



Cover photo: © Getty Images/Kalpa S. Atkinson

---

## Co-Chairs' Summary

---

3 April 2006

### **CO-CHAIRS' CONSULTATION WITH SOCIAL PARTNERS AND NGOS: WORKING LUNCH**

OECD Headquarters, Paris



# CO-CHAIRS' CONSULTATION WITH SOCIAL PARTNERS AND NGOS: CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY

## Welcome by the Co-Chairs

**Richard Manning**, Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, welcomed the representatives from the three stakeholder groups – business, trade unions and environmental NGOs. He noted that this is the first time since 1991 that the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the Environment Policy Committee (EPOC) had met, and the first time at Ministerial level. He emphasised that the views of stakeholders represented an important input to the discussion and would be reported to Ministers the following day. He thanked representatives of each of the three stakeholder groups for their written contributions and indicated that they would be available to delegates at the ministerial meeting.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Manning emphasised that the development and environment communities have much in common, but that strengthened efforts were needed to stimulate mutually beneficial cooperation. **Lena Sommestad**, Minister for Environment, Sweden, noted that the increasing degradation of environmental resources, and the impact that this has on poverty in developing countries, makes this discussion particularly timely and urgent.

## Poverty Reduction, Environment and the Millennium Development Goals

Participants were in wide agreement on a variety of issues:

- Poverty reduction and environmental protection can be mutually supportive.
- The integration of environment and development cooperation policies should be seen in the broader framework of sustainable development. Efforts towards sustainable development can only succeed if they take full account of the economic, environmental and social dimensions.
- Sustainable development is also an issue with an important global dimension. Non-OECD countries have a growing influence on global economic, environmental and social prospects and OECD countries need to take this into account when working in OECD and elsewhere.
- To date, long-term perspectives have often been missing when addressing environment and development issues. However, to integrate them requires linking long-term concerns to short-term economic, financial and social interests, including employment. Health issues can also provide a useful entry point for linking the environment and development agendas.

---

<sup>1</sup> See COM/ENV/EPOC/DCD/DAC(2006)4,5,6,7

- The private sector accounts for the lion's share of investment in most developing countries. However, attracting and retaining private sector finance requires sound framework conditions (including, e.g. transparent regulations, competent civil service, educated workforce, secure property rights, etc.). ODA can help in this regard.
- There is renewed interest in developing infrastructure to promote economic private sector development. However, lessons from past experience should be learned. There has been much positive experience with Environmental Impact Assessment at the project level, but there is a need to develop more strategic approaches to environmental assessment at the level of policies and programmes (SEA). All stakeholders should cooperate to ensure that investment achieves sustainable results.
- Some participants also stressed the role that Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) could play in developing infrastructure. However, it was also recognised that they are not a panacea, they take considerable time and effort to develop, and require careful oversight by government to ensure that objectives are achieved.

### **International Governance for Development and Environment**

Participants agreed that poor countries are more vulnerable to the impacts of global environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, unsound management of hazardous chemicals and others.

They noted the need to consider a wide range of MEAs and not to focus only on the Rio Conventions. The absence of a global institutional framework on water issues was discussed.

In general, more coherent approaches between IGOs working on development and environmental issues should be promoted.

Some participants emphasised the need for governments to honour their international commitment to poverty reduction (e.g. to achieve the 0.7% target of GNP as ODA) and to resolve issues relating to the replenishment of the GEF.

### **Development-Environment Synergies for Implementing International Environmental Agreements**

MEAs, when ratified, contribute to establishing more consistent policy and regulatory frameworks among countries. In this way they can also help to facilitate international trade.

MEAs must be considered within a wider economic setting, e.g., Poverty Reduction Strategies. Links with international social agreements, such as ILO instruments, should be identified with a view to promoting synergies.

Developing countries should play a greater role in MEAs development and implementation. In addition, the implementation of MEA can benefit from greater input from local implementers and NGOs working on the ground.

## **The Way Forward**

Participants encouraged OECD Member countries to:

- support a better integration of environmental issues into Poverty Reduction Strategies within the broader context of National Sustainable Development Strategies, *inter alia*, by building on the rich field-level experience gathered by NGOs;
- pay more attention to ensuring coherence among their policies in different sectors and the impacts that those policies have on development prospects for developing countries;
- ensure that their efforts towards capacity building at all levels are framed within a long-term perspective and contribute to sustained results.

