



United Nations Environment Programme

PERSPECTIVES

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Peoples' Sustainability Treaties for Rio+20

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The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD2012) or Rio+20 is now just four months away, yet we have only very few ideas on what results it will bring to the world. The process has so far displayed a lack of vision; participation of stakeholders has been low and engagement has been difficult; and political will seems to be missing sometimes. This demonstrates the lack of commitment to the agreements reached twenty years ago in Rio de Janeiro at the first Earth Summit. The world is in a worse place now than it was then, and sustainability has become a much more distant dream. Can civil society, which has been the frontier and guardian of the sustainability agenda, provide the vision and leadership to Rio+20 and beyond?

Background: Rio+20 and Civil Society

Many questions remain to be answered at Rio+20. Can governments agree on a transition plan to guide the world towards sustainability? Can they agree on a green economy that can replace the prevalent brown economy and ensure equity and wellbeing for all? Can they agree to reform the fragmented environmental governance within the United Nations system and bring about a coordinated global governance structure for sustainable development? Can they agree to regulate unsustainable consumption and production patterns and forge an agreement on sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods? Can they agree to mandate corporate accountability and assure corporate responsibility? Can they come-up with a renewed blueprint for a sustainable world by furthering the Agenda 21 and Rio Principles?

While these questions are raised in the run-up to the Rio+20 Summit, it remains to be seen who will provide the leadership for a successful outcome. Rio+20 has so far failed to draw the imagination and commitment of many governments. The lack of interest demonstrated by some governments and the low priority given by global political leadership to Rio+20 also stems from their lack of proper engagement in the process. To generate the kind of political interest and commitment from governments that is needed to create a renewed sustainable development agenda at Rio+20, may take a miracle.

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The best chance for Rio+20 to have a meaningful outcome is to engage the global civil society which has been the main frontier and guardian of the sustainable development agenda since the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE). If not for the continued interest of civil society, keeping the sustainable development agenda would not have been possible. In the absence of significant interest or contribution from many governments, it has been civil society and their major groups who had provided vision to the Rio+20 process since the first Preparatory Committee Meeting and even before. The 485 submissions to the Zero Draft by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and CSD Major Groups² (out of the total 700 submissions) amply demonstrate this fact.

Additionally, the Rio+20 process has provided limited space for civil society and the different Major Groups to contribute effectively. Mostly, CSOs have been left to find their own mechanisms and initiatives to contribute, while the few minutes provided to address the delegates in the official sessions also get divided among the nine Major Groups. The idea that the Major Groups have to find a common statement makes the entire process difficult and sometimes meaningless, because consensus often only demonstrates the smallest common denominator. As a result, many Major Groups stay apart and give way to a usual group of organizing partners who work closely with the Secretariat. Lack of successful fund raising and fund management has resulted in very low Southern CSO contribution to the process so far. Fortunately, the UNEP approach of holding major group consultations at all Rio+20 events and other related global conferences has provided an alternative forum for civil society to voice their opinion and get organized around Rio+20 issues. But the assurance of these consultations ending up in actual inclusions in the official outcomes is yet to be seen and needs more attention when planning changes to sustainable development governance.

Since the adoption of Agenda 21 and Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, engagement of civil society and true public participation in global negotiations and decision-making on environment and sustainable development has not achieved the desirable and promised level. The current discussion on the governance of sustainable development must have a strong emphasis on the rights of people and their civil society representatives to participate and contribute equitably, to ensure that those agreements derived at intergovernmental meetings truly reflect the aspirations and needs of the people.

Vision: Platform for Civil Society Voice

As a result of the lack of opportunities for engagement within the Rio+20 process, civil society initiated their own treaties. In 1992 at the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the NGO Alternative Treaties were drafted to engage civil society. These treaties were created to bring out the unheard civil society voices and to collectively express the common future they wanted on earth. Twenty years later the struggle to voice their opinion, to be heard and to be included seems to have become even harder. While thousands of CSOs are now accredited by UN agencies and permitted to attend various intergovernmental meetings, their actual engagement in key deliberations and negotiations is still minimal.

The global civil society is fragmented and lacks a coherent and coordinated voice to make a significant impact within the intergovernmental processes. While numerous initiatives are now emerging as we approach Rio+20, many people and their organizations across the world, especially in the developing nations, find it difficult to identify themselves with those.



The Peoples' Sustainability Treaties have emerged in this vacuum to provide a platform for those voices to be collectively expressed at Rio+20.

