

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs)

ITALIAN LABORATORY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Action Aid, Cgil, Cospe, Crocevia, Fair, Fiom, Fondazione Italiana Ricerca in Agricoltura Biologica e Biodinamica, Fondazione Sviluppo Sostenibile, Legambiente, Slow Food, Oxfam Italia, Rete Clima, Wwf Italia, ...)

“THE FUTURE WE WANT”

PREAMBLE

Organized Civil Society considers the next United Nations Conference Rio+20 an opportunity of vital opportunity for all of us.

The hope is that the Conference could mark a watershed in the deep change of the current model of global development in order to put at its centre the fundamental human rights in the respect of the Planet and the natural ecosystem, as universal common good.

THE FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL OUTCOMES EXPECTED FROM THE RIO+20 CONFERENCE

Vision:

The urgent need to change the current unsustainable economic paradigm, putting the claim of human rights and nature at the centre of a new and different era of progress. This new vision must talk to people's hearts and convince them that there is indeed hope to achieve global equity, that multilateralism has a role to play, that cooperation and solidarity between countries and their people is necessary and feasible.

GOVERNING FAIRLY THE TRANSITION

- ⤴ Serious and tangible commitments are essential to ensure a fair transition at the global and local levels, in particular by providing a “social protection floor” for all people and strengthening provisions in the poorest countries;
- ⤴ A fair transition requires the need of mobilizing public resources and promoting private investment in the implementation phase. In addition to urge donor countries to maintain its commitments to allocate the 0.7% of their GDP for Official Development Assistance, ODA, the Rio+20 Conference represents an opportunity to create a consensus around the establishment of innovative financial mechanisms, such as “financial transaction tax” and revenues arising from the measures to reduce transportation emissions;
- ⤴ A sound framework to ensure the involvement of civil society, the access to information and justice mechanisms. Participation and accountability have always been regarded as fundamental principles for sustainable development. You cannot put an end to poverty without include in the

decision making processes the people who is affected first. Therefore, the roadmap for the green economy should pay attention to involve actively the marginalized groups, strengthen their understanding of problems and monitoring the action of their Governments;

- ✦ The guarantee of the right to education and training at all levels, including the workplace, as key to strengthen workers' commitment in support of sustainable development;
- ✦ A governance system able to ensure the implementation of commitments to be undertaken in the Rio+20 Conference.

AN INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMY

- ✦ It should be founded on social equity, inclusion of vulnerable groups, decent work for all, respect for democracy and rights;
- ✦ It should be also founded on a welfare state system meeting the needs of women and men and accompanied by a production conversion to a green economy. It is believed that special protection should be given to women who, in rural areas of developing countries have often been suffered from unequal access and not properly protected to natural resources on which their own livelihoods is highly dependent. Therefore, it is needed policies aimed at strengthening the rights of women on earth and the development of energy services that can best respond to their needs;
- ✦ It should ensure that the most vulnerable people have adequate access to natural resources and that their rights to use these resources are protected, since these resources are often the only source of income for people living in rural areas;
- ✦ It should be based on the efficient use of natural resources, ensuring an equitable burden sharing between countries at a global level, applying also the concept "fair shares" to the issue of resource consumption. It should also give priority to renewable sources, internationalization of social and environmental costs, a life cycle analysis of products, trend commitments to zero emissions and zero waste.
- ✦ It should be regulated by strong financial rules, constraints on speculation and should support the real economy.
- ✦ It should pay attention to indigenous knowledge and the protection of Common Goods.

ADDRESSING THE EMERGING ISSUES

- ✦ Ensuring a just transition able to tackle industrial change and the increasing instability of markets (especially with reference to price volatility of oil and food) in a context where climate change become ever more evident. The transition to a green economy should strengthen in all Nations the capacity to respond to challenges that occur in all three pillars of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social).
- ✦ Extraordinary engagement to create decent and secure jobs through well-targeted policies on employment and training;

- ✦ Removing all subsidies that harm the environment and ecosystem services, in particular those subsidies in support of fossil fuels, the unsustainable agriculture and fisheries, providing adequate safeguards to ease the effects on people most vulnerable;
- ✦ Preparing and encouraging plans to convert industrial production with environmental impacts;
- ✦ Redirecting all subsidies from the fossil fuels to renewable energy in order to provide more investment needed;
- ✦ Ensuring new models of multilateral governance for the oceans and seas, in order to protect the marine biodiversity, stock fish and marine genetic resources. This should be done at the highest level, through UNGA, Working Group on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction.

