

Part III

NGOs AND WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

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NGOs and the United Nations

A non-governmental organisation (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group organised on a local, national or international level. Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions, bring citizens' concerns to Governments, monitor policies and encourage political participation at the community level. They provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements. Some are organised around specific issues, such as human rights, the environment or health. Their relationship with offices and agencies of the United Nations System differs depending on their goals, location and mandate.

Over 1,500 NGOs with information programmes on issues of concern to the United Nations are associated with the Department of Public Information (DPI), giving the United Nations valuable links to people around the world. DPI helps those NGOs gain access to and disseminate information about the range of issues in which the United Nations is involved, to enable the public to understand better the aims and objectives of the Organisation. Many have offices and official representatives at UN Headquarters, strengthening the UN's links to the world's peoples and various interest groups.

Other NGOs have Consultative Status with particular UN Bodies, such as the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or the United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF).

One of the results of the cycle of UN Summits and Conferences in the 1990s was an increased number of NGOs accredited to ECOSOC (*see box overleaf*). Currently there are 2012 NGOs have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and some 400 NGOs are accredited by the Commission on Sustainable Development, a subsidiary body of ECOSOC. These CSD roster NGOs need to contact the NGO Section of DESA in order to apply for consultative status.

NGOs often speak for broad international and national constituencies, and have increasing influence on UN work. They play a prominent role at UN conferences, advancing the views of their constituencies on issues ranging from women's rights to food security. They were instrumental in the adoption of the 1997 Convention banning landmines and the establishment in 1998 of an International Criminal

Consultative Status

Non-governmental, non-profit public or voluntary organisations may be admitted into a mutually beneficial working relationship with the United Nations by attaining consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This status was based on Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations. Article 71 of the Charter provides that "...the Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organisations which are concerned with matters within its competence". The rights and privileges enumerated in detail in ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 enable qualifying organisations to make a contribution to the work programmes and goals of the United Nations by serving as technical experts, advisers and consultants to governments and the UN Secretariat. Sometimes, as advocacy groups, they espouse UN themes, implementing plans of action, programmes and declarations adopted by the United Nations. In concrete terms this entails their participation in ECOSOC and its various subsidiary bodies through attendance at meetings, and also through oral interventions and written statements on agenda items of those bodies. In addition, organisations, qualifying for General Category consultative status, may propose new items for consideration by ECOSOC. Organisations granted status are also invited to attend international conferences called by the UN, General Assembly special sessions, and other intergovernmental bodies (The participation modalities for NGOs are governed by the rules of procedure of those bodies).

<http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/faq.htm>

Court to deal with genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

NGOs, no matter to which UN Body they are accredited or have consultative status with, are not part of the UN. They are neither representatives nor agents of the UN, nor are they authorised to enter into business arrangements on behalf of the UN. Consultative status does not entitle them to special privileges, tax exemptions, diplomatic passports, etc. NGOs in consultative status are not entitled to use the UN logo – not unless the NGO obtains a written authorisation from the UN Office of Legal Affairs first. Under no circumstances is this permission granted for use on stationery or business cards.

<http://www.un.org/MoreInfo/ngolink/brochure.htm>

Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Many NGOs active in the field of economic and social development have qualified for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Such arrangements are governed by ECOSOC resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968, which makes provision for NGOs to be placed in consultative status with ECOSOC, as well as for them to hold consultations with its secretariat.

There used to be NGOs in consultative status Category I and Category II. Now, there are General and Special category. More recently, after three years of negotiation, ECOSOC reviewed its arrangements for consultation with NGOs in July 1996. One outcome was ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, which revised the arrangements for NGO consultation with ECOSOC. It standardised arrangements for accrediting NGOs for UN conferences, streamlined the process of applying for ECOSOC consultative status, and decided that national NGOs would be eligible to apply. Under the terms of ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, what used to be known as Category I, is now "General Category". Category II became "Special Category". In other words, if your organisation was in Category II, it is currently listed in "Special category". "General status" is granted to large, international NGOs that work on almost all the issues on ECOSOC's agenda; "special consultative status" is granted to NGOs that have competence in a few of ECOSOC's issue areas; while "roster status" is granted to NGOs which ECOSOC considers can make occasional useful contributions to its work.

If you are an NGO in General or Special category, you are required to submit a report once every 4 years detailing your activities in support of the UN ("quadrennial report"). This reporting requirement does not apply to NGOs on the Roster. These reports run on a somewhat complicated schedule, so your organisation will be contacted by the NGO Section and advised of the modalities and deadline of submission of your report. We suggest you keep detailed records of your cooperation with the UN.

A second outcome of the July 1996 ECOSOC review was ECOSOC Decision 1996/297, which recommended that the General Assembly examine, at its 51st session, the question of the participation of NGOs in all areas of work of the UN, in light of the experience gained through the consultative arrangement between NGOs and ECOSOC.

Subsequently, in the General Assembly Working Group looking into the strengthening of the UN System, a sub-group on NGOs was formed. This sub-group is examining issues of NGO access, particularly with regard to the General Assembly, and its work is on-going.

ECOSOC decides on consultative status for NGOs based upon the recommendation of the inter-governmental Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations. This Committee is composed of nineteen Member States and meets yearly.

For further information contact:

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS UNIT

*Division for Policy Coordination and ECOSOC Affairs
DPCSD Room DC1-1070
United Nations
New York, NY 10017*

In order to obtain consultative status an organisation's application must be reviewed by the Committee on NGOs of ECOSOC, composed of 19 States members of the United Nations that meets annually. The Committee recommends to ECOSOC which organisations should be granted one of the three categories of status (General, Special, and Roster), with the full ECOSOC making the final decision. To begin the process for applying for status an organisation must contact in writing the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The letter of intent should be on the organisation's letterhead and signed by its secretary-general or president. Once the NGO section receives the letter of intent, the application package containing the questionnaire and all the background materials is mailed to the organisation. The deadline for receiving completed applications is June 1 of each year. For example, complete applications (which must include a completed questionnaire and all the required supporting documentation) received by the NGO Section before 1 June 1999, will be taken up by the Committee on NGOs in the year 2000.

The application forms, a model application and guidelines for the association between NGOs and the UN are available for download from the documents section of the UN site: <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/documents.htm>

Non-governmental, non-profit voluntary organisations may be granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Among other requirements, the organisation's activities must be relevant to the work of ECOSOC. The NGO must have a democratic decision making mechanism. The NGO must be in existence (officially registered with the appropriate government authorities as an NGO/non-profit) for at least 2 years in order to apply. The basic resources of the organisation must be derived in the main part from contributions of the national affiliates, individual members or other non-governmental components.

In addition, there are alternative formal arrangements for NGO association with the UN. NGOs that have an information component in their programmes can become associated with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI). In addition to that, many UN specialised agencies operate their own accreditation programmes for NGOs that are relevant to their area of work. Examples include:

- **International Labor Organisation (ILO)** – Geneva, Switzerland
- **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)** – Rome, Italy
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** – Paris, France

- **World Health Organisation (WHO)** – Geneva, Switzerland
- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** – Geneva, Switzerland
- **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** – London, UK
- **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** – Geneva, Switzerland
- **United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)** – Vienna, Austria
- **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** – Geneva, Switzerland

	General	Special	Roster
Relevance to the work of ECOSOC	all areas	some areas	limited
Are in consultative status with ECOSOC	X	X	X
Designate UN representatives	X	X	X
Invited to UN conferences	X	X	X
Propose items for ECOSOC agenda	X		
Attend UN meetings	X	X	X
Can speak at ECOSOC	X		
Circulate statements at ECOSOC meetings	2000 words	500 words	
Circulate statements at ECOSOC subsidiary bodies' meetings	2000 words	1500 words	
Can speak at ECOSOC subsidiary bodies' meetings	X	X	
Must submit quadrennial reports	X	X	

CONGO, the Conference on Non-Governmental Organisations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, serves as a representative voice of NGOs in consultative status before ECOSOC. Its aims are to ensure that they enjoy the fullest opportunities and appropriate facilities for performing their consultative functions, to provide a forum on the consultative process, and to convene meetings of member organisations to exchange views on matters of common interest.

