilitate private investment. The findings were shaped by consultations with 23 member states and 27 UN agencies."

websites: <http://www.unglobalcompact.org/un/gc/unweb.nsf/content/GAPS.htm> (DOC file);

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/56/a56323.pdf> (PDF file)

Results of the respective General Assembly debate (GA Resolution A/RES/56/76) will be available at

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/r56plen.htm>

## **World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)**

Quarterly newsletter is called Sustain <http://www.wbcds.ch/newscenter/sustain/>

WBCSD case studies : This new on-line case study collection showcases some of the best business actions for sustainable development from all over the globe, illustrating how companies work independently or with various stakeholders to integrate the challenge of sustainable development into their business activity. WBCSD works in a number of areas:

- Innovation & Technology
- Eco-Efficiency
- Managing and Understanding Change
- Dialogue & Partnership
- Providing and Informing Customer Choice
- Corporate Social Responsibility

- Creating Sustainable Livelihoods

## World Health Organisation (WHO)

Speech by Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland ([http://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/1999/english/19990616\\_london\\_3.html](http://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/1999/english/19990616_london_3.html))

**Polio:** Polio Eradication Partners : Rotary International, Government of Canada (CIDA), Government of Denmark (DANIDA), UK Government (DFID), and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau/KfW (Germany), UNICEF, WHO, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [www.who.int/vaccines-polio](http://www.who.int/vaccines-polio)

**Guineaworm (Dracunculiasis) :** In 1993, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Programme on Health Mapping & GIS was created to service the mapping and monitoring needs of the Dracunculiasis Eradication Programme.

In May 1998, the 50th WHO Assembly urged all countries, governmental and non governmental organizations to provide full political support and the necessary resources to facilitate the completion of eradication of dracunculiasis as soon as technically feasible. Activities should be integrated within the health services delivery system at community level to complement the effectiveness of eradication activities. The Assembly called for intensified implementation of case containment, financial resource mobilization and special support for the needs of Sudan. The most powerful tools in monitoring eradication of dracunculiasis are village-based case containment and surveillance. Community members were educated regarding prevention and containment and are encouraged to filter drinking water. Case-containment has been implemented in most endemic villages. [www.who.int/emc/healthmap/hmapmapstart.html](http://www.who.int/emc/healthmap/hmapmapstart.html)

**Heart disease / Lung cancer:** Norway, Finland, Canada and Australia have dramatically reduced heart disease and lung cancer over the past decade through food policy, tobacco control, attention to transport and energy policy and public health training. Achieved through complementary fiscal policy, regulation, legislation, health education, and public info campaigns and responsive health services.

**Roll Back Malaria** is an initiative to provide developing countries with a new treatment for drug resistant malaria. The World Bank says: Roll Back Malaria is a global partnership jointly founded by WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, and UNDP in 1998, aiming to halve the malaria burden world-wide by 2010. Calls for joint action by governments, private sector, industry, NGOs and local communities across health, education, agriculture, water, and infrastructure sectors. The major threat is to children and pregnant women, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Large-scale trials of insecticide-treated mosquito nets in different epidemiological settings in Africa have shown that reductions in overall child mortality of 15-33% can be achieved.

Procedure: Focus on home as the first line of treatment; avoid development of vertical or stand-alone programs; and expand capacity through partnerships. Local agents provide community education, marketing campaigns and distribution of essential commodities eg mosquito nets and insecticides. The public sector has the primary responsibility for policy making, standard setting, quality control, targeted subsidies and regulation. <http://www.who.int/ctd/html/malaria.html>

**European Health and Environment Conference:** Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health for Europe – Action in Partnership, London 1999. A multi-stakeholder event at European level, involving 11 working groups set up by WHO, run by WHO, with substantial NGO input and with a parallel NGO Forum, supported by WHO and other UN agencies. The scope was health and environment in its broadest sense; with the objective of furthering debate on a range of issues and helping to develop various protocols/agreements, eg Freshwater, and Transport and Health, and a Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Health Priorities for Europe in 21<sup>st</sup> century. website: [www.unedforum.org/health/index.htm](http://www.unedforum.org/health/index.htm). Also see UNED [case study](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/examples/ex-whoconf.htm) at [www.earthsummit2002.org/examples/ex-whoconf.htm](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/examples/ex-whoconf.htm)

## World Information Transfer (WIT)

World Information Transfer, Inc., (WIT) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization in consultative status with the United Nations, promoting environmental health and literacy. In 1987, inspired by the Chernobyl nuclear tragedy, WIT was formed in recognition of the pressing need to provide accurate actionable information about our deteriorating global environment and its effect on human health to opinion leaders and concerned citizens around the world. WIT exercises its mandate through:

1. The publication of the **World Ecology Report**, a quarterly digest of critical issues in health and environment, published in five languages and distributed to opinion leaders around the world, and for free in developing countries.
2. The annual international conference on **Health and the Environment: Global Partners for Global Solutions** held at United Nations headquarters in New York since 1992. The world's leading authorities in the field of environmental medicine share their latest findings and discuss possible solutions with leaders in governments, business, organizations, and the media.
3. **Development of Humanities Library CD-ROM** projects focusing on sustainable development and human health.
4. Since 1995, WIT has been **providing and promoting humanitarian relief** to areas devastated by environmental degradation. Supplies and equipment have been sent to hospitals and orphanages in areas contaminated by the Chernobyl fallout.
5. **Centers for Health & Environment** providing centralized specific scientific data pertaining to health and sustainability issues. The objective of the Centers is to provide ongoing research, education and implementation of corrective programs. The first center was opened in Kiev, Ukraine, in 1992 and moved to Lviv, Ukraine, in 1996. The second opened in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1997.

WIT currently operates from headquarters in New York City with regional directors in Australia, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, France, Germany, Holland, India, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Nigeria, Russia, Switzerland, USA, Ukraine. WIT is on the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations or CONGO.

website: <http://www.worldinfo.org>

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