The objective of initiating the Peoples' Sustainability Treaties is to assist civil society actors to get organized, to generate a collective vision representative of the global people's aspirations and wellbeing, and to create an open platform to voice these visions. Peoples' Sustainability Treaties are intended to provide a forum in which civil society actors can network and engage in a dialogue that can advise the Rio+20 deliberation to agree on a pathway of sustainable futures, and to create collective civil agreements on a way forward through principled action.

Introduction: Peoples' Sustainability Treaties

Peoples' Sustainability Treaties are proposed as a series of independent collective agreements produced by representatives of major groups and stakeholders of civil society, with the intention of being drafted and published prior to the official UNCSD2012. They are planned as the alternative content outcome by civil society to reflect the public interest and aspirations of a sustainable world, and will serve as collection of proposals for governments negotiating for official outcomes at the Summit.

The treaties are considered as a complimentary process to strengthen the Rio+20 Peoples' Summit and all other independent efforts for creating peoples' visions and voices. The treaties process will aspire to consider any other documented voice by civil society targeting Rio+20 and attempt to integrate those visions and proposals into the relevant treaties as appropriate. The treaties are essentially a forward looking process, and target a future beyond Rio+20. Hence, it will become a living document to advance a global citizens' movement forging the transition to a sustainable world.

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaties acknowledge that sustainable development dialogues must take place beyond the time and space of the UNCSD2012 and the 'Green economy' and 'Institutional framework' themes of the Rio+20 Summit, and must transcend into a broader sustainability discourse. It is important to ensure that the voices and visions of all citizens are brought to the attention of local, national, regional and international policy makers and all stakeholders. As partners in sustainable development, these stakeholders worldwide need to engage in dialogue and policy making in a joint effort to ensure that the discourse of sustainability continues beyond the Rio+20 and Peoples' Summit Rio+20.

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaties call for a UNCSD2012 alternative content outcome to be realized through joint stakeholder efforts. People should engage in a complimentary process to UNCSD2012 with the rationale of producing 'Treaties' a 'Declaration' and an 'Action Plan,' which are to represent and demonstrate the collective visions of the global people and transcend into a Global Movement. CSOs should commit to advancing a collective and coherent global movement committed to a sustainable world.

The Peoples Sustainability Treaties will gather inspiration from the NGO Alternative Treaties of 1992 at the 1st Rio Earth Summit to create a collective civil society engagement. The treaties should reflect on the 1992 UNCED official outcomes such as Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, and embark on a renewed civil and political commitment towards an action plan to further sustainable development.



They should draw scenarios for future sustainability pathways from the Great Transition Initiative³, and aspire to provide a forum for support of a Global Movement. Treaties should follow-up on the Bonn Declaration of the UNDPI Conference, which was formulated and endorsed through extensive civil society participation. They should consider all CSO submissions to the UNCSD2012 Zero Draft, in order to include those who have already made proposals to Rio+20. Finally, the treaties should integrate other outcomes documented and proposals made by civil society for Rio+20 into relevant treaties and outcome documents, as appropriate.

Guidelines: Engagement Methodology

An open invitation is made to CSOs across the world to initiate and facilitate treaties on different topics they believe are necessary to be addressed at Rio+20 and beyond. The Peoples' Sustainability Treaties is a voluntary initiative proposed through joint efforts by participating CSOs. Organizations can volunteer to initiate a treaty jointly, or participate in any existing treaty circle to give their input.

Process: The first step in formulating a treaty is to create a Treaty Circle, for respective treaty proposals, with broad geographical representation, while continuously improving membership through an outreach programme and dialogue. The draft treaties should be sent to all Treaty Circle members and subject experts and then the International Editorial Committee will conduct an editorial review. Any editorial recommendations will be forwarded to the respective Treaty Circle for further improvement through dialogue and research. Each treaty draft will be distributed widely for public comments through databases and lists.

Treaties will be finalized prior to Rio+20 and distributed to all government delegates and stakeholders for lobbying governments, intergovernmental agencies, stakeholders and key actors of Rio+20.

Participation: Any non-profit and non-governmental civil society organizations are invited to participate as full partners in formulating a treaty. Individuals from any walk of life can participate as contributors, while any person or body, including government or business organizations, can endorse and commit to a treaty. For-profit organizations such as business and industry as well as governments, inter-governmental organizations and donor agencies are encouraged to participate by contributing to the dialogues, contributing with recommendations, and are also invited to join as supporters and sponsors.

Facilitation: A treaty on any relevant theme can be convened and facilitated by a joint alliance preferably comprised by at least one organization from the South and North, respectively. Any organization can facilitate only one treaty, but they can participate in any number of treaties. The facilitating organizations are expected to organize an outreach programme to create an open-ended treaty circle, organize online discussions and public hearings, and organize treaty dialogues in Rio+20 as part of the Treaties Platform. The process is envisioned to be a voluntary effort, and each facilitating organization will be responsible for raising required resources depending on the scope and scale of their planned activities.