GIVE COHERENCE TO INCENTIVES

- ✦ Strengthening the regulatory framework for national and corporate accounting in order to control natural capital flows;
- ✦ Using the best fiscal policy in support of sustainable environment, including the protection of green and decent jobs;
- ✦ Generalizing the sustainable public procurement and constraining the Financial International Institutions to take into account the impact on ecosystem services in financing development projects.

MONITORING PROGRESS

- ✦ Assuming, under the auspices of the United Nations, a new system of standard indicators that goes beyond GDP, Gross Domestic Product, incorporating economic, social and environmental dimensions in the system of domestic accounting. The new system could be based on recommendations emerged by proposals of Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi, taking into account: a) move the focus from the measurement of economic production to the measurement of income and its distribution among families; b) recognise equal dignity and value to unpaid and voluntary work, with particular reference to the care work; change the perspective to consider the wealth and the well-being of a nation, moving from measurement of flows to measurement of all the goods that generate wealth for a nation – natural capital (ecosystem, renewable resources), human capital (knowledge and skills), social capital (institutions and community), material capital (infrastructures and equipment). Particular attention should be paid to the measurement of the inequality in view of the close relationship between equality, social cohesion, resource use and development.
- ✦ Sending a clear message that the next round of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), post 2015, will take on more effectively the sustainable goals.
- ✦ Recording in a comprehensive and transparent registry/compendium the current and future commitments, accompanied by regular analysis of

progress.

ITALIAN CSO's LABORATORY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RECOMENDATIONS

In the frame of expected political results of the Conference and according the actual negotiation's status, the Italian CSOs Laboratory urges to the official negotiators special attention to these themes:

GENERAL APPROACH:

- ⤴ The need for a sustainable management of natural heritage and to invest in its restoration and preservation.
- ⤴ Taking into account the overall costs accounting.
- ⤴ Assuming the term "Ecological Footprint" to describe carrying capacity with regard to the equitable sharing and restrictions on the use of natural resources.
- ⤴ Protecting the contribution of local and indigenous knowledge in the management of ecosystem balance.

GREEN ECONOMY

- ⤴ concrete commitments for a vision beyond the limits of GDP;
- ⤴ more space to multilateral agreements and criticism to "national voluntary commitments";
- ⤴ full accountability of costs, fiscal measures and certification systems;
- ⤴ sectoral road-maps as guidelines for more inclusive and sustainable actions;
- ⤴ more strength and compulsory to the enterprises accountancy principles;
- ⤴ more attention to Corporate Social Responsibility that, far from being merely voluntary and philanthropic-based actions, should include the core business of a company and its development and investment policies;
- ⤴ The concept of "short chain" should be also applied, at least, to the industrial production, from raw materials to their processing, manufacturing of finished products and their final use, mainly in the large regional areas neighbouring. In this way, the energy consumption will be rationalized, avoiding an exaggerated mobility of semi-finished products and goods, reducing the environmental impacts and the additional emissions of CO₂ (also with appropriate penalties) and restraining, at least, some productive de localization that cause social dumping.

GOVERNANCE

- ⤴ The Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC, as a key institution

to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development;

- ✦ The possibility to transform the Commission on Sustainable Development into a Sustainable Development Council – DSC – with the mandate to be established by the General Assembly in the system of the United Nations;

- ✦ The establishment of a United Nations Specialised Agency built on the basis of UNEP;

- ✦ Integrate Sustainable Development into the work of the existing International Financial Institutions (World Bank, IMF);

- ✦ The responsibilities and limits of actions of WTO, bilateral and multilateral trade agreements within sustainable development strategies.

