

Earth Dialogues Barcelona

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Theme Three
“Moving Johannesburg Forward”
Synthesis of Working Groups I, II, and III

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**1. SUBSTANTIVE MEASURES AND STRATEGIES NEEDED FOR
ELEVATING THE NEW CHALLENGES ON THE POLITICAL AGENDA**

Develop Targets and Timetables:

More emphasis must be placed on the development of concrete time-bound targets.

Create New and Innovative Financial Instruments:

New and innovative financial instruments are needed to realise the Millennium Development Goals. Complete realisation of the poverty reduction goals will require innovative approaches such as the reversal of the corporate tax reduction trend of the last ten years.

Reduce the Northern Ecological Footprint:

The North must reduce its unsustainable energy consumption and related ecological footprints through increased energy efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy sources.

Strengthen UNEP:

UNEP must be strengthened to ensure a stronger voice for the environment in the United Nations system, but also to better withstand WTO challenges. Multilateral environmental agreements must not be subordinated to global trade rules.

Guarantee Corporate Accountability:

A legally binding framework for corporate accountability and responsibility is needed to regulate the activities of the private sector; however fiscal incentives also play an important role in catalyzing change in corporate policies and practices.

Enhance Monitoring and Assessment:

Concrete measures are needed to enhance the monitoring and assessment of implementation efforts. Scientific capacity in terms of risk assessment must be strengthened in this regard. New and improved observation systems are critical.

Ensure Education for Sustainability:

Education for sustainability must be improved at all levels and within formal and informal systems. Considerably greater financial investments are needed in this regard.

Strengthen Multilateralism:

Multilateral processes must be strengthened, both in terms of the good governance challenges, and in terms of generating increased political will to respect the multilateral imperative. Existing institutions must be strengthened but at the same time new institutions are needed.

Ensure the Judicious Instrument Mix:

A judicious mix of both incentive and sanction-based instruments is necessary, however it is important to avoid over-using the threat of fear to generate action on the part of government and/or private sector actors. Economic incentives are needed to address the lack of implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

Use a Broad Range of Approaches:

The mobilization of political will requires a wide range of strategies including: realistic approaches; consideration of the linkages between environment and development; greater consideration of the opportunities and risks that have arisen in the past two years; optimization of knowledge-based resources; development of genuinely global responses; creativity and vision.

2. SUBSTANTIVE MEASURES AND STRATEGIES FOR ELEVATING THE ETHICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE NEW SUSTAINABILITY AND SECURITY CHALLENGES

The Moral Crisis:

The environmental crisis is fundamentally a moral crisis. Political leaders continue to display a systematic lack of moral leadership and willingness to take decisions on the tough issues. Political processes must be guided by a set of fundamental values and ethical principles to ensure the underlying root causes are addressed and redressed.

Use the Force of Advertising for Positive Ends:

The negative impact that the advertising sector has had in promoting unsustainable consumption must be addressed. The force of the advertising sector must be channeled to mobilize and convey public interest and awareness.

Bridge the Rhetoric Gap:

The gap between lofty political commitments and concrete action on the ground must be closed for once and for all. Bridging the rhetoric gap will only be possible against a backdrop of common ideals that are grounded in a strengthened sense of universal responsibility and global interdependence.

Promote Bottom-up Decision-Making:

Decision-making that imposes the will of the dominant ruling classes must be reformed to ensure that the voices of the poor, the dispossessed and marginalized are addressed and integrated into formal decision-making processes.

Promote Security of Development:

We need security of development, not the development of security. Among other things, security of development requires the systematic investment in women as the key agents of change at all levels. Promotion of the inherent dignity of all humans, together with the protection of human rights, equality, equity and social justice must be recognized, respected and guaranteed as the fundamental values that underlie free and democratic societies.