

EDITORIAL

In the past weeks, several letters have reached us with the closing remark that, "everyone is looking to Bonn." This was undoubtedly the truth, but here in Bonn, we have been looking to Washington and Tokyo. With regard to the former, Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi was celebrated at the end of the climate negotiations, while the US delegation was booed in the conference hall (see also page 190). The US negative list is getting longer and longer – climate, small arms, biological weapons... what next?

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The next meeting on the very important subject of international environmental governance (see also page 194) will follow soon in September, at the invitation of Algeria. We have the feeling that the outcome of these negotiations will be far-reaching and most important, especially in the area of sustainable development. All problems connected with implementation, especially with regard to Agenda 21, can be solved if the machinery and financial backing is adequate.

With regard to these talks, we were rather shocked at how many unrealistic proposals, not fitting to the UN system at all, were made at the beginning of the negotiations. However, we now have the impression that the proposals and discussions have improved. But there is still a long way to go until we have the decision we want from the UN General Assembly.

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In this context, we are very happy that the UN Secretary-General has been unanimously re-elected by consensus. Since then he has shown his resolve not only for the reform of the UN system but also his commitment to sustainable development, as demonstrated in his statement to the Millennium Summit (see last issue at page 181). We are sure that he will give all his support if a good proposal concerning governance should be forthcoming.

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With regard to POPs (see page 200), we learnt with delight that the Swiss government has declared that it is already fulfilling all requirements under this treaty.

We shall return with the next issue in the late Autumn.

- Wolfgang B. Sauer -

31 July, 2001