


The World Summit on Sustainable Development

People, planet, prosperity



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The point of no return

The Johannesburg Summit must outline the way forward for sustainable development. The main challenge is to restate clearly and unequivocally our commitment to promoting sustainable development by initiating change and by tackling global problems in five main areas: water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity. Countries will have to make hard choices to get the sustainable development process back on track.

It is ten years since the Rio Earth Summit first created a global partnership for sustainable development, but the post-Rio era has not seen outstanding progress towards promoting this aim. Too few of the objectives set in Rio have been achieved. The global community needs to use Johannesburg as a springboard for giving the sustainable development agenda renewed impetus. It must deliver a positive agenda for change that will bring lasting results.

One of the main challenges that the EU has taken up is in the area of water and sanitation. The EU wants to halve the number of people in the world without access to clean water and sanitation by 2015. Its Water Initiative, which is based on a partnership of countries and regions, mobilises public and private funding and involves stakeholder groups in the search for long-term solutions to the problem of water management.

Foreword

Energy is another area where the EU has taken up the challenge. Without reliable and regular energy supplies we will never bridge the poverty gap. The EU is developing an energy initiative to which affordable, sustainable energy supplies are the key. Special emphasis will be put on renewable energy sources, such as solar energy and wind and water power. The EU wants to increase the world share of renewable energy sources to at least 15% of primary energy supply by 2010.

A third area where the EU has brought concrete action to bear is health. The EU wants to combat the spread of communicable diseases, endemic in many of the world's poorest regions, and generally increase investment in healthcare. AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are the major diseases targeted. The EU has also invited the international community to join partnerships for research into a new generation of pharmaceutical products that will take the fight against disease to another level.

Significant steps have also been taken to ensure that all countries enjoy the trade benefits of globalisation. The recent round of World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations in Doha put trade and environmental matters centre stage and the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development saw countries pledge to increase the amount of Official Development Aid (ODA) they donate. The EU and the Member States have pledged to increase their ODA. This will result in an increase in annual ODA by €9 billion as of 2006 and an additional €22 billion between now and 2006. Now, it's time for action not words. Johannesburg must be a turning point, not a point of no return.

Sustainable development: the only way forward

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Gro Harlem Brundtland,
then Norwegian Prime Minister, 1987



Over the past century industrialisation, population increase, economic growth, technological know-how and the expansion of trade and foreign direct investment have fuelled a consumer-driven lifestyle, especially in the developed world. The planet's resources are being squandered and environmental problems have been allowed to accumulate to the point where finite resources are in danger of being exhausted and pollution threatens our ability to replenish many of them. This approach has failed to consider the long-term good of the ecosystem and is building up insurmountable problems for future generations, who will not benefit from the plentiful, unsullied, natural resources available in the twentieth century unless we take urgent action to stop the damage and try to reverse some of the harm.

What the world has finally come to realise is that environmental concerns cannot be treated as if they were separate from social and economic policies. Neither are short-term solutions acceptable. The legacy of this compartmentalised thinking is a series of grave threats to the viability of our way of

life: global warming, the danger of hazardous chemicals entering the food chain, loss of biodiversity and degradation of land, air and water, not to mention the traffic congestion in major cities leading to gridlock. Policies that produce these results are in no way compatible with real progress; they are the antithesis of sustainable development.

Thinking globally, long-term and inclusively

Sustainable development can be achieved only if it is recognised as a global objective: whatever is undertaken in one country or area will impact on the wider environment. Global perspectives are necessary even for local decisions and improvements in conditions in one area must not be sought at the expense of conditions elsewhere. It can be achieved only with long-term thinking: the future must not be held hostage for short-term gains. It can be achieved only through the development of an inclusive approach to policy-making because, at the end of the chain of decision-taking, is the individual. Political structures are



needed that give the individual a voice and a meaningful stake in the decisions made.

All this involves major shifts in attitudes and processes. The aims of sustainable development may look incompatible with the goal of economic development for the poorer countries. Yet this is true only if the developed world's current economic and social structures are used as the model. Environmental degradation is not an inevitable consequence of social and economic progress, provided more prudent, equitable and inclusive systems of social and economic organisation are sought. Economic growth is crucial to poverty reduction, but care must be taken – through appropriate policies – to safeguard environmental quality. It will be necessary to adopt a responsible attitude to the husbandry of the environment; investment must be channelled into environmentally-friendly technologies and the most pressing threats to the ecosystem should be addressed. Sustainable development must not be merely a convenient motto but the motivating force behind policy decisions in every sphere of human activity.

