

Financing for Development - 3rd Preparatory Committee
6 May 2001

Interlinkages - NGO Interlinkages Caucus

Prepared by Information Habitat: Where Information Lives

We welcome the attention given to Interlinkages in the Facilitator's Working Paper and the recognition of the need to address the issues of the conference in a holistic manner.

In fostering the convergence of efforts to make globalisation work for all and the achievement of internationally agreed development policies and targets and the Millennium goals, it is essential that the Conference take full account of United Nations agreements relating to development, with particular attention to the international agreements of the past decade - including specific references to financing in these agreements.

The nature of the challenge of fostering convergence must not be underestimated by the FfD conference, for the prevailing approaches to making globalisation work - perhaps best exemplified by the rules of the World Trade Organization - have clearly failed to date to take into account the holistic approach to development that has been agreed upon in the course of the global conferences and their follow-up.

If the FfD Conference is to be successful in enhancing the coherence between economic policies and social and environmental goals, it must both recognize the nature of the conflict between prevailing economic policies and social and environmental goals - characterized by the general failure of economic activities to take into account external costs - and pay attention to some of the most critical areas in which economic activity fails to address - and often undermines - social and environmental considerations, including poverty eradication, gender issues, labour and working conditions, the status and participation of marginalized and vulnerable groups as well as the impact of economic development and trade on the natural environment - and on traditional resource rights relating to the natural environment.

In particular, the FfD Conference needs to pay attention to the development and strengthening of mechanisms that can support coherence between economic, social and environmental goals - ranging from the integration of full cost accounting into e-commerce protocols to the development of effective and accessible information and knowledge systems through which decision-makers at all levels can be more fully aware of social and environmental agreements, regulations and laws.

As a starting point, the FfD Conference may want to consider the establishment of a coherent framework through which the text of relevant international agreements - including the agreements from Rio, Cairo, Copenhagen, Beijing and Istanbul and the General Assembly reviews of the implementation of the agreements along with the outcomes of the LDC III Conference and the Special Session on HIV/AIDS - can be organized and integrated in a coherent manner so that they are more readily and systematically available in the course of preparations for the Conference - see attached outline.

Financing for Development Interlinkages

* **United Nations Processes** >

* **Millennium Declaration** >

* Millennium Forum >

* **ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration** >

* **Global Conferences & Agreements** >

* **Children's Summit** >

* Ten Year Review of Children's Summit >

* **Earth Summit / Rio** >

* Agenda 21 >

* Biodiversity Convention >

* Convention on Climate Change >

* Forest Principles >

* International Forum on Forests >

* Convention to Combat the Effects of Desertification and Drought >

* Commission on Sustainable Development >

* Earth Summit II >

* **World Summit on Sustainable Development** >

* **Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** >

* Barbados + 5 >

* **International Conference on Population and Development** >

* ICPD + 5 >

* Commission on Population & Development >

* **World Summit for Social Development** >

* Geneva 2000 >

* Commission on Social Development >

* **Fourth World Conference on Women** >

* Beijing + Five >

* Commission on the Advancement of Women >

* **Habitat II** >

* Istanbul + 5 >

* Commission on Human Settlements >

* **LCD III** >

* **World Conference on Racism** >

* **United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS** >