



THE INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION

AT THE

WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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BACKGROUND OF THE WSSD

A decade ago, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, also known as the Earth Summit, adopted Agenda 21 — a comprehensive programme of action for global action in all areas of sustainable development; the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development — a series of principles defining the rights and responsibilities of States; and the Statement of Forest Principles — a set of principles concerning the sustainable management of forests worldwide. Other outcomes of the Earth Summit were two legally binding conventions: the United Nations Framework on Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Five years later, the Nineteenth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) reviewed the progress made since UNCED, assessed the implementation of Agenda 21, and established the programme of work of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).¹

Despite efforts to protect the environment and natural resources since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, the UNGA expressed concern at the continuing deterioration on both the environmental and development fronts, and in December 2000 approved the convening of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The objective of WSSD was to review the implementation status of both Agenda 21 and other Earth Summit outcomes; identify new challenges and opportunities as well as further measures to implement the Rio agreements; examine areas where more effort and action-oriented decisions were needed; and ensure that there was a balance among economic, social and environmental concerns and action to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable development.²

A. Outcome of the WSSD

The WSSD adopted the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development.³

On the whole, WSSD advanced the social and development agenda for eradicating poverty and highlighted the important links between poverty, the environment and natural resources. In dealing with subjects such as the emergence of the forces of globalization, distorting macro-economic policies and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, it emphasized the need for a greater understanding of the multi-dimensional nature of poverty, and the importance of working together to arrive at consistent and coherent solutions as a pre-requisite for sustainable development.

Critics argue that WSSD failed to obtain government commitment on renewable energy, trade and finance and that some even backtracked on agreements reached at the Earth Summit and other global fora. Many agree, however, that the WSSD Plan of Implementation was a clear result of the Millennium Development Goals and of major global fora such as the Fourth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, in November 2001 and the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002.

Unlike other intergovernmental fora, WSSD attempted to introduce new forms of dialogue, for example, multi-stakeholder dialogue. The initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in identifying priority areas calling for further work, as encompassed under the acronym WEHAB (water

¹ CSD was created to ensure effective follow-up to UNCED. It was expected to meet on a yearly basis to examine progress in implementing Agenda 21 over the period 1998-2002.

² Resolution A/RES/55/199

³ The full WSSD report can be found on www.johannesburgsummit.org

and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity), were discussed using a 'town hall dialogue' format, a novel style for discussing tough issues at the intergovernmental level. In addition to identifying specific themes and setting targets, the WEHAB initiative also stressed the need for stronger institutional measures to convert or operationalize the WSSD vision into concrete plans for implementation.

Despite the controversy regarding the possibility that such initiatives might enable governments to avoid honouring their commitments, the WSSD's call for partnership initiatives led to the forging of more than 300 partnerships for future sustainable development programmes. Many such initiatives were announced during the course of WSSD and were popularly called the link between the Plan of Implementation (Type I) and partnership initiatives (Type II).

The success of the Summit proves that sustainable development is now moving to the next level, where committed governments and other stakeholders are generating the needed sense of urgency to take action against growing poverty and environmental degradation. That sense of urgency will need to be brought into the Popular Coalition's future work accompanied by time-bound, concrete commitments in terms of responsibility. While most stakeholders are aware of this agenda, it will only be effective if necessary action is taken and the expected results achieved. The challenge for Popular Coalition partners is to act on WSSD outcomes that stress the importance of secure access to land and natural resources.

II. THE COALITION'S OBJECTIVES IN PARTICIPATING IN WSSD

Since 1995, the Popular Coalition has advocated increased commitment to land reform and security of tenure as an important part of any poverty eradication strategy. The Coalition's strength comes from its partners — a diverse group of intergovernmental, governmental, and civil-society organizations (CSOs) from 40 different countries. This unique blend of organizations enables the Coalition to convene stakeholder dialogues, bridge the gap between macro policy-making and realities at the community level and cross sectoral, institutional and governmental borders.

In April 2000, the Popular Coalition presented its document ***Land Poor: Essential Partners for Sustainable Management of Land Resources*** to the Eighth Session of CSD, and actively engaged governments, CSOs and intergovernmental organizations in discussions on the question of access to land for poor rural people. It subsequently convened, and contributed to, numerous key international fora on the subject⁵ and has been striving to enhance interaction among different development organizations, build up a strategic approach and work towards reaching a common platform on the subject.

Throughout the WSSD preparatory committee (PrepCom) process, the Coalition organized a number of consultations and parallel events and participated in major group caucuses. It also invited governments, intergovernmental organizations and other major groups to provide inputs towards ***A Common Platform on Access to Land***. All these activities helped to strengthen the Coalition's alliances, particularly with major groups active at the WSSD – women's, indigenous peoples and farmer groups, trade unions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and, to some extent, youth

⁵ Citizens' organizations, bilateral, governmental and intergovernmental organizations have worked together, including attendance at three major events - the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in Manila, The Philippines, in December 2000; the International Conference on Innovative Agrarian Reforms for Sustainability and Poverty Reduction in Bonn, Germany, in March 2001; and the Consultative Meeting on Land Issues in Washington, D.C., in April 2001 - all of which have provided insight into the growing common concern and political will to improve poor people's access to productive assets.

groups and local authorities. The outcome of these activities is described in ***A Common Platform on Access to Land***.⁶

In response to the call for concrete contributions to the Summit, it came naturally to the Coalition to create a global framework — through ***Land Alliances for National Development***, or ***LAND Partnerships*** as they have become known — based on what it had learned from its partners at the country and global levels. Both the design and concept of LAND Partnerships were introduced during PrepCom III in New York. Encouraging results were obtained at PrepCom IV in Bali, Indonesia, during a meeting of representatives of the Coalition and WSSD Secretariats and the WSSD Co-Chairs (Jamaica and Czech Republic). Both LAND Partnerships and the work of the Popular Coalition were seen as forming a unique interagency alliance within the United Nations system. Copies of the Coalition's paper *From Parallel Actions to a Common Agenda* on lessons learned in building a coalition, which reviews the processes and ingredients that built up the interagency alliances, were provided to the Co-Chairs and WSSD Secretariat.

LAND Partnerships was selected by the WSSD Secretariat as one of 60 partnership initiatives (from 300 submitted) for presentation during the Plenary presentation on the subject (see further details below). LAND Partnerships and ***A Common Platform on Access to Land*** are two related tools for improving access to land and productive resources – a further link between the Plan of Implementation and partnership initiatives.