Website: <http://www.conferenceofngos.org/>

NGOs & Women in the Rio Process

Major Groups – Strategy

Participation of people is key to sustainable development. Agenda 21 recognises this in Section III, which describes the specific roles and responsibilities of nine Major Groups in distinct chapters on

- Women
- Non-Government Organisations
- Youth
- Indigenous Peoples
- Business & Industry
- Trade Unions
- Local Authorities
- Science & Technology
- Farmers

The participatory requirement of Agenda 21 is a tradition of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which is widely acknowledged as a leader among inter-governmental bodies for being open, transparent and accessible to all Major Groups. The CSD continuously experiments with new forms of participation and turns successful experiments into new traditions in its annual and inter-sessional work.

Among the results of these experiments are the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Segments during the CSD, special programming to highlight the contributions and demands of a particular major group (the 'Day of.....' series), numerous side events that allow exchange of information between major groups and governments, and Success Stories that demonstrate what Major Groups are doing for sustainable development in the field.

History of the Dialogues at the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD)

(A note by UNED Forum produced in preparation for the Dialogue Sessions at the Informal Environment Ministers meeting in Bergen, Norway, Sept 2000)

In 1996 we asked governments and DESA to support the introduction of Dialogue Sessions at the CSD in 1997. The General Assembly in 1996 agreed that in 1997 there would be half a day on Dialogues. The suggestion was that each Major Group have half a day to examine:

- what they had done;
- what they wanted to see Earth Summit II deliver;
- what they would contribute to the future.

Multi-Stakeholder Processes

Multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs) are processes or structures of stakeholder participation. They aim to **BRING TOGETHER ALL MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS** in a new form of decision-finding (and possibly decision-making) on a particular issue. They can be initiated by international institutions, national and local governments, or others – NGOs, companies, etc. Introducing such exchange between stakeholders – with or without government involvement – is based on the recognition that all stakeholders need to be involved in planning, decision-making and implementation in order to achieve desired changes.

MSPs cover a **WIDE SPECTRUM** of structures and levels of engagement. They can comprise dialogue (statements, exchange and discussion), or grow into processes encompassing consensus-building, decision-making and implementation. The exact nature of any MSP will depend the issue, the participants, the time-frame, etc.

Multi-stakeholder processes are therefore an **IMPORTANT TOOL** for sustainable development.

Their **OBJECTIVE** is to promote better decisions by means of wider input; to integrate diverse viewpoints; to bring together the principal actors; to create trust through honouring each participant as contributing a necessary component of the bigger picture; to create mutual benefits (win/win rather than win/lose situations); to develop shared power with a partnership approach; to create commitment through participants identifying with the outcome and thus increasing the likelihood of successful implementation. Ideally, they are designed to put people into the centre of decision-finding, -making and -implementation.

Over the last few years, stakeholder participation and multi-stakeholder processes have generated considerable interest, around (inter-)governmental bodies and independently. Examples include the World Commission on Dams, the UN Global Compact initiative, the Global Reporting Initiative, the CSD Stakeholder Dialogues, the WBCSD / IIED Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Initiative, National Councils for Sustainable Development, Local Agenda 21 processes, etc.

Many of these processes have been organised on a rather ad hoc basis, and those around (inter-)governmental processes need to clarify their linkage into official decision-making. Many also need to become more transparent, inclusive and equitable, and more action-oriented.

UNED Forum has recently been working on developing a **METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK** and a **STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE** for multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs), in order to contribute to the development of principles of stakeholder participation and engagement. The draft report went through consultations with various stakeholders and an international workshop (April 2001). All material is available at www.earthsummit2002.org/msp. The report presents a number of building blocks for MSPs, addressing: their goals and various types; their role in the context of the ongoing debate on global governance; their value / ideological basis; relevant scientific findings; 20 existing examples. The step-by-step guide is a check-list of questions which need to be addressed when designing, carrying out and evaluating an MSP. It is an attempt to translate the rhetoric of values and the existing experiences into practical conclusions and suggestions on how to do it.

For the process towards **Earth Summit 2002**, multi-stakeholder dialogues play a significant role. Based on the UN General Assembly resolution (A/RES/55/199, 20 December 2000), they have been built into all preparatory meetings and the Summit itself. The CSD Secretariat is also planning global thematic round tables of Major Groups in conjunction with the Summit preparations.

So far, stakeholder dialogues (or “hearings”, “consultations”, “discussions”) around international policy-making processes have mostly been of an informing nature – stakeholders present and discuss their views to inform governments who are negotiating agreements.

However, one can argue that there needs to be space to further build on such dialogues. The process should not only benefit from stakeholders informing governments but also from immediately involving them in the steps towards implementation. For example, stakeholders should study (draft) agreements and engage in action-oriented discussions on how to implement them. They should identify the tools and strategies of information and partnerships they need and commit to pilot projects. These should be carried out in an agreed time-frame and be reported back to the intergovernmental process. UNED Forum’s *Implementation Conference* around the Earth Summit in 2002 is an example for such an attempt.

Unfortunately there was little ‘dialogue’ in the 1997 CSD. The sessions were held, as in Istanbul, at the same time as the negotiations. Although some government delegates did attend, they tended to be those from developed countries, with large delegations, and were often not key members of their delegations. Although the Dialogues were not labelled a total success, the Commission addressed the weaknesses in this approach, and improvements were written into the work programme for the CSD for the next five years.

In 1998, the first real ‘Dialogue’ session was to be on “Industry”. The then-director of the UN Division on Sustainable Development, Joke Waller Hunter, brought together in Geneva in September 1997 the key Major Group representatives. Attending were the CSD NGO Steering Committee, the World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

These groups helped frame the approach taken to the Dialogue Sessions. Each group was asked to consult with its members and produce position papers to be given into the UN by mid January 1998.

These were on:

- Responsible Entrepreneurship;
- Corporate Management Tools;
- Technology Cooperation;
- Industry and Freshwater.

The significant development that year was that each group was asked to produce a paper that had been peer group reviewed by its stakeholder group. This was important as it moved away from papers that merely expressed ‘opinions’, towards more referenced and researched positions. This would have even more significance than had been thought at the time.

Many breakthroughs in international negotiations come because groups are able to build a level of trust among those participating. In the preparations, and at the Dialogue on “Industry”, two elements helped improve the chance of success. First was that the ICC sat as a member of the CSD NGO Steering Committee and so was fully aware of NGO preparations. Second, were the extraordinarily close relationships that had been built between several individual NGOs and industry representatives. This enabled a level of trust to exist that countered any disturbances by the more extreme members of each sector.

At the CSD meeting in 1998 there were two additional developments. The first was the opportunity to have “peer group”(by experts from the different

stakeholder groups) review between different stakeholders. Second, governments were given the opportunity to challenge ideas put forward. The normal UN procedure is for Major Groups to make isolated presentations and for these to be noted, rather than discussed, or more importantly challenged.

To ensure that governments took the Dialogues seriously, they were moderated by that year’s Chair of the CSD, the Minister for the Environment from the Philippine’s, Cielito Habito. This persuaded governments to provide high-level representations for the Dialogue sessions. Positions put forward were at times questioned by the Chair or governments and this resulted in one of the key outcomes – with the Norwegian delegation playing a major role in bringing this about – of a multi-stakeholder working group set up to review voluntary initiatives by industry. NGOs had been campaigning for years through groups such as the Task Force on Business and Industry (TOBI) to try and have a review of voluntary initiatives put on the table, without any success. The 1998 CSD Dialogues succeeded in creating a process, which would involve everybody.

