

Ad Hoc Planning Committee for the Fourth UNCED PrepCom

16 January 1992

Dear Colleague,

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which is scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 1-12 June 1992, is now less than five months away. In planning for the agenda of the Conference and in negotiating for the Conventions to be signed at Rio, governments have been meeting in working sessions of what is called the UNCED "Preparatory Committee" (PrepCom) during the past year. The Fourth Session, and last meeting, of the Preparatory Committee will be held in New York City at the United Nations from 2 March to 3 April 1992.

This last meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be the best chance for social movements and non-governmental organization representatives to influence our government's delegation before the Earth Summit in Rio, June, 1992. It is expected that governments will not make substantial progress on many crucial issues on the UNCED agenda, such as poverty and affluence, climate change, transfer of technology, transfer of resources, etc. However, NGOs will have five weeks during the PrepCom to plan briefings, press conferences, and direct actions such as demonstrations, that can be used to challenge governments.

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Fourth UNCED PrepCom was created to help facilitate the planning process for the ever increasing number of NGO activities planned for March. Two major categories of activities and events have been identified, and two sub-committees created to discuss a plan for NGO actions in March:

1. Political Action/Events -- including grass roots mobilization, as well as generally raising public and media awareness. It will include demonstrations, and national and international workshops and conference, with a special focus on influencing public opinion and the media on UNCED issues.
2. Advocacy/Lobbying -- this category will include workshops, meetings and activities designed to facilitate the advocacy and lobbying initiatives of those NGOs who will be actively participating in the official PrepCom negotiations. Regular de-briefings by governments; daily de-briefings by NGOs for governments; lobbying skills workshops; daily and weekly written reports; intervention drafting workshops, daily strategy sessions and weekly NGO's plenary sessions.

On behalf of the NGO Steering Committee of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Fourth PrepCom, I would like to invite you to the final planning meeting of the full Ad Hoc Committee.

Monday, 3 February 1992

777 U.N. Plaza

10:00 to 5:30 p.m.

RSVP with Vernice Miller, U.S. Citizen's Network on UNCED, 212/682-3633

We look forward to your participation at the February 3rd meeting.

Sincerely,

Michael McCoy

Director, Center for Citizens Advocacy

Chair, PrepCom Committee U.S. Citizens Network on UNCED

Directory of Events and Event Convenors

All of these events are tentative, please contact David Levine, Learning Alliance, 212/226-7171 for confirmation. All Event Convenors are urged to seek a co-convenor from the south and to designate a press spokes-person for coordination with the new media committee.

EcoForum (February 29)

Chris Darling, National Wildlife Federation, 202/797-6639; FAX: 202/797-5486

The Centre for Our Common Future in Geneva is organizing an EcoForum to take place February 29, just prior to the PrepCom in New York. The format of this forum will be similar to that of the People's Forum, but the participants will be NGO representatives with the more political agenda of influencing the U.S. delegation's position.

Greeting the Trains at Penn Station (March 4)

Nikos Valance, Fair Trade Campaign, 212/627-2314

To greet train riders from across the country on March 4 with balloons, etc. to celebrate the participation of grass roots activists, inform the media of our plans and initiate hospitality arrangements for our out-of-town visitors.

People's Forum (March 5-7)

Dave Henson, Highlander Center, 212/353-0262; FAX: 212/995-0653

A People's Forum, planned for March 5-7, will be initially convened by the Highlander Center/National Toxics Campaign, the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, and the New York Environmental Justice Coalition, and will be co-sponsored by a variety of grassroots environmental justice organizations. During the Forum, representatives of communities from all over the country will tell the stories of their struggles, gradually making the connection from domestic to global problems as international activists join the group. The convenors will be working with the Third World Network in Malaysia in planning the Forum. Reports coming from the People's Forum will also be integrated into a "People's Report", that the Highlander Center is currently working on, and will be presented at UNCED.

Dave Henson is looking for ideas about food and housing for the People's Forum participants. This could be a very educational experience for all involved.

Biodiversity/Biotechnology Event (March 6-7)

Eileen Nic, Biodiversity/Biotechnology Working Group, 212/663-6378

This event will take place over the course of three days, with different session on aspects of the biodiversity/biotechnology debate.

Student and Youth Events (March 6-9 & March 22-29)

Ann Doherty, Helen Denham, Alec Guettel, Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC), 212/533-7322

SEAC is participating in two events taking place during PrepCom. The first is a series of simultaneous, electronically-connected meetings all over the world (probably five of them in the U.S.) on the weekend of March 6-8. This is an opportunity for youth to exchange ideas on global environment and development issues, and to begin to develop regional, national and global platforms. These platforms will feed into Youth '92, a conference of 250 young people from all over the world in Costa Rica, which will take place from March 22-29. The Costa Rica process will produce a world youth statement to be presented at UNCED. SEAC hopes that Youth '92 delegates will be able to participate in PrepCom activities both before and after going to Costa Rica. They also expect a large turnout, both national and international, of youth throughout the month of March, and are still looking for a large, inexpensive place to house them. They have reserved rooms at NYU during March for workshops and a film festival, and are on the lookout for relevant films. SEAC also plans to participate in the People's Forum, and possibly a sustained youth action in the final weeks of the PrepCom.

