

JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002

WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
2-11 SEPTEMBER 2002



UNITED NATIONS

For the latest information on the Johannesburg Summit 2002, visit
www.johannesburgsummit.org
the official website of the United Nations Secretariat for the Summit

TAKING ACTION FOR EARTH'S FUTURE

Achieving sustainable development is no easy task. Significant changes will be needed—in decision-making at the highest levels, and in day-to-day behaviour by producers and consumers—if we are to reach our goal of development that meets the needs of today without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their needs.



Ten years ago at the “Earth Summit” in Rio de Janeiro, Governments committed themselves to just such a transformation, and to Agenda 21 as the comprehensive plan of action for getting there. But commitments alone have proven insufficient to the task. We have not yet fully integrated the economic, social and environmental pillars of development, nor have we made enough of a break with the unsustainable practices that have led to the current predicament.

We live on one planet, connected in a delicate, intricate web of ecological, social, economic and cultural relationships that shape our lives. If we are to achieve sustainable development, we will need to display greater responsibility—for the ecosystems on which all life depends, for each other as a single human community, and for the generations that will follow our own, living tomorrow with the consequences of the decisions we take today.

Johannesburg Summit 2002 is an opportunity to rejuvenate the quest to build a more sustainable future. The Summit must bring the world together, and forge more cohesive global partnerships for the implementation of Agenda 21. It must send out a message that sustainable development is not only a necessity, but also an exceptional opportunity to place our economies and societies on more durable footing.

The United Nations and I personally very much look forward to working closely with all concerned—Government leaders, non-governmental organizations and civil society groups from throughout the world—at Johannesburg and beyond, to put in place a new ethic of global conservation and stewardship.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "K. Annan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kofi A. Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations
October 2001

JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002

Johannesburg Summit 2002—the World Summit on Sustainable Development—will bring together tens of thousands of participants, including heads of State and Government, national delegates and leaders from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses and other Major Groups. The Summit will focus the world’s attention on actions to achieve sustainable development.

Sustainable development encompasses many challenges. How can we improve people’s lives and conserve our natural resources in a world that is growing in population, with ever-increasing demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic security? Countries must re-examine their consumption and production patterns, commit to responsible, environmentally sound economic growth, and work together to greatly expand cross-border

cooperation to share expertise, technology and resources. These changes can, and must, take place for our planet and its people to thrive.

Inclusiveness is the hallmark of Agenda 21, the global action plan for sustainable development agreed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development—the Earth Summit—held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Likewise, preparations for the Johannesburg Summit include all groups committed to implementing the goals of sustainable development.

“For too long, environmentalists and industrialists alike have seen a false trade-off between environmental protection and economic growth. We must introduce a new way of thinking—one that sees economic and environmental health as interlinked, mutually supportive goals.”

—Nitin Desai
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
for Economic and Social Affairs

All sectors of society have a role to play in making this vision a reality. Women, children and youth, indigenous people, NGOs, local authorities, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers are recognized in Agenda 21 as the Major Groups whose input and involvement is essential to the success of sustainable development. For this reason, the global gathering of governments at the Summit will also involve meetings of business leaders, NGOs and representatives of the other Major Groups. Each will be in Johannesburg working to build a future in which global resources are protected, and prosperity and health are within reach for all of the world's citizens.

Johannesburg Summit 2002 will focus on turning plans into action. The Summit will evaluate the obstacles to progress and the results achieved since the 1992 Earth Summit. The Summit presents an opportunity to build on the knowledge gained over the past decade, and provides a new impetus for commitments of resources and specific action towards global sustainability.

The World Today

The past half-century has seen unprecedented economic gains for many. But entrenched poverty and development problems, compounded by the side-effects of rapid expansion of some economies and societies, are putting immense strain on the world's human and natural resources. For example:

- Over six billion people inhabit the earth, an increase of 140 per cent over the past fifty years. By 2050, the earth's population is projected to rise to nine billion.
- One fifth of the world's people must survive on less than one dollar per day.
- About 1.1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Contaminated drinking water and an inadequate supply of water account for 10 per cent of all diseases in developing countries.
- Infant mortality is ten times higher in developing countries than in the industrialized world.
- In 1996, 25 per cent of the world's 4,630 mammal species and 11 per cent of the 9,675 bird species were at significant risk of extinction.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Sustainable development calls for improving the quality of life for all of the world's people without increasing the use of our natural resources beyond the earth's carrying capacity. While sustainable development may require different actions in every region of the world, the efforts to build a truly sustainable way of life require the integration of action in three key areas.

