

ANNEX to 1 July, 2002 Letter to South Africa & Indonesia
RE: Trade Union Suggestions for Text Amendments or Inclusions To

IMPELEMENTATION DOCUMENT & POLITICAL DECLARATION
World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

1. Integrating the Social Dimension:

While a commitment to integration of the three pillars of sustainable development is already agreed to in Implementation Text, the actual means of implementation have yet to be incorporated, if poverty eradication, lack of access and stark inequalities are to be addressed.

We therefore recommend that the Implementation text be revised to:

▪ **Assign roles to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation** Assign these entities institutional responsibility to oversee implementation of the Social Pillar. Unlike the economic and environmental pillars, the social pillar is not yet institutionally linked, in some way.

We recommend that the Implementation text be altered to create this institutional link by adopting paragraph (85d), which recognizes the World Commission, or alternatively, by including reference to it within (45.alt). In addition, adopt (9b) and (122g) to formally recognize the role of the International Labour Organisation in sustainable development.

▪ **Encourage more cooperation between the ILO, UNEP, WHO, & the GEF** (Global Environment Facility). Substantial integration of the three pillars of sustainable development requires greater cooperation amongst all intergovernmental bodies. *(122g) must therefore be supported.* Given the nature of the ‘poverty/health/environment’ triad, and the need for strategic cross-sectoral planning combined with financial backing, the ILO, UNEP, WHO and GEF should be called upon to cooperate in joint approaches to foster integration into the WSSD implementation plans.

We recommend that such a forum for cooperation could be created through text already adopted for ECOSOC (126a), and integrated into (122c) and (78c) or (78c.bis). We therefore recommend that (122e) and (139b) paragraphs relating to the GEF be amended to include references to the social dimension of sustainable development.

▪ **Support Sustainability Impact Assessments:** Support development of assessment processes with broad stakeholder participation, and encourage the full incorporation of social impacts into financial and economic instruments to ensure adequate assessment of the social dimension.

We recommend adoption of (119).

▪ **Promote Development of Social Indicators** and integrate these fully with environmental and economic indicators. Promote the uses of such indicators within national reporting schemes, for national, stakeholder and peer reviews of progress.

We recommend adoption of (116.bis).

▪ **Promote Research & Development** to provide for a better understanding of the social impacts of changes toward sustainable development and to inform and enable the planning and implementation of a ‘just transition’.

We recommend integration of social impacts and ‘just transition’ into (75.bis) and (98.alt).

We therefore recommend that (122e) and (139b) be amended to include references to the social dimension of sustainable development.

*We furthermore recommend that **the Political Declaration** contain the following wording:*

“We set these agreements in the context of an integrated approach to ecosystems management to encourage greater international coherence. As to the social dimension of sustainable development, we call on all governments to ratify and fully implement currently agreed international Instruments, which address issues of social inequalities, poverty, and lack of access to resources, services and employment, in particular those adopted by the International Labour Organisation and by other intergovernmental bodies. We also commit to working with the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation to implement the social dimensions of WSSD outcomes”.

2. Recognizing the Centrality of Employment to Sustainable Development

At present, the Implementation text recognises employment and Decent Work as elements of sustainable development - a major achievement of the Prepcoms. However, efforts to eradicate poverty and promote equality and equal access will be undermined, unless employment is more clearly identified as a core principle for implementation programs

*We therefore recommend that **the Implementation text** be revised to:*

- **Fully integrate employment concerns into implementation strategies** and in particular, strategies that aim to eradicate poverty and social exclusion, and address the close link between poverty, environmental degradation and public or workplace health.

We recommend support for and strengthening of paragraphs (9b), (78.alt), (81c) (85d), which deal specifically with employment issues.

*We furthermore recommend that **the Political Declaration** contain the following wording:*

“We recognise the importance of work and employment as the basis for education and training for sustainable development and as the means for the masses of the world’s population to work their way out of poverty. In particular, we emphasise the need for dedicated efforts to provide decent employment for women, youth, unemployed people, the working poor and other vulnerable groups, and towards this end, commit ourselves to working with the ILO and other institutions to develop a Global Employment Strategy”

3. Building on Practical Links Between Production and Consumption

We agree with the principle uniting the CSD multistakeholder dialogue in 2000, that it makes little sense to propose changes to production without also addressing changes to consumption patterns, that they are linked to.

*We therefore recommend that **the Implementation text** be revised to:*

- **Recognise the need to employ a full range of consumer information tools** including those that maximise the potential for consumer education that exists in workplaces and with strategically-located workers.

We recommend the adoption of Section III, Paragraph (13e), which deals with consumer information tools.

We furthermore recommend that the Political Declaration contain the following wording:

“We recognize the central role workplaces must play in the implementation of measures to link production and consumption, and the importance of work-based partnerships premised on recognition of worker participation. We encourage workers, employers and their representative organizations to pursue joint approaches to implementing WSSD outcomes at the workplace level, and will work with the tripartite Governments, Employer and Worker constituencies of the ILO to implement the *Declaration on Fundamental Principles at Work*.”

4. Recognizing Worker Participation as a Key Element in Sustainable Development;

The full effect of Agenda 21, Chapter 23, which calls for participation in decision-making and access to information, must also apply fully to workers in the workplace settings, i.e workers’ involvement in workplace decisions and have access to workplace related information. Worker participation is key to implementing WSSD outcomes, but it requires a guarantee of fundamental rights at work, already recognized by the United Nations system, including: (a) the freedom of association, b) equality and access to employment and c) prohibition of forced and child labour. It is crucial, furthermore, that these fundamental rights be presented in wording and spirit which clearly convey the intention that they do not and must not constitute barriers to fair trade.

