

AFTER RIO+20 MOVING BEYOND 2015

Peoples' Sustainability Treaties in a Post Rio+20 Future:
Advancing a Global Citizens Movement Around Sustainable Development
A week-long set of Workshops from 15-19th October, 2012 at: SC-219, Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ, USA

Day 02/October 16, 2012

“An Alternative at Rio+20:

Peoples' Sustainability Treaties & the Manifesto”



Peoples' Sustainability Treaties

alternative pathway for a sustainable transition



by **UCHITA DE ZOYSA**

History

“Last year, at the UN DPI Conference held in Bonn, I warned the international community that Rio+20 could easily turn into a funeral ceremony of sustainable development. Sensing threats to the real issues on sustainable development, I urged the global civil society to step out of their fragmentation and act collectively and proactively using Rio +20 as a platform.”

... to avoid a Historical Mistake

- Failure at Rio+20 cannot be accepted
- failure of the official process should not become an obstacle towards successful evolving of a global movement to lead the transition towards sustainable futures on earth.
- Civil Society should not make the historical mistake of simply be reactive to a UNCSD Rio+20 outcome negotiated by governments within the UN system.
- Civil Society should state clearly their aspirations for a sustainable world and propose the recommended pathways.
- Given the urgent need for radical reform in our behavior on earth, and knowing that official outcome cannot deliver such a change , Civil Society needs to come together to bring forward the peoples' agenda.

Fragmentation

- From 1992 to 2012 the fragmentation in civil society has increased tremendously
- The politics of mistrust was openly visible during Rio+20 preparations
- Divisions were open and lack of interest to build common platforms were obvious
- Self interests greater than the cause

The Challenge

- To challenge the fragmentation
- To offer a common platform for all to contribute (not some selected – not just the like minded)
- To reach out to those who were left out of the Rio+20 process
- To bring together those who were already in the process
- To ensure freedom and independence of action
- To provide hope of an alternative – “ANOTHER FUTURE IS POSSIBLE”

The Idea

- Peoples' Sustainability Treaties were proposed as a series of independent collective agreements produced by civil society representatives.
- An alternative content outcome by civil society to reflect the public interest and aspirations of a sustainable world
- To serve as collection of proposals to influence governments negotiating for official outcomes at the Summit.
- Essentially, the process will lead towards advancing a Global Movement to ensure sustainable futures

The Initiative

- People's Sustainability Treaties are a series of independent collective agreements produced by people in parallel to the official UNCS2012.
- It was planned as the alternative content outcome by people at Rio+20 and will serve as collection of proposals for governments negotiating for official outcomes.
- The treaties are considered as a complimentary process to strengthen the People's Summit Rio+20 organised by the Brazilian civil society and all other independent efforts towards creating people's visions and voices.
- The treaties are essentially a forward looking process and targets a future beyond Rio+20 and will become a living document towards the transition to a sustainable world order.

The Guide



• **Creating a Treaty Circle** with broad geographical representation

• **Organising Dialogues** through meetings, conference calls and email exchanges

• **Writing Drafts** by appointing treaty editorial team and discuss intensely

• **Consulting Experts** to ensure quality and credibility of draft

• **Editorial Review** for further improvement and intergration with other treatise

• **Generating Comments** by distributing across the world through databases and list servers for public comments.

• **Finalisation** of Treaty with International Editorial Committee and distribution amongst governments and stakeholders

• **Lobbying** governments, intergovernmental agencies, stakeholders and key actors of Rio+20

The Format

- Preamble
- Principle
- Commitments
- Action Plan
- Signatories

The Organization



Timeline



January-May 2012 Pre-Rio+20	J	} 1 st January-31 st March: Organizing Treaties Circle, Organizing Treaty Dialogues & Public Hearings, Formulation of 1st drafts, and Media and Advocacy Campaign			
	F				
	M				
	A				
	M				
June 2012 Rio+20 Summit	J	} 1 st April - 31 st May: Public Comments, Editing Treaties, Formulation of Declaration & Action Plan			
July 1 – December 31 Advancing a Global Movement	J	} 1-12 June: Release of the Treaties & Pre-Summit Advocacy Campaign			
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			Prep.com	13	} 13-21 June: Organising Treaties Dialogues, Demonstrations, Advocacy and Media Activities in collaboration with other CSO initiatives, partners and supporters, and Media & Advocacy Campaign
				14	
				15	
			Sandwich Days	16	
				17	
				18	
		19			
	Official UNCSD20 12	20	} 22 June: Rio+20 PLATFORM (Joint Public Event) <i>Theme: Advancing a Global Citizens Movement</i> [convened by TWC]		
		21			
		22			
			} 23 -30 th June: Follow-up action and planning post Rio+20 action, Reporting Results, and Media Campaign		

14 Treaties Launched at Rio+20



Nations Conference
Sustainable Development

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - 20 - 22 June 2012



Treaties @ Rio+20

1. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Consumption and Production](#)
2. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Equity](#)
3. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Sustainable Economies](#)
4. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Radical Ecological Democracy](#)
5. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Sustainable Development Governance](#)
6. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Rights of Mother Earth](#)
7. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Sustainable Development Goals](#)
8. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Environmental Education for Sustainable Societies and Global Responsibility](#)
9. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Ethical and Spiritual Values for Sustainable Development](#)
10. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Transitioning to a Zero Fossil Fuel World](#)
11. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Rights for Sustainability](#)
12. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Corporate Social Responsibility and Accountability](#)
13. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on Higher Education Towards Sustainable Development](#)
14. [Peoples' Sustainability Treaty on a Charter of Universal Responsibility](#)

Chaos in Rio

- Compared to the Global Forum organized by the International NGO Forum in 1992 at the first Earth Summit, this was a sad show of how fragmented the civil society has become.
- The so called Rio+20 Peoples Summit, hijacked by a Brazilian NGO Organising Committee, was a chaotic demonstration that lead to thousands of civil society representatives from across the world being stranded and lost without any sense of direction or coordination.

Maneuvering through Chaos

- We had a clear objective – being proactive
- We had a source of inspiration – people
- We had hope – the treaties were a reality
- We had a platform – more than a dozen events
- We had a team - committed to serve the cause
- We had leadership – Determine CSO leaders
- We had Inspiration – with great following at Rio +20
- We had hope – all came together and started believing

OUTCOME – A Manifesto at Rio+20

- Representatives of treaty circles and those who wanted to contribute converged at the Rio+20 to launch a Manifesto on the final day of the summit.
- They declared that another world is possible after Rio+20 and pledged their commitment to a transition toward increasingly sustainable futures on earth.
- The signatories to this Manifesto refused to sit idly by in the face of another failure of governments to provide hope for a sustainable future for all.
- This manifesto calls for action that helps move simultaneously toward a more localized socio-economic structure and toward a supra-national mindset that helps us transcend the parochial concerns of a corporate-capitalistic globalization to activate a global citizens movement.

Committing to Our Own Future

- They announced their own responsibility for undertaking actions, inviting and encourage similar actions and commitments by other rightsholders and stakeholders, communicating a vision for healthy communities, sustainable and equitable human well-being and its associated strategies, and coming together in the form of a global citizen's movement to shepherd the transition to a sustainable, equitable, and democratic future.

Without a Dollar Asked



Common Platform



Collective Action



Team Work



Belief & Inspiration



Peoples Power



The next steps

- New treaties
- Revisiting the treaties
- Strengthening the Action Plans & commitments for implementation
- Formulating a Common Action Programme for 2013-2015 (for the beyond 2015 SD Agenda)
- A process, a platform, a movement
- Vision to advance a GCM (link with TWC campaign for a GCM)