The Dialogue process for 1999 focused on tourism. The new CSD Bureau under Simon Upton (Environment Minister for New Zealand), decided that there would be four major groups involved that year: NGOs (co-ordinated by the CSD NGO Steering Committee), business and industry (World Travel and Tourism Council and the International Hotel and Restaurant Association), trade unions (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) and local authorities (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives).

The subject of tourism presented problems for NGOs, as it is not a chapter of Agenda 21. The CSD NGO Steering Committee, which did not have a caucus to work on that topic, did a massive outreach to tourism-orientated NGOs. It carried out a mailing to over 300 organisations with:

- information on the UN Commission on Sustainable Development;
- information on the Steering Committee itself;
- a questionnaire requesting information on their work on tourism.

The result of this was the setting up of a new NGO caucus on tourism under the co-Chairs of the Steering Committee. Recognising that there were some lessons learnt from the 1998 Dialogue Sessions, the Steering Committee made a recommendation that the papers produced by the Major Groups should be no longer than four pages and should be structured to describe the following aspects of each of the four sub themes of the Dialogues.

1. Problem
2. Solutions offered
3. Institutional responsibility (intergovernmental, government and Major Groups)
4. Identifying possible partnerships

The CSD Bureau and the Major Group representatives agreed this approach. As well as bringing in a whole new set of NGOs who had never participated at the CSD before, two of the Major Group co-ordinating bodies were new to the Dialogue process. The local government organisation ICLEI had been very active at the CSD over the previous six years and had participated in the 1997 model of the Dialogues, but had not participated in the new model of the Dialogues. The industry organisations had attended a CSD, but only as observers. The NGO Steering Committee offered advice and training for the industry groups, which was subsequently accepted. Again this helped in building up a level of trust between the industry groups and the NGOs.

As in the first Dialogue Session there were significant breakthroughs. The outcome from the 1999 Dialogues were placed in front of the government negotiators by the Chair of the CSD as they started negotiating on tourism. The second important outcome was the setting up of another multi-stakeholder working group under the World Tourism Organisation. It was to look at issues such as information provision and participation of indigenous and local communities, financial leakages in the tourism industry, etc. This working group is perhaps the only global committee where industry and NGOs sit together to problem solve on tourism.

At the CSD in 2000 the Dialogue session was on Agriculture and has also initiated an ongoing process with stakeholders. Another success of the Dialogues was the first ever joint statement by industry, NGOs, farmers, trade unions and indigenous peoples.

Women in the Rio Process

In Rio, women were recognised as a “Major Group” whose involvement is necessary to achieve sustainable development. Today, there is a growing emphasis on “gender mainstreaming” – integrally incorporating both men’s and women’s concerns and participation in the planning, implementation and monitoring of all development and environmental management programmes.

Women and sustainable development issues are an essential component of Agenda 21 and other international agreements. Agenda 21 includes Chapter 24: “Global Action for Women Towards Sustainable and Equitable Development”, outlining strategies to achieve the necessary full and equal participation of women in order to bring about sustainable development. In addition to the chapter itself, women’s and gender issues are being addressed throughout Agenda 21, reflecting the “gender mainstreaming” approach. There are over one hundred references and recommendations pertaining to women in the final agreement, recognising the importance of women’s full and equal participation, their rights and roles towards sustainable development in sectoral as well as cross-sectoral sections.

“Human development, if not engendered, is endangered”

(Human Development Report 1995, 1)

None of the three aspects of the goal of sustainable development or their balance (2) can be achieved without solving the prevailing problems of gender inequality and inequity. Clearly, without gender-mainstreaming of all work towards sustainable development, we will not be able to achieve it. Therefore, we need to assess how far we have come in achieving this important, crosscutting goal.

Women & UNCED

WORLD WOMEN’S CONGRESS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET –
MIAMI, 1991

The World Women’s Congress for a Healthy Planet was held in Miami, Florida, November 8–12, 1991, organised by the Women’s International Policy Action Committee (IPAC), a committee established by the Women’s Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO).

The congress had three basic objectives. First, to produce a Women’s Action Agenda for the decade to be presented to those involved in the June 1992 Earth Summit. Second, to ensure that all governmental and non-governmental delegations to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) were gender balanced, so that no delegation had more than sixty percent of either sex. Third, to build an international network of women acting in solidarity to ensure a strong women’s voice on all issues pertaining to environment and development.

The Miami Conference was an important event in the history of women organising internationally. It resulted in a strong international network and the Women’s Action Agenda 21 policy document, which were used to catalyse a strong lobbying effort at the UNCED preparatory meetings and the Earth Summit itself.

See: <http://iisd1.iisd.ca/women/action21.htm>
for full text of the Women’s Action Agenda

REDEH Trains Women to Lead the Local Agenda 21 Groups

REDEH – the Human Development Network (Rede de Desenvolvimento Humano), with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank's Women's Leadership Program, trained women leaders in the State of Rio de Janeiro for important roles in the local processes for setting up Agenda 21 programs. The training was offered through a series of specially designed courses.

The project sought to tie in Agenda 21 programs with other similar processes, resulting from the proposals set out in the national legislation creating the State Agenda – Global Agenda 21/Chapter 24, Women's Action Agenda 21 and the Female Citizenship Program of Rio de Janeiro.

Thais Corral, director of REDEH and member of the Pro-Agenda 21 Commission, said that the course undertaken by the women leaders (selected from six municipalities) was to follow the Agenda 21 methodology of training relevant figures – in this case the women – and was to provide them with practical tools to better qualify them for their role in decision-making processes and in the implementation of policies for sustainable development. In each city, 30 women with active roles in public administration and civil society were to be selected to take the course, which was to take the form of a 4-day workshop. On the last day of the workshop those taking part were to be given the opportunity to present their ideas to the local authorities.

The courses were to be run in the following municipalities: Macaé, Petrópolis, Resende, Caxias, Volta Redonda and in the state capital. In addition to the courses, the project were to provide the following: a learning kit including an educational notebook, an audio cassette and a video tape, as well as publications on the subject of Agenda 21 and wider issues; a final publication, detailing the experience and the training techniques that were to be used, in order to provide a reference for other states in Brazil.

For further details on the project please contact REDEH at:

Email: redesh@redesh.org.br

Planeta FEMEA

The NGO conference 'Global Forum', which took place in Rio de Janeiro during the UNCED Earth Summit in 1992, assembled about 18,000 NGO participants from 166 countries and some 390,000 visitors. The largest tent, labelled Planeta FEMEA, assembled women's organisations from around the world to prepare position papers on the specific place of women in development and environmental policy.

Planeta FEMEA was responsible for co-ordinating the Population and Environment Treaty. They objected to insinuations that population pressure is the chief cause of environmental degradation and counter attacked that the true causes of the problem are industrial and military pollutants, toxic waste, over-consumption by the industrialised countries, and international trade and economic systems that encourage exploitation of people and nature.

The efforts of these women during the UNCED Prepcoms and the Rio Global Forum were not fruitless. The Official Agenda 21 document contains one chapter entirely dedicated to the specific problems and demands of women (chapter 24) and has several other references to women's issues in other places (chapters 31 and 40). Women were by and large widely seen as the most effective and best organised of the NGOs at UNCED and have arguably had the greatest impact – beyond the chapter dedicated to them – upon the rest of Agenda 21.

<http://www.epe.be/workbooks/sourcebook/1.18.html>

NGOs at the United Nations

How can one Participate in the UN Meetings without too many Restrictions?