Int'l Solar Energy Society Final Roundtable on Implementation (March 7-8)

Charles Terry/Ruth Lynford, International Center for Integrative Studies, 212/941-9620

International Women's Day Rally (March 8)

Bella Abzug, World Women's Congress, 212/759-7982; FAX: 212/759-8647

The World Women's Congress is planning an event on March 8, which is International Women's Day. This will be a large-scale demonstration and march, ending up at U.N. Plaza with speeches and bread-and-puppet theatre. Organizers are seeking some sort of symbol or theme which will untie Women's Day actions all over the world.

Children's Event (March 9)

Nina Lynn, Coalition for Children of the Earth, 802/365-7616; FAX: 802/365-7798

Margo LaZaro, WEDO and Global Family, 212/877-0992

A Children's Event is being planned. Homeless children and groups like CityKids and Sidewalks of the Earth are possible participants.

IATP Conference on Trade and the Environment (March 9-10)

Kristin Dawkins, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, 612/379-5980; FAX: 612/379-5982

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy will be sponsoring a conference on trade and environment to take place during the week between the first and second weekends of PrepCom. Trade policy, international law, the role of multinational corporations and UNCED will be addressed.

Inter-American Dialogue/People's Initiative for the Americas (March 11)

Instituto de Ecologia Politica, Manuel Baquedano, Chile, FAX: 562/698.1474

World Resources Institute, Sarah Burns, US, 202/662-2559; FAX: 202/638-0036

To discuss the hemispheric political agenda of both the governments and the NGOs and develop joint strategies for resolving differences.

Conference on Sustainable Agriculture (March 12)

Niel Ritchie, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, 612/379-5980

Candido Grzybowski, IBASE, Brazil, 021/286.0348

To define what sustainability in agriculture requires from a policy perspective and ensure that UNCED addresses this major issue, thus far neglected by the governments.

Alternative Economic Models (March 13)

Maximo Kalaw, Green Forum, Philippines, FAX: 632/818.3207

To consider the Green Forum's plan for achieving sustainable development in the Philippines, with its sophisticated economic, social and political modeling and the implications of their work for development planning in other countries.

Religious Event (March 14-16)

Jean Sindab, National Council of Churches, 212/870-2385; FAX: 212/870-3112

A multi-denominational religious event is being planned for the second weekend of the PrepCom (March 14-16) and will include a discussion of UNCED, environmental and development issues.

Green Apple Design Tour/Green Apple Map and Natural Cafe Guide (March 21)

Wendy Brawer, ADPSR/NY, 212/529-2694

To introduce delegates, NGOs and the NYC design community to local environmentally friendly design projects. This self-guided walking tour will cover buildings, products and processes at approximately a dozen sites in a square mile of downtown, with talks by the designers scheduled at each location.

Amazon Week (March 23-28)

Christine Halverson, 212/673-4126

Daily Rituals

Nikos Valance, Fair Trade Campaign, 212/627-2314

To bring together NGO activists worldwide in a visible demonstration of concern for the issues of the day.

Demonstrations

Nikos Valance, Fair Trade Campaign, 212/627-2314

A series of demonstrations will be held throughout the PrepCom period. Suggested targets are Citicorp, Wall Street, toxic waste sites and military sites.

Alternative Tour of New York City

Sophie Johnson, Magnolia Tree Earth Center, 718/387-2116

Marjorie Moore, Hunter College, 212/481-4355

David Levine, Learning Alliance, 212/226-7171; FAX: 212/274-8712

A tour of New York communities and projects led by activists is in the planning stages. It was stressed that this type of tour should include successful community projects as well as "disasters" such as toxic waste sites. Specific tours for youth and women's groups of Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant communities in New York City are also being planned.

Indigenous Peoples Forums

Tonya Gonnell Frichner, American Indian Law Alliance/Native American Council of NYC for 1992, 212/268-1347

There will be several gatherings for indigenous people and possible open forums.

Populist Leaders Summit

Armando Ramirez Palomo, Mexican Forum of Civil Society for Rio '92

This Mexican group is considering organizing a Populist Leaders Summit to take place during PrepCom. Speakers will include populist leaders such as Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, who many feel rightfully won the last Mexican election against President Salinas.

Finding North/South Common Ground

A series of sessions intended to address the common and distinct interests of NGOs from the North and South and develop cooperative approaches to events and advocacy activities.