Partnering: There is no limit to the number of partners for each treaty circle, and any organization fulfilling the above participation criteria can collaborate with any number of treaties. They can independently hold Public Hearings to support their Treaty Circles. Any such public hearings should be documented as evidence to each treaty.

Outreach: To engage a wider public, the treaties will be formulated in continuous consultation with CSOs and the public. For this, dialogues will be organized by treaty circles and participating actors across the world during the coming months, and whilst social and mainstream media campaigns will be run. CSOs and the public will be invited to send their input to the treaties. The organizing committees will regularly update the treaties, and the progress of producing the treaties will be showcased through continuous updates on a dedicated website⁴.

Timeline: The treaties circles will be created and draft treaties written by April 2012. The treaties will be finalized during the month of May 2012. The Peoples' Sustainability Treaties will be released at the end of May 2012, allowing three to four weeks of lobbying prior to the Rio+20 Summit. The treaties will be sent to governments, civil society, major groups and stakeholders across the world. Each treaty circle will lobby their governments and stakeholders accordingly. Treaties dialogues will be held during the three final PrepCom days, four sandwich days, and the three Rio+20 Summit days. The treaties will be open to the public for endorsement and adoption from the 1st of June onwards.



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		
		1-12 June: Release of the Treaties & Pre-Summit Advocacy Campaign		
July 1 – December 31 2012 Advancing a Global Movement		Prep.com	13	13-21 June: Organizing 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	
	J		18	22 June: Rio+20 PLATFORM (Joint Public Event) <i>Theme: Advancing a Global Citizens Movement</i> [convened by TWC]
	A		19	
	S		20	
	O	Official UNCSO20	21	
	N	12	22	
	D			23 -30 th June: Follow-up action and planning post Rio+20 action, Reporting Results, and Media Campaign



Organization: A Global Alliance for Rio+20

The Peoples' Sustainability Treaties were initiated by the Centre for Environment Development (CED), Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the partner organizations Climate Sustainability PLATFORM (CSP), Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future (SF), Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED), The Widening Circle (TWC), Green Liberty (GL), South Asian Women's Network (SWAN), Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN), Asian Institute for Technology - Extension (AITE), IBON International (IBON), Initiative for Equality (IfE), Integrative Strategies Forum (ISF), Millennium Consumption Goals Initiative (MCGI), Munasinghe Institute for Development (MIND), and Tellus Institute (TELLUS).

The initiative is envisaged to evolve into a large voluntary effort, and will require international level coordination. The treaties outcome is guided by an International Advisory Board (IAB) comprising Mr. Uchita de Zoysa (*Centre for Environment & Development*), Mr. Felix Dodds (*Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future*), Dr. Paul Raskin (*Tellus Institute*), Dr. Sylvia Lorek (*Sustainable Europe Research Institute*), Prof. Mohan Munasinghe (*Munasinghe Institute for Development*), Prof. Veena Sikri (*South Asian Women's Network*), Dr. Faiz Shah (*Asian Institute for Technology – Extension*), Dr. Ashvani Vasisht (*Ramapo College*), Ms. Leida Rijnhout (*Northern Alliance for Sustainability*), Dr. Deborah Rogers (*Initiative for Equality*), Dr. Janis Brizga (*Green Liberty*), Mr. Jefferey Barber (*Integrative Strategies Forum*), Mr. Paul Quintos (*IBON International*), Dr. Ashish Kothari (*Kalpavriksh*), Mr. Aron Belnky (*Vitae Civilis*), Mr. Rick Clugston (*Earth Charter International*), Mr. Jonathan Love (*The Pachamama Alliance*), and Dr. Philip Vergragt (*Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative*).

An experienced Editorial Review Committee (ERC) will be appointed to assist the Treaty Circles, IAB and the secretariat to ensure an inclusive and fair process and a qualitative and representative outcome document. The secretariat established under CED will be managed by an international team of volunteers and resource persons.

Participating, facilitating and partner organizations, in collaboration with organizing entities such as the Treaties Circles (TS), International Advisory Board (IAB), Editorial Review Committee (ERC), Media & Advocacy Group (MAG) and the Secretariat will collaborate towards a collective outcome and will invite the global public to contribute.