The UN is basically a government body and therefore it is a very closed-up and controlled system. The General Assembly is an assembly of governments representing the people of their countries, and no other organisations. Therefore, at most times other organisations, such as non-government organisations, women's networks, trade unions or industry associations, are only invited as guests or observers but not as presenters, negotiators or decision-makers. Only Member States can vote. However, civil society organisations including NGOs and Community based organisations (CBOs) are carrying out much of the work implementing the international agreements reached at the UN. Therefore, the United Nations have developed new ways of interacting with these organisations and making their experiences and expertise available to its decision-making process.

Any organisation can apply through the UN Department of Public Information to gain accreditation, which means to be allowed to attend relevant meetings, particularly Commission meetings and Global Summits (*see Section 11 above*). It is important that organisations, when accredited, use a democratic and transparent procedure and send participants who will be as representative as possible of their affiliates' interest. In order to attend a particular meeting, one can also ask to be accredited through an organisation, which already has gained this status with the UN. You have to register your accreditation two weeks before the meeting you want to attend. You will then have to go to a UN Pass Office (or another place especially set up for a particular meeting) to obtain a UN grounds pass.

Can NGOs have an Influence?

Yes. The CSD is one of the most open and participatory UN bodies. Recognising that the achievement of sustainable development will require more political will, energy and creativity than governments can provide, the CSD has deliberately sought the involvement of all sectors of society (in Agenda 21 language, "major groups"). The major groups involved in the CSD include NGOs, women, youth, indigenous peoples, local authorities, trade unions, business and industry, scientists and farmers.

Through their participation at the CSD, NGOs have been able to introduce significant developments in the debate, such as the introduction in 1998 of a multi-stakeholder group to review Industry Voluntary

Initiatives. In 1999 also out of the Dialogue Sessions came an agreement to set up a multi-stakeholder process to look at financial leakages in the tourism industry.

The Dialogues promoted by NGOs do allow for the opportunity to put together ongoing process with different stakeholder groups.

How do NGOs Participate?

NGO participation is primarily through the preparation of position papers, lobbying on these papers, making statements to intergovernmental working groups, and more recently, taking part in the official Dialogue Sessions between governments, NGOs and other major groups.

One of the most important lessons learned to date has been the need for participation to be timely. For lobbying to be as effective as possible, governments need to have the NGO position in their hands when they are preparing their own papers. This is often six months before the CSD meets.



NGOs in the Rio Process

Below, you will find information about how NGOs are operating around the UN CSD. This concrete example should give you a better idea of what NGO participation at the UN can look like.

CSD NGO Steering Committee

In order to facilitate the preparation of NGOs before CSD meetings and the involvement of NGOs at the meetings, an NGO Steering Committee was established in 1994. This is a non-political 'umbrella' structure, charged with disseminating information and coordinating NGO activities at the CSD.

In summary, the Steering Committee is a self-organised coordinating body representing NGOs and other Major Groups identified in Agenda 21, with Southern and Northern Co-Chairs and representatives of issue caucuses, major groups and regional networks from around the world. At present there are 25 issue caucuses, 5 major groups and 25 regional groupings represented on the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee is composed of regional representatives, major groups representatives and issues-based caucuses. The Steering Committee is elected on an annual basis and has acted for NGOs since CSD-2 in 1994. Steering Committee membership includes representatives of Major Groups, grassroots organisations, national, regional and global NGOs and NGO networks.

The Steering Committee operates within clear Guidelines, and aims to achieve regional and gender balance in its activities.

The role of the Committee at the CSD Intersessional and the CSD is:

- to organise and manage the CSD Dialogue process for NGOs;
- to organise training for new NGOs attending;
- to organise the morning NGO briefings (daily at 9.15 a.m.);
- to provide and distribute information (incl. web site, list servers and a documents library at CSD);
- to organise meetings with key people, incl. Govt/NGO dialogues;
- to facilitate the NGO Caucuses;
- to act as the link to the CSD Bureau for dealing with problems concerning speaking rights and accreditation;

The Steering Committee meets formally at least twice during the CSD Intersessional and the CSD. Anyone can attend as an observer.

Elections for a new Committee will take place in the second week of the CSD. More information will be available at the CSD on the procedures for these elections.

You can find more information about the Steering Committee, the issue based, Major Groups and regional caucuses, etc. at the Steering Committee website at <http://www.igc.org/csdngo/>.

CSD Intersessional Meetings: The CSD Intersessional meetings often offer the best opportunities for ideas to be taken up by governments. They are usually being held in February/March. The Co-Chairs of the CSD Intersessionals will produce two documents: one summarising the discussions; and another with 'Elements of a Draft Decision', which will form the basis of the negotiations at the CSD session itself in April.

NGO Pre-Meetings: The best place to find out about the Intersessional and CSD-9 will be at the NGO pre-meetings, scheduled for the two Sundays before the respective weeks of the CSD Intersessional meeting, usually 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Church Center (*see addresses below*).

Side Events: So-called side events are a popular part of the CSD, allowing NGOs, governments, agencies and others to showcase their projects, hold discussion panels, and hear what others have to say. There are two time-slots for side events: lunch times (1:15–2:45pm) and at the end of the day (6:15–8pm). If your NGO wishes to hold a side event, it is important to book space early. The deadline for side event bookings usually is some 2–3 weeks before the meeting (CSD Intersessional or CSD itself). Obtain a

request form from the Secretariat or on the web at www.un.org/esa/sustdev.htm. Note that side events linked to CSD issues (either CSD-9 issues or upcoming issues) are more favourably considered. The Bureau has also requested that where possible events are combined, e.g. several NGO events on the same issue presented as one event.

Documentation: There may be problems initially with accessing all the documentation as it comes out. Try not to take more than one copy. If you aren't interested in a paper leave it for someone who is. The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) or the NGO Liaison Service (NGLS) will provide some papers. If there really are none around, then a good place to look for spare ones is on the press floor. There are 2 levels in the Secretariat where the press have rooms and where papers are put out for them.

Booking Meeting Rooms: To organise a meeting in the UN you need to request a room from NGLS at least the day before and receive confirmation that the room has been booked. Note that there is very high demand for rooms, especially during lunch hours and in the evenings.

The Church Center may also have space available for meetings. The second floor of the Church Center is often booked by the CSD NGO Steering Committee for the whole of the CSD, and will be used for the training sessions, caucus meetings and other NGO events.

Publications at CSD:

OUTREACH: This is produced regularly throughout CSD meetings – often daily. It offers commentary from an NGO perspective. The Newsletter is produced in cooperation with the CSD NGO Steering Committee.

Earth Negotiations Bulletin: This NGO production comes out daily and summarises the debate from the formal session. It also includes information on informal and 'informal-informal' meetings.

Earth Times: This was originally set up in the Rio process but has been coming out regularly at all UN events; various companies and foundations fund it. It will have articles and reasonably up to date information.

NGLS Daily Diary: This will list all the meetings that are occurring.

The Issue Caucuses of the NGO Steering Committee are focused on the different issues involved in sustainable development. To see a list of Issue Caucus Co-ordinators, go to the Steering Committee's membership list at <http://www.igc.org/csdngo/>.

Some of these issues are being considered directly by the CSD. Others issues are not directly addressed, but are fundamental to the achievement of a sustainable future.

Issue caucus members work together to prepare coalition NGO position papers, and to lobby government delegates. Caucuses are also a place for members to network and share information and ideas about approaches to sustainable development.

The following issues caucuses are recognised by the Steering Committee:

Corporate Responsibility & Accountability

Desertification

Education

Energy & Climate Change

Finance, Investment and Trade

Forests

Freshwater

Health and Environment

Human Rights

Human Settlements

example

An issue caucus: Tourism

Issue caucus members work together to prepare coalition NGO position papers, and to lobby government delegates. Caucuses are also a place for members to network and share information and ideas about approaches to sustainable development.

Caucuses meet regularly during meetings of the CSD.