Furthermore, it is essential to empower poor people to play their part in improving the environment. Their well-being is endangered by the increasingly poor air quality of urban environments and lack of access to clean drinking water and sanitation; their livelihoods are threatened by the over-exploitation of coastal zones and forests; they face food insecurity as a result of land degradation, deforestation and loss of biodiversity. As the environment deteriorates, so their poverty deepens.

A first step in helping the poor participate in practices compatible with sustainable development is to ensure that supportive legal, institutional and policy frameworks are in place. Developing countries should integrate strategies for sustainable development into their own national development and poverty reduction strategies. This will involve consultation with all layers of society so that no group or sector is excluded.

National poverty reduction strategies are the most important tools, but they must be founded on a new vision of how economic growth is related to sustainable development. And international assistance must be based on those strategies. They should take into account the fact that environmental aspects of economic and social development need to be viewed not as a cost but as an investment. It must be clearly understood that the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development are inextricably intertwined and one cannot be enhanced without the others. Development assistance should target the links between poverty and the environment and underpin the national sustainable development strategies of the recipient nations.

As for the developed countries, they must address their own patterns of consumption and production. They must ensure coherence between development policy and others, such as agricultural and trade policies, all of which have a direct impact on developing countries. These issues have to be tackled so that growth goes hand-in-hand with long-term sustainability.

The legacy of Rio

With Agenda 21, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 delivered a comprehensive programme to change policies that had resulted in:

- deeper economic divisions within and between countries;
- increased poverty, hunger, sickness and illiteracy worldwide;
- the deterioration of our ecosystem.

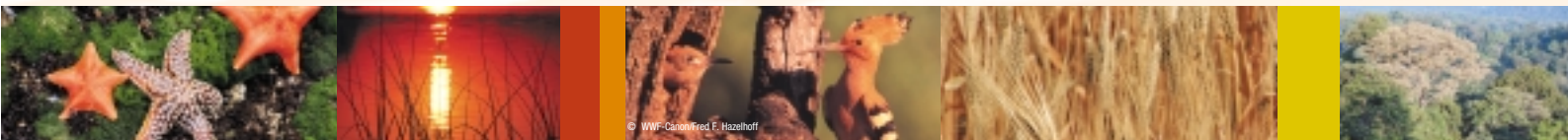
Never before had environmental, economic and social issues been drawn together in a global policy framework. Its 3000 recommendations for action cover patterns of consumption, poverty, protecting the atmosphere and oceans, biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture. In addition three UN conventions were agreed at Rio dealing with climate change, biological diversification and desertification.

In providing a strategic framework, therefore, the Rio Summit represented a major step forward.

Progress in the European Union

The EU's measures to act on Agenda 21 means that a decade later the Union can report that:

- Environmental legislation has raised standards in most spheres.
- Integrating environmental concerns within economic activity and policies has become a priority at national and EU levels. Significant progress has been achieved in areas such as transport, energy, fisheries and agriculture.
- The EU has adopted an integrated approach to water management based on natural river basins, which shows the Union's commitment to protect water quality not just in Europe but



Facts and figures

- Half the world's population live on less than €2 per day and 800 million people suffer from hunger.
- More than a billion people lack access to safe drinking water and two million people have no access to safe sanitation. 80% of the diseases in developing countries are water-borne. 6000 children die every day as a result of poor sanitation and hygiene.
- One third of the world's population has little or no access to modern energy.
- In the middle of the 1990s 13% of fish, 11% of mammals, 10% of amphibians, 8% of reptiles and 4% of birds were in immediate danger of extinction. And 70% of the world's fish stocks are overfished.
- 140 million hectares of forests – an area bigger than South Africa or as big as France, Germany and Spain – were lost in the decade up to 2000.
- Global consumption of metals, minerals, wood, plastic and other materials increased some two-and-a-half times between 1960 and 1995. If we keep up this level of consumption, we shall need three more globes!



in its aid programme for developing countries.