While the WSSD process was both a means for forging alliances and for accelerating the Coalition's work, it was no more than a building block in its overall strategy. The Coalition used the WSSD opportunity as a means of increasing government commitment to the crosscutting importance of access to land for furthering rural development. While acknowledging the importance of seizing such opportunities, the Coalition is mindful of the need to engage only in those global summits through which it can further its mission. Thanks to its participation in WSSD, the Coalition achieved the following objectives:

- It influenced the outcome of the Summit by forging alliances with country delegations to negotiate the inclusion of precise language in the Plan of Implementation, thereby highlighting the importance of access to land as a means of eradicating poverty and securing firm commitments from governments both to improve access to land and to enact land reforms.
- Political support was obtained with regard to addressing the resource needs of poor and landless rural people.
- The Coalition established working relationships with other United Nations organizations, international organizations, governments and CSOs not previously associated with the work of the Coalition.
- The Coalition strengthened its relations with partners by means of joint activities during the Summit.
- A multi-stakeholder platform was arrived at for the ongoing action agenda: ***A Common Platform on Access to Land***.
- Concrete partnerships were forged for country-level action: *LAND partnerships*.
- The Summit provided a channel for conveying the views of the Coalition's civil-society partners on a variety of subjects.

⁶ A copy may be found at: <http://www.landcoalition.org>

- The Coalition was well placed to influence both the international community and individual governments with regard to the importance of secure access to land.

III. COALITION ACTIVITIES AT THE PREPCOMS

A. PrepComs II and III (New York)

Representatives of the Coalition secretariat participated at the meetings of PrepComs II and III. In collaborating with networks and actively participating in major group caucuses, the Coalition forged new alliances with a number of CSOs and other major groups — many of which had divergent priorities but were willing to cooperate on the crosscutting issue of access to land. During the course of the preparatory process and the final negotiations in Johannesburg, the Coalition prepared briefs, letters, articles and press releases for distribution to delegates, mission offices and major group caucuses, and proposed additional text for governments to negotiate into the final WSSD Plan of Implementation. These activities were aimed at ensuring that the final outcome document would make specific reference to the importance of access to land and related production means, thus ensuring that the Plan of Implementation would become the basis for Coalition partners to work with their governments in this regard.

B. PrepCom IV (Bali)

During PrepCom IV, the Coalition co-organized a half-day parallel event, attended by more than 120 CSOs, together with its Indonesian partner Konsorsium Pembaruan Agraria/Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA). Panellists included Bruce Moore (Coordinator, Popular Coalition), Noer Fauzi Rachman (KPA), Wellington Thwala (National Land Committee (NLC) of South Africa), Marta Benavides of El Salvador (representing Women's Caucus and Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO)) and Den Upa Rombelayuk from the indigenous people's organization Alians Masyarakat Adat (Archipelago Indigenous Peoples Alliances), Indonesia. Views expressed at the event were presented at a joint IFAD/Popular Coalition PrepCom official side-event held the following day. As a result, links and ties were strengthened between KPA and NLC, leading to joint action at Johannesburg and beyond. Such exchanges between and among partners, for which WSSD provided an excellent opportunity, are the cornerstones of the Coalition's knowledge network.

IFAD and the Coalition organized a presentation on the Coalition's goals, as described in ***A Common Platform on Access to Land*** and LAND Partnerships. Vera Weille-Hallé of IFAD acted as chairperson. In his opening address, Dr. Emil Salim (chairperson of PrepCom IV) praised both the Coalition's work and ***A Common Platform on Access to Land*** as crosscutting to the overall poverty eradication goals of WSSD. Bruce Moore gave an overview of ***A Common Platform on Access to Land***, and representatives of four Coalition partners (Noer Fauzi Rachman (KPA), Wellington Thwala (NLC), Jocelyn Dow (WEDO) and Vicky Tauli-Corpuz (Tebtebba Foundation)) made presentations. The event also highlighted the uniqueness of the Coalition in being able to call upon its members to be inside the process. It also received front-page coverage in the official bulletin distributed to delegates, and confirmed IFAD and WSSD support for the Coalition's work. (A copy of the article can be found on the Coalition website: www.landcoalition.org)

Many more NGOs were present at PrepCom IV than at previous sessions, thanks to increased availability of funding from governments and foundations (for example, the Ford Foundation mobilized approximately 800 CSO participants). Representatives of the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems (SAFS) caucus provided major logistical support to Ford Foundation delegates and acted as a conduit for linking up groups working on common themes. These links proved very useful, particularly those with the Pan African Network, NLC and the Landless People's Movement. Land

caucuses were organized, a common position was taken, and joint language was written up and used to lobby governments in preparation for Johannesburg. The ensuing collaboration set the stage for the Coalition to support major activities related to NLC plans and activities with the Landless People's Movement in Johannesburg. Other Coalition partners present at PrepCom IV were Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA The Philippines) and the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD).

The Coalition acknowledges the importance of its collaboration with major groups through WEDO (convenor of the women's caucus); Tebtebba Foundation and the Indigenous and Environmental Network (convenors of indigenous peoples caucus); the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (actively engaged in organizing the farmers' caucus); International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture (convenor of the SAFS caucus); and the International Union of Food, Agriculture, Hotel, Restaurants, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF) (active in organizing worker and trade union caucuses). By stressing the links between hunger, poverty, gender, indigenous peoples, farmers, agricultural workers, sustainable rural development and access to land, the Coalition enjoyed wide support from representatives of various sectors.

The Coalition is also grateful to its intergovernmental partners, particularly IFAD and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), for their enormous contributions to supporting the Coalition's agenda at the WSSD. It goes without saying that this support contributed significantly to what the Coalition's achieved at WSSD.

During the WSSD PrepCom process, the Coalition forged close links with the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) caucus of WSSD and the FAO/SARD focal point with regard both to its task manager role as described in Agenda 21 (Chapter 14) and its support for the Coalition's work on access to land.⁷ There were substantial exchanges of knowledge between FAO/SARD and the Coalition throughout the various WSSD processes. The SARD e-forum facilitated electronic dialogue regarding inputs to ***A Common Platform on Access to Land***.

