

UCSD News Bulletin January 2007

Monthly news Bulletin from the secretariat of Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD)

Rio and beyond...

Neglected commitments, neglected promises exposed at the World Social Forum, January 20 -25, 2007 in Nairobi

The Sustainability Watch (SusWatch) Network was active at the Jan 20 - 25, 2007 World Social Forum in Nairobi. Along with its planning and evaluation meetings involving network representatives from Africa, Asia and Latin America, a side event was organized. The dialogue held January 23, 2007 in Moi Sports Centre - Kasarani, IN - 2 Upper on the theme: *Neglected Commitments, Neglected Hopes for another World - A Civil Society Assessment on Implementation Barriers to Sustainable Development in Asia, Africa and Latin America* based on a compilation of individual reports from 17 participating countries. The discussion was exemplified by a public dialogue on *public participation in Transboundary shared water resources within a market economy - Challenges, opportunities and lessons for Lake Victoria*. Happy James Tumwebaze (SusWatch International Secretariat and Bency outlined the findings from the 17 Southern Countries that included the market oriented economic development framework as one of the barriers to sustainable development.

The event was attended by Ms Connie Ouma from the Embassy of Sweden / Lake Victoria Initiative - Nairobi and Mr. Sekou Tourre, Director Regional Office for Africa - UNEP. In her opening remarks reiterated the need for CSOs to build synergies and actions amongst themselves and with other actors to secure realization of sustainable development commitment especially within the Lake Victoria basin where Sweden has a 20-year commitment (as part of the Johannesburg Summit outcomes) to the East African Community.

The dialogue drew contributions from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sweden, and Bangladesh among others. Mr. Samson Maina Watene, underscoring the potential pitfalls of neoliberal policies if they unravel unchecked, shared a case study of the diminishing rights of communities around Lake Naivasha in Kenya. Mr. Sekou Toure acknowledged work of SusWatch and noted that CSOs need to keep a close eye on the on going UN reform to secure that the final outcome meets their interests and aspirations.

Initial PSC meeting for the East African Civil Society Watchdog Project held in Kampala

The initial Project Steering Committee (PSC) of the *East African Civil Society Watchdog project for Sustainable Development in the Lake Victoria basin*, 5 - 6 January 2007 in Kampala attended by all the 7 members. The intervention is a result of on going cooperation between UCSD, KOEE and TCSD who have been working as SusWatch networks in East Africa with support from the Danish 92 group (2005 to date). Support for the *East African Civil Society Watchdog project for Sustainable Development in the Lake Victoria basin* is from Sida / Lake Victoria Initiative

The meeting went through the project plans and targets, reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding bringing the 3 networks together, and made decision related to project operations, as well as planning for participation in the World Social Forum in Nairobi, January 20- 25, 2007. It also elected Mr. Silvani Mng'anya (TCSD) as the Chairman of the PSC for one year while Frank Msafiri was elected as alternate chair. The next meeting will be held April 2007 in Dar es Salaam. *More information about the East African Civil Society Watchdog project can be got from the Regional Facilitator c/o UCSD*

Resources

MDGs: Misunderstood Targets? (UNDP International Poverty center, January 2007). This International Poverty Centre's "one pager" underlines that, although the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are global targets that can be adapted at the country level, the quantitative targets were set based on global trends and not on the basis of historical trends for a specific region or country. Available online as PDF at: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager28.pdf>.

The Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) in 2007

In 2007, GCAP national coalitions will unite again under the White Band symbol. Throughout the year, GCAP will be out in force and on the streets demanding action on extreme poverty and inequality. On October 17 2007, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, we will come together for a day of global action Global White Band Day 2007. A GCAP Poverty Requiem will also be performed. Other key GCAP mobilisation moments in 2007 include: *8 March*: International Women's Day - led by the GCAP Feminist Task Force a day of mobilisation around gender equality will take place on international women's day; *2 June*: GCAP G8 actions will be sending the 'voices' of civil society and the poor to G8 leaders to demand that they are held accountable for their part in ending poverty. A massive 'Voices against Poverty' global petition will be presented; and *07/07/07*: Marking the mid-point of the MDGs, GCAP national coalitions will be evaluating their government's progress on meeting the MDGs. For more information, please visit www.whiteband.org