



**15th INTERNATIONAL  
ANTI-CORRUPTION  
CONFERENCE**

**MOBILISING PEOPLE:  
CONNECTING AGENTS OF CHANGE**

**BRASÍLIA BRAZIL  
7-10 NOVEMBER 2012**

### **Short Session Report: Global Solutions**

**Session Title: After Rio+20: On the way to green and clean governance?**

**Date & Time: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 12:00 – 13:30**

**Report prepared by: Casey Kelso, Advocacy Director, TI-S**

#### **Experts:**

**(by video) Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP**

**Izabella Teixeira, Minister for the Environment, Brazil**

**Beris Gwynne, Director and UN rep in Geneva, World Vision**

**Kumi Naidoo, Executive Director, Greenpeace International**

**Manish Bapna, Acting President, World Resources Institute**

**Moderated by: Gustavo Faleiros, Knight International Journalism  
Fellow**

## **Main Issues Covered (500 words or more, narrative form)**

**1. Achim Steiner spoke of the need for laws, or ways of enforcement. Current production future of environmental sustainability is not viable, "darker sides of resource use" including acquisition of rents and undermining of rights such as community interests. Future action lies in greater accountability of those who benefit from using the natural resource base. Only 25% of corporations are doing corporate sustainability reporting. And there remain questions of judiciary and how to best citizens can hold actors accountable legally to their commitments under Basel Convention, CITES, and other environmental treaties.**

**2. Izabella Teixeira spokes about how Rio+20 was a new starting point in demanding outcomes not only related to social development but related to equality and a key question about justice. And an important message coming out of the Rio +20 conference was the need to work hard to have transparency and citizen participation. The challenge over the next two years is to develop what we will do together for next 30 years. High level panel on sustainability, mDGs, etc need to be to do this in a new way.**

**3. Manish Bapna made two points, about access benefiting transparency, and that access doesn't mean transparency per se because there is a need to improve and enforce this access.**

**4. Beris Gwynne talked about creating a shift of power to make civic action or civic participation more effective. She used the example of her own organisation's efforts to become more accountable. She noted in engaging the multi-lateral negotiations, the opportunities are not truly adequate or allowing substantive engagement of citizens.**

**5. Kumi Naidoo described the "brutal reality" in his call to urgent action, and recalled that he described the Rio+20 outcome document as the "longest suicide note in the history of humanity". The previous conference had low levels of compliance, while climate change is continuing apace. Political and business leaders suffered from "cognitive dissonance", knowing the urgency but not acting.**

## **Main Outcomes/Outputs**

- 1. The Rio+20 Conference aimed at environmental sustainability. Not only did it deal with climate change but also sustainable development – security, food production. Rather than see it as an epic failure it should be seen as a new starting point in demanding accountability.**
- 2. Technology is transforming transparency. A radically different way to connect to people on the ground through technology, which has transformed the way we mobilise people on the ground. But transparency not enough. We need to create as much public pressure for change around participation of citizens and access to justice.**
- 3. Accountability needs enforcement as well: Local authorities don't have capacity to enforce and protect citizens. So we should use a rights based approach to regulating and restricting actions of those few who would exploit the world's resources at the cost to the many.**
- 4. Shared responsibility and collective accountability cannot be imposed from outside since it will not be embraced by constituency. The goal is to have shared accountability that is equally embraced across the partnerships at all levels of collaboration in an organisation, or in inter-governmental processes i.e. governments and populations.**

## **Recommendations, follow-up Actions (200 words narrative form)**

- 1. Avoid the use of the phrase "civil society" and instead use the phrase "Civic action", since it authentic participation in the communities where we are working to give greater legitimacy and momentum in our engagement with private sector partners, because we speak truth and represent a wider constituency than our own organizations. The terms**

“civic action” or “civic participation” can include many citizens who may be working in private sector and just because you work in private sector you should not be excluded from having an opinion about public policy and being active in promoting change.

**2. Strategy should emphasize people engagement.** “We have become intoxicated, infatuated with access to power. Simply having access that we didn’t have 40 years ago, getting seat or getting a registration to high-level meeting, doesn’t give us access. More emphasis should be put on working with people on the ground.

**3. Broaden the definition of corruption.** Just because it happens in framework of “rule of law” doesn’t rule it out as an act of corruption. People are not joining the anti-corruption movement because we are not tackling the fundamental issues that make our society unjust. It’s the corruptive acts of influence and hindrance, even if they comply with laws of the country, that should be fought in the fight against corruption. The banking sector is a good example of where new laws need to tighten regulation.

### **Highlights (200 words please include interesting quotes)**

**Izabella Teixeira, Minister for the Environment, Brazil:**

“The Rio +20 conference was a start, not a n arrival, but a start for new political commitments, with engagement of civil society and business sector. A new political task was to have a new way to deal with the challenges of 193 countries to sit together and establish a baseline and develop good strategies on a common view that we can develop together.”

**Achim Steiner:** “We should use a rights based approach to regulating

and restricting actions of those few who would exploit the world's resources at the cost to the many."

**Manish Bapna:** "Thanks to antic-corruption movement over 300 countries with freedom of info laws on the books... 44 countries have established environmental courts or tribunals, so people can have access to justice with decisions they feel are not fair. Space for citizen engagement and space for recourse when decision taken that are not just."

Manish again: "For many of the things that we care about, the window for action is just a few years. We made the argument why sustainability is important. We also know what has to be done. We know how to tackle climate change and deforestation. The challenge lies in "how": How decisions are taken – or how they have to be taken. The losers in the change towards accountability are powerful with strong political and economic power. So it comes back to the role of civil society and mobilising people. The connection is not just to what the halls of UN or government, but connect and mobilise people to create political power to change the dynamics and create th participation and accountability. "

**Kumi Naidoo:** " The responsibility of the failure of these e negotiations at un summits to get the urgency and ambition. It'snot the blame placed o nbrazil as host butt the global govenrance system thatoisn't working. Seveeraldefiicits: coherence, compoliance, trnaparency deficit, legitimiacy deficit."

We have becomeintoxicatedinfatuatedwith acewss to power. Simply having access that we didn't have 40 years ago, getting seat or getting a registration, doesn't give us access. The theme thatthis conference mobilising people as agents of change. If we are to defeat lack of sustainability and transparency, we have to make connection to where citizens put their energy. Manyz civil socity org can stand accusedtoo todaz toputting too much emphasis on engagement anddialgoue and too little to working with people onh the ground.

### **Key Insights Recommended to be included in the IACC Declaration**

**Kumi Naidoo again: "The theme that this conference mobilising people as agents of change. If we are to defeat the lack of sustainability and transparency, we have to make connection to where citizens put their energy. Many civil society organisations can stand accused today of putting too much emphasis on engagement and dialogue with governments and too little to working with people on the ground."**

**We NGOs need to keep working on models of consultation and coordination, and not just invoking the name of "civil society" as if that automatically should grants us access to government decision-making or policy formation.**

**The declaration should call on us to show solidarity with one another. As one representative of an international NGO said, the big international organisations should realise that they are part of the same power construct and that the head offices in world capitals have to transfer power to out national entities. In that way, we can have a shared journey to shared power and a better, more organised way of doing our advocacy messaging.**

**Rapporteur's name and date submitted**

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