IV. PARALLEL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

A. From Bali to Johannesburg: Final Lobbying Efforts

The Coalition's efforts during PrepCom I-IV were all successful except with regard to paragraph 61b of the Plan of Implementation on women's rights to own land, which was still to be negotiated when WSSD opened in Johannesburg. However, Coalition representatives organized a successful campaign with WEDO and many women's group, particularly its Ugandan and South African partners, Uganda Land Alliance/ActionAid and NLC, to ensure that the text on women's rights to land was left free and unencumbered. A number of actions were taken over the course of two days, including preparation and distribution of a letter to governments that had expressed support for the language at previous PrepComs, and the arranging of a press conference and media interviews for Mary Ssonko (Coalition partner from Uganda Land Alliance/ActionAid). However, following PrepCom IV, the text on women's rights to own and inherit land carried the qualifying text "according to national laws and customs", which allowed governments to avoid granting women full rights to own property. Paragraph 61b (later 65b) was eventually approved without this qualifying text.

⁷ Agenda 21 Chapter 14 paragraph mentions: "The main tools of SARD are policy and agrarian reform, participation, income diversification, land conservation and improved management of inputs. The success of SARD will depend largely on the support and participation of rural people, national governments, the private sector and international cooperation, including technical and scientific cooperation."

Apart from these negotiations, the Coalition's agenda and objectives at the Summit were different to those during the PrepComs. The Coalition secretariat organized the participation of partners from Bolivia, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, The Philippines, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe and of two secretariat staff members. All partners demonstrated a real sense of partnership inasmuch as the travel and DSA costs were shared among them. Accreditation of Coalition partners in the official process was possible thanks to IFAD's including them in its WSSD delegation.

B. Sponsored Events and Activities at Johannesburg

Taking advantage of the presence of more than 20 000 official delegates at the Summit and about 30 000 delegates at the Global People's Forum (GPF), the Coalition held a number of parallel events for the purpose of launching the LAND Partnerships initiative and obtaining further support for **A Common Platform on Access to Land**. The Coalition sponsored activities both in parallel with the Summit and with civil-society events centred on the GPF. The ensuing discussions, dialogue and debates were extremely useful. While spending time together, Coalition partners and staff of the secretariat had the chance to reflect on and discuss a number of issues, opportunities and strategies for the Coalition's future work. Details of these discussions are available on request from the Secretariat.

Event #1 Launching of LAND Partnerships: 29 August 2002

The WSSD Secretariat's call for partnership initiatives inspired the Coalition to develop, on the basis of its experience, a multi-stakeholder framework for **Land Alliances for National Development**, or LAND Partnerships. The development of LAND Partnerships emerged from negotiations to further country-level collaboration between state, civil-society, and bilateral and international actors.

In its efforts to obtain political support commitment from stakeholders — at both the country and international levels — for increasing poor rural people's access to land, the Coalition invited the governments of Indonesia, The Philippines and South Africa to launch Land Partnerships. The choice of these countries was dictated by the experience of Coalition nodes at the country level and their response to the principles of LAND Partnerships as explored and discussed at the PrepComs.

More than 70 participants from grass-roots organizations, national and international CSOs and networks, governments, bilateral institutions and intergovernmental organizations attended the event, which was chaired by Miguel Urioste of Fundación Tierra (Bolivia). The President of IFAD opened the event and gave an inspiring address on LAND Partnerships. Bruce Moore described the processes leading up to the development of LAND Partnerships.

The event stimulated great interest and support, as evidenced by the announcement that the governments of Indonesia and The Philippines intended to establish LAND Partnerships. Two caucus representatives, Jocelyn Dow (WEDO) and Vicky Tauli-Corpus (Tebtebba Foundation), and Coalition partners from Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, The Philippines and Zimbabwe, delivered statements in support of LAND Partnerships. These statements are attached as Annex 1.

Representatives of the Coalition's country partners, IFAD, FAO and bilateral partners (United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Union (EU)) expressed their support for making LAND Partnerships happen at the country level.

Considerable support was received for country-level operationalization of LAND Partnerships. However, there was some concern about the complexity of the agenda on access to land and the contrasting values among constituencies, politics and vested interests. Representatives of the International Federation of Surveyors (Holder Magel), Country Women of Nigeria (Chief Bisi

Ogunleye), Iwokrama Rainforest Programme in Guyana (Vanda Radzik) and others commended the Coalition's work and stressed the importance of working together, especially among and between governments and CSOs.

**Event #2 Presentation of LAND Partnership at the Plenary Session on Partnerships:
1 September 2002**

LAND Partnerships was chosen by the WSSD Secretariat (one of 60 selected from more than 300 submitted) for presentation at the plenary session on partnerships. Miguel Urioste, Fundación Tierra, Bolivia, chaired the event. Phrang Roy conveyed IFAD's support for LAND Partnerships and invited governments to join it in advancing the agenda on access to land. Representatives of approximately 40 governments, CSOs and intergovernmental organizations attended the event. The representative of the Government of The Philippines, Mr. Delfin Ganapin, explained why his country had decided to establish and support LAND Partnerships. Statements made during this event are given in Annex 2.

Event #3 Week of the Landless: 27-31 August 2002

The Coalition together with Ford Foundation supported both a seminar and the activities of the Landless People's Movement and NLC during this event, which included a second International Landless People's Assembly, learning and cultural events, and a march to celebrate International Day of Solidarity. Coalition partners participated in many activities and events during the course of the week and in the march.

**Event #4 Two-day Seminar on African Perspectives: Land and Sustainable
Development - 26-27 August 2002**

This two-day seminar was organized by NLC and the African Institute for Agrarian Studies (AIAS) and attended by Coalition partners from various regions of the world. A report on the event may be obtained from NLC or AIAS.

**Event#5 Joint IFAD/Global Mechanism/Popular Coalition Presentation on Partnership
Initiatives: 30 August 2002**

The aim of the presentation was to announce new partnership initiatives. The Coalition was an initial sponsor of IFAD's partnership with the Southern African Natural Products Trade Association (an NGO that trades in natural products from land-degraded areas) inasmuch as it recognizes that fostering markets for particular products leads to secure use of and investments in land. During the course of the event, the Global Mechanism announced its partnership with the Southern African Development Community, NGOs and legislators; and the Coalition made an announcement with regard to LAND Partnerships.

**Event #6 Joint IFAD/Indigenous Caucus/Popular Coalition Event on Indigenous Peoples:
Affirming Diversity for Sustainable Development - 28 August 2002**

This event was organized for the purpose of presenting IFAD's report on its experience with indigenous peoples in Latin America and Asia — ***Indigenous Peoples: Valuing Diversity in Sustainable Development***. The importance of Coalition members collaborating on the issues of indigenous lands, territories and ancestral domains was emphasized during the course of the event, which was attended by about 130 representatives of governments, multilateral institutions and indigenous people's organizations. The President of IFAD opened the proceedings, and keynote speakers included Mr. Richelle, Director-General of the European Commission; representatives of the National Koi-San Consultative Conference and Tebtebba Foundation; the Director, Centre for

International Forestry Research; Mr. Phrang Roy of IFAD; and Bruce Moore, Coordinator of the Popular Coalition. Further details on the event are available upon request from IFAD's External Affairs Department.