NGO Paper on Tourism

Prepared by the NGO Steering Committee Tourism Caucus for ISWG-CSD 7, 23 February 1999

Preamble

The Tourism Phenomenon

Tourism is a worldwide phenomenon affecting human society and the environment. While tourism and people working in the tourism industry may benefit, people in tourist receiving areas experience a threat to their self-determination and dignity. Against the dynamics of globalisation the vital rights of local communities have been threatened.

The Need for Change Towards Sustainable Tourism

There is an urgent need to raise awareness about the complex nature of tourism, its ambivalent role in the strive towards sustainable development and especially about its inherent dangers and to identify new ways for constructively shaping tourism development.

A Challenge for All Actors Involved

The development of tourism and its related impacts present a challenge to all actors involved – tourists, receiving communities, employees, employers, managers, investors, journalists and politicians, etc. – to assume responsibility and tourism act accordingly.

Global Ethics

All cultures and societies are committed to specific ethical values within which common areas of concern have been accepted. These values draw upon secular traditions and regulations, which guide the interaction of individuals, communities and societies as well as to the different beliefs of religions of the world. Representatives of these ethics can be found, for example, in various UN Conventions and Declarations, for example: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly; the International Convention on the Rights of the Child; the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development and the recommendations of Agenda 21.

Listserve

To subscribe to the Tourism Caucus list go to their website: <http://www.igc.org/csdngo/tourism/tour-index.htm>

NGO Tourism Caucus Co-ordinators

Nina Rao

EQUATIONS – Equitable Tourism Options
India
Email: theraos@vsnl.com

Frans de Man

Retour Foundation
The Netherlands
Email: retour@do.nl
website: www.do.nl/retour

Information Ecology
Legal and Institutional Matters
Oceans
Older Persons
Peace
Science and Technology
Social Development
Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
Sustainable Communities
Sustainable Production and Consumption
Tourism
Transport

Major Groups Caucuses

Major Groups are the sectors of society recognised in Agenda 21 as having a substantive contribution to make to the achievement of a sustainable future. At the CSD, the major groups are represented by various organisations, such as the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and AIESEC.

Some of the major groups are very active in the NGO Steering Committee's activities (such as Women, Indigenous Peoples and Youth), and work in together with other NGO and major group representatives. Others maintain good links with the Steering Committee. To view the list of major group representatives to the Steering Committee, go to the membership list.

example

A major groups caucus: CSD NGO Women's Caucus

The caucus is a working group of women and men who are interested in and working towards the mainstreaming of gender into sustainable development policies and practical implementation strategies. The caucus works towards the recognition and adequate action on gender-related aspects of sustainable development issues by providing information and research as well as lobbying on recommendations based on up-to-date analyses and consultation within the caucus.

The CSD NGO Women's Caucus grew out of the 1991 Miami Conference, organised by WEDO, and its outcome document Women's Action Agenda for a Healthy Planet. Women were the key group setting the agenda in 1992 – because they started their work before others. The CSD NGO Women's Caucus is picking up the challenge of the process towards Earth Summit 2002, aiming to ensure gender mainstreaming of all decisions taken.

The Women's Caucus meets every morning at the CSD Sessions, organises side events and takes part in other caucus to ensure gender mainstreaming of NGO work. We lobby on the basis of position papers developed beforehand, make statements in negotiations and work on line-by-line amendments to text being negotiated.

In between CSD Sessions, caucus members communicate via email, phone, fax, and post. We operate an open list server to prepare our positions and lobbying strategies, networking globally with interested organisations and individuals. At every year's CSD Session, the caucus members elect two co-facilitators, one from the South, one from the North. The caucus is part of the CSD NGO Steering Committee, which is facilitating input and participation of NGOs to the CSD.

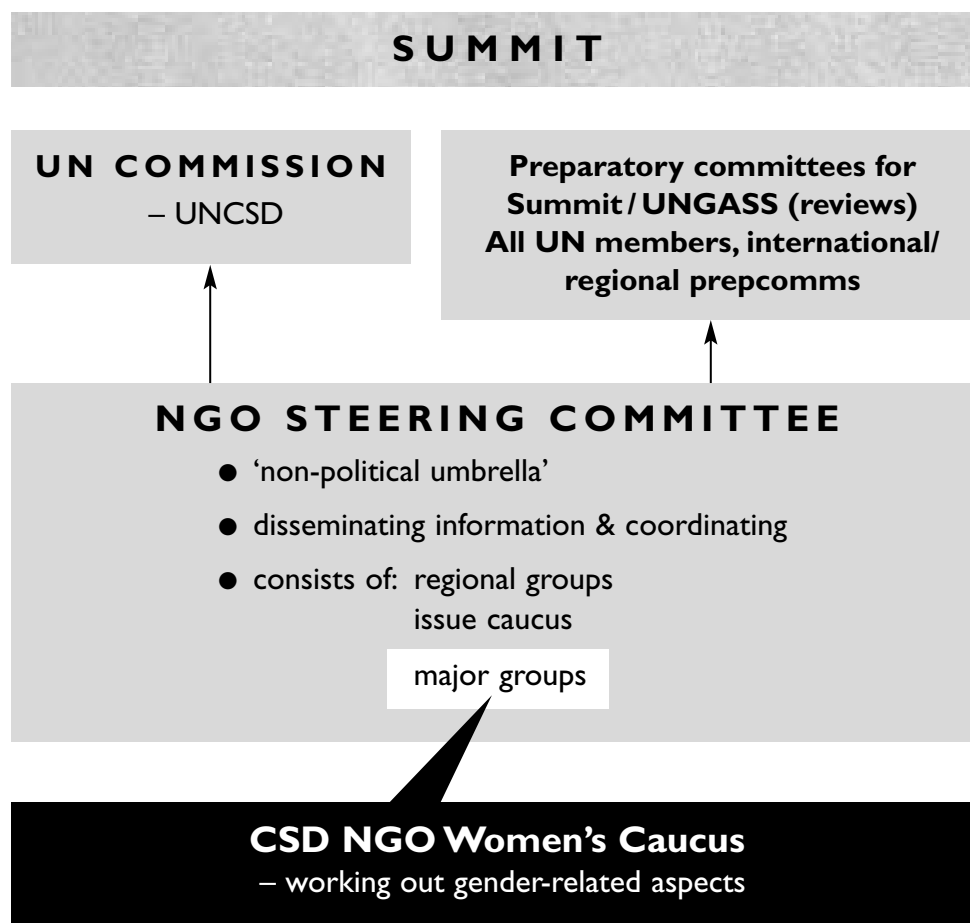
The Women's Caucus List Server

A list server (electronic working group) has been set up for the women's caucus. To subscribe, send a message to women-csd-subscribe@egroups.com or go to: <http://www.egroups.com/list/women-csd>. More than 450 organisations and individuals are subscribed to the list server (as of February 2001) – women's groups, NGOs, academics, UN representatives, etc. Subscribers are involved in various UN processes – Rio; Beijing; Copenhagen; Cairo; Istanbul.