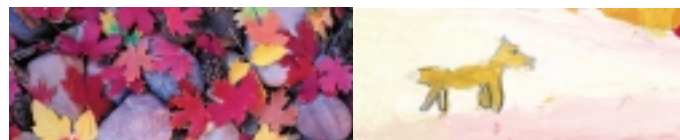
- Progress has been made to control emissions of greenhouse gases and the Union was one of the first to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.
- The EU has been strengthening the involvement and dialogue of social groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in EU affairs. The Union has made significant progress in implementing the Århus convention, which introduces rights for citizens to access information, to participate in decision-making and to seek access to justice should these rights not be respected.

The global picture

On the wider arena there have been some encouraging signs too. Growth in world population is slowing down and people generally are living longer and healthier lives. Child and infant mortality

rates have been reduced. More food is being produced and fewer people starve. And access to education, safe water and sanitation has increased. New advances – whether in the form of wind turbines or hydrogen cell technology – also offer the hope of a break with unsustainable trends.

There have also been success stories from specific projects around the world: sand dune stabilisation in Senegal; measures to ensure cleaner production methods in China; preservation of rainforests in Guyana – to name but a few. Yet despite these and similar advances, in many key areas the situation has deteriorated. Poverty has deepened, forests are still being lost, many species of animals and plants are threatened with extinction, and desertification and land degradation are increasing.



Obstacles to Agenda 21

The question to be answered now is why the promises implicit in Agenda 21 have not been delivered. A part of the answer may lie in the fact that globalisation accelerated in the last decade. However, globalisation is not a new phenomenon. Ideas, merchandise and people have flowed widely around the world since the Renaissance. This process has fuelled economic growth and contributed to raising living standards across the world. But the benefits do not come without costs and even if globalisation itself does not increase inequalities, it makes them more apparent.

Although many of the global conferences have picked up the issues Rio began to address, some of the most obdurate stumbling blocks are:

- The global connotations of the problem have been insufficiently grasped. Piecemeal approaches will not deliver sustainable development. Partnerships are required – between countries, but also between sectors, so that business, NGOs, donor agencies, private finance and government institutions can form mutually supportive alliances and work coherently together.
- Developed countries continue to consume and produce at rates and in ways that exert undue strain on natural resources. Yet, while consumption is very high in some parts of the world, many people cannot meet even their basic needs. A fundamental shift in attitudes will be necessary if this trend is to be reversed. New and coherent policies are needed that weave together all the strands of finance, investment and technology to produce long-term relationships between development needs and available resources.
- The finance necessary to implement Agenda 21 has been insufficient. Therefore, the issue of financing for development had to remain on the agenda of all major conferences throughout the 1990s. Financing was specifically addressed in the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002. This conference made some important steps forward in addressing the implementation gap from its financial side.

The result of global tardiness in acting on Agenda 21 is that the poorest people in the world continue to bear the brunt of the problems stemming from environmental degradation. As they are also most likely to depend directly on the land, rivers and oceans to eke out their existence, they suffer most when these resources are poisoned or depleted; they are the least able to mitigate the problems by changing their way of life and they are the least protected by social systems that can deliver health and education services or disaster relief programmes. Johannesburg gives the world another chance to orchestrate its actions to tackle these issues.

A European strategy for sustainable development

The EU considers sustainable development necessary for the long-term well-being of society. The benefits include a healthier and safer physical environment and a fairer, more equitable lifestyle – advantages not only for us, but also for future generations. However, sustainable solutions will be found only through a carefully planned and comprehensive approach to implementing new practices. This is why the EU has been developing a strategy that, as well as taking into account the needs of its Member States, also has a global aspect.

The challenges for Europe

With an objective so all-embracing as sustainable development, it is imperative to divide the ultimate aim into smaller, achievable steps. With this in mind, the EU has identified a number of major threats as the initial thrust of its strategy. Urgent priorities in Europe are:

- global warming caused by the emission of greenhouse gases;
- threats to public health from new, antibiotic-resistant strains of disease and threats to food security from the use of hazardous chemicals;
- increasing levels of poverty exacerbated by social exclusion;
- the problems of an ageing population;
- loss of biodiversity, desertification and soil degradation;
- transport congestion.