Event #7 One-day Seminar on Governance and Property Rights; World Bank's Land Policy Review Paper; and Accessing Land: 30 August 2002

Together with USAID and World Bank, the Coalition sponsored a one-day seminar to discuss different strategies and experiences relating to land reform. Bruce Moore co-chaired the session on country experience with partners from Indonesia (KPA) and Brazil (the National Confederation of Agricultural Workers - CONTAG). Information was also provided on World Bank's experience in South Africa. Further details of this event are available from USAID.

Event #8 Workshop on Access to Land: 29 August 2002

In collaboration with WEDO and three organizers, Energia, Women in Europe for a Common Future, and the Gender and Water Alliance, the Coalition helped to coordinate activities on the theme 'Access to and Control of Resources: Energy, Water and Land'. The Coalition organised a panel discussion at a Workshop on Access to Land. Panellists included Mary Ssonko of Uganda Land Alliance/ActionAid, who spoke about women's inheritance rights in Uganda. Sappho Haralambous, Coordinator of the Fund's NGO and Civil-Society Networks described IFAD's experience with projects concerned with gender and access to land. Representatives of the Huairou Commission and the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights made presentations on their work with women and housing initiatives. Copies of papers presented at the workshop can be obtained from the Popular Coalition secretariat.

Event #9 - Taking advantage of the presence of many of its partners at the Summit, on 31 August 2002, the Coalition organized a half-day meeting to discuss a number of emerging issues, needs, directions and strategic considerations as perceived by Coalition partners. A record of the proceedings can be obtained from the Popular Coalition secretariat.

C. Participation in Other Events

The Coalition's delegation participated in many parallel events during the course of the Summit, including those sponsored by FAO and IFAD at the GPF and in activities at the Landless People's Camp.

A press conference was arranged for the Coalition's Ugandan partner, Ms. Mary Ssonko, to call the attention of governments to women's inheritance rights to land. Following the press conference, radio and television journalists interviewed both Ms. Ssonko and several other partner representatives.

Popular Coalition literature was distributed in four languages. This included **A Common Platform on Access to Land**, LAND Partnerships documents and a press release entitled **Where Will the Landless Land?** (see Annex 3).

A video loop of the Coalition's film **The Land Poor** was shown at IFAD's exhibit, which included other Coalition material, posters and publications. Posters and publications were also distributed at all venues and events where the Coalition participated.

V. ACHIEVEMENTS

The Coalition is proud to have played a leading role in bringing together a wide alliance of organizations, both at the PrepComs and at the Summit itself. As a result of its work, the question of access to land figures prominently in:

- paragraphs 7c, 7d, 7h, 10f, 11a, 40d, 40i and 65b of the Plan of Implementation;
- paragraphs 24 and 27 of the Report of the Partnerships Plenary Meeting on the theme 'Agriculture';
- paragraphs 8 and 13 and 15 of the Report of Roundtable 1 on the theme 'Making it Happen'; and paragraphs 21, 27.5, 27.17 of the Report of Roundtable 4.

The texts of these paragraphs, which are given in Annex 4 of this report, constitute important entry points for the Coalition's work, especially with governments. They also provide support to countries in addressing the challenging question of land issues and in bringing about needed changes so that the poor can gain increased, improved and secure access to land. The final report on the Summit (A/Conf.199/20) may be found on www.johannesburgsummit.org.

For the Coalition, the most important outcome of WSSD is the growing understanding that secure access to land and natural resources, which leads to increased food production and thereby greater household food security, more rural employment and reduced conflict, is essential to sustainable development. Furthermore from the standpoint of environmental sustainability, secure access to land and natural resources provides the incentive to invest in, restore and protect the natural environment as a source of current and future rural livelihoods.

A. Juxtaposing the Outcomes of WSSD and the Global People's Forum

The present report describes the Coalition's activities and achievements at the WSSD. More than half of all the 50 000 representatives present in Johannesburg were unable to attend the Summit meetings, but an analysis of the outcome of the GPF indicates that people still hold the world in balance and the burden of the fight against poverty.

The GPF consisted of an international civil-society strategy meeting, plenary sessions on the crosscutting themes of poverty eradication, globalization and governance, 29 commissions on specific topics, and a final series of plenary meetings during which a political declaration and programme of action (drawn from the work of the commissions) were adopted.

What does the outcome of the WSSD and the Global People's Forum tell the Coalition? In referring to the paragraphs set out in Annex 4, it is to be noted that the first priority outcome of the GPF is LAND. An excerpt from the relevant paragraph on land in GPF document ***A Sustainable World Is Possible, Outcomes of the Global Peoples Forum at the WSSD*** is provided in Annex 5. (A copy of the full report can be downloaded from www.joburgplus10.org or www.rio10.dk/upload/att/global_peoples_forum.pdf).

The highlight of the GPF was the march to celebrate International Solidarity Day, which attracted worldwide attention when 10 000 people marched through the poverty-stricken township of Alexandria to the affluent Sandton area where the Summit was being held. The choice of the route was to draw attention both to the markedly contrasting conditions in the two areas and to the division between the rich and the poor in the midst of the debate on sustainable development.

The present report, however, contains no separate analysis of the GPF outcome vs. that of WSSD, its aim being to describe the Coalition's work in preparing for the Summit. In the hope of strengthening the Coalition's capacity, especially that of its partners, lessons should be drawn from the WSSD experience and entry points highlighted for its future work.

B. Lessons Learned

Effective Organization for Advocacy Efforts

The building up of synergy with constituencies, especially new ones, calls for serious commitments in terms of time and trust. For many of those who have been in the business of building alliances over the years, this work involved both a challenge and a sense of excitement. While nurturing relationships and trust is a lengthy process, thanks to its long-term relationships (particularly with IFAD) and support for its work, the Coalition was able to speedily prepare for the Summit. Logistics and administrative arrangements went smoothly (especially in Bali and Johannesburg) mainly due to assistance from Coalition partners (in particular KPA and NLC).