The Women's Caucus website is located at <http://www.igc.org/csdngo/>. Click on "Women" under "Major Groups". The site offers:

- **Introduction:** background about the caucus and the CSD NGO Steering Committee; contact details
- **Schedule of meetings:** dates of upcoming meetings of the UN CSD and other bodies
- **Upcoming issues:** list of issues to be discussed at the next UN CSD meetings; gender-sensitive areas under these issues as identified by the caucus
- **Caucus position papers:** background and position papers which the CSD NGO Women's Caucus is/has been working on in preparation for the next CSD meetings
- **Meetings reports:** reports, statements, newsletter articles, etc. from/for CSD meetings
- **Resources:** a collection of resources, references, directories, useful websites, networking opportunities regarding each of the upcoming CSD issues
- Links, site map & search tool

Figure 5: *The Women's Caucus & the Rio Process*



Co-facilitators of the CSD NGO Women's Caucus 2000–2001

Chief (Mrs.) Bisi Ogunleye
Country Women's Association of Nigeria (COWAN) & WEDO
No. 7 Awosika Crescent Ijapo Est.
Akure Ondo State, NIGERIA
Tel: +234 34 231 945 • Fax: +234 34 241 001
Email: cowanhoney@infoweb.abs.net
OR via WEDO
355 Lexington Avenue, NY 10017, NY, USA
Tel +1 212 973 0325, Fax +1 212 973 0335
Email: wedo@wedo.org

Minu Hemmati
UNED Forum
3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL,
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel: +44 20 7839 1784 • Fax: +44 20 7930 5893
Email: minush@aol.com
Websites: <http://www.unedforum.org> and
<http://www.earthsummit2002.org>

Women's Caucus Position Papers 1999–2000

at <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/wcaucus/download.htm>

The CSD Women's Caucus develops and adopts position papers on CSD issues, such as:

- Effects of structural adjustment on women and the poor
- Food Security for the Food-Insecure: new challenges and renewed commitments
- Freshwater
- Gender Perspectives on Energy for CSD–9
- Micro-Finance and Empowerment
- Modalities for 2002 – Comments on the UN Secretary General's Report to the CSD 2000
- Persistent Organic Pollutants & Reproductive Health
- Re-evaluating Relevance: Intellectual Property Rights and Women's Traditional Environmental Knowledge

- The Role of Women in Approaches to Information for Decision Making and Participation in Sustainable Development
- Women and Land
- Women and Sustainable Development 2000–2002. Recommendations in Agenda 21 and Related Documents and Suggestions for a Review of Implementation
- Women, Pesticides and Sustainable Agriculture
- Women's Caucus Declaration to the Third Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organisation, Seattle 1999
- Women's Caucus: Summary of Comments and Recommendations on Issues under Consideration at CSD–8

How to Participate

All NGOs already with General, Special or Roster Status with the UN ECOSOC can participate at the CSD and its intersessional meeting. In addition, those groups that were accredited to the Earth Summit in 1992 and who then submitted an application for accreditation to the CSD and had it accepted, can participate. Your accreditation details (who will be attending, for how long, date of arrival) should be faxed to the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on your headed note paper, no later than two weeks before the meeting you are going to attend. The fax number is + 1 (212) 963 4114 or + 1 (212) 963 9248 (*see below for full details*). **You must accredit under AN ECOSOC accredited NGO.** To collect your UN pass you need to notify the NGO Section three days before you want to collect it. Depending on the number of NGOs accrediting for the CSD, it is possible that a special desk will be set up at the Visitor's Entrance for the first day. If this is not the case, you can collect your pass from the Pass Office at the northwest corner of 45th St and 1st Ave (behind the blue door). You will need to take the following with you:

- your passport
- a copy of the accreditation letter you sent
- a copy of any reply you received (if you have received any)

If you are arriving early, it's worth accrediting then, to avoid the queues of the first day.

If you don't plan to attend the CSD, you can still make very important contributions to the debate by submitting relevant material to your government on your concerns and wishes, or by working with NGOs, which are able to participate. Copies of any submissions made to the government should also be sent to the Steering Committee's issue caucus, Major Groups or regional representatives.

CSD Women's Caucus Experiences

The CSD NGO Women's Caucus has been active at all CSD meetings, using various strategies to draw the attention of delegates to gender issues in sustainable development and influence decisions in order to achieve gender mainstreaming.

In 2000, when the CSD was to discuss land management, the Women's Caucus had started its campaign on women and land issues in the autumn of 1999. The Caucus collaborated with the UNCHS Women & Habitat Programme to produce a position paper on women and land, suggesting concrete recommendations to governments, intergovernmental bodies, women's groups and NGOs to help achieve gender equity in access to and control of land resources. The paper was discussed at a side event held at the CSD Intersessional in March 2000, organised by the Women's Caucus, with speakers from governments, NGOs and UNCHS; a large number of governments and NGOs were in attendance. The Caucus also published an article in the daily NGO newsletter, OUTREACH. By the time of the CSD's main session, awareness of gender/women's aspects of land management had increased among government delegates and NGOs alike. The CSD decision on land, which in the draft did not have references to women, now includes a paragraph on women's rights, access to and control of land – this is very much based on the Habitat Agenda from 1996. When negotiations on this issue became very difficult, the Women's Caucus suggested to use "agreed language" (i.e. text already agreed elsewhere). By 2001, the issue of women and land had been raised in the UN Secretary General's report to CSD–9 on "information for decision-making," with a reference to women's need to have access to information on relevant agreements on land rights.

How to be Effective!

Before you arrive:

- Discuss the agenda of the meeting within your NGO and among others in your field. A well-organised back up by other NGOs in your country can mean pressure being put on the government at home as well as in New York.
- Decide the issues your NGO wants to focus on, and think about the outcomes that you would like to see.
- Contribute to the preparation of the Issue Caucus papers – this is usually done by listservers (join them on the website at <http://www.csdngo.org/csdngo>).
- Get as much sleep as you can – you'll probably need it!

NGO Coordination at Other UN Bodies

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York provides a forum for the exchange of information about substantive issues related to women that are under consideration by the United Nations system. It assists the international community in addressing the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Women 2000–Beijing +5 outcome document, while facilitating discussion and cooperation among NGO's and individuals interested in advancing the status of women. The Committee also organises consultation and training for NGO's attending meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women. It prepares briefings prior to the meetings and hosts an annual reception for NGO's and governments.

The Committee generally meets the third Thursday of the month at the Church Center located at 777 UN Plaza in New York. To find out about the next meetings, visit <http://www.conferenceofngos.org/txt/calendar.index.php3>.

During February 2000, The Committee hosted a series of Roundtable discussions with representatives of missions and agencies every Wednesday. In March, The Committee hosted 2 sessions to brief and train NGO representatives attending the 44th session of CSW and PrepCom. In addition, The NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York, Geneva and Vienna collaborated to produce a full-day consultation at the UN on March 4th.

For notice of upcoming plans for the 45th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, please join their list serve, ngo_cswny@egroups.com.

Website: <http://www.womenact.org>

Contact:

NGO Committee on the Status of Women
PO Box 3571, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 1013, USA
Tel: 212-692-0725
Fax: 212-692-0724
Email: ngo_csw_ny@hotmail.com

At the CSD:

- Work with the NGOs present – it's impossible for an individual to cover everything.
- Attend the NGO morning meetings (9.15am in one of the conference rooms) – here you can quickly find out what's happening and how you can contribute and benefit.
- Volunteer to 'floor manage' for a half day – it's a quick way to get up to speed. You'll take notes on the negotiations and report back to the next NGO morning meeting. If NGOs are asking to make a statement, you may also need to coordinate with them.
- Contribute to the agreed NGO position papers – these tend to carry more weight than individual NGOs' papers.
- Talk regularly to your government's delegation – tell them your NGO's priorities, and suggest text amendments.
- Work with the NGOs on your government's delegation.
- Target other governments – especially if your country works in a bloc you will need to convince more than your own government to adopt your amendments. It is well worth targeting the JUSSCANNZ bloc (*see below: acronyms*). Also, the six Eastern European countries – Poland, Russia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Hungary and the Ukraine don't operate as a group. This makes it much easier to persuade them to take up your views. If your country isn't a current member of the CSD then target countries in your region – and across the world.
- Make informal contacts with the delegations. Much of the lobbying work happens informally. Key places are the Vienna Café; the Delegates Lounge (this is meant to be only for delegates but...); the Delegates Dining Room; the corridors; at the back of meeting rooms; Government Missions. Don't make the mistake of thinking that civil servants are always representing the views of the governing party. Some may want exactly what NGOs want. Therefore it's important to have a good relationship with them.