The EU's sustainable development strategy requires environmental protection and sustainable development considerations to be integrated into all its policies. A significant development in this process is that it operates at sectoral as well as national level. The EU's vision of sustainable development does not, however, focus only on Europe. The EU plays an active role in international discussions and has together with the international community tackled the challenge of sustainable development for the last decade. In two major international conferences – the WTO conference in Doha and the financing conference in Monterrey – a framework was agreed for improving market access, for upgrading multilateral rules to harness globalisation, and for increasing financial assistance for development. In its support of the Doha Development Agenda, the EU has signalled its dedication to opening the door of the world economic system to the developing countries. At the Monterrey Conference it agreed to increase its ODA because it recognises that additional finance will be essential to raising the living standards of the poor.

To meet these challenges, the EU will ensure that:

- All new policy is assessed for its impact on sustainable development.
- The scientific community is mobilised to help understanding of the nature of the problems so that such assessments are more accurate.
- Fiscal policies are developed that encourage environmentally friendly enterprise and attach a cost to practices that pollute or harm the environment.
- Investment in science and technology is encouraged so that cleaner, safer technologies can be developed.
- Open, inclusive policy-making that fosters a sense of individual and collective responsibility is favoured.
- Whatever is done in the name of sustainable development in Europe contributes not only to the progress of countries aiming to join the Union but also to sustainability in the world as a whole.





In order to implement this strategy, key objectives for each of the areas to be tackled have been identified. Existing and new indicators to measure progress are being used and a watching brief on the EU's working methods will be maintained so that these can be reformed where necessary to ensure effective delivery of the required outcomes. With annual and mid-term reviews of the strategy and its efficacy – reviews that will be conducted openly and with maximum participation – the EU can achieve the right dynamic between policy makers and the wider public. It is a strategy that will be driven by the imperatives of sustainable development but with ownership firmly in the hands of the citizens themselves.

The global dimension

The strategy for Member States and the candidate countries already looks outwards to the rest of the world to ensure that European policies and activities do not have adverse effects elsewhere. The European Commission has also formulated an external strategy to ensure that, by working in partnership with other countries, it can drive forward global aims based firmly on three fundamental pillars: economic, social and environmental responsibility.

Economic responsibility. If global trade is to work in favour of, rather than against, sustainable development, it must find fair means of integrating developing countries into the world economy and fairer systems within the WTO. The Doha Development Agenda provides a basis for this, with an integrated approach to the management of globalisation that should result in a regulatory framework encompassing, among others, agriculture, services, environment, competition, investment, and trade. The EU will work to strengthen international financial systems so that transparent regulation of the financial market can be established and criminal activity diminished.

Social responsibility. The EU is committed to halving the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015 in line with International Development Targets and the Millennium Development Goals. It will direct its resources mainly to the least developed countries and to eliminating hunger. Health and education are also prime targets and the EU will increase investment to programmes that tackle these areas as well as to research projects that focus on areas of special value to developing countries.

Environmental responsibility. Existing models of economic growth, which rely too heavily on finite resources and result in too much pollution, are not compatible with sustainable development. Climate change brought about by greenhouse gas emissions is one of the most serious problems to be tackled. The EU will place disaster prevention high on its list of environmental priorities in order to help shield poorer countries from the effects of flooding, drought or crop failure due to climate change. The EU is meeting its own targets on reducing emissions and it calls for the other industrialised countries to implement the Kyoto Protocol. It will look at investment in more environmentally friendly forms of transport and in renewable energy sources. It will also be forging strategic partnerships to tackle the other pressing issues such as water scarcity, desertification, land degradation, deforestation and loss of biodiversity.

Underpinning these strategic initiatives is the EU's commitment to ensure coherence between its own policies – especially those relating to agriculture, fisheries, development, enterprise, energy and transport – and to ensuring they are properly co-ordinated within the Union. It will work to improve global governance with an emphasis on capacity building in developing countries and the inclusion of civil society in decision-making. As well as increasing ODA it will look for ways of ensuring that financial aid is used effectively and that innovative debt conversion proposals are explored so that debt relief can be made contingent upon protection of the environment.