An Event on Poverty

International Council of Voluntary Agencies, Delmar Blasco (Geneva), 41.22/732.66.00 FAX: 41.22/738.99.04

Protest for NGO Access to Informal Negotiations

Videos of Sustainable Development Projects in Other Countries

Many NGOs from the Third World have developed videos of their daily implementation of sustainable development projects which can be shown on a continuous basis.

Press Conference to Release Alternative National Reports

In response to the UNCED Secretariat's call for governments to prepare documentation of the environmental and development conditions in their countries, material that was intended to form the basis for Agenda 21 and annual reviews of country progress toward the objectives expressed in Agenda 21, networks of NGOs, in at least a dozen countries, have prepared their own Alternative National Reports.

NGO Plenaries (2-3 per week)

There is a need for the broad NGO community to meet with open agenda times to address issues as they arise during the PrepCom. Agenda items could include sharing political information, developing lobbying strategies, finding ways in which we can collaborate more effectively, planning for Rio, and evaluating the potential for long-term global NGO cooperation.

New York City Event

Jaribu Hill, 212/627-3900

Jean Sindab, National Council of Churches, 212/870-2385

To highlight the environmental justice organizing in New York's communities.

Effect of the Military on Environment and Development

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 212/682-8830

To evaluate the impact of the military sector on UNCED issues and how NGOs can raise this issue within the context of UNCED.

**Ad Hoc Planning Committee for the Fourth UNCED PrepCom
As of 10/29-91**

Bella Abzug
Women's Foreign Policy Council/US
Citizens Network on UNCED
(USCNU)

Johannah Bornstein
Canadian Participatory Committee on
UNCED (CPCU)

Kristin Dawkins
Institute for Agriculture and Trade
Policy, USCNU

Leila Doss
Society for International Development
(SID), New York Chapter

Richard Eidlin
Earth Rising Productions, Inc.

Charlotte Fox
National Audobon Society, USCNU

Samuel Sowell
National Audobon Society (NY
Chapter)

Joyce Gillian Goldberg
YWCA of the USA, USCNU

Jaydee Hanson
United Methodist Board of Church and
Society, USCNU

Barbara Bramble/Angela Harkavy
National Wildlife Federation, USCNU

David Henson
Highlander Center/National Toxics
Campaign, USCNU

Michael McCoy
Center for Citizen Advocacy, USCNU

Robert Pollard
On the Line, USCNU

Bob Singer
The Coolidge Center, USCNU

Trent Schroyer
TOES/Americas, USCNU

Tula Trails
Toes/NY, USCNU

Jim Tripp
Environmental Defense Fund, USCNU

* **Lauren Blackford, ex-officio**
UN Non-Governmental Liason Service

Interim Steering Committee as of 11/18/91

Johannah Bernstein, Canadian Participatory Committee for UNCED
Esmerelda Brown, United Methodist of the U.N.
Kristin Dawkins, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Helen Denham, Student Environmental Action Coalition
Joyce Gillian-Goldberg, YWCA of USA
David Levine, Learning Alliance
Dave Henson, Highlander Center and National Toxics Campaign
Frank Melli, GreenSphere, Inc.
Michael McCoy, Center for Citizen Advocacy
Peggy Shepard, NY Coalition for Environmental Justice
Jean Sindab, National Council of Churches
Larry Wilson, Highlander Center

11/25/91

TO: Ad Hoc Planning Committee for NYC PrepCom
FR: Kristin Dawkins
RE: Notes from 11/18 meeting re/ political action

Because there were many new groups in attendance, including several representatives from the People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit and the Highlander Center of Tennessee, it was decided not to divide into work groups but to review the work of all the committees of the Ad Hoc Planning Group in a committee of the whole. The majority of the morning discussion focused on the importance of further expanding participation in the overall planning process.

By acclamation, a new interim steering committee was formed that represents the broad range of interests in attendance. It was noted that representation from Latinos, Native Americans and youth was to be sought.

In addition to the new steering committee, a new Participation Committee was created to ensure extensive outreach to grass roots organizations throughout the U.S. so that their voices will be heard in planning for and participation in the New York City PrepCom.

The committees of the Ad Hoc Planning Group, therefore, now include:

- Interim Steering Committee - including Johannah Bernstein, Esmeralda Brown, Kristin Dawkins, Joyce Gillilan-Goldberg, Dave Henson, David Levine, Margot Lizarro, Michael McCoy, Frank Melli, Peggy Shepherd, Jean Sindab, and Larry Wilson.
- Participation - co-chaired by Jean Sindab of the National Council of Churches (212-870-2385) and Larry Wilson of the Highlander Center.
- Political Advocacy - chaired by Johannah Bernstein of the Canadian Participatory Committee for UNCED (613-238-3811).
- Political Action - chaired by Kristin Dawkins of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (612-379-5980). Under the Political Action committee, a number of sub-committees will convene separately. These presently include sub-committees on Events, the Presidential Primaries, and a Platform.