

Side Event Summary

How can we operationalise the green economy through the 10 year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption & production & Rio 2012 Earth Summit?

13.15-14.45 on 3rd March 2011, United Nations, New York, North Lawn Building, Room E

Sue Riddlestone and **Jan-Gustav Strandanaes** welcomed delegates and speakers. Sue then spoke about how the one planet living implementation approach and framework had developed out of BioRegional's work to introduce real-life truly sustainable communities, regions, businesses, products and production systems. BioRegional's experience from these real-life projects is that we can all live happy, healthy lives within our fair share of the world's resources and it can be cost effective. The approach is based on sustainable ecological and carbon footprint and a framework of ten principles which address all three pillars of sustainability. Implementation follows a process where firstly, citizens or organisational needs and impacts are considered, together with availability of sustainable resources, for example for renewable energy generation. Then an action plan to achieve one planet living is created and implemented. This is reported on and results and lessons shared. This approach is being used in 51 countries and has been put forward for the 10YFP and Rio 2012.

Philippe Ramet gave a summary of Grenelle de L'Environnement. It was an unprecedented democratic process of dialogue involving civil society with 19 regional meetings with 17,000 participants and eight internet forums with 11,000 contributions. The government acted as a facilitator for the process. Two Legislative Acts were created, Grenelle 1 and Grenelle 2; which is the largest enriched text ever voted by the French Parliament with 248 commitments adopted. The Acts concerned the implementation of a fair and green economy with six major issues addressed, building energy and town planning, eco-friendly transport, reduced energy consumption, biodiversity, waste and ecological governance. Philippe emphasised the importance of working across ministries, including Finance, and planning a green administration. The National Committee of Sustainable Development and Grenelle of the Environment was established to follow the implementation of Grenelle. A committee based on this approach is now engaging French citizens in Rio 2012.

Pati Poblete presented the work of Global Footprint Network (GFN) at national, sub-national and city levels to advance resource accounting tools that can help guide leaders toward decisions that will lead to a sustainable future – where human activity can stay within the means of one planet. Pati included several case studies from the 35 countries where GFN work, including UAE, Ecuador,

Speakers:

Jan-Gustav Strandanaes, Senior Policy Advisor, ANPED (chair)

www.anped.org

Sue Riddlestone, Executive Director, BioRegional

Using the One Planet Living Framework to implement sustainability (10YFP SCP Programme 33) www.bioregional.com

Philippe Ramet, French Government, Chef du Bureau, Ministry of Ecology, Energy and sustainable development

Lessons from the French Grenelle process

www.legrenelle-environnement.fr

Pati Poblete, Director World Outreach, Global Footprint Network

www.footprintnetwork.org

Ecological Footprint and its use by governments around the world

There is an opportunity through the 10YFP on SCP and UNCSD in Rio2012 to galvanise activity of member states and civil society towards actually achieving sustainability. This side event featured short case studies of successful operational approaches to SCP, which create a green economy at different levels of society.

Ontario, the city of Calgary, Indonesia and Japan. The approach is exemplified by the new eco-cities and renewable energy industries and policies which have been created in UAE in response to footprint. Ecuador was the first country to set a target to live within a sustainable ecological footprint by 2013. The Yasuni-ITT initiative is a landmark proposal where oil fields in the Amazon basin which had not led to greater prosperity for Ecuadorians are now being left intact in return for a compensation trust. <http://www.liveyasuni.org/>

Jan-Gustav Strandanaes then chaired a discussion

Charlie Arden-Clarke, UNEP, emphasised that the 10YFP will not 'in itself do things' but rather will 'support civil society to do things' helping organisations to link to governments and ministries. Charlie described 'a clearing house' that is being developed as a central element of this support. He said that 'governments want practical and simple projects' like this which show the difference that is being made in environmental and social sectors. Charlie asked was it difficult for the large home improvement retailer B&Q to commit to one planet living. Sue said that it is about finding decision makers who support sustainability not only with their head but with their heart. For B&Q it is a rational decision to future proof their business and gain first mover advantage in products and services of the future, an approach which is already paying dividends.

Chantal-line Carpentier, UN-DESA emphasised the support for the 10YFP in UN Plenary today. Chantal said that stakeholders need to be engaged when trying to operationalise any programmes. She also noted there is a need to 'fill the gaps' in implementation of initiatives.

Uchita de Zoysa from Sri Lanka asked the panel whether one planet living can lead to sufficiency in the UK, without reliance on imports from poor countries. Uchita also asked how can the world provide for the poor people to come up to one planet? Sue replied that this is the cornerstone of one planet living, we all of us live within our fair share and trade fairly. Projects show it is possible e.g. in UK and South Africa, it would be good to show in Sri Lanka. Pati said UNDP is using ecological footprint and Human Development Index as an indicator.

A delegate from Ethiopia asked if speakers work with indigenous peoples and use their knowledge. Sue said it is essential. Culture and Heritage is one of the ten principles. In UAE traditional building techniques were fused with modern to create a low carbon solution.

Mary Rose Kaczorowski from CITNet noted that there is strength in the holistic possibilities of such frameworks- from governments to business to consumers and the supply chain. Philippe replied that France will work in sectors such as sustainable tourism where they have already played a lead role and cross sectorally.

