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NOW IS THE TIME – SEKUNJALO KE NAKO

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the way that the Johannesburg process is moving. As it stands, the current Chairman's Text is lacking in focus and will be unable to overcome the implementation barriers experienced since Rio. Progressive leadership is required to translate the current text into a document that can actually deliver on sustainable development goals and accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21.

A small ray of light has emerged in the process with the new South African paper. The structural elements proposed in the South African non-paper and the ECO released on 2 April 2002 by thirteen international NGOs provide a creative alternative to the text as it stands. Delegations should therefore give the chair a clear and strong mandate before the end of this PrepCom to produce a new text that supports this action-oriented approach.

In particular, PrepCom 3 should endorse the following 5 elements and include clear commitments to transparency and accountability to all sectors of society:

- Reaffirm the spirit of Rio and the Rio Principles and not unravel them
- A clear negotiated text establishing a process and framework leading to action-oriented implementation plans that will represent the major practical outcome of Johannesburg
- A focused set of priority themes that give effect to the poverty and environment-related targets set in the negotiated text

- Establish consensus for linking partnerships (type 2 outcomes) to the political agreements that will form the basis of the Johannesburg Programme of Action
- Ensure the contribution of civil society stakeholders towards the implementation of sustainable development is fully incorporated both in the process and the final text

The components of such a remodeled text must include – for each Summit theme – the following:

- Target
- Timeframe
- Means of implementation
- Financial resources
- Institutional requirements
- Monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms
- Stakeholder involvement

In addition, we suggest the following procedural issues to be agreed upon before the end of this PrepCom. This includes:

- Convening an urgent Plenary session to endorse the above structural approach
- Agreement to hold a formal intersessional back-to-back with the Bali PrepCom in order to negotiate the particulars of the action plan

Decision time is now. Start to show the political will needed to ensure that Johannesburg is a success, rather than an embarrassment.

ECO has been published by non-governmental organizations at international conferences since the Stockholm Conference in 1972. This ECO was brought to you by an international coalition of environmental and development NGOs, representing civil society from over 100 countries around the world, who are attending PrepCom 3 in New York. These organizations are: South African Climate Action Network, GLOBE Southern Africa, Pelangi (Indonesia), South African Civil Society Secretariat, Third World Network, Greenpeace International, Friends of the Earth International, World Wide Fund for Nature, CARE International, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Consumers International, Danish 92 Group, Vitae Civilis (Brazil), and the German NGO Forum for Environment and Development.