



Collectif
RIO+20

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE COLLECTIF RIO+20 IN THE LEAD-UP TO THE 2012 RIO SUMMIT

The Collective RIO+20 Declaration is the result of joint work of fifty French civil society organizations: NGOs, social movements and trade unions, which have come together over a year's time to support a broader reflection on the content and preparation for Rio +20. In the scope of institutional negotiations and the plural manifestation of civil society, it is our ambition to put forth proposals for equitable and sustainable societies. At this crucial time for humanity, it is important that the Rio Summit bring together all representatives of governments and multilateral organizations at the highest level, and allows for the dialogue with citizens.

Members of Collectif RIO+20 : 4D, ADOME, AEEOG, Agir pour l'environnement, AgriSud, Aitec-Ipam, Artisans du Monde, Association des Populations des Montagnes du Monde, Association Entreprendre Vert, Association française des Petits Débrouillards, Attac, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Centre de Recherche en Sustainability Sciences de l'Université de Reims, CFDT, CFSI, CGT, Comité 21, CRID, ENERGIES 2050, Etudiants&Développement, Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l'Homme, Fondation Sciences Citoyennes, Forum pour une nouvelle gouvernance mondiale, France Libertés, France Nature Environnement, Global Chance, Groupe de contact Genre et développement soutenable, HELIO International , IATEUR, IDD, IGAPURA, Institut Veblen, Ligue de l'Enseignement, Ligue Internationale des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté, Littocean, Marche Mondiale des Femmes-France, Mouvement Utopia, Orée, P'ACTES LOCAUX, RAC-France, RARE, REFEDD, Réseau Ecole et Nature, Réseau environnement et santé, Syndex, SYNERGENCE, UNAF, VECAM, VivAgora. Others organisations worked with the Collectif RIO+20.

Internationally, they support this contribution: Canadian Earth Summit Coalition, ENDA Europe, Réseau Climat et Développement et Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement

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1- A NEW VISION OF DEVELOPMENT FOR SOCIETIES IN ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL TRANSITION

The need for a transition to improve the quality of life for all and that is consistent with the limits of the planet is now posed with the intention to move towards new forms of development that integrate explicit economic, social, ecological and cultural goals. To achieve this civilization shift, it is firstly needed to define the values which correspond to a general interest raised at the level of all human kind and the recognition of the diversity of societies. The Rio+20 Summit shall transmit a new vision of development and prosperity and chart the paths to achieve this, both in the political North and South. Confronting these challenges will require major transformations, which commit all levels of society and can only be possible on a democratic basis. The window of opportunity is narrow. A sustainable end of a systematic crisis requires a roadmap for the period 2012-2020 compatible with deadlines and perspectives on the long view. Rio+20 shall focus on two main issues:

- The ecological and social transition of our societies, and thus of our economic system and the conversion to post-oil and post-fossil fuels societies; and
- The construction of new global governance, based particularly on the responsibility of States and on the systemic consultation of an active civil society from the local to the global level.

The Rio-2012 Summit should adopt a roadmap launching a cycle of negotiations for the 2012-2020 period, which outlines the process and the means of implementation.

2- UNDERWRITE PRINCIPLES COMMON TO HUMANKIND IN THE RIO+20 DECLARATION

The Rio+20 Declaration must carry higher principles of general interest: respect for Human Rights, improvement or transformation of living condition of mankind according to geographical regions, which implies the right to equitable and sustainable development for all, and shared but differentiated responsibility vis-à-vis the protection of ecological balance.

The Collective RIO+20 calls for the Rio-2012 Declaration to affirm as fundamental principles:

- The respect of ecological balance with climate stabilization and protection of biodiversity at a level that:
 - o Ensures that all have access to water, energy and food;
 - o Prevents ecological disasters.

This will require the construction of local, national, regional and international frameworks based on the principles of multilateralism and of shared but differentiated responsibility.