The route to Johannesburg

The journey that culminates in world leaders converging on Johannesburg began 30 years ago with the UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm. Concerned primarily with problems of pollution and acid rain, it marked a turning point in public awareness that environmental problems are global issues requiring global solutions. In the intervening years, we have built up a wealth of knowledge of the nature and extent of the damage being done to the environment and the adverse implications this has for human well-being now, and, even more importantly, in the future. A number of important global conferences throughout the 1990s have addressed problems related to sustainable development such as issues pertaining to social development, gender and population.

the foundations of sustainable approaches to a secure future.

It is sometimes alleged that agricultural products cannot penetrate Europe. This is far from the truth. The EU is the world's largest importer of agricultural products and the only significant importer of farm produce from sub-Saharan Africa. The Union (€12.7 billion) imports more from the least developed countries than the US (€10.5 billion) and ten times more than Japan.

Development needs finance

However, freer trading policies cannot alone guarantee sustainable development. ODA remains a crucial element for the poorest countries and an obligation on the part of the richer nations. In 2000 the Millennium Summit pledged to halve world poverty by 2015. This aim alone requires a doubling of ODA and total eradication of poverty will require a great deal more.

Realising the potential of globalisation

Globalisation needs to be managed in such a way that the opportunities it provides for sustainable development are enhanced. In the last decade, we have seen a greatly increased meshing of economies and societies. This has caused legitimate fears about loss of cultural identity and lack of equity in the benefits of economic and social development. Over the past year the EU has participated in two key events that will make a contribution to managing globalisation in positive ways, so that its advantages are extended more fairly to developing countries.

The first of these, the WTO Development Agenda agreed in November 2001 in Doha, broke new ground in placing development objectives at the heart of trade agreements with ministers agreeing to 'strongly reaffirm' their commitment to sustainable development. The Doha negotiating agenda paves the way for more trade opportunities for the developing countries to stimulate foreign direct investment and encourage technology transfer. Giving developing countries a fairer trading deal is a crucial step in tackling poverty and laying

The issue of financing was addressed at the Monterrey Conference in March this year, the first of its kind in bringing together governments, civil society, the business community, and institutional stakeholders to discuss global economic issues. The consensus of Monterrey helps to ensure that adequate financial resources, both domestic and international, will be made available to the developing countries to help them build the activities they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

The EU is the world's biggest donor of development aid, providing more than 50% of total international aid flows. In Monterrey the EU and its Member States decided to increase their efforts in ODA. This will mean an increase in ODA of €9 billion as of 2006, and an additional €22 billion between now and 2006.

Development aid in 2000

| | EU | US | Japan |
|---------------|------|-----|-------|
| Billion € | 26,2 | 9,9 | 13,5 |
| Billion \$ | 25,4 | 9,6 | 13,1 |
| % world | 50% | 18% | 25% |
| per capita € | 69 | 36 | 103 |
| per capita \$ | 67 | 35 | 100 |

The World Summit on Sustainable Development presents a unique opportunity and a responsibility for world leaders. The challenge is to deliver change. To eradicate poverty, improve living standards, ensure sustainable patterns of production and consumption. And to make certain that the benefits of globalisation are shared by all.

Developed and developing countries share the responsibility to make sure that these goals are met. This will require a substantial effort, both by individual countries and the international community, to ensure that growth is decoupled from environmental degradation. We have to ensure that the needs of our generation are satisfied without destroying the option for our grandchildren to cater for their needs.

The EU wants the Johannesburg Summit to deliver action. Since Rio significant landmarks have been reached including the Millennium Declaration Goals and important international conferences such as Doha and Monterrey. What is encouraging in these events is the level of international consensus that has been achieved. However, concrete proposals are now needed if these pledges are to be turned into deeds. The EU will push hard for an action plan that specifies targets, timetables and schemes of work. The involvement of civil society – NGOs, business and industry – will be crucial to the sense of inclusivity necessary to achieve successful outcomes and the EU supports the idea of partnerships with these and with public bodies. Such partnerships, working in tandem with governments, can play an effective part in the agreed programmes.

What does the European Union want Johannesburg to deliver?