Economic Growth and Equity—Today's interlinked, global economic systems demand an integrated approach in order to foster responsible long-term growth while ensuring that no nation or community is left behind.

Conserving Natural Resources and the Environment—To conserve our environmental heritage and natural resources for future generations, economically viable solutions must be developed to reduce resource consumption, stop pollution and conserve natural habitats.

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

—*Our Common Future*: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (The Brundtland Report), 1987

Social Development—Throughout the world, people require jobs, food, education, energy, health care, water and sanitation. While addressing these needs, the world community must also ensure that the rich fabric of cultural and social diversity, and the rights of workers, are respected, and that all members of society are empowered to play a role in determining their futures.



Some of the most important challenges facing the world today include:

- Alleviating **poverty**, especially in rural communities, where the majority of the world's poor live
- Improving the ability of all countries, particularly developing countries, to meet the challenges of **globalization**, including greater capacity building and the transfer of financing and environmentally friendly technologies
- Promoting responsible **consumption** and **production** patterns, to reduce waste and over-reliance on natural resources
- Ensuring that all people have access to the **energy** sources needed to improve their lives
- Reducing environment-related **health** problems that account for many of the illnesses in the world today
- Improving access to **clean water**, to reach those who today must rely on unsafe and unsanitary sources to raise their children and maintain their livelihoods

| Access to Fresh Water | Workers Rights | Access to Sanitation | Trade Between Nations | Preserving Indigenous Cultures |

Consumption and Production

Natural resources are vanishing at an unprecedented rate, largely due to the wasteful patterns of consumption and production in many industrialized countries. Unsustainable practices also often create pollution, which threatens not just local ecosystems, but also the global environment. If our populations and economies are to continue growing, then we must dramatically improve the efficiency of resource and energy use.



AGENDA 21—OUR PLAN OF ACTION

At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, the international community adopted Agenda 21, an unprecedented global plan of action for sustainable development. The Summit also agreed on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, a set of principles defining the rights and obligations of nations, and on a Statement of Forest Principles to guide more sustainable management of the world's forests.

Agenda 21 was a landmark achievement in integrating environmental, economic and social concerns into a single policy framework. It contains over 2,500 wide-ranging recommendations for action, including detailed proposals for how to reduce wasteful consumption patterns, combat poverty, protect the atmosphere, oceans and biodiversity, and promote sustainable agriculture.

The proposals set out in Agenda 21 remain sound, and they have since been expanded and strengthened at several major United Nations conferences on population, social development, women, cities and food security. At the UN Millennium Summit in 2000, some 150 world leaders agreed on a range of time-bound targets, including

| Environmentally Sound Tourism | Renewable Energy Sources | Access to the Internet | Sustainable Forestry | Mass Transit |

Energy

Two billion people worldwide, particularly in developing countries, lack access to commercial energy. Without commercial access, communities and local businesses must rely on unregulated, often environmentally harmful sources of energy, and have fewer opportunities to improve their standard of living. In the developed world, energy consumption is much greater but also more wasteful. Governments, business and communities need to improve energy efficiency while expanding access to commercial sources of energy around the world. Most importantly, the energy sources employed in all regions must be economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound.



Rural Poverty and Food Security

Over half the world's extreme poor depend on farming or farm labour for their livelihoods. Alleviating this poverty will require that, at a minimum, we help these communities double agricultural productivity from the 2000 level by 2015.

| Responsible Use of Natural Resources | Hazardous Waste Management | Alternate Modes of Transportation | Biodiversity Conservation |

cutting by half the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of those who lack access to safe drinking water.

