

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribe

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Sunday 22 April 2007

The Rio+15 Summit poses challenge of integral sustainable development in the next 30 years

For socially just, economically efficient, politically plural and ecologically sustainable globalisation by the year 2040.

Joseph Raleigh
Herald Tribe Service

Fifteen years after the Earth Summit, the international community faces a new challenge: integral sustainable development. The Rio+15 Summit, held in Jakarta (Indonesia) concluded that environmental conservation demands the transformation of present development models, making the monumental commitment of achieving, in 20 years, a global reform not only of environmental conditions but also of world social, economic and political models based on respect for cultural diversity.

For world sustainability to become effective, an indispensable condition is the fair redistribution of world wealth. To this end, the societies of the North must slow down their

rates of production and consumption growth. In coming decades, world consumption of energy and other natural resources must be halved, even whilst taking into account that the South should be assured increased access to goods and services to meet its basic needs. To ensure quality of life for humanity as a whole, the priority—particularly as regards the rich countries—must be to improve the environmentally-friendly efficiency of technology so as to increase services and quality of life in general.

The Summit approved a series of measures including the establishment of a new system of world governance to manage natural resources such as the atmosphere, the oceans and biodiversity and such world public goods as peace and culture; reform of international in-

stitutions (transformation of the UN into a world parliament); the creation of an International Court on Foreign Debt and of social and environmental debt indicators; the abolition of patent monopolies; the establishment of new indicators for environmental conservation, social sustainability and the effect of negative externalities; the application of a tax on international financial transactions; and promotion of education for sustainability.

At the end of the Summit, NGOs and representatives from civil society and the academic world agreed to promote people power within their countries and on the international scene and to combat powers with vested interests in maintaining unsustainable models of globalisation.

News item 24 inspired by the Proposals Booklet: ***Growth and sustainable development***, coordinated by Associació Nova, Centre per a la Innovació Social

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