The EU supports the proposals of the UN Secretary General that the World Summit should make progress in five key areas: water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity. More specifically the European Union proposes the following targets and actions to support the Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015:

> Water and sanitation

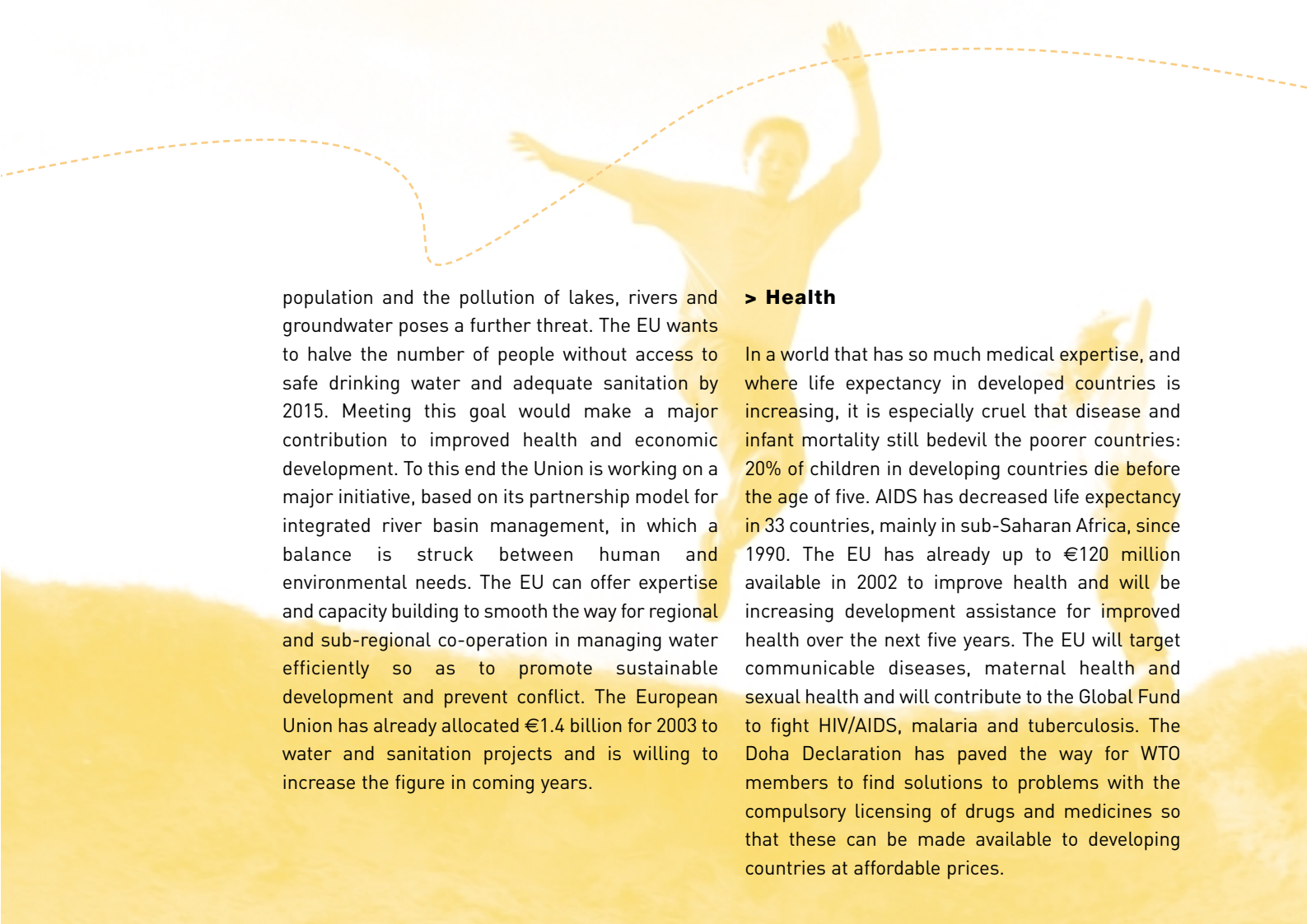
The global water crisis threatens to undermine economic growth and attempts at poverty reduction. Current freshwater consumption is outstripping nature's ability to replenish water supplies. Lack of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation is already a major problem for much of the world's



