



GREENPEACE



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Show your concern about the UN Reform, and help strengthen the authority on sustainable development and the position of civil society within the UN.

Sign on and give this initiative and 'We, the peoples' added strength

The UN is in the middle of an important reform process. A body of eminent persons headed by three Primer Ministers has been established by the UN Secretary General to work on the primary concerns of such a reform. The 'Panel on System Wide Coherence' is in the final stages of formulating their report. Civil Society has had limited access to the panel, but a hearing between civil society and the panel was recently held in Geneva. Greenpeace International, ANPED and WWF International produced and presented a paper to the panel, a paper which should be supported by as many NGOs as possible. The paper has been presented to the panel, but will be reintroduced at a later stage to the UN when the UN General Assembly will discuss the Panel's report. At that stage such a paper has a much stronger impact if a large number of individual NGOs sign on to the paper, preferably with their logo.

The paper identifies some key inter-related development and environmental issues that need to be addressed during the reform of environmental and development governance and programmes through the UN system. It represents thoughts from WWF International, Greenpeace International and ANPED (the Northern Alliance for Sustainability) and has also the support of IIED and WEDO.

In common with the processes behind the Millennium Development Goals, this paper assumes that development needs to be equitable and sustainable and that protection of the earth's environment and the life-supporting services it provides will be a key, if not the key requirement for achieving development goals. It recognises that the world's poor are those most directly affected by and those most vulnerable to the degradation of their environment and that providing for the environmentally and socially sound sustainable use of their natural resource base is one of the most effective ways of protecting and assisting such communities.

In the introduction to the paper, we state:

"UN reform must be about strengthening multilateralism and improving both the quality of UN policy/norm making and its implementation so that real results can be achieved on the ground. It must seek to make a real difference for the world's poorest and most vulnerable peoples. It must be about making the UN more effective in reaching its Charter aim of being 'a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations' in the attainment of 'international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character'. Anything less would lack legitimacy and effect.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) put the UN on track with clear benchmarks for making progress on the world's greatest social and economic problems. However, today in 2006,

the MDG process is faltering and the current reform initiatives have done little to address the underlying problems that are restraining effective action to reach the Goals.

The reason why progress on meeting the MDGs is faltering is because the underlying roots of the problems that the Goals aim to address have, by and large, been neglected. Environmental sustainability is the one interconnecting requirement for achieving each of the other MDGs and affects all 'international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character'. Its neglect diminishes the likelihood that the other Goals will be reached as a deteriorating environment affects all human activity and causes new and emerging barriers to improving the human condition. None of the MDGs can be achieved unless new and significant efforts are made to improve global environmental conditions.

This paper aims to provide government representatives, UN professionals and other stakeholders with key information on how to address the challenges faced in UN reform, and in particular the UN General Assembly's informal consultations on international environmental governance and the Secretary-General's High Level Panel on System Wide Coherence. This paper examines three areas of UN reform that relate to the environment."

We strongly urge you to read this paper, and sign on, to give it the strength it deserves as a document that speaks in general terms for the NGOs.

We need the confirmation of support from your organisation the sooner the better, but no later than September 1st. Please send your letter of support to signon@anped.org

ANPED
Greenpeace International
WWF International