Future Entry Points for the Coalition

Through the WSSD, Coalition partners demonstrated their potential and capacity for building up a cohesive advocacy effort for the resource rights of the rural poor. The Summit provided the Coalition with an excellent opportunity for entrusting its partners with leadership advocacy roles at the international level and opened up avenues and entry points for further debate and reflection. There are still many facets, both technical and organizational, that need to be further developed, such as policies and positions on the links between access to land and globalization and trade-distorting subsidies, indigenous people's access to lands and territories, women's rights, etc. Since the Coalition has positioned itself within the United Nations system as a convenor on issues relating to access to land, it should now explore the possibility of working with the UN Commissioner on Human Rights, the UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other agencies within the system. Its links with the Chief Executives Board should be revitalized via the Network on Rural Development and Food Security, which has been charged with supporting the Coalition's work within the United Nations system.

The present report highlights the fact that the WSSD process was not an end but a means through which the Coalition forged a number of important alliances and furthered its mission to put secure access to land and related productive assets more firmly on national and international agendas. It led to further entry points through which land access and tenure issues may be pursued along the continuum of development, food security and the environment.

**Statements by Popular Coalition Partners and Collaborators
at the Launching of LAND Partnerships
29 August 2002**

Ms. Jocelyn Dow, President of WEDO and Member of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons of the Secretary-General of WSSD:

While the issue of access to land has been in the forefront of women's concerns since Rio the issue is still distorted mainly because governments by-and-large are taking weaker positions. At the WSSD, it is disappointing (even though Agenda 21 already agreed women's rights and gender equity language across the document) that women's groups are still arguing at this point on a paragraph (61b) on women's inheritance rights. Women's groups are ready to work with the Popular Coalition to ensure that the whole issue of land is addressing a wider gender sensitive framework. This can be done through joint programmes and linking resources to ensure the nexus. There is already a knowledge base out there in this regard, however, there is still an ultimate disconnect in the rhetorics, i.e. in financing system, housing, food security -- all aspects of public and private spheres leading to women's rights. One example to move forward, if indeed donors are interested, is to access decision-makers such as in PRSPs where all of these issues should be taken into account.

Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpus, a leader of Indigenous Peoples (IP) Caucus from Tebtebba, The Philippines:

Another issue in relation this is, as shown in Bangladesh and in The Philippines, where the landless are real victims of policies. If we want to have meaning and really change the lives of those fighting on the daily basis to get by these are the kinds of issues that we should give priority. While we know that we have to look into this, we know that is not an easy job because of different disparities in power and vested interest that you have to go against. In The Philippines, we have an ancestral and IPs rights acts which gives rights to indigenous peoples. However, some people were killed because they were delineating their lands. This happen on a daily basis. I would like to see the Coalition succeed and wish all the luck. Definitely with government being there and international organisations it might work. I hope that your starting point would be the poorest and marginalised. We would be interested to see what we can do together in the future.

Miguel Urioste, Fundación Tierra, Bolivia

The members of the Popular Coalition, as part of the civil society of 40 developing countries, we have participated during the past two years in the discussions of the Common Platform on Access to Land, that we want now to share with you.

Our aim is to bring together different actors of the civil society. We know that civil society is not uniform. That is why building consensus among land owners and landless people requires a strong role of public institutions and the empowerment of the landless, peasant and indigenous people.

As a response to the globalization process, several social movements of grass roots are actively promoting their rights to the land.

*After ten years of different experiences on land market assisted agrarian reforms we can conclude that land markets can not replace the role of the institutions, local governments and public policies. We all agree that secure access to land and clear and strong property rights, especially to women, are a pre condition for Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development. The challenge is **how** to bring together contradictory interests of the landless and those of the big land owners.*

Sometimes certain consensus can be reached at local levels such as communal or municipal, in other cases the national participation is required. As civil society actors, we can help to build bridges among them.

Noer Fauzi Rachman, KPA, Indonesia

KPA is composed of networks and peoples organisations whose task is to work on access to land and to amplify people's voices. With support from the peasant and indigenous groups and other NGOs and some academics, KPA has succeeded in their struggle to change the agrarian policy with the new issuance of the MPR (the People's Consultative Assembly) Decree of Agrarian Reform and Natural Resources Management which was enacted in November 2001. This is very important because it now gives the mandate and obligation to Parliaments with the President to review all existing laws, especially those with contradicting principles of agrarian reform and natural resource managements, and to revise and/or amend in order to synchronize all existing laws. Thanks to the joint advocacy work of KPA together with its members peasant organisations who have been responsible for amplifying the local people's voices in order to influence policy and law reform processes. That mandate means implementing land reform and sustainable land resource management.

In terms of LAND partnership experience, one of our achievements is that today KPA sits in a Working Group on Tenure in the Department of Forest that have the task to produce relevant measures to overcome tenurial insecurity of local peoples as mandated by MPR Decree. KPA is also part of the "learning circle" in the National Land Board that produces land reform measures. KPA continues to influence governments and parliaments, with its next proposal to promote a National Committee with ambitious tasks to integrate strategies and programmes on land reform and natural resource management.

We realize that there are three problems: the contradiction between laws and regulation, the problem of unequal resource and land distribution, and the problem of conflicts. We think that from LAND partnership we are trying to put together governmental institutions like the National Land Board and the Department of Forestry. This is very important because access to land for the people in the forest is a big issue in Indonesia. Also, we are currently promoting land reform research with the National Land Board.

Byron Garoz of CONGCOOP (Coordination of NGOs and Cooperatives), Guatemala

In Guatemala, there are very strong differences among stakeholders. There are big differences between landless, peasants, small-holders and big landlords. In fact, there has been a war because of the land. A lot of processes are taking place right now. Peasants and indigenous peoples are demanding access to land. Guatemalan government has responded in a very limited way that is why the LAND Partnership initiative is very important for us. It could be an important mechanism and contribution to the discussions among civil society and representatives of the government. There needs to be an evaluation to this Initiative in the future. This (Johannesburg) is a very important place because from here we can survey and check what our governments are saying to accomplish. Later, we could write to them to challenge what they have accomplished based on the Summit declaration. It is in this regard

that we have to be with the Popular Coalition and be in different land discussions.

Remarks of Biplap Halim, Institute for Motivating Self Employment(IMSE), India

IMSE is working for the landless in the Eastern part of India. In the Declaration of the World Food Summit in 1996 it was stated that more than 840 million population of the world suffer from malnutrition, basically which means they remain hungry. What was not mentioned was out of which 350 million of the population live in India alone. As per census conducted in India in 1991 more than 158 million people in India are landless or semi-landless marginalised farmers which constitute 85% of total rural workforce but own only 17% of the total cultivable land in the country. On the other hand, 15% non-cultivating owners own more than 64% of the total land under cultivation in India. This clearly shows that the core of rural poverty in India is created by the present pattern of land ownership. Therefore, in order to avert poverty and hunger, genuine agrarian reform is the central means to provide landless or semi-landless peasants with access to land and other productive resources which would abolish the existing inequitable production relationship and ensure the household food security, sustainable agriculture and all-round rural development.

