

INFORSE WWSO Task Force
 INFORSE secretariat,
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Southern NGO Preparation for Johannesburg

The Danish Government is funding a capacity building programme for Southern NGO Preparation for Johannesburg. The programme is organised around seven sub-regional co-ordinators from Central and South America, Africa and Asia. The co-ordinators are:

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For further information on this preparations please contact the relevant co-ordinator or look at the following web sites: www.Rio10.dk.

Progress

The negotiations at WTO in Qatar show that Northern countries have little willingness to meet the demands from many southern countries about access to their markets. This is not a promising introduction to a Global Deal at Johannesburg incorporating sustainable development and environmental concerns in the global trading regime which was one of the themes from the first formulations of the Global Deal (see. INFO No.1, October 30, 2001).

The South African Minister of Environmental Affairs has presented the theme “People, Planet and Prosperity” (see www.environment.gov.za) which reaffirms that poverty eradication is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Africa feels that achieving the poverty reduction goals of the Millennium Declaration is a joint responsibility of the North and the South. The South African Minister hopes that a Johannesburg vision will provide practical expression to

the political commitments made by the international community in the Rio principles and Agenda 21, and the Millennium Declaration.

There has also been expressed concern from India about the outline content of a global deal. The global deal – in the present form – do not address the question of need for equity in the use of the Earth's natural resources. Northern countries will have to take a leading step in accepting to pay for their overuse of these resources. Southern countries cannot take a global deal seriously until Northern countries have accepted these premises and demonstrated through their national politics or during international negotiations that they will take this step.

What implications will these points have for our discussions about the energy content of a Global Deal?

Final remarks

The task force is announced in the latest issue of Sustainable Energy New and it has been proposed to make the mailing list open for all members of INFORSE.