

## — PARIS CONFERENCE UPDATE —

# Global NGO Document for 1992

From the 17-20 of December, in Paris, there will be a Global NGO conference to prepare for UNCED. This conference is being organised by the International NGO Steering Committee initiated by the Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCI) with funding from the French government (see Network issues 6,7,8, and 9). The International NGO Steering Committee has already held a series of roundtable discussions and drafting sessions to prepare the

Global NGO document for 1992 (formerly called the "Brazil Document" or "Our Agenda") The document will now consist of three interlinked documents, each divided into several parts.

What follows is information sent to us by ELCI describing the composition and purpose of each of the sub-documents. ED.

An international team of drafters and special contributors are preparing three

documents for the Conference in Paris:

- a compendium of NGO actions and opinions on environment and development issues;
- a synthesis of the essential character of the NGO approach to UNCED; and
- a people's action plan outlining the NGO strategy for sustainable development in the 1990s and beyond.

### ROOTS FOR THE FUTURE (Doc. 1)

Compendium of People's Organisations' Responses to Environment and Development Challenges

#### 1. OUR DIVERSITY IS OUR RICHNESS

The first part of the compendium will trace the emergence of a powerful new common vision from among diverse independent social movements, NGOs, networks, associations and alliances and provide an historical overview of the emergence of newly defined constituencies and new ways of working together.

This part will be written on the basis of the charters, manifestos, declarations, position papers, meetings reports, and activity plans of interested existing and newly created movements dramatizing the richness and strength of our diversity.

It will be divided into four parts: A) ECE region including Europe, North America and the Soviet Union with an additional special chapter on Eastern and Central Europe, B) Africa, C) Asia and D) Latin America.

#### 2. CONSULTATIONS ON PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The second part of the document will contain the reports of many regional and national consultations and some twenty national consultations will be covered.

The reports deal with a wide range of views from a wide range of different perspectives and constituencies represented in the consultations.

#### 3. PEOPLE'S ORGANISATIONS' POSITIONS ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The purpose of the third part of the Compendium is to present an overview of the various approaches to specific issues on — and not on — the official UNCED agenda.

This part will begin with an introduction tracing some of the successes and failures of previous UN initiatives such as the NIEO, Law of the Sea, Decade of Women, International Youth Year, commodity conventions, The Children's Summit, and disarmament conferences.

The remainder of this part will be devoted to a number of issues identified by people's organisations as priorities. In each case there will be a brief mention of the problem/issue; the current state of official negotiations; the position(s) of NGOs on the issues; strategies for NGOs to implement their positions in the real world — at the community and national levels; and strategies for the individual to influence policy and changes in lifestyles.

Emphasis will be placed on the following three sets of issues:

- **People Defined Issues:** Indigenous Peoples, Basic needs, Shifts in Lifestyles, Women and Environment and Development
- **Cross-Sectoral Issues, Money and Institutions:** Poverty and Affluence, Environment and Trade, Transfer of Financial Resources, Institutional Mechanisms after UNCED
- **Technological and Environmental Issues:** Climate Change, Biodiversity, Biotechnology, Forestry, Transfer of Technology

### JUSTICE BETWEEN PEOPLES JUSTICE BETWEEN GENERATIONS (Doc. 2)

Synthesis of People's Organisations' Responses to Environment and Development Challenges

#### 1. HUMAN SOLIDARITY - THE MOTHER OF ALL TRANSFORMATIONS

The first part of the synthesis will attempt to draw some conclusions about the essence of the NGO approach, its alternative character, its shortcomings; inherent contradictions (if any) and show how the roots for a better future can be built. There will be two sections: the Southern Perspective and the Northern Perspective.

#### 2. PEOPLE'S VOICES

Based on the reports of the national and regional consultations, this part of the synthesis will emphasize how people themselves are defining the concept of participation, from the local level upwards, highlighting cases of communities regaining control over their own resources and determining the fates of their own environment and development.

#### 3. IS ANYONE LISTENING?

This part will be an executive summary of the NGO positions listed in the compendium and based solidly on that foundation, but also making the first attempt to suggest that the overall picture of the alternative approach presents a serious challenge to governments and citizens to rethink and reorganise our relationships with nature and each other.

### PEOPLE'S ACTION PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (Doc. 3)

This will be the document subject to debate and adoption by more than 800 NGO representatives meeting in Paris in December 1991.

The action plan will be written completely on the basis of the compendium and synthesis above taking its roots from the movements themselves and focusing on what people and people's organisations can do and are surely going to do instead of only emphasizing what governments ought to do. Like the other documents, the central theme will be active citizen involvement in environmentally sound development.

Organisations and individuals wishing to contribute material to the compendium should address themselves to the international drafting committee care of the address below.

All three documents — the compendium, the synthesis and the action plan — will be updated after the Paris Conference, so that many more organisations will have the opportunity contribute to their content and development and so that results can be made available to a wider audience of groups preparing for the UNCED in Rio in 1992.

**CONTACT:** EDRC, 26 Blvd. Louis Schmidlaan, 1040 Brussels, Belgium. Tel. 32-2 7268050, Fax. 32-2 7358895, E-mail geo2:edrc, gn:edrc.