However, it is needless to mention here that the genuine agrarian reforms should have gender perspective and based on organic farming. Dialogues between multi-stakeholders might play a meaningful role to facilitate this process. I am not sure whether through LAND partnership it would be possible for us to reach a consensus for implementation of the genuine agrarian reform which would enable the toiling masses to establish their rights over land and other productive resources free of charge, due to exploitative class relationship, different views and interests. However, I think that the LAND Partnership process might bring more people or say the majority of the stakeholders of civil society together which would definitely make those vested interest exposed and isolated who are not genuinely interested to implement this programme. It might sound impossible to some of us but in the light of our experiences in our state in West Bengal in India, we have seen that it is possible. We see much hope in this process. By introducing the LAND partnership there is a possibility to highlight the real problems which are effecting the life of the people and build consensus among the majority of the stakeholders of the civil society to remove the same.

Mohammed Mohyeldin Ismail, General Trade Union of Workers in Agriculture, Egypt

The Egyptian experience in agrarian reform is considered the most important social issue that has been changed the pattern of social life in Egypt. Recalling that before 1952 in Egypt there were 5% of the population used to own 70% of the land and those people mainly came from affluent families of princes and princesses. Right after the 1952 revolution, our great leader Gamal Abdel Nasser accomplished a lot of changes in Egypt. At the current time, while the President insists on achieving democracy, can the issue of the land reform a principle of, land is owned by the one who cultivates, has been the thrust of the land distribution legislation. In 1954, agrarian reform legislation has been limited only on property rights 200 feddans for each family.

Accordingly, in 1961, there have been restructuring on property rights to 50 feddans for each family. After that, the government has issued the most important restructuring issue and distributed land to agricultural workers. This led to increase in agricultural production by 25%, raise living standards, higher levels of education among school children and universities, so that the number of experts, scientists, teachers and lecturers has increased. On the other hand, Egypt has 5 million agricultural workers who are still landless and who only own less than one feddan .

In this regard, GTUAW in Egypt exerts more efforts for serving the agricultural workers, and it cooperate with Popular Coalition in doing that. For example, through our joint negotiations with the states to grant these workers a part of the newly reclaimed land like in Toshki zone, Elawinat East zone, west and north Suez zones (this can be done by our governors). The next step to be taken is to acquire the modern methods of cultivating land which applied in other countries. We have already observed from the African context such as in Sudan and other countries and we hope to learn more from others. If state takes positive steps to achieve sustainable development, we should cooperate with other developing and developed countries . By this occasion, I seize the opportunity to express our great appreciation to your efforts you all made to the success of the Popular Coalition.

Nathaniel Don Marquez, Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, The Philippines

The gravity of poverty in Asia is forcing NGOs and other sectors to join hands in addressing the problem. Perhaps this is a recognition that no single sector can claim to have substantially reduced poverty and that there is a need for everybody to work together. We continue to struggle for land and agrarian reforms because some 56% of the total Asian population still depends on agriculture for a living and two-thirds of the world's 800 billion poor are in Asia. Here, land continues to be the principal source of livelihood, security and status. About six out of every 10 families are still engaged in agriculture. Yet, around 100 million agricultural families make their living principally from land they do NOT own.

The ANGOC network thus has found the multistakeholder approach significant in pushing the agenda on land. It is perhaps civil society's opportunity to "globalize" a small community's quest for access to tenurial rights and productive resources. This initiative of LAND Partnerships provides opportunities for different stakeholders to discuss options in advancing agrarian reforms.

However building such partnerships and networks at any level can be a formidable task, fraught with risks of the rights of stakeholders not being properly involved or of important stakeholders deciding not to participate in the process of networking. Crucial to the success of the multi-stakeholder approach is representation. Care should be taken against the tendency to exclude other potential stakeholders because (1) they are non-traditional partners or (2) they represent conflicting interests. Ways must be found to incorporate the input of these non-traditional stakeholders to the process if the dialogue is to be truly inclusive and comprehensive.

It is important to recognize that stakeholders have their respective interests, constituents, perspectives, commitments and levels of understanding. In the past, these differences have often led to incompatibility and wariness. However, these differences have also served to make stakeholders aware of different perspectives, sharpened their negotiating skills and promoted consensus building.

Multi-stakeholder planning, action and learning require more time and energy than initiatives involving single stakeholders. The demand for investment in managing differences is particularly crucial in the initial stages of the process if participants are to generate mutual understanding, coordinated action and effective learning.

Although multi-stakeholder partnerships have advantages for pushing sustainable development forward, we must remain vigilant against initiatives that hide the failure of governments to honour their commitments. ANGOC is one with other coalitions in resounding that the primary WSSD mandate is for governments to agree with action-oriented, time-bound measures to realize poverty eradication and ecosystem security.

The people and other sectors must be part of global to local governance to effect change. Partnerships for implementation must be linked to international goals agreed on by governments to achieve this desired result. Capacity-building efforts especially for community-based groups and NGOs to be able to leverage in these partnerships should be undertaken to bring the discussion to par.

**Statements Made at the Presentation of LAND Partnership
During the Official Plenary on Partnerships**

1 September 2002

Miguel Urioste, Fundación Tierra, Bolivia

Each international or bilateral agency has its own conception, perspective and programs on land issues. As part of the Popular Coalition from several developing countries we are trying to promote the establishment of national forums. Those forums must be diverse and heterogeneous but they can not be neutrals, because we are not neutrals. We strongly support the rights of the landless, peasants, and indigenous people, to the land and their territory.

Our main task as civil-society members is to empower the rural poor by supporting and increasing their own skills to access the land, the water and the forest.

To achieve alliances between governments and civil-society organizations, especially rural organizations, is urgent, to empower it depends to democracy in each of our countries. In many cases the landless, peasants and indigenous people do not participate effectively with equal rights in all the democratic institutions. There won't be equal access to land if there is not participatory democracy.

In that way, we appreciate the support that The Philippines government has just given to us. To establish multi stakeholders alliances concerning access to land could be a realistic challenge in the northern countries but, on the contrary, it is much more difficult to reach alliances in our countries. The Popular Coalition wants to facilitate this dialogue.

We thank IFAD for housing the Popular Coalition and we invite all of you to strengthen our land partnership.