- ✦ Recognising the important role played by the local and national authorities, including through the Sustainable Development National Council;

- ✦ The need of a better coordination and cooperation among the existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA);

- ✦ The structure, role, resources for the establishment of an Ombudsperson, or High Commissioner for Future Generations.

FOOD SECURITY, ENERGY AND WATER

- ✦ climate change role and ecosystem services as key factors that affect food production, water and energy; food security, water and energy are conditioned by a fair and sustainable management in the long term and by the preservation of the world natural capital: forests, wetlands, grasslands, savannah's, oceans and coastlines, freshwater, biodiversity, mineral resources.

- ✦ Food security: it is important to support strongly sustainable agriculture on small scale. Farmers account for 30% of the world's population and 50% of the Planet's poor population. It needs therefore to encourage investment in small scale farming, benefiting the economy as a whole, in particular:

- ✦ a) promote guidance services;

- ✦ b) ensure that farmers have access to services, such as seed banks, water harvesting, agrarian reform, support for the development of organic fertilizer in order to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and enhance the agriculture practice to preserve ecosystem services;

- ✦ c) ensure that smallholders have access to credit, mainly to public credit.

- ✦ Food sovereignty principle, has to include the reference to the need to consider the local and regional market levels;

- ✦ Water: to set targets for the water management, for example, a minimum quantity of free and guaranteed supply of water for personal, domestic and agricultural use;

- ✦ Water: as public good and carry out a management in the public

interest;

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

✦ National targets to ensure the access to energy. Definition of basic energy for production and consumption. Definition of institutions, process or partnership needed in order to achieve the national targets. Definition of type of energy: sustainable, affordable, clean. For example, it is important an explicit reference to the bio-fuels exclusion derived from food crops ,among the renewable energy sources. The use of food crops for bio-fuel production puts under pressure the whole global food system, causing a rising in food prices, greater volatility and a growing competition for access to land (as shown by a report presented in June 2011 by FAO, WTO, IMF and WB);

✦ The implementation of decisions to be taken in the Conference of the Parties, COP17, in Durban, is overly generic. It is necessary to urge with more emphasis the importance of national mitigation plans and the adaptation to climate change. Moreover, it is largely known that the “Durban outcomes” are absolutely inadequate to effectively fight climate change;

✦ The need to allocate adequate resources for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. This decision was taken, among others, in the last Conference of the Parties and still largely disregarded;

CITIES

✦ The urban issue has to be among the priorities;

✦ Specific targets on how tackle the current urbanization process, with particular reference to social services, efficiency energy saving, water resources, waste management, soil consumption;

✦ Supporting measures for the regeneration of degraded suburbs of developed and developing countries providing them with urban services of standard levels (sanitation, education, transportation, waste management, etc...);

✦ Strategies to curb the steady consumption of agricultural soil;

✦ Initiatives to promote a sustainable urban mobility system;

GREEN JOBS, SOCIAL INCLUSION, TRAINING, GENDER EQUALITY, HEALTH

✦ The central role of jobs for a transition to a green economy.

✦ The opportunity of building a green economy will depend largely on green jobs creation.

✦ Extraordinary commitment to promote workers training and skills in order to create green jobs.

✦ Special attention to build a green economy must to be paid to informal economy workers.

- ✧ The recognition that women can give to transition to a green economy.
- ✧ Measures to tackle social dumping in international trade.
- ✧ The recognition of rights at workplace, starting from the workers' right of freedom association and assembly.
- ✧ Social protection measures to promote the just transition.
- ✧ Prioritize materials productivity instead of labour cost reduction.
- ✧ Shed light on the fact that women's contribution to sustainable development cannot be seen in merely economic terms.
- ✧ Shed light on the framework of initiatives to promote in order to affirm gender equality and women's empowerment in decision-making at all levels of, institutions and policies.
- ✧ Thinking of strengthening the ILO's role and capacity in the global governance context.
- ✧ It is necessary to recognize that all the conditions regarding the well-being should be improved in order to achieve the targets of sustainable developments. The relationship between health and sustainable development has three basic components: a) improvements in the field of human health would help to reduce poverty; b) investments in health services are a fundamental pillar; health indicators are a tool to monitor progress achieved (social, economic and environmental).
- ✧ Undertaking measures to fight against child labour.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND CONSUMPTION