- Eradicate poverty, reduce social inequalities, through the reaffirmation of the Millennium Development Goals and set new goals, with indicators and means, for post-2015;
- Prevent of chronic diseases that are no longer just a medical or public health problem but also a development and political issue;
- Implement effectively the commitments of developed countries to allocate at least 0.7% of their gross national income to official development assistance giving priority to grants rather than loans;

- Reaffirm the right to food for all and food sovereignty, particularly through the support of sustainable and viable alternative practices such as local farming, family farming and agro ecology and agro forestry;
- Respect the limits of the planet which requires a better sharing and knowledge of its resources and risks through the reaffirmation of the principle of ecological sustainability and the definitions of new obligations vis-à-vis resources;
- Recognize the fundamental goods (air, soil, energy...) as common goods to be locally managed based on democratic principles of access for all and sobriety;
- Enforce the principle of subsidiarity in order to assure that decision are taken at level which policies can better integrate general interest and economic, social and ecological dimensions, through a democratic process that engages citizens allowing for greater efficiency;
- Enhance Principle 10 of the Rio-92 Declaration on the right to transparency, access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice, in the view of emerging democratic demands, communication tools, the need to better understand complex data (technical and scientific) and in accordance with a bottom-up approach;
- Recognize local knowledge and different forms of scientific and citizens expertise to construct together new cognitions and skills in order to articulate thinking and action from a local to a global level;
- Valorize and support institutional collective experiences which reconstruct and create territorialized patterns of production, use and consumption; and
- Implement the rules of the International Labor Organization on decent work and create a universal social protection.

3 – OUR EXPECTATIONS ON KEY ISSUES, PRINCIPLES AND PROPOSALS

Principle: a paradigm shift

On the next twenty years, the human population is expected to reach 8 billion by 2030 and 9.1 billion in 2050; much of this growth will occur in developing countries, especially in urban areas. It is possible to respond to the needs of populations for food, energy, health and others (material and immaterial) in a fair and sustainable way while preserving the environment. The condition is to operate a profound paradigm shift and reconsider the overconsumption model, land and resources grabbing by a minority in order to move to sharing societies, based on principles of shared knowledge, frugality and equitable distribution. Greening a simple trade policy and ignoring the social inequalities, the financial, health, social and ecological crises, the complexity interdependencies of ecosystems, would only bring a partial solution, and would be ultimately ineffective. We need an ecological and social transition lean on well-adapted policy on innovation and research and which are not exclusively oriented to private interests.

Proposals for implementation:

- Reconcile the pursuit of well-being for all ensuring the preservation and the integrity of the planet in the quest for sustainable societies;
- Strengthen national policies promoting a greater equality of income, a better redistribution of wealth and a fair remuneration;
- Develop a product service system that promotes the access to knowledge and use for all of consumption goods rather than the overproduction and personal property;

- Extend short production-consumption circuits, particularly in the field of food and energy, and ensure that long distribution patterns which guarantee equitable remuneration for producers and have a low impact on natural resources and the environment;
- Preserve the common goods and allow the user communities to will define the rules for the preservation and the access to essential natural goods for life. All this shall be done out of market since it does not take into account the social demands or environmental constraints;
- Support partnerships between local authorities, including civil society and governments, to allow an efficient, equitable and responsive to territorial diversity management of natural and cultural resources;
- Ensure a territorial governance at multiple levels, considering that decentralization also implies the recognition of the civil society role;
- Give, in the management of natural resources, priority to basic needs such as food and the fight against land grabbing, all this bearing in mind the preservation of other resources; and
- Re-define and reconsider the social roles of men and women on an equal basis, particularly in the parenthood, the lifetime, the labor repartition and the respect of the planet issues. This implies a support of public services and the entire society with an equitable sharing of the tasks and jobs currently delegate exclusively for women and free of charge.

Principle: Enhance the role of regulation

The development of new indicators to measure the state of the planet and the social and economical well-being of people, combined with an effective tax system and social and environmental investments, are fundamental prerequisites for the reduction of social inequalities and economic investment.

Proposals for implementation:

- Institute a set of indicators beyond GDP that allow the raising of awareness, the implementation of concrete policies and binding principles in accordance with vital emergencies that face humanity. Non-exhaustive indicators that measure impacts such as climate change, ecological footprint as a synthesis of several major excess, renewable energy, water, removal of non-renewable resources, desertification, overconsumption of critically endangered resources, poverty and social inequalities, incomes, gender relations, health, education...;
- Monitor the implementation of new indicators by drawing on lessons learned from the expertise of practitioners and scientific research in order to continuously improve the operational responses and orient them for training and preparation of youth;
- Submit economic, trade and financial negotiations from international financial institutions to the respect of social and environmental rules established within the United Nations system;
- Adopt a global tax on financial transactions in order to fight against financial speculation, and also search for other innovative financing;
- Eliminate tax havens and offshore finance;
- Enhance business transparency, particularly with respect to transnational corporations, in the tax, social and environmental domains through corporate social responsibility and accountability in a legally binding framework. Also, taking measures to establish an automatic sharing of tax information between countries jurisdictions in which firms operate; and
- Enable and support the development of social economy in the South and North.