Delfin Ganapin, Government of The Philippines and Philippine Council for Sustainable Development

The Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) is the institution of The Philippines that is mandated to deal with all sustainable development concerns of the country. This is a multi-stakeholder body led by our National Economic and Development Authority and other government agencies with counterpart of civil society organisations and businesses in The Philippines.

PCSD took a very good look at the list of the many partnerships that was offered at the WSSD and we chose only a few and LAND Partnership is one of them. The reason for this is that land is critical to sustainable development in The Philippines. Our group decided a set of criteria what kinds of partnerships that will support WEHAB - water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity. In our context, LAND Partnership will support these focal concerns. Traditionally, we look at land as a way to increase productivity and income, and for national economic development. However, in the context of The Philippines, land has always been the cause of rebellion and up to now has been the cause of political conflict in the country. So land access

and ownership is link to our goals of peace and solidarity enshrined in our Philippine Agenda 21.

Land is also a way to reduce vulnerability especially to indigenous peoples who would lose their land unless very serious policy changes are made and that ancestral domains are recognised by mainstream society. Land is also related to poverty. Unless, land is given to the poor then they would not be empowered and they would not cause the necessary changes that we need to create good governance. Land is also related to environmental security. We found out that when our upland populations are given security tenure to the land, they protect that land much better and they become the social touch to protect against encroachment into our remaining ports.

Land access, ownership and stewardship are very difficult tasks. They require serious policy changes. There is a need to upscale community-based action that has been already initiated so that they become national efforts. There is a need to package land ownership with capacity building so that the people themselves can create the capital, the credit and even link with the markets needed for the products that come from that.

The LAND Partnership, therefore, is a way where we can share experiences and best practices and we will be able to come together with like-minded people and organizations for more effective advocacy and the sharing of resources. It is also for us to have a mechanism for resolving conflicts without which violence will be the end product when people actually use arms to get access to land.

Our delegation, The Philippines, would like to commit to support this LAND Partnership. In Bali, we were very much involved (in fact one of the few G77 countries involved) in the intense discussions on Type II partnerships because as you know many of us are worried that Type II partnerships would be a way of getting commitments away from Type I commitments. In these intense discussions in Bali, our delegation was the one that strongly advocated that any Type II partnership considered must lead to resolving and providing for community needs and that that it must reflect initiatives of communities because these partnerships meet community needs. We see that LAND Partnership meets those criteria quite well. That is the decision of the PCSD, to make our country and our government and the PCSD part of this LAND Partnership.

PRESS RELEASE

WHERE WILL THE LANDLESS LAND?

The Land Poor
Essential Partners for Sustainable Development

The reasons for improving access to land are compelling – poverty reduction, natural resource and environmental management, reduced conflict over natural resources, slowed rural migration to urban centres and increased aggregate food production. However, powerful vested interest stand in the way. Moreover, without land and related assets, the rural poor will be marginalized further by the forces of globalisation.”

Common Platform on Access to Land

Prepared by the Popular Coalition in consultation with Civil Society, UN and International Institutions and Governments

So what? The landless, smallholders, pastoralists, forest dwellers, women, indigenous people have come and gone from World Summits over the past 30 years. The commitments now, as then, were to create policies and enforceable laws to provide the poor with access to productive resources and to protect their rights. The governments attending these Summits have likewise known what is needed and that the related technologies exist. The ingredient, that is increasingly being acknowledged as missing, is the political courage to undertake pro-poor reforms.

The past tells us that government-led reforms without the involvement of civil society and civil-society efforts without the support and enabling policies of government have both failed. Furthermore, there has been inadequate coherence in the assistance, technical and lending policies of international and bilateral donors.

In response to these lessons, civil-society, the United Nations (IFAD, FAO, World Food Programme), international financial institutions (World Bank, European Commission) and governments decided to forge a new consortium to unite their work to empower the rural poor through secure access to land and related productive assets and to increase the capacity of the rural poor to influence public policies and decisions affecting their daily lives.

This consortium, formed in 1995 – the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty – has undertaken an extensive, worldwide consultation that has developed A COMMON PLATFORM ON ACCESS TO LAND. This consultation began at CSD-8 and continued through each PrepCom along with extensive efforts by Coalition partners in multiple venues over these two years. It was finalized following PrepCom IV in Bali.

It is complemented by the launching of country-level action programmes known as Land Alliances for National Development, commonly referred to as LAND Partnerships.

WSSD is the launching ground to widen participation in this COMMON PLATFORM ON ACCESS TO LAND and to join with governments and civil society to establish LAND Partnerships.

“Land is fundamental to sustainable human development. The processes and policies that exclude the poor from the means to improve their well-being will either change through enlightened leaders or be postponed until the underlying desperation of poor people leaves them no choice but to repeat, as history has shown, a return to revolutionary campaigns. Let us all hope that this will not become their last hope.”- according to Bruce Moore, Director of the Popular Coalition.

The Popular Coalition is a convening mechanism to build common ground, work to find compromises and negotiate strategies to resolve land conflicts.

The Popular Coalition was created to further the capacity and opportunities for the land-poor. The landless need to land on soils, forest lands and pastures where they know they have secure access to these resources for the future.

The poor understand that sustainable development is about the way societies decide on who has the rights to use which resources, for which purposes, under which conditions and for how long. They must be equitably involved in public decisions of this kind and have socially just access to land and related livelihood resources.

Bruce Moore
Director – Popular Coalition
coalition@ifad.org or in Johannesburg 083 5181201

REPORT OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Johannesburg, South Africa
26 August-4 September 2002

Excerpts of Relevant Paragraphs on Access to Land

PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION

II. Poverty eradication

Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries. Although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of other United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This would include actions at all levels to:

Paragraph 7 (c)

Develop national programmes for sustainable development and local and community development, where appropriate within country-owned poverty reduction strategies, to promote the empowerment of people living in poverty and their organizations. These programmes should reflect their priorities and enable them to increase **access to** productive resources, public services and institutions, in particular **land**, waters, employment opportunities, credit, education and health;

Paragraph 7(d)

Promote **women's equal access and full participation** in, on the basis of equality with men, decision-making at all levels, mainstreaming gender perspectives in all policies and strategies, eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and improving the status, health and economic welfare of women and girls through full and equal access to economic opportunity, **land**, credit, education and health-care services;

Paragraph 7(h)

Provide **access to** agricultural resources for people living in poverty, especially women and indigenous community, and promote, as appropriate, **land tenure** arrangements that recognize and protect indigenous and common property resource management systems;