Treaty Circles (TC): Every treaty will be formulated by an evolving TC which is a network convened by the facilitating organizations. Any CSO can join a treaty circle and provide their input by participating in the dialogues and drafting of the treaties. The joint facilitators will appoint an editorial group to write and edit the treaty according to the dialogues, input, and research, and will facilitate a collective output. A Treaty Editorial Team will be selected by each TC and will include experienced civil society leaders having expertise on the relevant subject matter. The recommended team should ideally contain between 3 to 9 members, and should have a representation from both North and South, and ideally at least one member from each region.

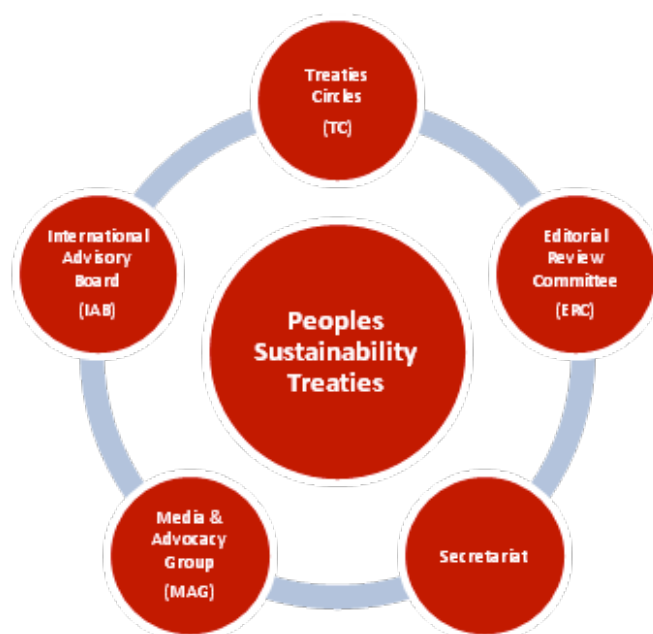


International Advisory Board (IAB): The IAB is comprised of a group of senior civil society leaders from the different major groups and partner organizations which have been invited to guide the entire treaties process. The IAB will act as the caretaker and guardian of the treaties process and guide a participatory and quality outcome. Regular advisory consultations will be held online to periodically assist the progress.

Editorial Review Committee (ERC): An ERC will be appointed to act as overall content management of the treaties. Comprised by 5 to 11 invited members with diverse knowledge, CSO management, and editorial capabilities, the ERC will work closely with the Secretariat. A member from each treaty circle will be invited to assist the ERC. In the final outcome document that reflects the input from the treaties circles and public.

Media & Advocacy Group (MAG): A MAG will be created to run a global campaign to create awareness, engage public and lobby decision makers. The group will use both mainstream and social media creatively. A Treaties Bulletin will be circulated regularly with news and updates, a website and facebook page will be managed on an interactive basis, and regular articles and news features will be provided to other outreach media of partner and support organizations and media as well.

Secretariat⁵: An international secretariat for the Peoples' Sustainability Treaties is hosted by the Centre for Environment Development (CED) in Sri Lanka. It already functions with a Project Director and three volunteer staff from Brazil, Sweden and USA. Each treaty facilitating partner organization will also provide a representative to build-up a volunteer global action team required for organizing this large global initiative.



Structure: Declaration, Treaties and Action Plan

Peoples' Sustainability Treaties are primarily targeted towards the Rio+20 Summit, and a change towards a more sustainable world after the Summit. Therefore, each treaty will have a relevance to the Rio+20 Summit outcome as well as post-Summit sustainability transition.

The outcome document is expected to comprise of three components:

- Declaration: Commitment to Sustainable Futures on Earth
- Treaties: Peoples' Sustainability Treaties
- Action Plan: Peoples' Sustainability Transition Plan

1. Declaration: Commitment to Sustainable Futures on Earth (proposed format)

- A New Social Order: Sustainable Development Governance
- A New Economic Order: Sustainable Economic System
- A New Ecological Order: Sustainable Lifestyle and Livelihood

2. Treaties: Peoples' Sustainability Treaties (proposed format)

- Preamble
- Principle
- Commitments
- Action Plan
- Signatories.

The treaties are proposed to be clustered under the following sections:

- SECTION 01: Sustainable Economies
- SECTION 02: Sustainable Societies
- SECTION 03: Sustainable Ecosystems
- SECTION 04: Equity, Rights & Governance
- SECTION 05: Peace, Values and Mindfulness

ACTION PLAN: Peoples' Sustainability Transition Plan (proposed format)

- Transition to a Sustainable Society
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Advancing a Global Movement
- Timeline for Change

The process has already commenced and the following treaties have been proposed and work has commenced:

- Sustainable Development Goals Treaty - *proposed by Stakeholder Forum*
- Millennium Consumption Goals Treaty - *proposed by the Millennium*

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_14848