Water for life

In the EU water management is based on a co-ordinated approach to water quality and involves river basin management that crosses national boundaries. The river basin approach pays due attention to the threats of flooding and pollution, the importance of environmental considerations and the need for stakeholders to participate in policies and actions. The EU's water initiative for the World Summit on Sustainable Development draws on this valuable experience. The goals of the EU water initiative are to:

- build strong partnerships between public and private sectors and stakeholders and to improve partnerships for sharing technology and knowledge;
- improve governance and build capacities and institutions at the regional, national and local level;
- raise awareness about water problems;
- strengthen regional and sub-regional co-operation, in particular in transboundary waters;
- ensure better co-ordination and improved efficiency of water related development;
- ensure sustainable financing of water infrastructure and services;
- use innovative financial mechanisms and attract additional financial partners and resources.



population and the pollution of lakes, rivers and groundwater poses a further threat. The EU wants to halve the number of people without access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation by 2015. Meeting this goal would make a major contribution to improved health and economic development. To this end the Union is working on a major initiative, based on its partnership model for integrated river basin management, in which a balance is struck between human and environmental needs. The EU can offer expertise and capacity building to smooth the way for regional and sub-regional co-operation in managing water efficiently so as to promote sustainable development and prevent conflict. The European Union has already allocated €1.4 billion for 2003 to water and sanitation projects and is willing to increase the figure in coming years.

> Health

In a world that has so much medical expertise, and where life expectancy in developed countries is increasing, it is especially cruel that disease and infant mortality still bedevil the poorer countries: 20% of children in developing countries die before the age of five. AIDS has decreased life expectancy in 33 countries, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa, since 1990. The EU has already up to €120 million available in 2002 to improve health and will be increasing development assistance for improved health over the next five years. The EU will target communicable diseases, maternal health and sexual health and will contribute to the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The Doha Declaration has paved the way for WTO members to find solutions to problems with the compulsory licensing of drugs and medicines so that these can be made available to developing countries at affordable prices.

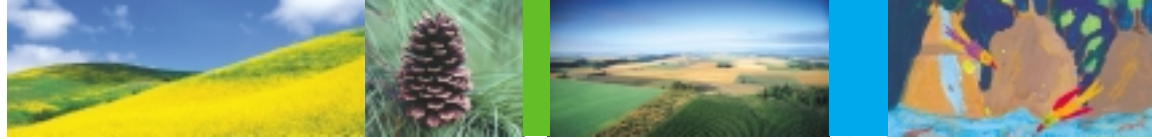


> Energy

Energy will become an increasingly important factor as expanding economies make growing demands on energy sources. The provision of affordable, sustainable and non-polluting energy is also crucial to the achievement of many of the Millennium Development Goals. Priority should be given to developing renewable energy sources (wind, solar, hydro-, tidal, modern bio-mass). The aim is to increase the share of renewable energy sources to at least 15% of primary energy supply by 2010. The EU is developing an energy initiative that concentrates on improving access to renewable energy sources for developing countries – sharing technical know-how and making appropriate alliances between investors, capacity builders, local businesses and local institutions. The EU has allocated €700 million for 2003 and is ready to increase this figure in the following years.

> Unsustainable consumption and production patterns

Implementation of Agenda 21 has been hindered by the reluctance, especially of the developed countries, to change their patterns of consumption and production. The result is that ten years later we have not halted environmental damage. The industrialised countries have a responsibility to take the lead in embracing more resource-efficient production and lifestyles and in aiding developing countries to emulate them. The EU supports life-cycle approaches, eco-labelling and environmental impact assessments as means of working towards this objective. The EU wants the summit to agree to develop a ten-year work programme to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production.



> Loss of natural resources

Biodiversity and fish stocks have been particularly hard hit over the past ten years. The EU supports international targets to stop these losses by 2010. The Union is currently reforming its own fishery policies and urges other countries to take similar action so that stocks can be restored to sustainable levels by no later than 2015. Urgent action is needed to curb illegal fishing and logging.

Although good progress has been made on climate change and more than 70 countries including the EU have ratified the Kyoto Protocol, the EU urges those countries that have not done so to lose no more time.

