

## **Keynote Speech at the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of CCICED Phase III**

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Thank you very much indeed. Thank you for your introductory remarks.

Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Minister, good friends. I am extremely happy to add some arguments, some considerations to the discussions this morning concerning the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). All of us were convinced that the main difference between the Rio Summit, which I had the opportunity to attend as the head of my national delegation, and the Summit in Johannesburg was that the latter was concentrated on implementation. There was no need to reinforce will. Each and everybody was and is convinced that Agenda 21, the Rio Conventions, the Rio Principles, and the Rio Declaration are valid, but what was and is missing is implementation.

I asked myself whether there is a Chinese proverb to express this and I found one saying: it is not the knowing that is difficult, but the doing. In learning from this wisdom, it cannot be very surprising that the Summit in Johannesburg was more difficult than the Rio Summit, because it was concentrating on “doing”. And we have to ask ourselves: what is the situation that we are facing today and how can we change it, where are the instruments, where are the means of implementation?

It was mentioned this morning by our friend Arthur Hanson that UNEP delivered its Third Global Environment Outlook (GEO 3) as a preparation for WSSD. For the first time ever, we added four future scenarios of the state of the environment. I believe it's very important to underline that market forces alone are not able to solve the problems, that they must be linked with the dedication of political decisions. There are some other interesting findings in this report. There are huge differences between the social and economical aspects. And therefore, we have to ask what are the main findings from Johannesburg. And the first one which was not underlined this morning is that

Johannesburg gave emphasis to the regional dimension of sustainable development. This, no doubt, is a result of the liberalization of political blocks which we have seen emerging on the global level since the fall of the Iron Curtain.

To illustrate the importance of the economical aspects of sustainable development and their connection to the regional dimension, I would like to show you some figures that were produced by our partner GRID Geneva. What you can see on the screen now is how the world is shaped according to the gross domestic product (GDP). Africa is almost disappearing. You can see the different sizes of South America, of China and India. The next graph shows the globe according to the world population under 15 years of age and you can see how the situation reverses. I hope this gives you a feeling of what was the starting point at Johannesburg. The discrepancy between GDP and world population indicates the enormous security and development problems that we are facing in our world today.

Another compelling example for the current problems of sustainable development is the one of Lake Chad which you can see in the next slide. In 1963 Lake Chad was a very broad lake, and only 40 years later, there is only a fraction of it left. Around Lake Chad, there are important countries such as Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon. We have seen exactly the same situation in the Aral Sea. The question of what is happening there has something to do with sustainable development, and I gave this only as one example to concretize the question of water.

There are other examples. These were the Mesopotamian Marshlands in 1976. The Marshlands are home to the Marsh Arabs and very important for biodiversity. Today, there is only a little bit left on the border between the Republic of Iran and Iraq. The rest of the Marshlands have nearly disappeared with all the consequences for living conditions of humans and animals. And you will also see the implications of environment and security quite clearly. I only want to show you these slides from our GEO process to demonstrate that assessments are not an end in itself, but directly linked with policy-making.

Coming back to the policy-making, I underline the regional dimension. The question is how to

implement the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) process in connection with sustainable development. You may know that UNEP is very actively involved in the environmental component of NEPAD and we want to concentrate our next Governing Council on the regional dimension. However, we are working not only in Africa, but in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Arabic countries, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and in countries with economies in transition which will gather quite soon in Kiev for the "Environment for Europe" meeting. I believe that the regional dimension is a very important outcome for implementation at this stage.

The second Johannesburg outcome that I wish to underline is the Plan of Implementation and the new timetables and targets therein. Altogether 35 of these have been agreed upon. I will highlight some of those that are of high importance to China and for the development here. It was of course criticised that we did not succeed in attaching a concrete target to renewable energy. But we should see the language use there. And I quote that, with regard to energy *"With a sense of urgency, substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply, recognizing the role of national and voluntary regional targets as well as initiatives, where they exist, and ensuring that energy policies are supportive to developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty, and regularly evaluate available data to review progress to this end"* So we have a very clear signal that there must be something done with regard to renewables.

And therefore, I echo to the CGIAR proposal of Maurice Strong and can inform you that in the meantime UNEP has developed a similar system and network for renewable energy. We secured the backing for this from donor countries. I am happy that for example the World Bank, our friend Ian Johnson is with us here, is very closely linked with this initiative as well. And I believe we should do our utmost to integrate especially China. But what does renewables mean? You know that there was a major discussion with regard to the perspective of hydro-power in China.

I will give you the relevant Johannesburg targets with regard to the Chemical Agenda. You know that we have finalized the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent on the specific chemical substances to be exported to the developing countries, the so-called Rotterdam Convention. We

sincerely hope that this convention can be ratified in 2003. We finalized the Stockholm Convention – the POPs. It was also decided in Johannesburg to ratify this Convention until the year 2004. It was decided to develop a strategic approach to the international chemical management by 2005. I learned this morning that we are going more and more out of the persistent organic pollutants to the persistent inorganic pollutants, especially heavy metals. Heavy metals such as mercury, lead and others have a lot of repercussions especially for China. And we have to harmonize our system of labeling and classification of chemicals and make it operational by 2008. I underline this especially because labeling has a lot to do with trade. And there is a corresponding paragraph in the WTO Doha Declaration which mentions eco-labeling. If you can handle this in a way that the global trade system is integrated, we will achieve a lot.