- ✧ The indications on the huge theme of consumption are completely inadequate. It is necessary to express clear proposals aimed to promote sustainable consumption patterns instead of those existing which are strongly dissipative of natural resources. A special attention must be paid to the efforts of States to tie their spending to green purchasing in order to direct market in support of sustainable production.
- ✧ the necessary balance between the global dimension and the support to local and regional markets.
- ✧ it is necessary to address the theme with greater determination. In particular, it is urgent to bind the basic international trade rules (to comply with the environmental and social clause) to the consistency with the environmental multilateral agreements and the resolutions on labour and human rights of International Organizations and the United Nations Agencies.
- ✧ Take care on the concept of "market distortion" that's particularly sensitive. Some subsidies, although against the WTO rules, mainly the rule of "national treatment", are an element of protection for the actors of local economy in need of more protections (for example the traditional small farming) compared to international competition and the enterprise more structured. The issue of "subsidy"

should be addressed in more articulate way.

OCEANS, FISHERIES AND FRESHWATER

- ✦ The cross-borderer cooperation for water (with special reference to large dams) is not mentioned as well as the need to implement the UN Convention on watercourses.
- ✦ Marine Protected Areas .
- ✦ The need for regular strategic environmental assessments, the preliminary assessment of environmental impact, the integrated management of ocean ecosystems.
- ✦ The importance of ensuring that all States should actively participate in governance and oceans management, including the sharing of benefits, by establishing a system for an adequate assistance to allow developing countries to take full part.
- ✦ The responsibility of States to control the vessels under their flag.
- ✦ The observance of safety standards for ships carrying mineral oil or other harmful or toxic substances.
- ✦ The definition of stringent controls on “coffin ship” too often used to dispose illegally highly hazardous waste through the sinking.

FORESTS, BIODIVERSITY AND SOIL DEGRADATION

- ✦ Show the specific targets to stop deforestation and mention the important role of the existing mechanisms, such as REED + for finance, as long as they have been revised according to the concerns of indigenous movements for their direct participation and involvement, or FLECT as legally binding mechanism;
- ✦ The ambitious targets adopted in Nagoya in the context of CBD on issues such as the elimination of subsidies environmentally harmful, overfishing, reducing the loss of habitat, protect the 10% of the oceans, the 17% of terrestrial habitats (The Nagoya Protocol only applies to genetic resources);
- ✦ How to build on the current Nagoya Protocol, CBD and UNCDD regardless of encouragement of States to increase protection of biodiversity and to further invest in natural capital.
- ✦ To support the efforts taken at international and national levels to regulate the large scale acquisition of lands in order to prevent the phenomenon of land grabbing.
- ✦ As regards the lands management, we should refer to the Final Declaration of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (*ICAARD*) under FAO and, once again, to the damage of the intensive industrial farming.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TARGETS

- ✦ The targets of sustainable developments to be considered

universal and applicable to all countries.

✦ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) should incorporate and reinforce the Millennium Objectives Goals (MDG) for the period post-2015.

✦ Invitation addressed to the UN General Secretary to coordinate this process.

✦ Ensure that adequate policies to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to be included in the Rio Declaration.

✦ The mandate is not only about the process, but the commitment to define a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) no later a certain date.

FINANCE

✦ To quantify the new and further financing resources that would be mobilised to implement the commitments taken in the Rio+20 Declaration.

✦ Specifying which investment mechanism should be used to finance these new commitments.

✦ Financial Transaction Tax: revenues that would go partly to finance the transition to a low-carbon, sustainable and fair economy, included the Green Climate Fund or taking deposits for the navy and aviation.

✦ It should be clarified the extent and the roles of public and private partners regarding the need of a public-private partnership.

✦ It should shed more light on innovative financing mechanism to understand what would be allowed and which, on the contrary, should be banned.

May 2012
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