But the best strategies are only as good as their implementation. The Johannesburg Summit presents an important opportunity for today's leaders to adopt concrete steps and identify quantifiable targets for better implementation of Agenda 21.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE—MAJOR GROUPS

The long-term success of sustainable development will depend on new approaches to transform business-as-usual at every level of society, both public and private. In addition to the important role played by governments, the active leadership of NGOs, businesses and other Major Groups is key to transforming sustainable development from vision to reality.

A number of successful sustainable development programmes and projects have been established by community organizations and businesses, often working in partnership with each other and with local and national governments. Many more must be developed in the coming years.

The Johannesburg Summit will include the voices, experiences and perspectives of a wide range of stakeholders committed to sustainable development. Delegates at the Summit will represent a broad range of constituencies, including the Major Groups identified in Agenda 21:

- Business and industry
- Farmers
- Local authorities
- Scientific and technological communities
- Children and youth
- Indigenous people
- Non-governmental organizations
- Women
- Workers and trade unions

These groups will play an important role in the preparatory process for the Summit, including multi-stakeholder dialogues in which representatives from around the world can share their views and experiences with each other, and with the governments that will convene in Johannesburg.

THE ROAD TO JOHANNESBURG

Preparations for the Johannesburg Summit are well underway. Through a participatory process, the issues to be debated will be agreed upon during a series of national, sub-regional, regional and global consultations with governments and other organizations.

National Preparations

Many Member States have convened their own National Preparatory Committees to review their successes and the challenges they face in achieving sustainable development, and to contribute their views to the assessment of progress. The UN is assisting with the preparation of national assessments and country profiles, which are being used to help guide discussions leading up to and during the Summit.

| Environmental Health | Energy Efficient Transport | Reducing Pollution | Private Investment in Developing Countries | Reversing Desertification |

Health and the Environment

The World Health Organization estimates that poor environmental quality contributes to 25 per cent of all preventable illness in the world today. Over the past decade, it has become clear that environment-related diseases pose serious and immediate threats to human health. A few measures, some of which are often taken for granted in the developed world, can go a long way towards improving the health of billions in the developing world. These include providing greater access to safe drinking water, expanding basic sanitation and waste disposal technologies, and improving air quality in urban areas.



Fresh Water

One out of every five human beings lacks access to safe drinking water, the most basic of human needs. At the same time, rising human demand and competing uses for water are steadily increasing pressure on water sources. Solving this dual problem will require both a greater financial investment and innovative technological solutions from the public and private sectors.

| Mine Rehabilitation | Capacity Building | Improving Air Quality | Corporate Social Responsibility | Education | Technological Innovation |

The UN has also invited countries to launch a range of initiatives to increase public awareness of sustainable development issues. These include a competition for children to design Agenda 21 posters, an essay contest on visions for sustainable development and a process to develop “101 ways to promote sustainable development.”

Regional Preparations

In each region of the world—Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia—intergovernmental Sub-regional and Regional Preparatory Committees (known as PrepComs) are being held during late 2001. These PrepComs are assessing the key challenges, opportunities and constraints relating to sustainable development that each region has faced over the past ten years, and identifying future priorities, new initiatives and the commitments needed to make progress in the coming years. The reports from these Regional PrepComs will be taken to the global PrepCom meetings being held during the first half of 2002.

“We need to build a system, a set of rules, or a framework that will help make globalization a more positive force for improving all people’s lives. This new environment must promote equity and involve greater international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, capacity building, technology transfer, debt relief and trade.”

—Nitin Desai
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
for Economic and Social Affairs

Representatives from Major Groups have been playing an integral role in these discussions, through a multi-stakeholder dialogue process in which leaders from all sectors contribute their opinions and expertise to the regional evaluations.



In addition, a series of regional roundtables of eminent sustainable development experts took place in mid-2001. The reports from each roundtable, on key sustainable development issues to be addressed in the region and at the Johannesburg Summit, are available on the Summit website.

Global Preparations

To prepare the agenda for the Johannesburg Summit and build consensus for its outcome, a global Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) is holding four meetings during 2001–2002. The final PrepCom meeting, from 27 May to 7 June 2002, will be held at the Ministerial level in Indonesia. Representatives from each of the Major Groups, including leaders from the business and NGO communities, are also participating in these sessions. The tenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (known as CSD10) is acting as the global Preparatory Committee for the Johannesburg Summit.