If you're on a Government Delegation, especially for the first time, there's a lot going on and it can be easy to miss important information. Try to divide up tasks with other NGOs on your delegation. Attend meetings of other NGOs on delegations, to maximise the effectiveness of lobbying. It's important that you work with other NGOs present, to ensure a two-way flow of information between NGOs and governments.

Why Participate?

Firstly: participation in the CSD is not a substitute for working at local, national or regional levels on the issues. Rather, it is a very useful complement to the work done at other levels – providing information, and an important global forum for communicating concerns of constituencies at home. Here are some of the things participating can help achieve:

Placing governments' policies in front of their peer group, i.e. other countries. The need to explain the implications of their policies can be a good chance for putting pressure on a government. There will be opportunity to influence the government to sign up to policies that they mightn't have wanted to while at home.

Maintaining pressure on governments and international organisations and strengthening the goals of your organisation. One of the great things about the UN meetings is the access you have both to Ministers and top civil servants. It is equivalent to being allowed on to the floor of your parliament. You can walk up to any country desk and talk to the relevant civil servant.

Finding out what's happening on various issues relating to Sustainable Development around the world.

NGO Papers and Statements

These are the primary means of NGO participation in the CSD negotiations, and are important in moving the agenda forward.

Individual NGO Position Papers – If your organisation has a position paper, or other relevant documents, you may distribute them at the CSD. These papers are not issued as official CSD documents, and the NGO bears any costs (e.g. printing). There should be a table outside the official conference room where you can put your papers. It is vital that you personally hand copies of your material to the key delegations you want to influence.

Agreed NGO Position Papers – These are developed in the lead-up period and during the Intersessional and CSD meetings. Because they represent a wide range of NGOs and their constituencies, they tend to carry greater weight with governments. The usual format is to reproduce the Government text with NGO amendments in bold. It helps the delegates understand what you want added and where.

Oral Statements – ECOSOC-accredited NGOs may ask to make a brief oral statement to the meeting. These are at the discretion of the Chair and with consent of the members. To ensure that a wide range of views are represented, the Issue Caucuses and Working Groups of the Steering Committee usually coordinate joint statements, so that they represent more than the NGO of the individual speaker. The statements are most effective if they are brief and substantive in nature.

Examples of Women's Organisations, NGOs and Networks

Today, there are many women's organisations and NGOs who work locally, nationally, regionally and globally. Some estimate that there are some several 100.000 non-government organisations world-wide. Many of them are part of networks on particular issues or around particular processes. We have picked a few as examples, including some directories, databases and hubs of information about women's organisations and NGOs, which are available on the Internet.

As more and more people are gaining access to the Internet, Internet resources and organisations' websites will be useful to an increasing number of people and help connect them.

If you have difficulties accessing the Internet, contact your nearest UNDP Country office, British Council Offices, Goethe Institutes, and other countries' offices and cultural institutes. many of them offer free Internet access to NGOs and women's organisations.

DIRECTORIES & DATABASES OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS AND NGOS ON THE INTERNET

Visit the **Stakeholder Toolkit** website for annotated links to a large number of women's organisations, NGOs, UN websites, and other stakeholders. <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/links/links.htm>

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● **OneWorld**, home of numerous NGOs' and women's organisations' homepages
<http://www.oneworld.org/>

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● **OneWorld News Service on Gender** at
<http://www.oneworld.org/news/world/gender.html>

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● **Association for Progressive Communications (APC)**, Women's Networking Support Programme,
<http://www.apc.org/apcwomen/>
Global computer network for social change. The Women's Networking Support Programme facilitates training and information and hosts a list of around 150 women's initiatives working with the Net.

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● **The Institute for Global Communications (IGC)** <http://www.igc.org>
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- **IGC Womensnet**, supporting women's organisations world-wide by providing and adapting telecommunications. Information on women's political activities. <http://www.igc.org/igc/womensnet/>
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- **International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement (IIAV)**, with a large, detailed and frequently updated women's resource centre; also hosting the Gender & Water Alliance and numerous media activities. <http://www.iiav.nl/>
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- **Environmental Organisations WebDirectory** www.WebDirectory.com/
-
- **Commented, rich list of links on Sustainable Development**, <http://www.sustainabledevelopment.org/links/communications.html>
-
- **Best Environmental Resources Directories** www.ulb.ac.be/ceese/meta/cds.html
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ORGANISATIONS AND NETWORKS WORKING ON GENDER AND/OR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

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- **AI/WHRP**, Amnesty International/Women's Human Rights Program focuses on promoting women's human rights within Amnesty's mandate. In English and Spanish. <http://amnestyusa.org/women/index.html#program>
-
- **AWID, Association for Women in Development**, is an international membership organisation that connects, informs and mobilises people and organisations committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development and human rights for everyone. <http://www.awid.org>
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- **BRIDGE** is a gender development organisation that supports gender mainstreaming efforts by bridging the gaps between theory, policy and practice with accessible gender information. <http://www.ids.ac.uk/bridge/index.html>
-
- **CEDPA**, Centre for Development and Population Activities, a women-focused nonprofit international organisation founded in 1975. The website provides information on training programs, workshops, and

publications linking reproductive health services and women's empowerment. <http://www.cedpa.org>

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● **CWGL**, Center for Women's Global Leadership, promoting the leadership of women and advance feminist perspectives in policy-making processes in the local, national and international arenas. Since 1990, the Global Center has fostered women's leadership in the area of human rights through women's global leadership institutes, strategic planning activities, international mobilisation campaigns, UN monitoring, global education endeavors, publications, and a resource center. <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu>

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● **ECPAT**, End Child Prostitution, Pornography, and Trafficking, is a global network of organisations and individuals working together for the elimination of these practices and the protection of children's rights. <http://www.ecpat.org>

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● **ENERGIA** is an international network on women and sustainable energy which links individuals and groups concerned with energy, environment and women. ENERGI A aims to strengthen the role of women in sustainable energy development through information exchange, training, research, advocacy and action. The ENERGI A Support Group is a global network of representatives of NGOs, academics, governments, intergovernmental bodies, and others working on gender and energy issues.

Contact: Sheila Oparaocha, ENERGI A Secretariat ETC Energy, Kastanjelaan 5, P.O. Box 64, 3830 AB LEUSDEN, The Netherlands.
Tel: +31 (0)33 4326000 • Fax: +31-(0)33-4940791
Email: energia@etcnl.nl
Website: <http://www.energia.org/>

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● **Huairou Commission**
The Huairou Commission was founded at the NGO Global Forum to the Fourth World Conference on Women which was held in Huairou, China, in 1995. The Commission uses multi-layered strategies for grassroots women leaders and their organisations to participate in local, regional, and international decision-making. Women working at the community level collaborate with each other and partners from academia, the United Nations, community based organisations, governance, other NGOs and the private sector. These partnerships grow dynamically through exchanges, global events, projects, and network communications.

The Commission has a regional and global networking and outreach programme through which it aims to strengthen the role of grassroots women's participation in governance and policy

development, and facilitate their participation in the UN system and other global events. The Commission promotes the sharing of best practice and has produced Working Papers on the following areas: governance; women, land and housing tenure; leadership support process; best practices; poverty eradication; peer exchanges; principled partnerships.

