

EDITORIAL

UN Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang, who is also Secretary-General of Rio+20, has described the upcoming summit as one of the most important meetings of this decade. After the non-result of CSD-19, many people are more negative. The CSD was created to oversee and control implementation of Agenda 21, when it was adopted in Rio 19 years ago. It became cemented in its current language, when the G-77 refused to hear any proposals for its amendment or adjustment. Twice, in the CSD's sessions, deliberations have concluded without a consensus.

What can Rio+20 achieve, if the CSD's process for reviewing implementation of Agenda 21 is partially unsuccessful? We recommend that the first part of Rio+20 focus on reconsidering CSD procedures. Otherwise, the question asked by the representative of an important State – "Is this not a nice death of the CSD?" – would have to be answered in the affirmative.

The above comments sound rather cynical, but we must be optimistic in our view of what we are seeking to achieve. We must call on all countries to ensure that the preparatory process and the negotiations in Rio eschew political and theoretical statements, focusing instead on practical realities, problem-solving solutions and concrete facts. Reading the papers, one gets the impression that the participants in the preparatory process are not yet serious enough about guiding the Summit toward realistic results.

If some partners are using the consensus process to block action, then we have no choice but to adopt a decision process that requires only a majority vote.

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In the meantime, increases in global emissions continue unchecked.

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- Wolfgang R. Breyer -