For more details about the preparatory process, visit the official United Nations website for the Summit: www.johannesburgsummit.org. For a timeline of scheduled events, see the inside back cover of this brochure.

ABOUT THE SUMMIT

From 2 to 11 September 2002, tens of thousands of participants, including heads of State and Government, national delegates and leaders from NGOs, businesses and other Major Groups, will gather in Johannesburg to share their commitment to making sustainable development a global reality.

The intergovernmental agenda will form the core of Johannesburg Summit 2002. Political and other leaders from around the world will discuss sustainable development issues and agree on further action to implement Agenda 21 and other related agreements.

The views of Major Groups will be integrated into the Summit deliberations through the multi-stakeholder dialogue process, and the voices of the Major Groups will also be heard at other events during the Summit.

The Summit will take place in the Sandton Convention Centre, just outside Johannesburg. A non-governmental forum will take place at the nearby Gallagher Estate.



GALLAGHER ESTATE

Travel and Logistics

Logistical organization of the Summit within South Africa is being managed by the Johannesburg World Summit Company (jowsco), on behalf of the Government of South Africa. For information or inquiries about activities at the NGO forum or about any logistical issues related to the Summit, visit the jowsco website: www.joburgsummit2002.com.

Travel arrangements should be made by participants. Over 50 airlines fly to Johannesburg International Airport. Shuttle buses will carry participants to and from the airport, major hotels and the Summit venues.

jowsco, in collaboration with the Johannesburg hospitality industry, has arranged for a limited number of reasonably priced accommodations in and around the city. For information on reserving accommodation, visit the jowsco website.

Registration and Accreditation for Major Groups

If your organization wants to participate in Johannesburg Summit 2002 or the global Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meetings, it must first be accredited with the United Nations. Individuals wishing to participate must be affiliated with an accredited organization. Organizations currently in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or in the Commission on Sustainable Development list are automatically accredited.

Once accredited, organizations must pre-register for the Summit, as well as for the global PrepCom meetings.

Accreditation and pre-registration enables organizations to send representatives to the Summit or PrepCom meetings and to contribute to the process by sharing their experiences, views and suggestions.

More information on participation at the Summit and a copy of the pre-registration and accreditation packet can be found on the Summit website, or please send an e-mail to one of the following addresses:

- 2002participation@un.org** (general questions)
- summitregister@un.org** (registration questions)
- summitaccredit@un.org** (accreditation-related questions)

For Journalists

To Register: Media registration forms will be available on the Summit website, www.johannesburgsummit.org.

Media Facilities: A fully staffed and equipped Media Centre will be open to journalists at the Summit. Media Centre facilities will include:

- High-speed Internet connections
- Telephones, including connections for laptop computers
- Fax machines
- Facilities for satellite broadcasting

Media Contacts: Media inquiries about the Summit may be directed to the UN Department of Public Information at any of the following:

- Telephone** 1-(212) 963-6870 | 1-(212) 963-2932 | 1-(212) 963-7704
- Fax** 1-(212) 963-1186
- E-mail** mediainfo@un.org

TIMELINE OF SCHEDULED EVENTS

JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002

Dates/Venue	Key Event
30 April–2 May 2001 New York, USA	1st session of the global Preparatory Committee (PrepCom)
24–25 September Geneva, Switzerland	Regional PrepCom for Europe and North America
15–18 October Nairobi, Kenya	Regional PrepCom for Africa
23–24 October Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Regional PrepCom for Latin America and the Caribbean
24–25 October Cairo, Egypt	Regional PrepCom for West Asia
27–29 November Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Regional PrepCom for Asia and the Pacific
28 January–8 February 2002 New York, USA	2nd session of the global PrepCom
25 March–5 April New York, USA	3rd session of the global PrepCom
27 May–7 June Indonesia	4th session of the global PrepCom, at the Ministerial level
2–11 September Johannesburg, South Africa	Johannesburg Summit 2002

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