> Globalisation and trade

The Doha work programme is a foundation for building a new model of global trade. The least developed countries can be given a bigger stake in the global economy as this is vital in the eradication of poverty. However, it is important to monitor the impact that more liberal trading has on sustainability. At the same time as making markets more open, the capacity of developing countries to implement and benefit from international agreements must be strengthened. They require skills training, technology, better infrastructure and capacity for building markets and increasing exports. In this context, the full implementation of the Monterrey consensus will provide the necessary development assistance. A means of monitoring and evaluating action on the Monterrey pledges will be needed.

In order to build on the encouraging outcomes of Doha and Monterrey, the EU will be proposing additional measures on trade and investment that will help support sustainable development in developing countries:

- quota-free, duty-free imports from the least developed countries;
- greening of export credit and investment guarantee schemes;
- promotion of corporate social responsibility and accountability codes;
- introduction of sustainable development aims in bilateral trade agreements;
- wider use of sustainability impact assessments to help integrate social development and environmental concerns in trade policies.

These agreements and proposals are building blocks for the future that the world needs for the well-being of succeeding generations.

> Financing

As well as providing additional financial resources, the EU will consider how such resources can be most effectively used. A multi-layered approach is essential in which the roles of domestic resources, private finance and foreign direct investment can be harnessed and properly channelled in ways that do not harm the environment or disrupt the aim of equity. Developing countries must put their own houses in order to attract investment. Well-governed countries that respect the rule of law and operate transparently and professionally will find that investment flows in more readily. Trade can also help to finance sustainable development, but none of this removes the need for continuing ODA. The EU urges all those developed countries that have not done so to make significant steps towards reaching the targets of providing 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) as ODA to developing countries. The EU has decided to provide additional ODA of around €22 billion from now to 2006 and an increase in annual ODA by €9 billion from 2006 and onwards. The right financial formula must be found, as developing countries have often felt in the past that richer countries have reneged on agreements. The EU is, furthermore, committed to restoring debt sustainability so that debt does not cripple developing countries and hinder their progress.

> Global public goods

The EU wants together with all partners to explore ways – on top of opening markets and increasing the level and effectiveness of overall development assistance – to generate new public and innovative sources of finance for development purposes. A further discussion and exploration of the issue of global public goods will be crucial in that context.

A global public good can be defined as a good which has universal benefits, covers more than a group of countries, and is beneficial for:

- several or preferably all population groups;
- both current and future generations, or at least meets the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



Examples of such goods are communicable disease control, persistent pollution control, biodiversity and genetic resources, and peace and security.

> Effective institutions

Improved governance is the key to implementing sustainable development programmes. New or improved structures will be needed at regional, national and local level. Institutions that are legally constituted, transparent and democratic are prerequisites of effective governance. They must embrace civil society and allow stakeholders to participate in decision-making. At international level it is necessary to strengthen United Nations' bodies such as the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development to ensure that the results of the World Summit are followed-up and implemented properly.

> Agreement for action

With its concrete proposals at the Johannesburg Summit, the EU will be looking for agreement on action. Furthermore, in its preparations for enlargement, it can make a significant contribution by extending a ready-made legislative framework to Central and Eastern Europe, permitting the candidate countries to move smoothly from outmoded practices to more sustainable patterns of environmental protection and social and economic growth. The EU goes to Johannesburg, therefore, with a clear sense of purpose and of direction.

Ten years after Rio it is clear that making fine plans is not enough – the problems still remain. The Johannesburg Summit is as important as the Rio one, but, more importantly, it is a complement to it. The business of Agenda 21 is unfinished and this is our chance to bring it to fruition.



Grass-roots participation from all sectors of society, including women and young people, is essential to empower individuals in the policy-making process. This means a key role for the media in raising awareness of the issues and helping to build consensus on shared values. Not least of the tasks here is to inculcate radical new approaches to patterns of consumption and production in the richest countries of the world. Winning the hearts and minds of consumers is essential if we are to move away from inefficient, wasteful and detrimental practices.

Although partnerships for effective action in these areas involve dialogue at national level and institutional level, civil society – comprising NGOs, business, social partners and similar groups – has also emerged as a main player. The European Union is committed to civil society participation at both EU and Member State level.

European Commission

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People, planet, prosperity

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