

Session on Cross Cutting Issues and Interlinkages

NGO Major Groups Statement by Rob Wheeler

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Citizens Network for Sustainable Development
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Thank you Mr. Chair and Excellencies,

Recognizing that this is the review year for the 2 year CSD cycle, I would suggest that we consider the extent to which efforts on Sustainable Consumption and Production to date are sufficient for achieving the goals and commitments contained in Agenda 21 & the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation; and that we then base the development of the 10 Year Framework of Programs on specific means of funding and implementation that are sufficient to achieve Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the Rio Conventions.

Funding to support sustainability planning, capacity building, and implementation have slipped in a number of ways over the last decade. Capacity 21 was a very successful program that supported national sustainability planning and dialogue in the developing world. It was to be replaced by Capacity 2015 after the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Unfortunately, it was never funded nor implemented. Similarly UNDP's Thematic Trust Funds for capacity building were never fully developed as intended nor sufficiently funded. ICLEI also intended and took the initial steps to develop several Local Agenda 21 programs to help the developing world. Again almost no funding was provided for programs to assist developing country communities, particularly for pilot programs in Africa.

An international support process and/or global partnership thus needs to be established to assist and ensure that all countries and regions can develop and implement Action Plans on Sustainable Consumption and Production and National and Local Sustainability Strategies that are sufficient to achieve all of the goals agreed on in Agenda 21, the JPOI, and other related international agreements.

Similarly, we would suggest that all countries and communities base their Local and National Strategies and their Action Plans for Sustainable Consumption and Production on a Commons Approach to Sustainable Development, thus protecting the common gifts of nature that belong to all of us collectively such as air, land, water, the electromagnetic spectrum, eco-systems, genetic resources, bio-diversity, etc. The Commons Action Network for the United Nations requests that a Panel of Experts be created within the UN Secretariat, to explore with experts on the commons, how a commons approach

can be incorporated into local, national, and global strategies for sustainable development.

Finally, we would suggest that National and Regional Action Plans on Sustainable Consumption and Production should be coupled and integrated with country participation in the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development; development and implementation of Local and National Strategies for Sustainability; the Rio Conventions; and all other international agreements and treaties. This will enable all countries and regions to take advantage of synergies and to recognize and support the inter-dependencies of sustainable development in a comprehensive manner.