

# Rio+20 Outcome Document *"The Future We Want"-A Critical Review*

*By Munetsi Madakufamba Programmes Director & Deputy CEO Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC)* 

Presentation to the Post Rio+20 Meeting of Civil Society and Trade Unions in Africa Nairobi, Kenya 19-20 November, 2012 On 9 June, indigenous people and activists formed a human figure on Flamengo beach, Rio, to protest against the rising poverty and lack of protection of planet earth



# '92 hailed as a great success... What has gone wrong 20 years on?

The world continues to face a multitude of challenges despite the various principles and pledges made at the Earth Summit in 1992.

- Energy crises
- Food crises
- Water scarcity
- Land degradation
- Biodiversity loss
- Poverty
- Climate change
- Deforestation
- Pollution
- Financial and economic crises
- Ocean acidification
- High population growth

Nowhere in the world are these crises more acute than in Africa!

#### Rio+20 Conference's two-pronged themes

- A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and
- The institutional framework for sustainable development

# **Objectives of Conference were**

- Secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development;
- Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development; and
- Address new and emerging challenges.

### **Expectations before the Conference**

A reaffirmation of the original Rio principles and commitments adopted 20 years ago, These include:

- Common But Differentiated Responsibilities
- Provision of new and additional financial resources for sustainable development
- Provision of Technology transfer

### Expectations cont...

- Recognition that the crises in environment and economy are even more serious today than 20 years ago,
- Adoption of new commitments by the political leaders that are adequate enough to tackle these crises in a systematic way
- Agreement to significantly strengthen the institutions for addressing sustainable development

# Expectations cont...

- Strengthened UNEP with more resources
- Clear commitments to support developing countries to meet the sustainable development agenda
- Launch a process on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the post 2015 period which should interface meaningfully with the post -2015 MDG process