Principle: democratic progress, the condition to reinforce governance

A real change in civilization requires by necessity a democratic progress. The actual change in our civilization will require meeting this challenge. It is the democratic strengthening that enables supporting and ingraining the deep upheavals, which destabilize earlier representations regarding the economy, technologies, life styles and attitudes by questioning our institutional models without falling into the illusion of a technological panacea. This requires access to information and the training of all citizens to share this behavior change, the new world visions, and especially to gain capacity for innovation and participation in the elaboration of decisions. These political progresses must be operated at four levels: at a citizen level, at a grassroots democracy level, at a national level and at a supranational level.

Proposals for implementation: citizens and democracy

- Ask for a commitment from the international community as a whole, from States to all stakeholders, on a major effort for education; and promote better access to information and training at all ages;
- Redefine education along the lines of sustainability and participatory democracy;
- Support education and training at all ages, as well as policies and projects that support widespread knowledge sharing, in an effort to help people grasp the complexity of the world
- Enhance learning methods based on experimentation, knowledge contextualization and solidarity practices and deepen the relation between humankind and nature;
- Establish gender parity in decision-making at all levels; and
- Institute public policy based on transparent and democratic processes that increase the participation of citizens, economic actors and civil society structures during the phases of elaboration, decision making, implementation and evaluation.

Proposals for implementation: articulation of decision levels

- Establish participatory democratic policies and practices creating spaces for public dialogue and for debates about patterns for the future, scientific and technical choices, etc.;
- Institute at parliamentary level “Scientific and Technical Mediation Offices”, and ensure the legitimacy of their recommendations; and
- Strengthen governance models at the regional level by supporting the economic, social and cultural bonds as well as the construction of new forms of citizenship.

4- GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

The Rio-2012 Summit shall adopt a roadmap on cycle of negotiations for the 2012-2020 period in order to relaunch multilateralism. To achieve this, Rio+20 should:

- **Set up a negotiating mandate and a global agenda;**
- **Create an international commission to manage the process; and**
- **Establish an annual cycle of international negotiations.**

Principle: solidarity and responsibility

The world has deeply changed. Globalization has transformed international relations practices, based on national interests and balance of power. This model is no longer adequate since national decisions have nowadays worldwide consequences. The imperative of multilateralism will be possible once we meet basic conditions: the design of "rules of the game" to ensure effective implementation, development prospects for all countries and financial support. This civilization shift requires a legally binding framework, over States jurisdiction. Regarding the governance of sustainable development, taking into account the different phases of implementation, the goal is the creation of a Sustainable Development Council.

Proposals for implementation:

- Create a new executive body for sustainable development, aside the Security Council, to ensure the coordination of all agencies and programs of the United Nations in a perspective of sustainable development. This can be achieved through the elimination of the Commission on Sustainable Development and through the enhancement of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
- Upgrading UNEP to a specialized agency, the United Nations Environment Organization (UNEO), with predictable and additional financing resources, and reporting directly to the General Assembly. The mandate shall emphasize that UNEO replaces activities, functions and resources, and shall expand it.
- Set up a legally binding framework in order to monitor States' engagements and transnational corporations;
- Move towards the establishment of a coherent body, under the aegis of United Nations, to settle economic, social and environmental disputes;
- Adopt a Charter of Universal Responsibilities, ethical, legal and political pillar of international community as well as a support to institutional reforms;
- Reform the Major Groups that emerged from Agenda 21;
- Provide groups of civil society, engaged in civic practices of general interest, with the status of partners, rather than observers, in the process of consultations and negotiations; and
- Organize multi-stakeholder forums articulated by fields.

Only a strong speech, backed by a diversity of socioeconomic experiments, and relayed by the media, will be able to provide the initial push, essential to the paradigm shift. Regarding the relaunch of multilateralism, the United Nations is the only institution that is representative of all countries, thus the most appropriate.

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OUR PROPOSITIONS

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3 - OUR EXPECTATIONS ON KEY ISSUES, PRINCIPLES AND PROPOSALS

PRINCIPLE: A PARADIGM SHIFT

PRINCIPLE: ENHANCE THE ROLE OF REGULATION

PRINCIPLE: DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS, THE CONDITION TO REINFORCE GOVERNANCE

4- GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

PRINCIPLE: SOLIDARITY AND RESPONSIBILITY



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