We therefore recommend that the Implementation text be revised to:

▪ **Encourage the full participation on workers and their organisations in workplace change**, which implies recognition of fundamental rights at work, and the need to make a clear distinction between them and any barriers to trade affecting the developing world.

We recommend adoption of (9b), (85d), and (122g), which refer to core labour standards, and (139), (146) and (151), which refer to participation of civil society and Major Groups.

We furthermore recommend that the Political Declaration contain the following wording:

“We will strive toward the implementation of the ILO *Declaration on Fundamental Rights at Work*, as a prerequisite to the full participation of workers and their organisations.”

5. Adopting Concrete Implementation Measures for Corporate Accountability

Trade unions join other stakeholders in highlighting the importance of corporate accountability, and are therefore pleased by references to the GRI in paragraph (17a). This wording must be supplemented, *as is suggested in paragraph (45m)* however, by references to other instruments and initiatives, such as the Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and ILO Conventions and Instruments governing multinational enterprises, and international agreements on human rights, environment and labour standards. Concrete implementation measures must also be promoted by the inclusion of new text on Export Credit Agencies.

We therefore recommend to revise the text as follows:

Include the above references, currently contained in paragraph (45m) and to include new text in (45i) to deal with Export Credits: “We will ensure that export credits and credit agencies

promote the full implementation of sustainable development measures, through effective and participatory social and environmental sustainability assessment impact analyses.”

6. Strengthening The Roles Of Government

We believe that the role of government must not be undermined by current trends toward public-private partnerships, and are therefore pleased by agreement on (19b), which emphasises the role of the public sector. However, the role of the State, with particular reference to such core functions as standard-setting, enforcement, and provision of public services must be further supported and strengthened, emphasising the role of local authorities.

*We therefore recommend that the **Implementation text** be revised to:*

- **Ensure that the key role of government and the public sector is recognised** in both WSSD outcomes and subsequent implementation measures.

We recommend the adoption of paragraphs (146) and revisions to (19u), and (19.walt), to include references to public-public partnerships. We also recommend that Article 25 on integrated water management, and specifically (25g) be revised to (a) promote ‘public-public’ partnerships, and (b) include standards to guide approval of public-private partnerships in this area.

*We furthermore recommend that the **Political Declaration** contain the following wording:*

“Governments and international bodies alone cannot achieve sustainable development. They need active support and participation by stakeholders at all levels. The Johannesburg Summit therefore welcomes the full range of new partnership initiatives in which stakeholders are engaged to promote sustainability in a variety of ways. To encourage even more in this activity, we are committed to the full involvement of all stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of regional, national, and local sustainable development strategies. We agree, however, that all such initiatives must complement the role of the State in its historical functions to provide leadership and ensure enforcement of standards and provision of essential functions and services”.

7. Specific Considerations:

In addition to the above, Trade Unions and other Major Groups wish to see amendments in the following priority areas:

- **Oceans and Seas:** We recommend that a reference to Flags of Convenience be added to the end of current paragraph (33a), to read as follows: “...which give full and complete effect to UNCLOS, especially Article 91 (Nationality of ships) as well as the provisions of other relevant conventions.”
- **Environment:** We recommend that direct reference to *the precautionary principle* be included in appropriate paragraphs, such as (14e) which refers to “*consumer information tools to provide information relating to sustainable consumption and production, including human health and safety aspects.*”
- **Agriculture:** Text referring to trade in agricultural products must recognise the approximately 1.3 billion people who work in agricultural production, particularly the 450 million waged agricultural workers for whom conditions of work and community life are

becoming more insecure, dangerous and unsustainable, as the world's food and agricultural industry is increasingly dominated by a few large multinational corporations. In referring to 'commitments made in the Doha Declaration' (83e), for example, *we recommend that reference to "improving the working and living conditions for agricultural workers" be added to the passage that reads, "... while agreeing that the provisions for special and differential treatment for developing countries, shall be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations and confirm that non-trade concerns will be taken into account."*

- **Energy & Transport:** The Implementation text must recognise workplaces as major users and producers of energy, and the focus of much of the transport within and between countries and urban centres. *Appropriate reference should therefore be made in paragraph 19 to the role that workers can play in promoting energy efficiency and reducing usage, by adding reference to "joint workplace approaches to energy efficiency and conservation," including "cooperative efforts with employers, local authorities, and community groups to reduce the use of private passenger cars and other urban transportation problems, and promote the benefits of alternate modes of transportation and inter-modal networks."* As well, *Article 20 should be revised to include reference to "joint workplace and community approaches to rationalising travel to and from work, and the transport of goods involving the workplace."*

- **Forestry:** Paragraph 43 on Sustainable Forestry should be strengthened by *including text on "worker involvement in integrated forest management."* Such programmes as forest certification, for example, employs market-based strategies to promote sustainable forest management, which protects workers jobs at the same time as it bring sustainable practices to a key element of our natural environment. Given the dangerous and unhealthy conditions of work in the forest industry, we recommend that Implementation text be revised to *include reference to "adequate protection for forestry workers, based on ILO Core Labour Standards and the ILO Code of Practice on Safety & Health in Forestry Work"*.