I would like to mention three additional topics: One has been discussed very intensively this morning, consumption and production patterns. I would add that the main challenge will be linked to consumption patterns and the transfer of technologies. In market economies, technological progress is made when bottlenecks have to be overcome, and these bottlenecks are generally linked with prices. There are at least three dimensions to this issue. First, quite a lot of people believe that to change consumption patterns means to consume less. Especially the NGO family has drawn attention to the fact that there is over-consumption, and have raised the question of existing consumer values. I would dare to say let's ask for environmentally friendly consumption rather than to ask for a change of over-consumption. It's a very tricky topic. Second, rather than fighting for less consumption, we should promote eco-labeling to have more informed consumers. The third is very important for developing countries: what are the consequences of change of consumption patterns in the developed countries for the supply chain of products coming from the developing countries? I believe that this is very important, and this was one of the main discussion points in Johannesburg.

The second new emerging topic that was not mentioned this morning, but that in my point of view is extremely important for China and other developing countries, is the question of access and benefit sharing of genetic resources and indigenous knowledge. You know that it is integrated in the Convention on Biological Diversity Article 8(j) and Article 15 and the following. This is about how

it is possible for developing countries to make their biodiversity instrumental for their development agenda.

Until now, as you know, genetic resources, and biodiversity are a global public good. They have no price, they are not covered by the trade related intellectual property rights. The question will be: will we need something like trade related genetically property rights, and property rights on indigenous knowledge? China is one of the founding members of the new Group of Like-minded Megabiodiverse Countries. Right now, Mexico is the chair and next year India will be chairing the group. China is one of the main partners, and I believe that you must be aware of this topic. It is integrated in the Plan of Implementation. Now we have what we call the Bonn Guidelines on the Access and Benefit Sharing on Genetic Resources, but quite a lot of people are convinced that this is not strong enough, that we need more legally binding instruments.

I want to add the more and more important topic of cultural diversity and ethics. You may know that UNEP and UNESCO held a Roundtable in Johannesburg, promoted by the French President Chirac who gave the introductory speech. The Roundtable focused on the interrelation between globalization and diversity, especially cultural diversity, indigenous knowledge, and the knowledge of traditional medicine as an asset for developing countries. This is again very closely related to trade. And there are a lot of additional consequences for jobs and for development chances in developing countries. In the first instance, this may give the impression of a soft topic. But I would dare to say that it is far from marginal, quite in the contrary.

I would also like to mention new findings on air pollution that were also mentioned this morning. We have the change from the point-linked air pollution to diffuse pollution. You know that UNEP together with outstanding scientists, Nobel Prize Laureates such as Prof. Crutzen, Prof. Ramanathan, Prof. Molina and others were discussing the effects of particulates, aerosols, and the question of soot. These topics were also studied very carefully with Chinese scientists and NASA. We have to ask ourselves what is going on in this field, what do we have to do especially in the urbanization process in developing countries?

Altogether, this brings me to the conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation is quite a good working basis. There are a lot of very concrete requests, and we should stimulate the governments to implement these. My main concern is that we have lots of partnerships. I like the partnerships integrating private business, non-governmental organizations, knowing that to join in partnerships has also something to do with accountability. It was one of the main requests from non-governmental organizations to the private business to increase accountability. But we need a monitoring system for these partnerships, we need a reporting of this monitoring system so as to evaluate the compliance of the commitments made. Can we do the same with these targets we have here? This is indeed a huge request also to the UN system.

Some people have proposed the creation of a World Environment Organisation as an answer. We must be aware of how we have reacted institutionally to different environment problems in the past. We decided to have specific instruments as an answer. We call them the conventions and protocols. They are legally binding, they are ratified by parliaments, and they are independent. Is it in our interest to integrate those multilateral environmental agreements in a World Environment Organization? Or can we come to something like a holding? Maurice Strong mentioned this morning that this is not a topic of coordination but of integration. How can we integrate to implement the outcomes of the World Summit of Sustainable Development? Can we implement this through a World Environment Organization? UNEP is turning 30 years this year. This organization was the result of an environmental summit which took place in 1972 in Stockholm - the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. In fighting for the environmental part of sustainable development we have to develop UNEP as the institution responsible for the environment, but we have to develop it in the new century. Sustainable development must be an integrated policy. As each and everybody knows this is a very demanding task. Otherwise, we cannot achieve monitoring and assessment of emerging issues.

We cannot only be happy with the results of Johannesburg. We have not tackled all needs, but we are on an honest path and as I mentioned in the very beginning, now, it is most important to act. And therefore, let's try in this Council, where I am honoured to serve the second term, to do what is necessary for this big country, and to tackle very concrete topics such as the yellow sand storms and

all those other new challenges we have been discussing here today. We have a lot to do!

Thank you very much.

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