Paragraph 10

Strengthen the contribution of industrial development to poverty eradication and sustainable natural resource management. This would include actions at all levels to:

Paragraph 10f

Provide **support for natural resource management for creating sustainable livelihoods for the poor;**

Paragraph 11

By 2020, achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, as proposed in the “Cities without slums” initiative. This would include actions at all levels to:

Paragraph 11a

Improve **access to land and property**, to adequate shelter and to basic services for the urban and rural poor, with special attention to female heads of household;

Paragraph 40

Agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of a growing global population and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication, especially in developing countries. Enhancing the role of women at all levels and in all aspects of rural development, agriculture, nutrition and food security is imperative. Sustainable agriculture and rural development are essential to the implementation of an integrated approach to increasing food production and enhancing food security and food safety in an environmentally sustainable way. This would include actions at all levels to:

Paragraph 40 (d)

Promote programmes to **enhance** in a sustainable manner **the productivity of land** and the efficient use of water resources in agriculture, forestry, wetlands, artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, especially through indigenous and local community-based approaches;

Paragraph 40 (i)

Adopt policies and implement laws that guarantee well defined and **enforceable land and water use rights and promote legal security of tenure**, recognizing the existence of different national laws and/or systems of **land access and tenure**, and provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition that are undertaking **land tenure reform** in order to enhance sustainable livelihoods;

Paragraph 65

Deal effectively with natural disasters and conflicts, including their humanitarian and environmental impacts, recognizing that conflicts in Africa have hindered, and in many cases obliterated, both the gains and efforts aimed at sustainable development, with the most vulnerable members of society, particularly women and children, being the most impacted victims, through efforts and initiatives, at all levels, to:

Paragraph 65 (b)

Promote and support efforts and initiatives to **secure equitable access to land tenure**, clarify resource rights and responsibilities, through **land and tenure reform** processes that respect the rule of law and are enshrined in national law, and provide **access to credit** for all, especially women, and that enable economic and social empowerment, poverty eradication and efficient and ecologically sound utilization of **land and that enable women producers to become decision makers and owners in the sector, including the right to inherit land.**

REPORT OF THE PARTNERSHIP PLENARY MEETINGS ON THE THEME OF AGRICULTURE

Paragraph 24

The key issues mentioned for agriculture, particularly in developing countries, included:

- Addressing land tenure and rights issues, including those related to women and indigenous people.

Paragraph 27

To achieve sustainable agricultural growth, changes are needed for:

- Applying integrative approaches, since agriculture, water, energy, land, biodiversity and other factors are closely linked.

REPORTS OF THE ROUNDTABLES

Roundtable 1

“Mobilizing resources to support Millennium development goals and Summit priorities”

Paragraph 8

Sustainable development initiatives should take into account the specific social and economic conditions and cultural identities of indigenous people. Many stressed that programmes should be implemented on the basis of consultations with local communities, including women, youth and indigenous people. Recognition of land rights and the right of self-determination, and a right-based approach to addressing poverty that would contribute to improving policies at the national level, are essential for strengthening local and indigenous communities.

“Promoting cooperation in the five priority areas of water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity”

Paragraph 13

The need for affordable and accessible water and sanitation projects was highlighted. On biodiversity, it was stressed that special ecological networks were needed and that options for balancing biodiversity and energy needs should be developed. Sustainable development concerns agriculture producers directly, and several participants noted that destruction of agricultural lands in areas of conflict has caused production to drop because of wasted water resources. Support was expressed for activities on water access, access to renewable energy and assistance in resource-efficient energy consumption. Several participants called for urgent, equitable and fair solutions to agricultural subsidies. Others noted that unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed.

Bringing scientific knowledge to bear on decision-making and ensuring affordable access to critical technology and scientific knowledge.

“Recommendations from participants”

Paragraph 15

Recommendations included the following:

- Fulfil official development assistance commitments and facilitate foreign direct investment flows to developing countries. Official development assistance should particularly target the least developed countries that have limited access to foreign direct investment
- Develop financially viable projects and access to credits, regional and global cooperation, peace and security, capacity-building and economic stability
- Create markets for environmental services with strong support from the private sector
- Increase Global Environment Facility funding and make procedures simpler and more transparent
- Ratify the Kyoto Protocol so that it can enter into force as soon as possible
- Recognize the right to self-determination and **land rights of indigenous communities**.

Roundtable 4

“Recommendation from participants”

Paragraph 27

The summary prepared by the Chairman, an advance version of which was circulated in an informal paper, read as follows:

“Leading to renewed and stronger commitment to global solidarity”

“5. The recognition that business and should be part of the solution is a positive outcome of the Summit, as was discussed in detail by a number of participants. Some shortcomings of non-governmental organizations, such as difficulty in obtaining long-term funding, were noted. Regarding forestry, for example, the private sector can more effectively address reforestation by working with small farmers, and through **land and forest stewardship**, providing incentives for conservation. Companies are potential partners not just for funding but also as means for implementing environmental projects.

“Promoting cooperation in the five priority areas of water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity”

“17. Several participants noted that the draft plan of implementation contains a number of agricultural and sustainable development provisions that can inject dynamism into future action. The capacities of farm organizations should be built at the national level, and poverty in rural areas must be addressed in part through **land ownership** and water resources. Aid organizations working with farmer organizations through farmer-to-farmer exchanges have a greater potential to spread financial and technical assistance.

Excerpt from the Global People's Forum

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

A Sustainable World is Possible

Relevant paragraphs on Access to Land

Land

1. Governments, relevant United Nations (UN) agencies and international bodies (including the World Court) must commit themselves to ensure access to land for all landless peoples, by prioritising and promoting access to land as the cornerstone of sustainable development.
2. There should be a review of all national and international instruments intended to ensure access to, and retention of, land by the indigenous people.
3. Governments should return land to dispossessed communities through new laws that are accessible to communities and do not hinder land restitution. Specific policies, programmes and projects with clear timeframes and budgets must be developed to address landlessness.
4. Customary and national land laws should be subjected to international human rights principles of equality, including gender equity. Government should accept land tenure rights and land-use decisions made by democratically elected village committees.
5. Governments and civil society should prioritise women's indigenous and disabled people's needs in relation to land ownership, usage and distribution.
6. Land should remain the property of citizens and only be used by foreign investors through equal partnership agreements with those citizens.
7. Civil Society should educate, mobilise and campaign for land redistribution (a) to ensure that all who want and need land have access to it by 2015; (b) to prevent governments from unscrupulously selling our natural resources; and (c) to build solidarity in defence of our natural heritage.