Participants also welcomed the renewed emphasis amongst donors on infrastructure investment stressing the need for such investment to be economically, financially, environmentally and socially sustainable over the long term.

Participants encouraged the OECD to:

- aim for a better co-ordination amongst various expert groups working on sustainable development issues, for example, Environet, Working Party on Global and Structural Policies, Povnet; the Annual Meeting of Sustainable Development Experts could play a useful role in this regard;
- continue and strengthen its outreach activities;
- devote more efforts to monitoring progress with regard to agreed guidelines, e.g. the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the DAC Guidelines on Sustainable Development Strategies;
- conduct cross-sectoral dialogues on issues at the interface of development, poverty reduction and environment;
- build upon the environmental and social interface in the *OECD Environment Strategy for the First Decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* and to strengthen the co-ordination between environmental, social and other policies.

## **Concluding Remarks**

In concluding the consultation, Ms. Sommestad thanked all of the participants and welcomed their interest to participate in follow-up work. She echoed the view that had been expressed by several participants that there was, indeed, a shared agenda among stakeholders in better integrating environment and development policies. Ms. Sommestad stressed that it will also be vital to fully engage developing countries in further dialogue.

**PARTICIPANTS LIST FOR CONSULTATION WITH SOCIAL PARTNERS AND NON-  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS: WORKING LUNCH**

3 April 2006

**Chairman / Chairman**

**Ms. Lena SOMMESTAD** *Minister for the Environment  
Ministry of Sustainable Development*

**Mr. Richard MANNING** *DAC Chairman  
DCD  
OECD*

**Suède / Sweden**

**Mr. Jon KAHN** *Director  
Division for International Affairs  
Ministry of Sustainable Development*

**Mrs. Eva LINDAU** *Political Adviser  
Ministry of Sustainable Development*

**Mr. Mats OLSSON** *Deputy Director General  
EPOC Chair  
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency*

**Comité consultatif économique et industriel (BIAC) / Business and Industry  
Advisory Committee (BIAC)**

**Mr. Thomas VANT** *Secretary General  
The Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the  
OECD (BIAC)*

**Mr. Conrad ECKENSCHWILLER** *Chairman of the BIAC Task Force on Africa*

**Mr. Paul MITCHELL** *ICMM Secretary General  
International Council on Mining and Metals*

**Commission syndicale consultative (TUAC) / Trade Union Advisory  
Committee (TUAC)**

**M. Luc CORTEBEECK** *TUAC Vice President  
Confédération des Syndicats Chrétiens de Belgique  
(CSC)*

**Mr. John EVANS** *Secretary General  
Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)*

**Mr. Lucien ROYER** *Senior Policy Adviser  
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions  
Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)*

**Organisation mondiale de protection de la nature / World Wild Life Fund  
International**

**Mrs. Sally NICHOLSON** *Head of Global Policy  
WWF*

**Union mondiale pour la nature (UICN) / World Conservation Union (IUCN)**

**Dr. Hans FRIEDERICH** *Head, Conservation Finance and Donor Relations  
Conservation Finance and Donor Relations  
IUCN - The World Conservation Union*

**World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) / World  
Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)**

**Dr. Shona GRANT** *Director Development Focus Area  
World Business Council on Sustainable Development  
(WBCSD)*

**OCDE / OECD**

**Mr. Kiyotaka AKASAKA** *Deputy Secretary-General  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
OECD*

**Mr. Lorents LORENTSEN** *Director  
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE  
OECD*

**Mr. Michael ROESKAU** *Director, DCD  
DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
OECD*

**Mr. Richard H. CAREY** *Deputy Director, DCD  
DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
OECD*

**Mr. Thomas JONES** *Head of Division  
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE  
OECD*

**Mr. Brendan F. GILLESPIE** *Head of Division  
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE  
OECD*

**Ms. Alexandra TRZECIAK-DUVAL** *Head, Policy Co-ordination Division  
DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
OECD*

**Mr. Shardul AGRAWALA** *ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE  
OECD*

**M. Remi PARIS** *DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
OECD*

**Ms. Simone GIGLI** *ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE  
OECD*