Contact: Tel: (718) 388-8915 • Fax: (718) 338-0285
Email: huairou@earthlink.net

Website: <http://www.huairou.org>

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● **Hunger Project** is a coalition of hundreds of NGOs and individuals organised to combat world hunger by using women as epicenters for mobilisation. Since women bear the primary responsibility for family, health, education and nutrition, the Hunger Project's work is grassroots. With 19 regional offices, the Hunger Project empowers women food farmers through local leadership, literacy, micro-business, credit and agro-training programmes. The website features their latest newsletter and links to their country programmes. <http://www.worldhunger.org>

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● **ICW**, International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, established by a group on HIV positive women in 1992. The website provides information on issues and needs facing all women living with HIV, support groups, and key contacts in five regions of the world. <http://www.icw.org>

.....
● **International AIDS Women's Caucus (IAWC)**, Parana 135 Piso 3, 1017 Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Tel/Fax: +541-476-2763
Email: feim@feim.wamani.apc.org

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● **International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW)**, Coordinating Office, 2C Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP, UK.
Tel: int +44 (0) 171 704 0606 • Fax: 704 8070
Email: icw@gn.apc.org
Website: www.icw.org

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● **International Women's Health Coalition**, 24 East 21st Street, New York, NY 10010, USA.
Tel: +1 212 979 8500 • Fax: + 1212 979 9009
Website: <http://www.iwhc.org>

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● **International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC)**, is an international, non-governmental organisation, supports the initiatives of women in the Global South (i.e. Africa, Asia/Pacific, Latin America/Caribbean, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia) who are working to promote the more equitable and active participation of women

in the development plans and policies of their countries. Their website features information resources ranging from materials and resources for the monitoring of the Beijing Platform of Action to the most recent issues of the IWTC Women's GlobalNet, Preview 2000, and IWTC manuals and community action guides on women and development issues. These include "Rights of Women" and "Women! Policy! Action!" Also included are lists of UN, global and regional websites of relevance to women and development issues.

Contact: 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

Tel: +1 212 687 8633 • Fax +1 212 661 2704

Email: iwtc@igc.apc.org

Website: <http://www.iwtc.org>

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● **IPPF**, The International Planned Parenthood Federation, was founded in Bombay in 1952. IPPF links national autonomous Family Planning Associations (FPAs) in over 150 countries worldwide. The website provides links to websites in different regions, press releases, and resources that include documents and reports. <http://www.ippf.org>

.....
● **IWHC**, International Women's Health Coalition, is a nonprofit organisation working with individuals and groups in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to promote women's reproductive and sexual health and rights. This website provides information on country programs, U.S. Activities, Beyond Cairo & Beijing, Global Activism, as well as publications, reports, and links to relevant websites. <http://www.iwhc.org/whm.html>

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● **MADRE**, an international women's human rights organisation working in partnership with women's community-based groups to address issues of health, economic development and other human rights. MADRE provides resources, training and support to sister organisations. The website provides information on MADRE's worldwide programs, human rights laws, campaigns, etc. In English and Spanish. <http://www.MADRE.org/buttons.htm>

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● **The Bretton Woods Project**, established by a network of UK NGOs to monitor the World Bank and IMF. The Project's reports and bi-monthly bulletin Bretton Woods Update aim to clarify current issues and provide links to campaigners and researchers worldwide, at <http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/>

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● **The Gender and Water Alliance**. At the World Water Forum (The Hague, March 2000) many women's organisations and gender experts agreed

to continue working together, so that the gender mainstreaming plans made at the Forum can be translated into actions. The “Gender and Water Alliance”, as it is called, has its secretariat at the Institute for Water and Sanitation in the Netherlands. http://www.irc.nl/wwforum/pr_gender.html

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● **UNED Forum** is a unique multi-stakeholder network and forum on sustainable development that has promoted outcomes from the first Earth Summit in 1992 and is now working on preparations for Earth Summit 2002. UNED Forum’s primary objective is to promote sustainable development through facilitating the involvement of major groups and stakeholders in the policy work of the United Nations and other inter-governmental institutions in the area of sustainable development, and in particular in the work of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the UN Environment Programme and the UN Development Programme. Since 1998, UNED Forum has been building its work around preparing for Earth Summit 2002, focusing on the following areas: building partnerships and networks; researching and influencing policy; providing and spreading information; training and building capacity. UNED Forum operates both in the UK and internationally.

UNED Forum’s gender related projects include the *Stakeholder Toolkit for Women* (website, workshops, booklet), research and policy development on gender & sustainable consumption, women’s employment and participation in tourism, the Gender Perspectives for Earth Summit 2002 conference January 2001 in Berlin, Germany, etc.

Contact: UNED Forum, c/o UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL, UK
 Tel: +44 20 7839 1784 • Fax +44 20 7930 5893
 Email: info@earthsummit2002.org
Websites: <http://www.unedforum.org> and www.earthsummit2002.org

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● **Women’s Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO)**

The Women’s Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO) was created in 1990 by an international group of women’s rights activists from different professions and sectors of society. The organisation was founded with the mission of increasing the equality, visibility, representation, and leadership in public policy concerning sustainable development, specifically gender, human rights, the environment, and the economy. They are also a major coalition builder among women’s groups and NGO’s with influence at the United Nations and international financial institutions.

WEDO is concerned with giving women a voice and they pursue an equal role for women in governance, public policy, and decision-making. In turn, one of their main roles is to review and analyse public policies of the United Nations, state and national government, and international financial institutions through a gender lens. They have ongoing projects associated with Women’s Action Agenda 21 concerned with the reduction of poverty and negative effects of a globalising economy on women, girls, and the environment. Currently they also have projects concerned with cancer prevention, reproductive rights, and sexual exploitation.

Contact: 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017, USA
 Tel: +1 212 973 0325 • Fax +1 212 973 0335
 Email: wedo@wedo.org
Website: www.wedo.org

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● **World Resources Institute (WRI)**, aims to view and combat global environmental problems through a holistic lens. Innovative programs target governments and businesses, natural resource use and conservation, economic development and social equity, and capacity building and institutional change. WRI produces wide range of multimedia resources and original research reports, including the reputable annual World Resources Report. In English and Spanish. <http://www.wri.org/wri>

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REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND NETWORKS (EXAMPLES)

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● **The African Gender Institute (AGI), South Africa**, Furthering institutional change and women’s leadership at <http://www.uct.ac.za/org/agi/>

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● **ALAI**, Agencia Latinoamericana de Información, Ecuador, Communication initiative for feminist movements in Latin America and the Caribbean Ecuador, at <http://www.ecuanex.apc.org/alai/comgenen.html>

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● **The European Women’s Lobby**
Contact: 18, Rue Hydraulique, B – 1210 Bruxelles, Belgium. Tel: +32 3 217 9020 • Fax: +32 2 219 8451
Website: <http://www.womenlobby.org>

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● **FEMNET**, Kenya, a network of African women’s organisation to monitor Beijing follow-up in development practice, at <http://www.africaonline.co.ke/femnet/index.html>

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● **The Women Leaders' Network (WLN)**,

Promotion of gender perspectives into APEC
(Asia Pacific Cooperation) at

<http://www.bellanet.org/partners/wln/>

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Also, go to www.womenaction.org and www.iwtc.org
for regional women's networks.

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**OTHER MAJOR GROUPS,
ORGANISATIONS AND
ASSOCIATIONS (EXAMPLES)**

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● **Academics**

IFUW, The International Federation of University Women, advocates to national governments and international organisations that education improves girls and women's lives. Because IFUW's web of international affiliations is extensive, their web page is particularly useful for finding out about other organisations with common interests, international conferences and fellowships, IFUW's study and action programme, and the latest news in global advocacy for women and education.

<http://www.ifuw.org>

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● **Trade Unions**

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, ICFTU, at <http://www.icftu.org>

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● **Local Authorities**

International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) at www.iclei.org
International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) at www.cuapp.udel.edu/iula/

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● **Business and Industry**

WBCSD, World Business Council for Sustainable Development at www.wbcd.org/ch

ICC, International Chamber of Commerce, at <http://www.iccwbo.org/>

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● **Parliamentarians**

IPU, Inter-Parliamentary Union, is the world organisation of parliaments of sovereign states, established in 1889. IPU's website contains updated, and detailed analysis of women in politics. It provides a bibliographic database about women in politics, women parliamentarians, and follow-ups to the Beijing Conference, in addition to links and publications, press releases, and monthly journals available in English and French. <http://www.ipu.org>

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