Global Judges Symposium

The Johannesburg Principles on the Role of Law and Sustainable Development

We affirm our commitment to the pledge made by world leaders in the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Multilateralism is the Future
28. To achieve our goals of sustainable development, we need more effective, democratic and accountable international and multilateral institutions.

We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and international law as well as the strengthening of multilateralism. We support the leadership role of the United Nations as the most universal and representative organisation in the world, which is best placed to promote sustainable development.

29. We further commit ourselves to monitor progress at regular intervals towards the achievement of our sustainable development goals and objectives.

Making it Happen!
30. We commit ourselves to act together, united by a common determination to save our planet, promote human development and achieve universal prosperity and peace.

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ional environmental law aiming at sustainable development, the implementation of agreed international norms and policies, and the strengthening of the capacity of those engaged in promoting the implementation and enforcement of environmental law, are cornerstones of the UNEP Programme of Work in the field of Environmental Law, as reflected in the Nairobi Declaration adopted at the 19th session of the Governing Council in February 1997, and the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the UNEP Governing Council in February 2001 (Montevideo Programme III).

WE AGREE UPON THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD GUIDE THE JUDICIARY IN PROMOTING THE GOALS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF THE RULE OF LAW AND THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS:

1. A full commitment to contributing towards the realization of the goals of sustainable development, the judicial mandate to implement, develop and enforce the law, and to uphold the Rule of Law and the democratic process.

2. To realize the goals of the Millenium Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly which depend upon the implementation of national and international legal regimes that have been established for achieving the goals of sustainable development.

3. In the field of environmental law there is an urgent need for a concerted and sustained effort towards improved education, training and dissemination of information, including regional and sub-regional judicial colloquia, and

4. That collaboration among members of the Judiciary and others engaged in the judicial process within and across regions is essential to achieve a significant improvement in compliance with, implementation, development and enforcement of environmental law.

FOR THE REALIZATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES WE PROPOSE THAT THE PROGRAMME OF WORK SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

a) The improvement of the capacity of those involved in the process of promoting, implementing, developing and enforcing environmental law, such as judges, prosecutors, legislators and others, to carry out their functions on a well informed basis, equipped with the necessary skills, information and material,

b) The improvement in the level of public participation in environmental decision-making, access to justice for the settlement of environmental disputes and the defence and enforcement of environmental rights, and public access to relevant information,

c) The strengthening of sub-regional, regional and global collaboration for the mutual benefit of all peoples of the world and exchange of information among national Judicialities with a view to benefiting from each other's knowledge, experience and expertise,

d) The strengthening of environmental law education in schools and universities, including research and analysis as essential to realizing sustainable development,

e) The achievement of sustained improvement in compliance with and enforcement and development of environmental law,
f) The strengthening of the capacity of organizations and initiatives, including the media, which seek to enable the public to fully engage on a well-informed basis, in focusing attention on issues relating to environmental protection and sustainable development,

g) An Ad Hoc Committee of Judges consisting of Judges representing geographical regions, legal systems and international courts and tribunals and headed by the Chief Justice of South Africa, should keep under review and publicize the emerging environmental jurisprudence and provide information thereon,

h) UNEP and its partner agencies, including civil society organizations, should provide support to the Ad Hoc Committee of Judges in accomplishing its task,

i) Governments of the developed countries and the donor community, including international financial institutions and foundations, should give priority to financing the implementation of the above principles and the programme of work,

j) The Executive Director of UNEP should continue to provide leadership within the framework of the Montevideo Programme III, to the development and implementation of the programme designed to improve the implementation, development and enforcement of environmental law including, within the applicable law of liability and compensation for environmental harm under multilateral environmental agreements and national law, military activities and the environment, and the legal aspects of the nexus between poverty and environmental degradation, and

k) This Statement should be presented by the Chief Justice of South Africa to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as a contribution of the Global Judges Symposium to the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, and for broad dissemination thereof to all member States of the United Nations.

ITTO

ITTC 32nd Session*

– Selected Decisions –

Recognizing the valuable contributions to the ITTO made by the Trade Advisory Group (TAG);

Recognizing the contributions that Civil Society Organizations could make to the ITTO through their own advisory group;

Welcoming the agreement of Civil Society Organization representatives during this Session of the Council to form a Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG);

Decides to:

1. Invite the CSAG to initiate its activities at the earliest dates possible.

2. Authorize the Executive Director to publicize the launching of the CSAG, through the ITTO’s website, the Tropical Forest Update, and other methods, as a means of attracting broader Civil Society participation in both the CSAG and the ITTO;

3. Authorize the Executive Director to explore with the CSAG opportunities for input and participation during Council Sessions in a manner similar to those of the Trade Advisory Group (TAG);

4. Encourage the CSAG and the TAG to collaborate on activities, programmes and projects in support of the ITTO Yokohama Action Plan 2002-2006;

5. Invite the CSAG and the TAG to showcase examples of collaboration with Civil Society Organizations and forest concessionaires and industry, and further to consider how the ITTO could facilitate such cooperation in the field;

6. Invite the CSAG to organize a panel discussion, relevant to the ITTO Yokohama Action Plan 2002-2006, to be held during the Thirty-third Session of the Council; and

7. Authorize the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions from Member countries to meet the financial requirements of this Decision, not exceeding US$50,000.00, to facilitate the participation of Civil Society Organizations in the CSAG panel discussion at the Thirty-third Session of the Council.

* Bali, Indonesia, 13–18 May 2002. See also page 208.